



**Mountaineer Boys & Girls Club  
@  
University High School**

**SOAR  
(Services Of Afterschool Resources)**

**Fall 2020 / Spring 2021  
Handbook**

The Mountaineer Boys & Girls Club SOAR Program at University High School is designed to engage high school members in activities that will be fun, rewarding, and productive. The purpose of this program is to provide a safe, quality place for our community's high school students during the after-school hours. Each youth has the opportunity to engage in educational and enrichment activities that benefit them emotionally, physically, and mentally. SOAR is operated by staff from the Mountaineer Boys & Girls Club, as well as teachers and staff from University High School.

The following is an outline of the SOAR program. We strongly encourage parental participation and communication. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to contact us at the number listed below.

Please read carefully and become familiar with the following information. Please keep this information handy for future reference.

**Program Director:** Christa Varner, [cgvarner@boe.mono.k12.wv.us](mailto:cgvarner@boe.mono.k12.wv.us)

**Site Coordinator:** Hunter Bowen, [hunter.mbgc.uhs@gmail.com](mailto:hunter.mbgc.uhs@gmail.com)

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**Main Email:** [mbgc.uhs@gmail.com](mailto:mbgc.uhs@gmail.com)

**Website:** <https://mbgcuhs.wixsite.com/soar>



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**COVID – 19 Impact**

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Mountaineer Boys & Girls Club UHS SOAR program will be offering virtual services only to UHS students until further notice. This decision was made with the safety in mind for all staff and students as well as to remain compliant with the COVID-19 guidelines provided by the state, county, and school. When and if the program resumes in-person programming, updated information will be provided to you. Please make sure to provide the most up to date contact information on the registration form. The following outlines information regarding virtual programming for the 2020/2021 school year.

**Program Information**

**Who can join SOAR?**

The SOAR program is open to any UHS student who is interested in or in need of our services that is currently enrolled in the Monongalia County School system at University High School.



Due to COVID-19, Monongalia County Schools have offered four options for enrollment for high school students for the 2020/2021 school year. Any UHS student that has enrolled in Option 1: MCS Blended Learning, Option 2: MCS Distance Learning, or Option 3: WVDE Virtual School is eligible to register for SOAR programming and services. If the student is enrolled in Option 4: Homeschool, then they are not eligible to receive services through SOAR.

### **Hours**

SOAR's virtual programming hours will vary depending on the programming being offered. No virtual programming will be conducted during school day hours (7-3). All virtual programming will begin after 3 PM. Specific start and end times will be listed on monthly calendars and on the virtual meeting invitation links sent via email.

#### **No School/Snow Day Hours:**

The SOAR program will **NOT** be operating on Monongalia County snow days or days when school is officially closed.

#### **Early Dismissals:**

For planned early dismissals, the SOAR program will be operating. For emergency early dismissals, the SOAR program will **NOT** be operating.

### **Services Offered**

Please be advised: Our programming services are constantly evolving depending on student interest, instructor availability and COVID-19 impacts. SOAR program calendars are released monthly and announcements are made via email, on our website and the UHS website for sudden changes to programming.

#### **Academic Support Services**

*Homework assistance and individualized tutoring sessions*

#### **AP Test Prep**

*Homework assistance, individualized tutoring, and AP Test prep for those enrolled in select AP Courses*

#### **Credit Recovery**

*On-line program for students who require additional assistance in earning credits for graduation*

#### **9<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition Program**

*Provide students and parents with information about the new school; provide information about our program; and provide social, emotional and academic support*

#### **Study Skills**

*Provide students with a way to further improve how they study, read and retain information, and perform on exams*

#### **Life Skills/College & Career Readiness**

*Assists student with exploring their career interests, and helps them focus on their academic status in order to achieve their selected career path; prepares students for life after high school*

#### **Leadership Program/Community Service Learning**

*UHS and Morgantown based community service opportunities*



### **Literacy/Book Club**

*The Book Guild expands students' personal literary experience by reading and discussing works chosen by the students in a friendly and open atmosphere, and provides a safe and welcoming environment for teens to develop a lifelong interest in and appreciation for reading and learning.*

