BUILD A BETTER FUTURE

Madison Square Boys & Girls Club is committed to closing the gap in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics) education and achievement. Our goal is that, with exciting, engaging STEM-based activities, our members can leverage growing opportunities in these areas and counteract the lack of diversity in STEM fields. As an organization, all of our work is guided by the goal of instilling in our members the core values of celebrating discovery, teamwork, and sportsmanship as we help them prepare for success in school and their future careers. Madison currently offers STEM programming to teach vital analytic and critical-thinking skills. Robotics is only one aspect of this focus area that our members explore. Other exciting STEM projects at our Clubs include engineering design, chemistry, energy/electricity, and aeronautics.

Recently, Navy Yard Clubhouse won a trophy and qualified for the semifinals in the Leggo My LEGO Robotics Tournament! They faced many challenges during the preparation for the tournament and depended on their analytical and problem-solving
strategies to succeed. The project focused on the lack of internet access at home in their community, which can create roadblocks when trying to do things like doing homework and limiting social interaction. Their solution was to create a solar powered Wi-Fi router in the form of a totem pole. After developing and planning for their invention, members flexed their critical-thinking muscles and presentation skills to share their exciting idea!

Madison’s commitment to STEM can be seen throughout Madison’s Clubhouses. Power Hour, held daily at each Clubhouse, provides tutoring and learning activities to inspire members to become self-directed learners. The DIY (Do-It-Yourself) STEM curriculum uses engaging activities and projects that focus on experiments that use every day materials. Additionally, every year Madison partners with Columbia University & Goldman Sachs in a special program only open to high-schoolers, which includes hands-on instruction in STEM subjects, mentoring, special events, and access to resources to help participants prepare for college and beyond. Opportunities like these give our members a glimpse into potential new career paths for our members to explore.
Throughout New York City, we strive to make a difference and a positive impact in our communities. Madison is unique in our commitment to deep connections and relationships in our communities, in which we are often the only youth development organization accessible to kids in that area. We collaborate with a wide range of community, public, and private partners to enhance the programs we offer at our Clubs to provide members with as many different experiences as possible.

Our Clubhouses work closely with their local precincts which continue to make the communities we serve safer and more progressive. With an increase in local precinct partnerships across our communities, we’ve even seen some of our members express interest in law enforcement as a potential career. Recently, two Emergency Medical Technicians from the 84th precinct recently presented a five hour First Aid/CPR/AED course to some teen members at Navy Yard Clubhouse. The technicians facilitated the training and administered the test – all teen members passed their test and received certification cards.
Our community partnerships go beyond instruction as well. Navy Yard Clubhouse recently created an AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) 14-16 year-old travel basketball team, which the 84th Precinct sponsors. The team participated in the Brooklyn North Precincts basketball tournament. As a result, members of the team were scouted and invited to participate in the NYS AAU travel team and showcase in Long Island. This winter, Navy Yard Clubhouse was also invited to create an 18 & up team that has participated in a cops and kids tournament, which happens every Thursday! NYPD has also attended Madison’s Annual 5K Walk, an exciting event that motivates our members to live a healthy, active lifestyle while expanding their network and creating more opportunities for them and for their future.

Our Navy Yard Clubhouse is also proud to be a part of the 84th Precinct’s ‘Build the Block: Neighborhood Policing and Safety Sector B Meeting”. At these meetings, members, families and community officials discuss and address safety issues with members of the community. A big thank you to all of our local precincts that keep our Clubhouses, families, and members safe everyday!
Our annual Youth of the Year Dinner is quickly approaching on Wednesday, May 20th, 2020 at Pier 60, Chelsea Piers. Each Clubhouse goes through an engaging preparation process to get their Youth of the Year ambassadors ready for judging, which occurs over the next month. The Youth of the Year program promotes service to the Club, community and family, academic success, strong moral character, and life goals. The four young people chosen to represent their Clubs, along with all of the ambassadors, exemplify these traits. They have utilized their respective Clubhouses as a guiding force to set them on a positive path for the future.

Our corporate partners are also helping to enhance our members' Youth of the Year experiences. One such example is Rothschild & Co., which sponsors a four-part leadership development series at their office. A group of about 20 members travel to their office once a month to get informative advice on pertinent topics. These topics include public speaking tips and strategies, resume building, interview skills, and goal setting for a successful future. Thank you Rothschild & Co. for continuing to provide our youth with amazing opportunities to reach their potential! Don't miss your chance to support them at the Youth of the Year Dinner, tickets available [here](#)!