



## Letter to our Teens

Dear Sonoma Valley Teens,

As the beginning of the upcoming school year fast approaches, both The Boys & Girls Club of Sonoma Valley and Teen Services Sonoma are looking forward to collaborating and providing our members with a safe and positive learning environment. Our plan is to reopen with a limited capacity of 30 members on **Monday August 17<sup>th</sup>** at Teen Services Sonoma which is located at 17440 Sonoma Highway. We will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. every day to support our members during the school day as well as provide our well-known afterschool programs.

Our teams are taking extra precautions to ensure everyone attending is as safe as can be. Below are some safety protocols we have put in place to ensure everyone's health and safety:

- Increased our staff-to-member ratio from 1:20 to 1:15
- Masks are required for all members and Staff at all times, except for eating and drinking or when a minimum of six feet of social distancing can be guaranteed out of doors (by remaining within a designated zone).
- Ensured members have their own desk and equipment, positioned at least six feet apart from the next person (using tape on the ground as a guide)
- Established consistent groups for the week with no commingling or rotations, except for dedicated daily outdoor time
- Instituted a daily wellness screening consisting of a verbal questionnaire and temperature check upon drop off and another temperature check after lunch
- Implemented enhanced hygiene protocols regarding handwashing, not touching face and monitoring symptoms, etc. per CDC recommendation
- Enhanced facilities maintenance protocols by increasing consistent disinfecting and cleaning during program and increased janitorial services.

Also, for safety reasons, we ask that you only bring what is listed below. Each member will receive their own set of supplies to use while at the Club at Teen Services. We will not be providing meals at this time, so please be sure to pack snacks and a lunch. If you get the school lunch, beginning the second week of school we will be facilitating those meal pick-ups, providing storage in our walk-in refrigerator, as well as heating up the hot portion of the meals for you in our certified kitchen.

Bring from home in a backpack:

- Fully Charged Chromebook, iPad, or Tablet (if possible)
- Headphones
- School Packet (if applicable)
- A Book or 2
- Snacks & Lunch
- A water bottle

Aside from safety protocols, our teams have been hard at work to provide our members with fun and engaging programs while at the Club at Teen Services. Most importantly however we have created an environment designed to help our members succeed throughout their online engagement and with any of our socially distanced programs. Below is a detailed outline of our daily schedule:

### School Day Support Program Schedule

Time	Program
<b>7:45am to 8:00am</b>	<b>Arrival window for 0 period</b>
<b>8:00am to 8:50am</b>	<b>0 Period / arrival window for Period 1/2</b>
<b>9:00am to 10:20am</b>	<b>Period 1/2</b>
<b>10:20am to 10:40am</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>10:40am to 12:00pm</b>	<b>Period 3/4</b>
<b>12:00pm to 1:00pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>1:00pm to 2:20pm</b>	<b>Period 5/6</b>

<b>2:20pm to 3:00pm</b>	<b>Office Hours/Clubs</b>
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During our members' online engagement, we are committed to provide the support necessary to promote a positive learning environment. Our socially distanced learning pods are spaced to ensure six feet of distance between members, we boosted our facility's Wi-Fi to ensure students have a smooth connection, and lastly our staff will be on hand to support members with anything needed.

### **After School Programming**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Program</b>
<b>2:20pm to 3:00pm</b>	<b>Open Club</b>
<b>3:00pm to 4:00pm</b>	<b>Program 1</b>
<b>4:00pm to 5:00pm</b>	<b>Program 2</b>

To support our teens throughout their online engagement, we will also continue our well known after school programming. Listed below are programs that we will be offering during our after-school program block:

#### **College & Career Exploration**

Our teen program offers many opportunities for our youth to explore options after High School. We offer free college and trade school tours (***virtual or in person***) throughout the year as well as workshops designed to prepare you for life after high school. We partner with the Sonoma Valley High School College and Career Center to offer multiple Financial Aid and College Application workshops.

Aside from the college opportunities we provide, we also have many opportunities for job exploration. Through our job site tours and job coaches we give our teens the chance to think about future careers.

## **Volunteer Opportunities & Community Engagement**

Helping out in the community is a staple of our Teen Program. Our teens typically complete over 800 volunteer hours each year. Membership to THE CLUB is free, but members are required to participate in community volunteer efforts to earn their memberships. There will be twice weekly opportunities to volunteer to **cook at the Lovin' Oven for Sonoma Overnight Support**, a local nonprofit that serves our community's homeless and hungry population. We are also starting an **organic garden** on site that you can help with and learn what's involved in growing your own produce.

If you are looking for hours for, or support with a Senior Project, hours for a class, or anything else, our staff can help find the right opportunity for you!

## **Keystone Club – Leadership for All**

Our Club is all about leadership values and finding your voice. That's why we have our own leadership program that meets once a week at our Club to find ways to better our community. We host activities for community partners, volunteer at special events, and volunteer with a variety of other local non-profit organizations.

## **Operation Bicycle: Bike repair clinics for teens**

Professional mechanics from our community bike shop train teens to fix their own flat tires, tune up their bikes, and even earn a free donated bicycle by learning to repair it yourself.

## **Ready to Work**

This series of highly interactive, engaging workshops targeted for teens is taught by industry professionals. The classes focus on preparation for the working world and cover topics ranging from general employment behavior to advanced networking skills. This course is a prerequisite for both of TSS's paid work experience opportunities.

Completion of all workshop components results in a certificate of completion that is recognized by employers throughout Sonoma Valley--it'll give you a leg up if you're trying to land a job.

Between our socially distanced learning pods and afterschool programming we feel we are positioned well to help our high school students thrive during these uncertain times. It will be much different than what we are used to but our staff is dedicated to making this a place for all of our members to thrive.

We ask that all members interested in joining our program reach out to Eric, the Boys & Girls Club Teen Program Director, for registration links and more information on signing up. We expect all teen members to sign up for the entire week of programming, and in the case of a waitlist, students who are committed for the entire week will be given preference.

Our team is looking forward to having our members back in our program in this limited capacity. Hope to see you there soon!

Sincerely,

**Eric Gonzalez**

Boys & Girls Club of Sonoma Valley Teen Program Director

**Sandra Santiago**

Teen Services Sonoma Teen Center Coordinator

**Yessenia Tellez**

Boys & Girls Club of Sonoma Valley College & Career Coordinator

**Casey Richter**

Teen Services Sonoma Program Director