### **Social & Emotional Engagement**

*Students learn to be self-aware, manage their emotions and behaviors, have understanding and empathy for others, and develop positive relationships*

### **Partnered School Clubs:**

*(The following are school sponsored clubs that partner with SOAR to provide after-school meetings, supplies, staff, etc.)*

### **Technology Student Association**

*Fosters personal growth, leadership, and opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM); members apply and integrate these concepts through co-curricular activities, competitions, and related programs.*

### **VEX Robotics**

*Increase student interest and involvement in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) by engaging students in hands-on sustainable and affordable curriculum-based robotics engineering programs*

### **Manga Club**

*Promote reading for enjoyment, enrich student lives through cultural diversity, and to create a friendly atmosphere for students to bond through the unique common genre within the school culture and beyond*

### **Social Gamers Alliance**

*Fantasy tabletop role playing games (Dungeons & Dragons)*

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## **General Information**

### **Participation**

By enrolling your student in our program, you understand they must actively participate in the program service that they are attending. We do not require that students participate in all programming services we offer, but we highly recommend students keep up regular attendance (attending at least 1 programming session per week). Please do not enroll your student if you do not want them participating in our programming. If your child is not participating during a program session, you will be notified and we reserve the right to dismiss your student from the program. If there are limitations to participating in program sessions, please be sure to document it on your child's membership form so we can accommodate appropriately.

### **Cell Phones & Electronics**

Members may **NOT** use cell phones during tutoring hours unless they are using it for tutoring/homework or emergency purposes and the staff/teacher supervising the tutoring session has approved. The cell phone and electronic policy during after school hours is the same as the school's cell phone and electronic policy during school hours at UHS. Chromebooks will be used for virtual programming unless a student chooses to use their personal computer/tablet, but school policy for computer/technology/internet usage must be



followed at all times, even if using a personal computer/tablet. Please see the UHS and/or Mon County Schools website for a copy of these policies.

### **Parent/Guardian Information**

The SOAR program strongly encourages parental involvement and open communication. We will be conducting regular check-ins throughout the year with you and your student enrolled in the program via email, so please provide us with most current up to date email to facilitate this type of communication. If you are interested in volunteering, donating, or having an active role with your student in the SOAR program, please email [mbgc.uhs@gmail.com](mailto:mbgc.uhs@gmail.com) or call 304-292-7510. We will notify you when there are opportunities available to be involved with the SOAR program.

Please be advised that the registration form is required to be completed and submitted for your student to be able to participate in the SOAR program. The 2020/2021 SOAR program registration form is available via a google form: <https://forms.gle/mn9qrbn78uH9zybA> (if you are unable to access this link and/or fill out or submit the form please notify us asap)

The SOAR program will be providing a select number of parent/guardian education opportunities throughout the school year. These opportunities will be selected based on parent/guardian interest and need. Due to COVID-19 impacts, these opportunities will be conducted virtually and include instructional flyers and videos.

Please check our website <https://mbgcuhs.wixsite.com/soar> for program updates including monthly calendars and program schedules. This handbook, contact information, necessary forms and links, and program updates (i.e. calendars) can also be found on the UHS homepage via the following link: <https://hawks.mono.k12.wv.us/3/Content2/556>

We also utilize our email ([mbgc.uhs@gmail.com](mailto:mbgc.uhs@gmail.com)) for providing you with updates, information, and questions. Please provide us with a frequently used current email account on the registration form.

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### **2020-2021 Calendar for Monongalia County Public Schools**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Holiday/School Status</b>
September 7 <sup>th</sup>	Labor Day – Schools Closed
September 8 <sup>th</sup>	First Day of School
October 9 <sup>th</sup>	2 Hour Early Dismissal
November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Election Day – Schools Closed
November 11 <sup>th</sup>	Veteran’s Day – Schools Closed
November 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> *	Non-Traditional Instruction
November 26 <sup>th</sup>	Thanksgiving Day – Schools Closed
November 27 <sup>th</sup> *	Schools Closed



