



Make Our Schools Safe Club Student Guide

MOSS CLUB STUDENT HANDBOOK

www.MakeOurSchoolsSafe.org



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WELCOME!

- Welcome to the Make Our Schools Safe club (MOSS)! We are happy to have you join our amazing team...
- You are now a part of a group of hundreds of teens around the country committed to school safety, leadership, service projects, fostering of mental health, and peer inclusion.
- Latest findings state that 51% of students feel that their own school has a false sense of security*. That information, coupled with the fact that nearly 27% of students feel that their feedback regarding school safety is taken seriously, is reason enough to establish a Make Our Schools Safe club!
- Mental health is also paramount for the existence of a MOSS club. It is an important process through which students understand and manage emotions. Set and achieve positive goals. Feel and show empathy for others, and both establish and maintain positive relationships.
- A MOSS club's emphasis on peer support and inclusion is essential.
- Instituting a club in your own school helps to create a culture of safety within your own school. The success of the club will depend on your leadership, vision, and commitment to school safety.
- Your commitment to volunteerism, and connection to community and country have brought you to this moment.
- You spend an average of 180 days a year on your school campus. Make them count!
- On behalf of the Make Our Schools Safe organization, thank you for your interest in creating a safe and inclusive school environment for everyone!

*Final Report of the Federal Commission on School Safety.

<https://www2.ed.gov/documents/school-safety/key-school-safety-reports.pdf>.

WHAT IS THE MAKE OUR SCHOOLS SAFE (MOSS) CLUB?

MOSS clubs are comprised of a group of dedicated students who embody the principles and guidelines of the non-profit organization, whose mission is to empower students and staff to help create and maintain a culture of safety and a positive school environment. MOSS clubs pledge to support the purpose and platform of the organization by increasing the participation of all students involved. The club members dedicate themselves, exhibiting adherence to the following guidance of the Mission, Vision, and Action plan of the organization. MOSS students focus on building resilience within their own school community.

Mission: To empower students and staff to create and maintain a culture of safety and vigilance in schools.

Vision: Created after the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on February 14, 2018, **Make Our Schools Safe** is dedicated to driving and guiding best practices in school safety. Taking action through **P.O.W.E.R!**



Preparedness- knowing the threats and hazards schools face, planning and training for emergency responses to those threats and hazards, knowing and correcting vulnerabilities (thereby mitigating/preventing those threats and hazards, events, and incidents).

Observation- situational awareness and decision support.

Willingness to act- preparedness response training for students

Education- knowledge of response protocols and drills.

Response- responding and recovering from threats and hazards as trained and planned for, building campus resiliency.

CLUB GUIDELINES

Make Our Schools Safe will be referred to as MOSS. The MOSS club is a group of dedicated students that embody the principles and guidelines of MOSS. The club pledges to support the purpose and platform of the nonprofit Make Our Schools Safe by increasing participation of all students. The club will focus on empowering students to use their voices. "Your Voice is Your Power!", said Lori Alhadeff, President of Make Our Schools Safe.

1. Election of a board will be either at the end of a school year (for the following school year) OR at the very beginning of the school year. Meetings will be held twice a month.
2. There are no annual dues. Rather, we ask each club to **DESIGN THEIR OWN T-SHIRT**, and then ask a business in the community to sponsor/pay for said MOSS club t-shirts for each club member. The sponsor's logo can be displayed on the shirt. Students can [click here](#) to design and purchase their club shirts.
3. Have a Speaker at your MOSS meeting to speak about school safety. For example, you can invite your Chief of Police, SRO, Guidance Counselor, or a retired famous sports player.
4. Produce and host one security fundraiser per school year, with a clear vision of how these funds will be allocated for a safety project at your school. For example, put a Stop the Bleed Kit in every classroom.
5. Perform community service on behalf of MOSS and in memory of Alyssa Alhadeff.
6. MOSS Clubs are encouraged to discuss active shooter and fire drills with their SRO and Principal. How can we improve response?
7. MOSS Clubs will promote See Something, Say Something!
8. All MOSS club members will participate in Live for Alyssa Day on May 1st (Alyssa Alhadeff's birthday). Each club will decide how to participate.
9. MOSS clubs shall not discriminate because of race, creed, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, personal appearance, disability, family responsibility, socioeconomic status, political affiliation or source of income, or other rights secured by the First Amendment of The U.S. Constitution.

