

This Month's Theme: Kick-Start A Promise School



It's the beginning of a new school year. Time for fresh ideas and lots of excitement. As you plan your SAVE Promise Club activities for the year, think about how your Club members can reach out to other youth to provide connection and inclusivity. We have [resources](#) for your Club, educators, families, and others to make [Back-to-School](#) a safe and inclusive experience for all.

Be sure to check the [SAVE Promise Club Resources Webpage](#) and the activities in this Newsletter for guidance too.

This Month's Featured Activity: Schedule a Welcome Crew

Schedule a Welcome Crew for the first week of school. Partner with other groups and Clubs in your school to welcome everyone back for a new year. Smile, wave, high-five, and cheer as youth and adults enter the building. Create signs with phrases like "Welcome back." and "We're happy you're here." Use languages on your signs to reflect the various home languages spoken by youth. You can also play music, wave pom-poms, make banners, or paint windows. Share pics on socials and use #SAVEPromiseClub.

Find this activity and other "Kick-Start A Promise School" activities on page 4 of the [Monthly Activity Guide](#).



Inside This Issue:

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Sandy Hook
PROMISE

2024-2025 Youth Advisory Board & School Advisory Committee

Every year, Sandy Hook Promise recruits high school-aged SAVE Promise Club youth leaders to serve on the Sandy Hook Promise National Youth Advisory Board (YAB). They are chosen through a competitive application process. These students play a key role in Sandy Hook Promise's youth and school engagement. They do this by planning youth leadership events for Clubs nationwide, providing the youth perspective to Sandy Hook Promise teams, and by representing Sandy Hook Promise.

Back Row (left to right)

Frederick (TX)

Mylan (LA)

Jack (PA)

Angelo (FL)



Front Row (left to right)

Sarah (CT)

Jhakia (CA)

Arianna (MA)

Jade (CA)

Evelyn (WI)

The School Advisory Committee (SAC) is a wonderful group of educators, social workers, counselors, and administrators. They empower and support the Sandy Hook Promise National Youth Advisory Board. These adult champions also provide insight, feedback, and direction for our violence prevention programs. We are grateful for their leadership, participation, and dedication to SAVE Promise Clubs.

Back Row (left to right)

Andrea (PA)

Rachelle (CA)

Dustin (TX)

Shannon (CT)

Melissa (CA)



Front Row (left to right)

Lindsay (MA)

Marilyn (WI)

Brooke (LA)

La-Shanda (FL)

Be sure to read the monthly Newsletter articles written by the Youth Advisory Board and School Advisory Committee and join them on our webinars throughout the year. Then, start planning now, so you can meet them in person at the National SAVE Promise Club Youth Summit on April 26, 2025, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Read more about this year's [Youth Advisory Board](#) and [School Advisory Committee](#).

Featured SAVE Promise Clubs



California High School San Ramon, CA

During their last meeting of the year, Jade Owens, Club President and National Youth Advisory Board Member, shares the importance of mental health: “Finals week isn’t easy for anyone. It can be stressful. My Club shared how unsure and overwhelmed they feel about finals week. So, as a result, we chose to make a goal card. When it’s on paper, it helps us collect our thoughts better, rather than keep it all up in our heads. Finals week is stressful, but it’s also important to make sure you get what you need to be present for your testing. Eat well, get lots of sleep, and if you need any additional support—reach out to a trusted adult or friend.”

Price Middle School Atlanta, GA

During *Say Something Week*, the students at Price Middle School participated in an activity called “Stopping Violence Around the World.” The activity allowed students to foster a culture of inclusivity and empathy by asking their classmates to join hands to show solidarity and compassion. Their efforts created a safer school environment and inspired positive change beyond their walls, proving that united, we can strive for a world free from violence.



Richmond Early College High School Hamlet, NC

The students at Richmond Early College High School organized a spoken word event. The event encouraged students to write a poem, monologue, or autobiography incorporating SAVE Promise Club related themes including *Start With Hello*, embracing diversity, inclusion, kindness, compassion, empathy, and serving as an Upstander. Students presented their work during a school assembly, which allowed them to share their SAVE Promise Club experience with the entire student body.

REDI/Circle-Up:

Circle-ups are a foundational part of SAVE Promise Clubs. They allow all members’ voices to be heard and for hard topics to be discussed in a safe environment. These could be used to build community with Club members, to work through conflict, or to discuss an important current event. **For more on how to hold regular Circle-Ups, check out [this resource](#) from our Know the Signs curriculum.** Sample questions:



If you could be any person instead of yourself today, who would you be?



Share the name of someone important to you, along with something you want to say to them.

