



## Keeping Children Safe at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica

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The Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica mission states that they are “...dedicated to providing youth a safe and productive place to go when they need it most; after school and on non-school days.” In an effort to uphold this mission the chapter identified a need to track visitors and prevent unwanted individuals from gaining entry to the facility. Since 2009 BGC Santa Monica has used the LobbyGuard Visitor Management System to address these and other concerns.

Aaron Young, President and CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica says, “The Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica use LobbyGuard on a daily basis and now requires all visitors and parents to use a proper State-Issued ID in order to sign in to the chapter. No visitor is allowed past the front desk until he or she has scanned the ID and obtained a LobbyGuard Visitor Badge. LobbyGuard has definitely improved the safety of the Club.” In addition to tracking and badging visitors, the LobbyGuard system instantly screens visitors at BGC Santa Monica against the chapter’s own Red Flag List and the National Sex Offender Public Registry. “Thanks to LobbyGuard, each year BGC Santa Monica stops about 1-2 actual offenders attempting to enter the facility. When such an encounter occurs management staff are notified by email and text message. The LobbyGuard system works extremely well and is very user friendly. All staff at BGC Santa Monica are trained on the proper use of LobbyGuard and it runs very efficiently.”

Parents of the children at BGC Santa Monica also feel that LobbyGuard has enhanced the safety of the Club and created a secure environment for the children. Parents and visitors like that it is able to keep people out that could pose a threat to children and staff. One parent said, “I am glad that my kids are safe.” Mr. Young says, “When parents realize the full capabilities of LobbyGuard they are more than supportive and are glad that this system is in place.” Other parents have also commented on the simplicity of the product and how easy it is to use.

Mr. Young believes that Boys & Girls Clubs should be interested in LobbyGuard because safety is the #1 concern of all BGCA chapters. According to Mr. Young, “LobbyGuard offers a level of comfort. Knowing that we have this system in place greatly reduces the chances of unwanted individuals in the facility.”

*If you are interested in making your BGCA chapter a safer environment please contact Elizabeth Foote at LobbyGuard via email [Elizabeth.foote@lobbyguard.com](mailto:Elizabeth.foote@lobbyguard.com) or phone (919) 785-3301 x506.*

*You can reach Aaron Young at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica via email [aaron@smbgc.org](mailto:aaron@smbgc.org) or phone (310) 361-8500.*