December 22 <sup>nd</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> *	Schools Closed
December 25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Day – Schools Closed
December 28 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> *	Schools Closed
January 1 <sup>st</sup>	New Year's Day – Schools Closed
January 18 <sup>th</sup>	Martin Luther King Day – Schools Closed
February 15 <sup>th</sup> *	Schools Closed
February 26 <sup>th</sup>	2 Hour Early Dismissal
April 2 <sup>nd</sup> *	Schools Closed
April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	2 Hour Early Dismissal
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	UHS Graduation
May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	MHS Graduation
May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	CB Graduation
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Memorial Day – Schools Closed
June 1 <sup>st</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> *	May be converted to Instructional Days

*\* Days that may be converted to instructional days*

*(In compliance with West Virginia State Code WVC §18-5-45 specifies that if a county board cannot complete 180 days of instruction with the current school calendar, the county board must schedule instruction on any available non-instructional day (other than the 7 holidays or Election day) OR use an out-of-calendar day (except for Saturdays or Sundays)).*



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### **Behavior: Discipline and Consequences**

Staff members at the Mountaineer Boys & Girls Club keep the safety of our members a top priority. Our standards and expectations exist to ensure that your child and every other child at the Club can safely enjoy the Club's activities. They include:

- Respect yourself
- Play fairly and be honest
- Applaud the efforts of others
- Avoid inappropriate language
- Say only positive things about others
- Be respectful of the Club staff members and teachers
- Resolve disagreements in a positive way
- Listen during appropriate times and assemblies
- Be respectful of other members and their property
- Tobacco, drugs, alcohol and weapons are prohibited
- Take care of the Club building, grounds & equipment

### **General Code of Conduct**

- Club members must sign-in and out each day they attend programming
- Club members are allowed in supervised meeting areas only
- Physical violence is not permitted
- Offensive/Disrespectful language is not permitted
- Club members are to be respectful, responsible, safe and kind

Harmful threats, harassing, taunting of others, fighting, bullying, and any illegal behavior are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

### **Club Rules**

- Respect yourself, other Club members, and Club staff members
- Respect Club equipment and materials
- Keep hands, feet, and hurtful words to yourself
- Have fun!

### **Dress Code**

Youth should dress comfortably and wear clothes that allow them to participate in typical Club activities and programs.

- Refrain from clothing that has words or pictures that are offensive, derogatory; contain inappropriate language, and/or signs.
- Revealing clothing cannot be worn at the Club.
- Refrain from wearing any clothing that is promoting gangs or gang related activities.

### **Disciplinary Actions & Consequences**

Minor misbehavior is handled with disciplinary actions depending on the situation. All discipline issues will be handled on an individual basis. Any member who disrupts programs or creates a dangerous situation will be given consequences for their actions. Members who do not follow rules can expect to lose privileges and face consequences.



Disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Verbal coaching/re-teaching behavior
- Time-out
- Suspension from program area
- Loss of Club privilege
- Club service projects
- Suspension (one day or more)
- Indefinite suspension (until the situation can be resolved or the parent/guardian is consulted)
- Expulsion (i.e. permanent suspension – membership revoked)
- Contacting the proper authorities

**Members may be removed immediately when:**

- Physical violence occurs
- Serious threats or harassment
- Bullying
- Leaving Club premises unaccompanied
- Purposely damaging Club property
- Intentionally putting oneself or other members in an unsafe situation

**Children with Special Requirements**

To make sure your child is safe and has positive, meaningful and engaging opportunities while at our Club, our staff member to child ratio is 1 to 16 or less. Keeping that ratio in mind, if your child needs assistance with personal cares, has physical restrictions, or if there are behavioral concerns that would require your child to have a personal assistant, it is the responsibility of your family to provide that one-on-one assistant while your child is participating at the Club.

*\*Please be advised that any and all misbehaviors may be reported to UHS administration and/or the appropriate authorities as the SOAR program is conducted with school property and under the supervision of UHS teachers. Instances where UHS administration must be notified, disciplinary actions and consequences may differ from those listed above and may not be limited to consequences only in the program (i.e. the school may revoke Chromebook privileges to a student that violates Chromebook rules during SOAR program sessions). In addition to the above information, please make sure your student adheres to UHS rules and codes of conduct while participating in SOAR programming.*