EXECUTIVE BOARD POSITIONS

All elections will take place in school by paper or hand-raised ballot under supervision of teacher sponsor. Each person running for each position will be given five minutes to speak on behalf of his or candidacy.

- President – will set the vision for the MOSS club, call, and preside over all meetings and enforce observation of all club laws/policies
- Vice-President – will assist the President in performance of duties and will succeed the President if they are unable to carry out their responsibilities.
- Secretary – will keep records of attendance and minutes of meetings, communicate with students on event logistics, help develop and retain club membership, and communicate with student activities regarding event logistics.
- Treasurer – will keep accurate records of all funds received and expended
- Social Media/PR – will run the club's social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram, and will respond to all messages on MOSS social media accounts



SAMPLE EXAMPLE OF A MOSS CLUB BOARD

PRESIDENT



Hi! My name is Ashley Freedland, and I am a senior at Cypress Bay! I am the founder and co-president of MOSS club and I cannot wait to see what this year has in store! Some facts about me are I dance and I know how to ski! I hope everyone has a great year!

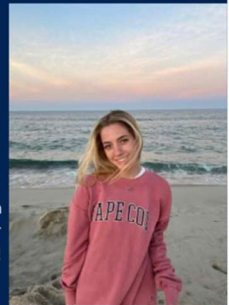
CO-PRESIDENT



Hi, my name is Noah Horwitz and I am honored to be the Co-President of the club for a second year now. I am excited for what's to come this year and to finish our goal of installing stop-the-bleed kits in every classroom. I can't wait to set up a strong club that will be successful in future years as well.

VICE PRESIDENT

Hey! My name is Peyton and I am a Junior at Cypress Bay High! I am VP of MOSS club. Some fun facts about me are that I love to snorkel and run! I am so excited to further work within the club!



VICE PRESIDENT



Hey, my name is Brianna Romero and I'm one of the vice presidents! A fun fact about me is that I can play both the guitar and piano :) Let's have a good year!

SECRETARY

Hi, my name is Maddox Olenick. I am very grateful to be the secretary of the club this year. This club has great presidents who are completely determined to help others. This is what sets MOSS apart from many other clubs at Cypress. I am really excited to see the impact we make this year and in the future!



HISTORIAN



Hi, everyone! I am Jasper Tessel, the historian on the 2022-2023 CBHS MOSS board! I am a senior at the bay and I'm excited to make a difference at our school this year! When not in school, I like to play guitar as well as lacrosse! I am looking forward to working with all of you to make our school a safer place! Let's have a great year!

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Hey! I'm Andrea Gomez and I'm currently a senior at Cypress. I'm so excited to be this year's communications director for MOSS and I cannot wait to see the positive contributions that this club will bring to our community. In my free time, I love going to the beach and relaxing with a good book. Let's have fun and keep our schools safe!



EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVE



Hi! My name is Reese Bernard, and I'm a senior at Cypress Bay! I was the historian of MOSS last year and the external representative this year! I am very passionate about the goals of this club and can't wait to see what we bring to the table this year!

TREASURER



I'm Haden Foster and I love to help people. I have done Scouting for eight years and I believe in doing one good thing everyday. This is why I believe that this club and its cause is a brilliant idea. Through our projects, we aim to provide safety and help to people.

LAUNCHING YOUR MOSS CLUB

Planning your first meeting:

- Let your student body know that a MOSS club exists in school
- Set up a time and date convenient for greatest number of persons who can attend
- Schedule approximately 10 meetings per school year, one every two weeks and plan them out for all interested members at the start of the year
- Every year, each MOSS Club will be given a \$500 gift card to be used to meet the needs of the club. For example, buying snacks, pizza, water, and project supplies.
- Organize the subject matter you'd like to include in the first meeting
- Introduce yourself
- Do a mindfulness activity to set the tone
- Elect board members
- Do an icebreaker activity
- Talk about activities centered around getting Alyssa's Law passed nationally or statewide
- Discuss the design of your club t-shirt. You can [click here](#) to create and purchase your club shirts!
- Plan a security fundraiser for your school

AGENDA MAKING

Create a detailed agenda with timing for your first meeting. Have snacks and water available. Here is sample agenda for a MOSS club's initial meeting:

3:00 PM Call to Order + Introduction by President

3:05 PM Icebreaker Activity

3:15 PM Explanation of the Mission and Vision of MOSS

3:20 PM Peer-to-Peer Discussion: Discuss a safety or school-related question. Such questions include:

- What is most important to you regarding safety at your school?
- How can we spread kindness and stop bullying on campus?
- What could we be doing to better secure our campus?
- How can we fundraise to support our new idea?
- What projects can we work on to safeguard our school?
- How can we advocate for Alyssa's Law?

