



FORT SMITH BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

Frequently **A**sksed **Q**uestions

HANDBOOK

www.fsbgc.org

FAQ - 30 frequently asked questions

GENERAL INFORMATION - Fort Smith Boys & Girls Clubs (FSBGC)

- 1. Where can I get more information about the Club?** Besides information on the web: www.fsbgc.org you may pick up information at each FSBGC unit. Newsletters, calendars and flyers are available (at no charge) at all four units. If you can't find what you are looking for, get in touch with one of the Unit Directors on our "contacts" page of the web site, or by telephone. For national information, you can visit www.bgca.org
- 2. How old must a child be to join?** Boys and girls ages 6 - 18 are eligible for membership. Children under the age of 6 cannot register, unless playing in the T-ball baseball program (which does allow 5 yr-olds who are going to be 6 years of age by Sept 15).
- 3. How much does a membership card cost?** Membership is \$ 10 per child per year. All memberships are valid from January 1 (or the day purchased) until expire on December 31. There is no pro-rating of cost, regardless of when the card is purchased. However, new membership cards for the following year go on sale during the third week of October. *Example:* If your child registers for basketball in October 2008, then you only have to buy a 2009 membership card (the card would be valid for 14 months).
- 4. What is required to join?** A parent or guardian must complete and sign a membership application form at the Club. A membership card will be issued once the form is complete and the membership fee is paid.
- 5. How about visitors?** The FSBGC is a membership organization. Visitors can purchase a visitors pass. Anyone without a membership or visitors pass are not eligible to attend. Visitor's passes can be purchased at the front desk for \$ 2. During the summer program, visitor's passes are \$ 4 per day. Lost membership cards can be replaced for 50 cents.
- 6. Are there any program or activity fees?** An \$ 18 activity fee is charged for each of the following programs: football, baseball, basketball, soccer, cheer, drill team, after-school shuttle, and summer program. The FSBGC strives to keep costs as low as possible in effort to afford opportunity for everyone.
- 7. How can I get a refund?** Membership fees are not refunded. However, activity fees may be refunded if the child has not participated in the program or event paid for. Example: a baseball participant has signed up, but during the first practice, the child decides not to play.
- 8. What if I want my children to join the Club, but I can't afford it?** In extreme cases, unit directors have the authority to consider a "scholarship" for a membership or an activity fee, based on the family's severe financial hardship and/or inability to pay.
- 9. What are the Club hours?** When public school is in session: Monday through Friday 3 p.m. till 7 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m till noon / When public school is not in session: Monday through Friday 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m. till noon (Closed on Saturday during the Summer) The Clubs are closed the first two weeks of August for facility maintenance and staff vacation. Clubs are closed on the following holidays: New Years, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving (2 days), Christmas (2 days).
- 10. Why aren't you open earlier than 9:00 a.m. or later than 5:00 p.m. in the Summer?** The FSBGC administers a large baseball program during the summer, including 8 games fields and 9 separate leagues. Games are played on weeknights and weekends until 9:30 p.m. Many of the staff members are involved in the baseball program, either through concessions, park duties, scorekeeping or umpiring.

QUESTIONS REGARDING PROGRAMS

11. What programs do you offer? The Club offers a broad range of programs and activities after-school and during the summer.

→ **After-school Activities** include: Power Hour, Arts & Crafts, Game Room, Computer Lab, Lean On Me mentoring, gym activities, Smart Girls, Keystone Teen Club, Chewy Café, Sports (basketball, baseball, football, soccer, cheer and drill team), daily games, special events, field trips.

→ **Summer Activities** include: Exploring Arkansas, Fishing Classes, First Tee golf, bicycle safety class, free breakfast and free lunch program, guest speakers, movie-of-the-day, computer lab, gym games, game room, tournaments, Kiwanis Boys Camp, Morgan Nick "ID" program, Fire Safety class, Poetry Contest, Soccer Camp, Baseball Camp, First Serve tennis, Bowling.

