

MAKEOURSCHOOLSSAFE.ORG



STUDENT HANDBOOK HANDBOOK HANDBOOK HANDBOOK

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In Memory of Alyssa Alhadeff



WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE.

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Welcome to the Make Our Schools Safe club (MOSS)! We are happy to have you join our amazing team. MOSS is a FREE program for schools where students join to create a safer learning environment with a focus on positive mental health. 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!

*Final Report of the Federal Commission on School Safety, <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/school-safety/key-school-safety-reports.pdf>.

You spend an average of 180 days a year on your school campus...Make them count!

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.

On behalf of MOSS, thank you for your interest in creating a safe and inclusive school environment for all.

- **Mental health** is 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.
- Emphasis on **peer support and inclusion** is essential.

WHAT IS A MOSS CLUB?

Empowering students to create and maintain a culture of safety and a positive school environment.

MOSS Clubs are comprised of a group of dedicated students who embody the principles and guidelines of the **Make Our Schools Safe (MOSS)** organization. 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.

PREPAREDNESS

Knowing the threats and hazards schools face, planning and training for emergency responses, knowing and correcting vulnerabilities.

OBSERVATION

Situational awareness and decision support.

WILLINGNESS

Be ready 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.

Mission:

The MOSS Club is dedicated to creating a safe, inclusive, and supportive school environment where students take an active role in shaping their community. Through collaboration with all school stakeholders, we foster a sense of security, belonging, and empowerment among students.

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.



OUR GUIDELINES

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MOSS Clubs pledge 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.

1. The 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 once or twice a month.
2. There are no annual dues. Rather, we ask each club to DESIGN THEIR OWN T-SHIRT, adding the MOSS Club logo on it, 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:
<https://www.mossmerch.com/designer/customize>
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. A yoga instructor can also add guidance for positive mental health.
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 time?
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.

“Your voice is your power.”

-Lori Alhadeff, CEO and Founder



EXECUTIVE BOARD POSITIONS

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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

Manage attendance records and meeting minutes, coordinate event logistics with students and student activities, and support club membership development and retention.

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.

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.



MOSS CLUB BOARD

EXAMPLE

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



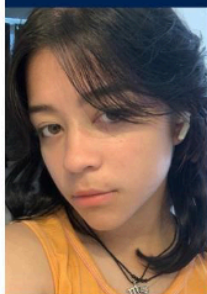
Hi, my name is Noah Horwitz and I am honored to be the Co-President of the club for a second year now. I am excited for what's to come this year and to finish our goal of installing stop-the-bleed kits in every classroom. I can't wait to set up a strong club that will be successful in future years as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

MOSS CLUB

LAUNCHING YOUR MOSS CLUB

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Planning your first meeting:

- Let your student body know that a MOSS club exists in school.
- Advertise your club at Freshman Invasion & Open House
- Set up a time and date convenient for the greatest number of persons who can attend.
- Schedule approximately 10 meetings per school year, one every month or 2 per month. Plan them out for all interested members at the start of the year.
- Every year, each MOSS Club will be given a 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.
- Present a MOSS power point during your first meeting to inform your peers why Make Our Schools Safe was founded.
- 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.
- Nominate your MOSS club teacher sponsor for the National Life Group LifeChanger Of The Year Award

<https://www.lifechangeroftheyearaward.com/awards>



SAMPLE AGENDA

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

3:03 PM

Icebreaker Activity

3:10 PM

Explanation of the Mission and Vision of MOSS

3:15 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?

3:25 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

3:40 PM

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

3:45 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



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.



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, example: Broward County uses SaferWatch). 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, or a yoga instructor can provide an insightful experience.
- Visit your state capitol to **lobby for passage of Alyssa's Law**- All documents for Alyssa's Law are provided.
- 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.
- **Create a Rock Garden** with painted rocks from club members that have positive and encouraging notes on them.
- Hold a **Stop the Bleed Kit Fundraiser**



MOSS PLEDGE (MODEL OF SCHOOL SAFETY)

As a student committed to a safe and secure learning environment, I pledge to:

1. Be a Security-Minded Thinker
2. I will remain aware of my surroundings and proactively identify potential risks, reporting anything unusual or unsafe to trusted adults or school authorities. I understand that safety is everyone's responsibility.
3. Take an Active Role in School Safety
4. I will participate in safety drills, respect school safety protocols, and offer constructive ideas to improve security measures. I will encourage my peers to follow safety guidelines and contribute positively to our school community.
5. Foster a Collaborative Spirit
6. I recognize the importance of working together. I will engage in respectful, open communication with teachers, students, and staff to create a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.

Student Signature_____

Date_____



YOUR VOICE IS YOUR POWER



Tag Make Our Schools Safe on Instagram and Facebook.



Post photos and videos of your club's meetings, activities, projects, and fundraisers.



Don't hesitate to reach out to lexi@makeourschoolssafe.org at any time for assistance.



SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK:

@MAKEOURSCHOOLSSAFE17

INSTAGRAM:

@MAKEOURSCHOOLSSAFE

@LEXI_MOSSCLUBDIRECTOR

TWITTER:

@MAKESCHOOLSAFE8

FOLLOW US ON
SOCIAL MEDIA



@MAKESCHOOLSAFE8



@MAKEOURSCHOOLSSAFE



@MAKEOURSCHOOLSSAFE17

DON'T FORGET TO TAG US AND
USE #MAKEOURSCHOOLSSAFE

Every MOSS Club should create their own account on REMIND, 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. Please request to join our MOSS remind for important updates and reminders. Text @LexiMoss to the number 81010, to join.

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



**MOSS
CLU8**



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.
Stephanie, 17

To me, MOSS means safety and community. MOSS means support and leadership. I am so happy to be a leader and representative of MOSS.
-Ben, 16

"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."
-Luke, 18



STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

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.
Harley, 15

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.
-Alexa, 17

TEACHER 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."




**MOSS
CLU8**

I LEARN SO MUCH FROM MY PEERS DURING OUR MOSS MEETINGS. HEARING DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES AND APPROACHES BROADENS MY UNDERSTANDING OF SCHOOL SAFETY ISSUES AND EXPOSES ME TO NEW WAYS OF THINKING.



**MOSS
CLU8**

MY FAVORITE PART ABOUT MOSS MEETINGS IS CONNECTING WITH MY PEERS AND SHARING WAYS TO MAKE OUR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SAFER.




**MOSS
CLU8**

BEING A PART OF THE MOSS TEAM HAS ALLOWED ME TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE AN IMPACT ON MY SCHOOL COMMUNITY. SCHOOL SAFETY IS SUCH A PROMINENT AND IMPORTANT ISSUE IN SCHOOLS ALL AROUND THE COUNTRY. THE FACT THAT I CAN LEAD MY PEERS TO HELP RAISE SAFETY AWARENESS IN MY SCHOOL COMMUNITY, IS WHAT MAKES MOSS CLUB SO SPECIAL TO ME.




**MOSS
CLU8**

WORKING ON SAFETY INITIATIVES HAS DEEPENED MY EMPATHY FOR MY PEERS AND THE CHALLENGES THEY FACE. IT'S MADE ME MORE COMPASSIONATE AND DRIVEN TO CREATE A SUPPORTIVE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT FOR EVERYONE.



**MOSS
CLU8**

AS A MOSS CLUB OFFICER I FELT PUSHED TO TAKE ACTION. WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTION & KNOWLEDGE, CREATING A GROUP THAT WANTS TO SEE CHANGE, CAN MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN.




**MOSS
CLU8**

AS PRESIDENT OF MOSS, LEADING THE BONDING BUDDIES HAS TAUGHT ME THE POWER OF COMPASSION AND CONNECTION IN COMBATING SOCIAL ISOLATION. MOSS CLUB HAS EMPOWERED ME TO BE A CATALYST FOR POSITIVE CHANGE, AND FOR THAT I AM FOREVER GRATEFUL.



**MOSS
CLU8**

THE CLUB HAS CONNECTED ME WITH A BROADER COMMUNITY OF STUDENTS, TEACHERS, PARENTS, AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS DEDICATED TO IMPROVING SCHOOL SAFETY. THIS NETWORK HAS NOT ONLY PROVIDED SUPPORT BUT ALSO SHOWN ME THE POWER OF COMMUNITY ACTION AND COLLABORATION.



**MOSS
CLU8**

AS SECRETARY OF THE MOSS CLUB, I HAVE HELPED TO CREATE SAFER LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR MY PEERS. MOSS HAS HELPED ME UNDERSTAND HOW MY VOICE PLAYS A ROLE FOR THE GREATER GOOD WITHIN MY SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY.



**MOSS
CLU8**

THROUGH MOSS I HAVE LEARNED THAT EVEN THE SMALLEST GROUPS OF PEOPLE CAN HAVE THE BIGGEST VOICES TO MAKE A POSITIVE CHANGE. THIS IS A LESSON THAT I WILL CARRY WITH ME FOREVER.



DONATION, GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

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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, several graduating senior MOSS club members 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. To apply, please create a 45-second video testimonial explaining how MOSS has impacted your life. Video submissions should be emailed to lexi@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.

MOSS CLUB DONATION

Price and timeframe 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 Lexi Simon at
Lexi@makeourschoolssafe.org.



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Name: _____

School: _____

Address: _____

This image shows a blank 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.

*Only Seniors can apply.

If selected, you will be contacted



**TOGETHER WE WILL
MAKE OUR SCHOOLS
SAFE**



**IN HONOR OF ALYSSA
ALHADEFF
2003-2018**





Make Our Schools Safe
5944 Coral Ridge Dr. #119
Coral Springs, FL 33076

makeourschoolssafe.org
llexi@makeoursschoolssafe.org