3:35 PM Community Service Project: Find a way club members can serve your community! Some ideas include:

- Hang posters with school safety tips and statistics around campus
- Paint kindness rocks and place them around the school
- Connect with a local elementary or middle school
- Fundraise for Stop the Bleed Kits
- Film a school safety PSA
- Leave notes of encouragement around school

3:50 PM Mindfulness Activity: Before the meeting ends, guide the group in a mindfulness activity like a meditation or breathing exercise.

3:55 PM Meeting Wrap-Up + Time for Questions



INVENT2PREVENT

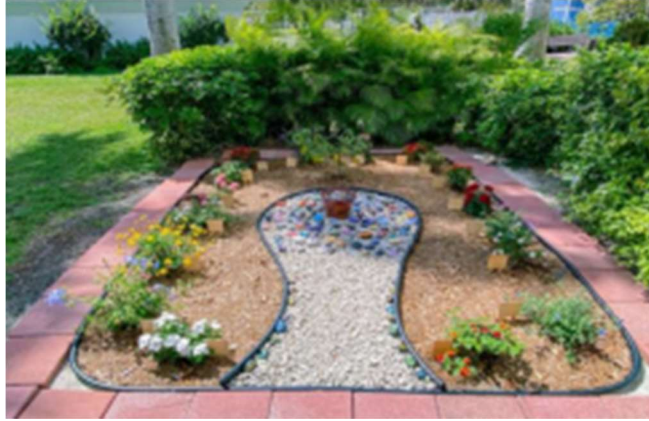
Invent2Prevent is an innovative, experiential learning program that challenges high school and college students to create and implement their own dynamic products, tools, or initiatives to address acts of targeted violence, hate or terrorism in their specific communities. Teams compete at the high school level for awards of \$5,000 for first place; \$3,000 for second place, \$1,000 for third place.

Five students from the Pompano Beach High School Make Our Schools Safe Club traveled to Washington, D.C to compete in the nationwide Invent2Prevent competition! This group had the opportunity to present more about their school safety project to a panel of Department of Homeland Security executives, subject experts, and esteemed academics.

Pompano Beach MOSS Club earned the title of 2nd in the nation!

Their initiative, known as "Bonding Buddies", aimed to eliminate social isolation and foster relationships amongst Pompano Beach Elementary School youth by pairing older students with younger ones as mentors.

While in DC, the Pompano Beach MOSS Club members also visited Representative Jared Moskowitz's office. After returning from the competition, students from Pompano Beach MOSS Club were invited to speak on Local 10 WPLG about their experience competing in Invent2Prevent, meeting with Representative Moskowitz, and serving as leaders in their communities.



SERVICE PROJECT IDEAS

- Ensure that every student and teacher in school is aware of and has downloaded a **Safety App** of some kind (this will vary depending upon where you live). Look for apps that allow anonymous submission of information. See Something, Say Something!
- **Create a School Safety Survey** that can be distributed to all students and teachers (with the Administrators' approval) to identify pressing safety concerns within your school campus.
- **Inclusion of all students in your school is paramount to creating a culture of school safety.** Develop a school safety protocol/plan for those students with developmental differences and learning disabilities. These students may have needs which require more support and assistance in emergency situations.
- **Promote the idea of community, leadership, mentoring, and safety by adopting a local elementary or middle school.** High school MOSS club members can visit these schools and discuss safety drills and safety education with the young students.
- **Organize a Stop the Bleed Training Day at your school.** Contact the local Fire Department to inquire about setting up a group training in your area.
- **Bring in a Guest Speaker to speak to your club.** The local Sheriff, State Senator or Representative, or even a highly regarded mental health specialist can provide an interesting experience.