There are five core program areas offered: **GO TO LINK** for more information. Each facility has a game room, gym, library/computer lab, and TV lounge and concession area.

12. What activities are there for teens? The FSBGC offers major sports for teens, including: baseball, basketball and soccer. Many of the programs and activities at the Club are age specific. Many teens are used as Junior staff and are used to help coach and work with younger children at the Club. A "Keystone Teen Club" is conducted at the Stephens unit by Roneka Jackson - 782-6392 or Rjackson@FSBGC.org

13. Does the Club offer any Summer Camps? For more than 60 years, the Kiwanis Club has sponsored the annual "Kiwanis Boys Camp" during the first two weeks of July. The week long camp is "free" and offered to boys ages 8-9 and 10-11. Girls can attend a summer camp offered through Girls Inc. and sponsored by the Noon Exchange Club.

14. Do you offer swim lessons? No. You may contact the Red Cross (782-1056) or the Marvin Altman Fitness Center (441-5469) to find out more information about local swim lessons.

15. If my child is injured at the Club or during a game, what to me do? Injuries or accidents are assessed by the unit director or park manager. If the injury is serious, FSBGC personnel will notify those listed as "Emergency contact" on the member's information card. Depending on the situation, the child may be sent for professional medical help. A staff member will complete an accident/injury information form. For details regarding our member insurance, you will need to contact Helene Lewis at the Administrative Office (782-7093). The FSBGC carries a secondary insurance policy on Club members.

16. How can my child apply for a College Scholarship? College Scholarship applications are available for high school seniors and college students who've been involved at the FSBGC for a minimum of two years. Applications are available from January 1 through March 15 each year. Submission deadline is April 1. Candidates are screened by a committee of judges, who look closely at these three areas: 1) financial need 2) participation at the Boys & Girls Club 3) academic performance.

17. How can I enroll my child in the After-School shuttle service? Three of the four units (Jeffrey, Evans and Stephens) provide transportation to nearby elementary schools. There is an \$ 18 fee (per semester) for the service. Contact the unit director for more information.

Jeffrey Boys & Girls Club - Pike, Ballman, Bonneville and Tillis

Stephens Boys & Girls Club - Tillis, Spradling, Howard, Morrison and Trusty

Evans Boys & Girls Club - Cavanaugh, Carnal and Beard

18. Is my child considered only a member of the unit where they signed up? The FSBGC membership card includes eligibility at all four units. The information card (emergency contact, personal profile, limitations, etc.) is kept at the Club where the child registered. If parents plan to move their child to a different Club, the unit director should be notified so that the information card can be forwarded. Returnees on Sports teams must play for the team they played on the previous year.

19. What kind of supervision do the Clubs have? The FSBGC makes no claims to be a provider of day care or babysitting services. The organization is a drop-in youth services organization where members have opportunities for recreation, new friendships, athletic programs, structured programs and interaction with adults. With a “come and go” policy, we do not control how a member gets to the Club, or how they leave. It is the parent’s responsibility to make the child understand the importance of remaining on Club property.

20. How are children disciplined? The staff uses various guidance techniques appropriate for the child’s age and behavior, this may include: writing sentences, isolation from an event, notifying parents of the problem, sitting in a “time-out” area, work detail, etc. Suspension from the Club may result in extreme situations.

QUESTIONS REGARDING SPORTS

21. What Sports programs are offered and when?

Baseball - sign-ups begin March 1. Practices begin in April. Games begin the first week of May and concludes by July 1. All-Stars and American Legion continue play through July.

Football - sign-ups begin July 15. Games begin the middle of September and conclude the last week of October.

Basketball - sign-ups begin October 15. Games begin the first week of December and conclude in February. All teams participate in the “Road to the Final Four” post-season tournament that runs through the first week of March.

Soccer - sign-ups begin July 15. Games begin the middle of September and conclude the last week of October.

Cheer - sign-ups begin July 15. Cheer teams perform during football games. Games begin the middle of September and conclude the last week of October.

