

SPIN Volunteer Quick Guide to Belonging

Young people want to belong and feel like they are members of a group. As a SPIN volunteer, you can help your SPIN club members feel accepted, connected, and included. Because SPIN clubs only meet for a short time, you must be intentional about creating a place of belonging.

Best Practices for Belonging	Ways Volunteers Can Promote Belonging
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people need a positive relationship with a caring adult. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide guidance and coaching as members work on their projects. • Give positive encouragement and feedback. • Include young people in decision-making about club activities. • Encourage members to experiment and try their own ideas.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people need a welcoming and inclusive environment that allows them to feel connected to others and appreciated for who they are. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for the members to get to know each other through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ice-breaker activities, ○ Team-building challenges, ○ Cooperative games, ○ Working in pairs or small groups.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people should feel safe at all times – physically and emotionally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety is your #1 priority as a SPIN volunteer. • Plan ahead and consider the possible risks involved in activities or the environment and eliminate or manage the risks. • Before beginning an activity, clearly explain behavior expectations that keep everyone safe. • Teach club members safety practices for the project they are working on. • Stop any put-downs or ridicule. • Don't tolerate bullying or cliques.

Adapted with permission from University of Illinois Cooperative Extension.

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