- **Visit your state capitol to lobby for passage of Alyssa's Law.**
- **Arrange for club students to be interviewed by the school newspaper staff.** Listening to meaningful thoughts and feelings of your peers can be quite inspiring and motivating!
- **Plant a Memorial Garden** in honor of those lives lost at MSD on February 14, 2018.
- **Hold a Stop the Bleed Kit Fundraiser**

School Safety Donation

Each school year, every MOSS club will have the competitive opportunity to apply for a school safety donation. These funds will be earmarked for the specific safety measure for your school for which you apply.

MOSS Club Member Scholarship

Each school year, one graduating senior MOSS club member will have the competitive opportunity to apply for an Alyssa Alhadeff MOSS scholarship. The candidate will submit a paper of 400 words (by March 1st of their graduation year detailing the ways in which MOSS has impacted their life. In order to apply, please create a 45-second video testimonial explaining how MOSS has impacted your life. Video submissions should be emailed to renee@makeourschoolssafe.org.

School Security Grant

Include a detailed submission of your school's security project, detailing costs, project, and approvals. Grant application in appendix. Due March 1st of the year for which you are applying.

YOUR VOICE IS YOUR POWER!

- Tag @MakeOurSchoolsSafe on Instagram and @MakeOurSchoolSafe17 on Facebook.
- Please remember to post photos and videos of your club's meetings, activities, projects, and fundraisers.
- Don't hesitate to reach out to renee@makeourschoolssafe.org at any time for assistance.
- You are now part of a special group of students who have the ability and drive to make changes in your own school's safety!
- Together we will Make Our Schools Safe!



SOCIAL MEDIA

Every MOSS Club should create their own account on Instagram and Facebook. Clubs can use these accounts to connect with their members, spread awareness, and share information. Make sure you have students and staff member's permission when posting photos of them.

Follow Make Our Schools Safe's official accounts listed below. Please tag MOSS in all of your posts. We will share your posts whenever possible.



 @MAKESCHOOLSAFE8

 @MAKEOURSCHOOLSSAFE

 @MAKEOURSCHOOLSSAFE17

**DON'T FORGET TO TAG US AND
USE #MAKEOURSCHOOLSSAFE**

Facebook: MakeOurSchoolsSafe17

Instagram: MakeOurSchoolsSafe

Twitter: MakeSchoolSafe8

MOSS CLUB MEMBER'S TESTIMONIALS

Ben, age 16

“To me, MOSS means safety and community. MOSS means support and leadership. I am so happy to be a leader and representative of MOSS.”

Stephanie, age 17

“I will take the leadership and perseverance skills I learned from my MOSS club to college. I have learned to push through the struggles and never give up, no matter how hard it gets. This mentality is crucial to have in college.”

Harley, age 15

“Being involved in the MOSS club has meant a lot to me because it has allowed me to bring this club to NYC. Being a part of the change for safety in our schools is more important than ever. MOSS was created out of the tragedy that took place in Parkland where I have close family members. It’s meant so much to be able to do something with them and continue to help it grow after their school’s tragedy.”

Alexa, age 17

“Becoming part of the MOSS organization has helped me turn a tragedy into something positive – making sure all schools are safe. I have learned what it means to show responsibility outside of the classroom and to be part of an organization that is changing the world. I am so grateful to be a part of this movement and can’t wait to see what the future holds.”

Luke, age 18

“Being a part of the MOSS club has meant everything to me because I know that whatever we do will make a positive impact in the world. It also means so much to be able to fight for an issue that I am passionate about.

MOSS CLUB TEACHER SPONSOR TESTIMONIALS

Pompano Beach Senior High, Pompano Beach, Florida “I have had the privilege of being the sponsor for the PBHS MOSS club. The students in our club were truly fantastic. They are all kind and want to make a positive difference for their fellow students. The PBHS MOSS club was able to fundraise and provide each classroom with its own Stop the Bleed Kits. The MOSS club also created a beautiful memorial garden to honor the victims of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. We look forward to continuing our club for the betterment of not only PBHS students, but the safety and security of all students.”

