

Dear Friend:

I'm excited to share with you a new family volunteer organization designed for boys grades 7-12 that will be coming to Santa Barbara in 2017. It's called **Boys Team Charity** and is a well-established national organization with chapters across several states. For parents who'd like to spend more time with their tween/teen boys volunteering outdoors or with local nonprofits, this organization provides all the infrastructure, peer groups and leadership to make that a fun and rewarding experience for both the boys and their families.

Boys Team Charity is very similar to the National Charity League in process and structure (for those of you familiar with NCL). We hope to attract families from Santa Barbara, Carpinteria and Goleta with boys entering grades 7-12. Please see the attached brochure for more information or read on to learn more.

### **What is Boys Team Charity?**

We are a national organization created to provide a rewarding and fun volunteer experience for boys entering seventh-twelfth grade and their parents. There are local chapters in Arizona, Colorado and California. Local chapters in California include: Thousand Oaks area, Los Gatos, Pleasanton, Walnut Creek, Saratoga, San Diego, etc. (visit <http://boysteamcharity.org/> for a full list of chapters) If you ask friends those communities, we are certain you will find some current or previous members of Boys Team!

### **How does it work?**

Most Boys Team members will join in the late spring before their seventh grade, and they (along with their parents) commit each year to volunteering 15-20 hours a year in the community. (Members can join in any grade provided there is space available.) Each chapter determines how large the grade-level "team" should be, and the typical size is 20-25 young men per grade-level "team". In many locations, there is a lottery system for selecting members because there are more families interested than space available, and priority is given to siblings of current members and parents involved with the Leadership Board.

Throughout the year, chapters provide a specific list of local volunteer opportunities in the community, and members sign up for volunteer shifts ranging from 2-4 hours. Boys and their parents also attend 2-3 meetings each year to hear from speakers on topics of leadership and community needs. There are also a few grade-level meetings so boys in the same grade can work on team-building, communication and generally bond with one another. Many of our members stay with Boys Team for all six years until high school graduation, and the bonds and relationships formed can last a lifetime.

### **How are parents involved?**

Parents can sign up to volunteer with their sons for many, if not all, the volunteer shifts. All the shifts are vetted through the local chapter, and parent volunteers are assigned to act as the liaisons between the philanthropies and Boys Team Charity volunteers throughout the year.

Parents can also help with the leadership of the local chapter by serving on the Board with financial, membership, outreach and other important activities to ensure the chapter's healthy standing.

### **We are very busy with sports and other activities, when will we find time to volunteer?**

We find that many families fulfill their annual hours through summer volunteering or on weekends when they don't have other commitments scheduled. The volunteer shifts will be available both during weekday afternoons/evenings and on weekends. There will also be many opportunities to be involved during the summer.

### **Is there a fee to join?**

There will be annual membership dues to join the local chapter. The fees help support the local chapter's website, volunteer management software (for online volunteer sign-ups and calendaring, etc.) and other expenses related to daily operations and general meetings. The dues for Santa Barbara is expected to be between \$150-200. We hope to have a small number of scholarships available to offset the costs, so interested families are not excluded because of financial circumstances.

### **I'm already participating in NCL with my daughter, isn't this just more work?**

Many Boys Team chapters co-exist with NCL chapters, and many parents find it quite fulfilling to be active in the community with both their daughters and sons. In fact, we anticipate possibly having some overlapping volunteer

shifts between the two organizations so Patronesses and Ticktockers can volunteer alongside their brothers and fathers! This model has worked well in other Boys Team locations.

**I'm very interested, what do I do next?**

**If you'd like to learn more about our inaugural year here in Santa Barbara, please complete the following survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VRL3VTJ> (please copy and paste to browser if link doesn't work)**

**We will add you to the mailing list to invite you to an upcoming Orientation and Informational Meeting. Or you can contact [boysteam.sb@gmail.com](mailto:boysteam.sb@gmail.com) for more information.**

Thanks for your support!

Boys Team Charity – Santa Barbara

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