



SAVE Promise Clubs

What is a SAVE Promise Club?

SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere) Promise Clubs are a place for young people across the country to show their leadership, creativity and passion for protecting their friends, schools and communities from violence *BEFORE* it happens.

SAVE Promise Clubs are established and led by students and are a powerful approach to preventing gun violence (and other forms of violence and self-harm) because they recognize the unique role that young people play in making their schools and communities safer.

A SAVE Promise Club can be a stand-alone club or embedded into an existing club, such as SADD, Student Council, FCCLA, or another student leadership, civic or kindness club.

Why SAVE Promise Clubs?

Students want safe schools and communities and want to lead the change in these efforts. Through SAVE Promise Clubs, youth are empowered to be the leaders of change and have greater impact with their peer groups than adults. Youth influence their peers in a positive way through these clubs, resulting in a more caring and connected school community.

Through SAVE Promise Clubs, youth organize activities and reminders that reinforce important lessons learned through Sandy Hook Promise's *Know the Signs* programs, such as Say Something and Start With Hello. Through ongoing activities and reminders, students create a culture of looking out for one another, being upstanders and preventing violence before it happens – creating safer classrooms, schools and communities now and in the future.

"We embedded our SAVE Promise Club into our existing Safe School Ambassador Club. This has become one of the most active and involved clubs on our campus, with hundreds of students applying to be part of it. Last year we received a threat against our school on social media and over 300 students came forward to tell us about the threat in less than an hour. Our Club has shaped the culture within our school to one of looking out for each other and student's taking leadership and ownership to prevent violence before it happens."

~ Paul Battle, Assistant Principal Steele Canyon Charter High School, California

What does a SAVE Promise Club do?

SAVE Promise Clubs meet 1 – 2 times per month under the sponsorship of an adult advisor to plan activities, events and reminders that reinforce looking out for one another and preventing violence and self-harm. Some SAVE Promise Clubs organize one activity per month, yet others are successful organizing 4 activities throughout the year. SAVE Promise Club meetings and activities often take place before or after school or during lunch or free periods.

SAVE Promise Club (SPC) activities include:

- Organizing their school's Say Something and/or Start With Hello Week
- Presenting Say Something/Start With Hello to younger grades or neighboring schools/districts
- Facilitating lunch time discussions on what it means to be an upstander or look out for one another
- Organizing school wide poster making, social media or video campaigns and contests that demonstrate youth voice and how students are creating safer classrooms and schools
- Leading back to school events or activities at key points throughout the year – such a Homecoming, Valentine's, School Safety Month, Youth Mental Health Awareness Month and Bullying Prevention Month that bring awareness to violence prevention and encourage kindness and youth leadership
- Managing SPC recruitment and awareness drives to increase the number of students taking action
- Coordinating events in the community, such as kindness days or days of service and leadership
- Participating in Sandy Hook Promise's national contests and Youth Summit to share and showcase their ideas and best practices

"Our SAVE Promise Club participated in Say Something Week. Our students made posters, wrote announcements, and worked to get the message out to their peers. In the process, we gained a number of students in our Club. We also participated in Start with Hello week. Students organized an assembly, created a theme for each day of the week, and made posters to go around our school (in many languages). Then, in May, our students presented at the SAVE Youth Summit. The SAVE Promise Club has helped our students find a place, a voice, and an understanding of each other. This school year we will be implementing SAVE Promise Clubs throughout our district in all of the middle schools."

- Michael Williams, Principal, Winkler Middle School, North Carolina

What is the role of the SAVE Promise Club (SPC) Adult Advisor?

Even though students plan and lead the SAVE Promise Club activities, they need an Adult Advisor for support. Depending on how often your club meets, a SAVE Promise Club Advisor can expect to dedicate anywhere from 2-8 hours per month on club related activities. A SAVE Promise Club Advisor assists the SAVE Promise Club with these types of details:

- Meeting and event logistics – location, time, outside resource people (presenters, speakers)
- Provide guidance to youth on who they need permission from to conduct activities
- Assist with time management and action planning so activities occur according to time line
- Provide information to youth from the SAVE Promise Club Newsletter & Activity Calendar
- Accompany youth to presentations and community events

What resources does Sandy Hook Promise provide to SAVE Promise Clubs (SPC)?

All officially registered Clubs have access to a variety of support materials and resources, including:

- An activity calendar to guide SPCs throughout the year, including themes/activities for each month
- Monthly newsletter with lesson plans, tips, best practices, and ideas from SAVE Promise Clubs
- One on one phone and email support, either through your Regional Sandy Hook Promise Coordinator or our National SAVE Promise Club Manager
- Invitations to special events, including Start With Hello Week, Say Something Week, regional SPC trainings and the Annual SAVE Promise Club Student Summit
- Opportunities for SPC students to participate in contests and awards or submit applications to present at the Annual SPC Student Summit breakout sessions, and join the Youth Advisory Board
- Electronic toolkits and resources to support SPC outreach, meeting tips and activities