Taravella High School, Coral Springs, Florida

“Being the club sponsor means I am giving students the opportunity to make a difference and have an impact on their own lives and the lives of their peers. Mentoring the students, while they take leadership roles and complete successful projects, builds their confidence, and helps them acquire skills beyond academics.”

Miami Country Day School, Miami, Florida

“Being a club sponsor allows me to work alongside students who are concerned about the safety of their school and their community. They take a proactive approach to learning legislation, meeting with community leaders, and providing solutions to issues. They practice “doing” and we all benefit.”

APPENDIX

MOSS CLUB DONATION OPPORTUNITY

Price and time estimates must be included with your submission.

School Name:

County:

State:

School Address:

Grade Levels On-Campus:

Name of Applicant:

Your Connection to the School:

Phone Number:

E-Mail:

Intended Use of Funds:

How would this create a safer environment for your school?

Name of Principal: _____

Signature of Principal: _____

Date: _____

If you have any further questions, please contact Lori Alhadeff at
renee@makeourschoolssafe.org.

MOSS CLUB SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY (SENIORS ONLY)

Student Name: _____

School: _____

Address: _____

How has being a MOSS Club Member impacted your life? Please respond in an essay no longer than 400 words:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Please create a 45-second video testimonial explaining how MOSS has impacted your life. Email video to renee@makeourshoolsafe.org

*Only Seniors can apply. If selected, you will be contacted

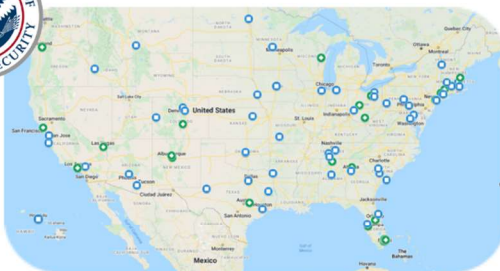


Invent2Prevent

Invent2Prevent (I2P) is an experiential project that challenges high school students to create and activate their own peer-developed initiatives, products and tools to prevent targeted violence and help create safe schools and communities. All participation is free of cost.



Invent2Prevent is sponsored by the DHS Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships (CP3)



● High school programs ● Collegiate programs

What Students Do

- Use resources on program website portal
- Conduct primary research
- Develop creative online project
- Review project concept with I2P team
- Implement, execute, and analyze project
- Submit final report
- Selected teams present and compete in D.C.
- Apply for scholarships

What Teachers Do

- Determine if club, class, or student organization is best suited to implement project
- Maintain open, frequent, and friendly communications with I2P Project Manager
- Review and provide feedback on student work and ensure milestones are met
- Help prepare students if selected as finalist to compete in D.C.

Benefits to Students

- Acquire practice working with a real client, real objectives, and producing real results
- Gain a sense of accomplishment by having a positive impact on the school and community
- Bolster college applications, career readiness skills
- Greater acceptance of differences
- Increased use of learned skills
- Higher academic attainment
- Increased critical thinking skills

Growing Prevention Education

Building upon the success of the collegiate program and 25 high school pilot program, Invent2Prevent will expand to **50 high schools** during the 2022/2023 academic year

Offering \$15,000 in scholarships

All expenses paid D.C. competition and \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$1,000 prize money

“Our students are really enjoying this project and it's been a huge success in terms of schoolwide student engagement. Thank you for bringing this opportunity to Portland Public Schools and our students...who are working on violence prevention through improved mental health and empathic storytelling.”

- Principal Peyton Chapman, Portland, Oregon

90%

of students stated they have a greater understanding of what targeted violence and hate are and how they impact their community

85%

of students learned how to more effectively use their emotional reactions in prosocial ways to be an agent of change

94%

of students learned how to work with a team to conceptualize, design, and implement a campaign that will create a mindset shift or behavior change

94%

of students better understand how they can reduce harm and build healthy relationships respectfully with others

"I learned the importance of making people feel included and building a sense of unity."

"I learned how big of an impact a small group of high schoolers can make."

"This project helped me realize that it only takes one person to make a huge difference in someone's life and well being."

- I2P Student Participants

FOLLOW I2P ONLINE



Invent2Prevent is managed by [EdVenture Partners](#) and the [McCain Institute](#)

**TOGETHER, WE WILL
MAKE OUR SCHOOLS SAFE!**



**IN HONOR OF
ALYSSA ALHADEFF**