Drill Team - sign-ups begin October 15. Girls perform during basketball games at the Club. Practices begin in December and performances are conducted in January and February.

22. What is the admission fee to games? Small gate fees are charged to defray officiating and utility costs for ballgames.

Soccer Admission:	Adults \$ 1	Students \$ 1
Basketball, Football & Baseball Admission:	Adults \$ 2	Students \$ 1
Am Legion & Sr. Babe Ruth:	Adults \$ 3	Students \$ 2

23. How about game cancellations because of weather? Decisions regarding ballgame rainouts for baseball, soccer and football are made by 3:00 p.m. (on the day of the game). Cancellations for snow during basketball season are also made by 3:00 p.m. The athletic director determines when games are re-scheduled.

24. Who can I contact concerning Sports not offered by the FSBGC?

Spring Soccer - contact WASA (Western AR Soccer Assoc) call 415-6410 www.fortsmithsoccer.net

Boxing - contact the River Valley Boxing Assoc - contact Jennifer at FS Parks & Reek 479-785-4225

Tennis - contact (WATA) Western AR Tennis Assoc - call John Wheeler 651-8759 www.watatennis.net

Golf – contact Lisa Irwin at First Tee (479)648-9833 www.thefirstteefortsmith.org

Bowling - contact Roxanne Jester at Bowling World 479-646-5050 or Midland Bowl 785-2551

Fall Baseball - contact Pat Mickle at 479-649-8484

Softball - contact Ben Geren Softball 646-9517 or call Karen 479-883-1809

Swimming - Ian Bullock, Fort Smith Tideriders at 479-452-6559 www.tideriders.com

25. What does the Boys & Girls Club furnish for each sports activity ?

Football - pants & pads, shoulder pads and jersey (helmet rentals available for \$ 10 per season)

Soccer - shorts and jersey / Baseball - jersey / Basketball - jersey / Drill Team - uniform and pom poms

Cheer - uniform and poms.

QUESTIONS ABOUT FUNDING

26. How is the Boys & Girls Club funded ? For the past 80 years, the Club has been a proud member of the United Way. The FSBGC has diverse revenue streams that include: United Way, grants, foundation gifts, individual donations, alumni association, concessions, fees, sponsorships, Fort Smith Classic, annual fundraisers and an endowment fund.

27. What kind of fund-raising does the Club conduct ? There are various fundraisers conducted by the FSBGC throughout the year. Our biggest emphasis is on the annual United Way fund drive which occurs from August through December. Other FSBGC fundraisers include:

Alumni Golf Tournament - held in early June. Four- person scramble with morning and afternoon flights

Haunted House - annual event held in October at the Old Officers Club at Fort Chaffee

Optimist Day Queens Contest - homecoming queen contestant competition held at the end of football

Holiday Turkey/Ham Sales - Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday sales

Alumni & Friends Membership Drive - held from January through July each year

28. How can I make a donation ? Contributions (cash or check) can be made to the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club Administrative office: 4905 North "O" Street, Fort Smith, AR 72904. All gifts are tax-deductible. Memorial and Honorarium gifts are deposited into the Club Endowment fund. "In-kind" donations are also accepted. Donations are acknowledged in writing, with a card mailed to the donor's for tax records.

OTHER QUESTIONS

29. How can I volunteer ? A volunteer is one who performs a service of their own free will, without expectation of payment. Volunteers serve in various ways: coaches, mentors, club assistants, teachers, etc. The FSBGC requires that all new volunteers into the program have background checks, regardless of position requested. Sports volunteers (coaches) should contact Chris Reeder, FSBGC athletic director. Lean On Me mentoring volunteers should contact Kari Fenby, FSBGC Lean On Me mentoring coordinator. Other prospective volunteers may contact a unit director or executive director Jerry Glidewell, 782-7093.

30. How can I apply for employment ? Opening for jobs are posted in the local newspaper. Interested individuals may submit a resume to the FSBGC administrative office. If no openings are available, resumes are kept on file for future consideration.