

Waite Park Collaborative



The Waite Park Collaborative is a partnership between the City of Waite Park, Waite Park Police Department, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Minnesota and the Greater St. Cloud Public Safety Foundation with many additional program partners.

The mission of the collaborative is to serve youth and the greater Waite Park community to enhance community engagement and prevent crime through a philosophy of collaboration in a multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary, multi-ethnic and multi-generational environment.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Minnesota

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Minnesota will offer youth programming at the Discovery Community School that focuses on academic success, good character & citizenship and healthy lifestyles and will include the following services for youth: after-school, evening, weekend programs, after-school snack & meal programs, homework help & tutoring, workforce development programs through CareerSTART, violence prevention programs, healthy habits programs and the acclaimed Youth Arts Initiative (YAI) program.

Waite Park Academic Information - ISD #742

2022-2023 total enrollment: 2,870 Students
Discovery Elementary Community School (K-5): 534 Students
North Junior High School (6-8): 784 Students
Apollo High School (9-12): 1,301 Students
St. Cloud Area Learning Center (ALC) (9-12): 251 Students
utilizing special education services: 18%
Student eligibility for free or reduced lunch: 68%
Students identifying as non-Caucasian: 70%
Students identifying as English Language Learner: 18%
Apollo High School 4 year graduation rate: 79%
Apollo High School 7 year graduation rate: 88%
St. Cloud Area Learning Center 4 year graduation rate: 39%
St. Cloud Area Learning Center 7 year graduation rate: 59%

Waite Park Community Demographics

690

Behavioral health calls

42%

Non-Caucasian population

24%

10 year population increase

62%

Rental housing rate

25%

Residents living in poverty

Falastin Kunow

Boys & Girls Clubs of Central MN
2023 Youth of the Year

AGE: 14

GRADE: 8th

SCHOOL: South Junior High

LENGTH OF MEMBERSHIP: 7 years

CAREER GOAL: Nursing

Falastin started attending the Southside Boys & Girls Club shortly after she immigrated to Minnesota from a refugee camp in Kenya. Falastin says the Club has been the highlight of her life! Here, she has made strong friendships, learned new hobbies, and even strengthened her skills in sports.

Falastin credits Club staff for helping her develop a love for sports and the value of sportsmanship. They have also helped her find her voice in the community.

“As Youth of the Year, I hope that I can show other girls like me that there are not limitations to what we can do,” said Falastin. “I want to be someone who strives to reach new heights and leave my mark to guide others along a similar path.”



Program Offerings in the 6 Career Clusters

CareerSTART is a locally developed program by Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Minnesota which provides exploration, development and application of career paths for youth in grades K-12. Youth develop employability skills & apply core competencies that will empower them to start their great future in the career of their choice.

Boys & Girls Club partners with numerous community organizations to provide the three stages of CareerSTART.

EXPLORE: Clubs offer field trips and career speakers in age-appropriate groups on a monthly basis. Careers are featured regularly to provide a career-driven strategy across our programs.

DEVELOP: As youth enter middle school, they have the opportunity to develop career readiness skills, with programs like Career Launch, Money Matters, and Junior Staff Career Development. The Club also offers culinary trades, construction trades, CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant), Teen Tech Teams, VEX Robotics and CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities) programs.

APPLY: High school students meet with Club mentors to apply for work outside the Club, internships, and post-secondary education. Youth who complete all CareerSTART components are eligible for a CareerPROMISE scholarship to attend St. Cloud Technical and Community College.



Human Services

Junior Staff Career Development assists Club members in exploring a career in youth of human services, particularly Boys & Girls Club work. Through hands-on experience with helping others in the Club & community, field trips to other service organizations & guidance from Club staff, youth prepare for future roles as human service professionals or volunteer leaders in their community.



Health, Science & Technology

The CNA Program (Certified Nursing Assistant) supports Boys & Girls Club members interested in exploring education, internship, work & career opportunities in the health care & long-term care fields. Boys & Girls Club youth receive their CNA certification & a stipend necessary to begin their career in the health care field. The program uses VR for additional program exposure in the health sciences.



Engineering, Manufacturing & Technology

Robotics provides an opportunity for Club youth to learn STEM principles in the comfort of the Club environment. Robotics encourages creativity, teamwork, leadership, and problem solving.

Construction Trades program gives youth the opportunity to learn about construction and manufacturing using hands-on skill development with industry professionals and experienced staff.



Arts, Communication & Information Systems

Virtual Reality gives youth hands-on opportunities to explore careers in 56 modules using VR. **Digital Technology** explores technology careers, increases technology skills, and assists with technology in the Club. Youth explore coding, video game design and more. **Digital Arts** provides an opportunity for youth to learn how to produce digital music, videos and photography using current equipment and technology, including Adobe Suite.



Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources

Culinary Arts provides an opportunity for youth to learn about careers in the food service industry with hands-on activities in the Club's commercial kitchens. They become food safety "certified" and learn how to prepare, cook and serve healthy meals in age-appropriate, small-group settings.



Business, Management & Administration

CEO Program (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities) - this program provides youth with their first entrepreneurial experience. They work with business owners in the community to learn how to build a business. The group works to determine a product to sell, and they learn how to produce, market and sell the product.