Meet Your Youth Programs Manager

Your Youth Programs Manager is one of your greatest resources. They are here for you with knowledge and heart, eager to support you through challenges, celebrate your successes, and provide opportunities to help you connect with other Clubs in the SAVE Promise Club community. You'll occasionally hear from your manager about upcoming events, youth and adult trainings, and webinars. Get to know each of them better as they provide more insight in this section of our Newsletter.



Raiesha Ali

Serves Clubs in Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Ohio, Texas, and Wisconsin

This is my first year serving as a Youth Programs Manager for Sandy Hook Promise, and I'm so excited to work within the Central Region. My background in international affairs and human rights advocacy led me to youth empowerment work because I believe youth voices can be energizing forces for justice. I look forward to helping students trust in the power of their voice and expertise, while also supporting them (and their advisors) to pilot new, engaging initiatives around violence prevention. I'm currently based in South Florida and in my spare time, I enjoy creative activities like salsa dancing, writing, and painting.



Abby Arisco

Serves Clubs in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming

My passion to empower and encourage everyone to use their voice and to be kind to others is what brought me to the Youth & Adult Programs Team. When I was younger, my late father inspired me to always be kind because you never know what someone could be going through in life. I have lived with that motto ever since. Following my motto, I leapt into action through volunteering in my own community and outside communities. When I'm not working or volunteering, you can find me relaxing in the Colorado Rocky Mountains.



Sharmaine S. Brown

Serves Clubs in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina

I have been a SAVE Promise Club Advisor and Sandy Hook Promise Leader volunteer since 2018, following the tragedy of the shooting death of my son Jared Brown (age 23) in Atlanta, Georgia in 2015. As a survivor of gun violence, I became a vital community force in the fight against gun violence and in keeping children safe. I am determined and committed to saving lives. When I am not working at Sandy Hook Promise, you will find me volunteering and working in my community with my local non-profit community partners afterschool and on the weekends.



Matthew Carter

Serves Clubs in District of Columbia, Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia

I have been involved with Sandy Hook Promise since August 2023 when I was hired as the Senior Associate for SAVE Promise Clubs. I became the manager of the Mid-Atlantic Youth Programs region in April 2024. My educational background is in social work and public administration, and prior to starting with Sandy Hook Promise, I served as the Director of Development for a child advocacy non-profit organization in central Pennsylvania. I am passionate about youth engagement and empowerment, and mental health advocacy. You can often find me running, building Legos, or playing with my dogs, Franklin & Lucy.



Sara Te

Serves Clubs in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont

I am excited to be supporting my new region in the Northeast this year. After teaching for 15 years, I joined Sandy Hook Promise on the Youth & Adult Programs Team in 2022. While I was teaching, I was a SAVE Promise Club Advisor at the middle school level and brought *Start With Hello* and *Say Something* to my campus, and eventually my entire district. When I'm not working with Clubs, I love watching movies with my husband and two kids and hanging out with our three cats.

SAVE the Date!

2024-2025 Calendar of Events

Stay up to date with all of our SAVE Promise Club events found in this section of the Newsletter. Here, find dates for webinars, trainings, and call-to-action weeks.

Advisor Virtual Training Webinars

AUG
20

National Advisor Training

This training will give SAVE Promise Club advisors resources, information, and ideas to help get their Club started for the new school year. [Register here](#)

SEP
5

SAVE Club Sustainability Management Supports Webinar

Learn more about the expectations, reporting, and resources available to Clubs through this program. [Register here](#)



Check Your Email!

A chance for your SAVE Promise Club to get \$500 this year. Watch your inbox for an email coming soon!

Call-to-Action Weeks & Planning Events

SEP
16-20

Start With Hello Week

A national call-to-action week dedicated to making new social connections and creating a sense of belonging among youth. [Register here](#)

OCT
3

National SAVE Day & Safe Schools Week Webinar

Join in planning for National SAVE Day (Oct. 23) during Safe School's Week (Oct. 20-26). [Register here](#)

NOV
7

National 14 Days of Action Forum for SAVE Clubs

Learn how to plan and implement a successful 14 Days of Action with your Club. [Register here](#)

Planning Springboard

Next month is national *Start With Hello Week*. [Register](#) for the newest resources and check out #StartWithHelloWeek on socials for great ideas from Clubs across the country. Run a speed-friending game, host a student voices contest, or use this week to recruit new members.

#SAVEPromiseClub

Post of the Month



savedd_clubwfhs



20 likes

savedd_clubwfhs "you matter" today and always, giveaway. Awareness of our important help numbers—988 & 911. Be wise Titans. Be safe. #livewell #suicideprevention #savepromiseclub #saddnation

Tag your social media posts with #SAVEPromiseClub for a chance to be featured in an upcoming Newsletter.



Don't Forget!

- Looking for materials? Check the [Resources Webpage](#)
- Find all SAVE Promise Club events on our [calendar](#)
- Have questions? Email us at savepromiseclub@sandyhookpromise.org

