SERVICES PROVIDED:

For over 43 years, the Boys & Girls Club of Salem, Marion and Polk Counties has delivered on our promise to provide the youth who need us most with support to reach their full potential. Through a comprehensive continuum of services, we provide children and teens with a platform for success by equipping them with the necessary life, academic, and career-related skills to thrive in a 21st Century global society.

We operate eight Clubhouses and Teen Centers in addition to a Health & Dental Services Center, Be GREAT by 8th, T3: Training Teens for Tomorrow workforce development program, community athletic leagues, and outreach programs to schools and communities. Currently, we serve over 11,900 youth, many of whom are from economically disadvantaged homes, qualify for free or reduced lunch, and live in single-parent households.

Our goal is to deliver programs that prepare youth for a great future. This begins with the imperative to provide a safe environment that keeps kids engaged, active, and happy in the hours after school and during the summer and prepares them with a skill set that aligns academics with future career pathways and industry trends.

BE GREAT BY 8TH PROGRAMMATIC AREAS:

Be GREAT by 8th is an intentional response to Oregon’s youth’s disconnection from the educational system and developed lack of intentionality towards their personal and educational future. Be GREAT by 8th focuses on promoting forward-thinking, goal-setting, self-confidence, and success in each middle school youth’s continued academic experience and future.
The targeted population includes middle school youth who are at risk of disconnecting from the education system, who are already disconnected from the education system, or at risk of being unable to transition successfully to high school and a career.

Be GREAT by 8th is a 30 week, comprehensive, goal orientated, educational program, spanning the academic school year, in which youth have access to exciting on and off site programs, amazing cumulative challenges and events, a support system, and case management. A separate educational loss-prevention program will be available during the summer, through Be GREAT by 8th.

Be GREAT by 8th provides a network of academic support, exposure to an array of college and career pathways, personal mentoring, and access to local Industry Specialists and Expert Volunteers. Youth will graduate the program with new expectations about their future, transformational experience and opportunities, a strong understanding of how to communicate and succeed in the 21st century, and strengthened connections with their parents, school, community, and club.

ROLE OF THE PRACTICUM STUDENT:

- Student will be assigned to 13 youth, ages 11 to 15, from the Boys & Girls Club Be GREAT by 8th program.
- Form a mentor relationship with each youth and the group as a whole.
- Mentor in the form of facilitating group programs that promote mentorship and personal growth.
- Assist in developing exciting, educational programs that will enrich youth, especially their intentionality towards school and life.
- Administrate case management through reports on activities and results on paper and evaluation forms.
- Build relationships with staff, mentors, and additional Boys & Girls Club youth.
- Lead and assist with weekly workshops, large-scale challenges and events, and parent events.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE PRACTICUM STUDENT:

- Understanding of a middle school age youth’s emotional development and behavior.
- Understanding of the values and developmental assets for middle school age youth.
- Ability to learn more about psychology of youth/teen behavior and academic deterioration prevention.
- Spanish/English and bi-cultural preferred.
- Past experience with mentoring middle school age youth preferred.
- Transportation to multiple locations throughout Salem.