

NEEDHAM YOUTH CENTER

Purpose

The Youth Center offers a place for middle school students to enjoy social and recreational activities on Friday nights during the school year.

Location

Youth Center activities take place in the cafeteria and gym at the **Pollard Middle School** on Harris Avenue. Occasionally events may be held at other locations in Needham, such as other Needham schools or at the Needham YMCA on Great Plain Avenue.

Hours

Youth Center activities are held from **7:30 - 10:00 PM** on Friday nights during the school year. Special events may have different hours that are announced in advance.

No students will be admitted after 9:00 PM. Staff members are not responsible for any youths after 10:00 PM. (Arrival and departure procedures are stated at the end of this brochure.)

Fee

The Youth Center entry fee is **\$7**.

Participants

The Youth Center is open to **middle school students** (6th, 7th, and 8th graders) **who reside in or attend public or private school in Needham.**

Parents must sign a Permission Slip, which is kept on file, in order for their children to attend the Youth Center. A new form must be completed when emergency contact information changes.

Guest Policy

Guests are not allowed at the Youth Center for space and safety reasons.

Staff

The paid staff includes a Director, an Assistant Director, and other trained supervisors. A Needham Police Officer is also on duty at the Youth Center.

Dress

School dress is appropriate for most events.

Events and Activities

Recreational activities in the cafeteria may include board games, ping-pong, and other games.

Events in the gym may include dances, DJ-run games, concerts or sports such as hockey, basketball, dodgeball, and soccer.

Event Information

The schedule of events is publicized in the Pollard School Bulletin, The Needham Times, and the Park & Rec Information Line (781-444-7212).

Refreshments

Simple refreshments are available at minimum cost.

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Arrival Procedures

1. To ensure that only eligible students are admitted to the Youth Center, students are required to show a picture ID or be accompanied by an adult upon arrival.
2. No one is admitted after 9:00 PM.
3. For the safety of all, students must be accompanied by an adult upon arrival and departure. (The adult does not have to be the student's parent and one adult may accompany several students.)

Departure Procedures

1. The safety of the students is our highest priority. All students must arrive and depart from the cafeteria/gym doors. Pick up is in the driveway/parking lot at the back of the school. If you chose to park your car in the front of the school and walk down, please know that the pavement is uneven and the path unlit. We recommend carpooling.
2. Anyone who wishes to leave the Youth Center before closing must sign out and remain in the Center until his/her ride arrives.
3. Parents must come into the Youth Center to pick up students who are leaving early.
4. If an emergency prevents parents from arriving for pick up by 10 PM, the parents should call the Needham Police Department and ask them to contact the officer on duty at the Youth Center. Any student not picked up by 10:30pm will be escorted by the police detail to the police station to be picked up there.

Conduct

Participants who enter the Center are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly manner and to abide by the rules and Operating Standards of the Center. This includes proper care and maintenance of the equipment and demonstrating respect to the staff and other youths at the Center.

Gambling and possession and/or use of non-prescription, mood altering drugs or beverages will not be allowed on or about the facility.

SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED ON OR ABOUT THE FACILITY. NEEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOL POLICIES REGARDING SMOKING AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE WILL BE IN EFFECT DURING THE CENTER'S HOURS OF OPERATION.

Failure to abide by the rules of the Youth Center will result in notification of the offender's parents, and further action will be considered if inappropriate behavior continues.