

Written Testimony in Support of Club Adventure, Kids Day Out, and Summer Fun Center Programs

To the Montgomery County Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for maintaining the budgets for the Club Adventure, Kids Day Out, and Summer Fun Center programs offered by Montgomery County Recreation. These programs are invaluable to our community, providing essential services that benefit families, children, and the broader neighborhood.

As a family with two working parents, these programs have been instrumental in ensuring our children are safely cared for during critical hours. The extended hours of operation align with our work schedules, offering peace of mind while fostering a safe and engaging environment for our children. The affordability of programs like Club Adventure also makes quality childcare accessible to many families in our community, which is vital in an era where daycare costs can be prohibitive. The cost differential between Club Adventure and other afterschool programs allows our family to save for the kids' college funds.

The dedicated staff at Long Branch Recreation Center feel like family to us and many others in the community. Their professionalism, warmth, and commitment to creating enriching experiences for children have built a sense of trust and connection that is irreplaceable. Whether through creative crafts, sports activities, or themed events, these initiatives promote physical activity, creativity, and social development for children aged 6-12 years.

Moreover, these programs contribute significantly to strengthening community bonds. The Long Branch Recreation Center serves as more than just a venue—it is a hub where families gather, friendships are formed, and the diverse population of Silver Spring comes together.

The importance of these programs cannot be overstated. They enrich lives by addressing the physical, mental, and social needs of participants while simultaneously supporting working families who rely on them as an essential resource. By investing in these programs, Montgomery County continues to demonstrate its commitment to community development and the well-being of its residents.

I urge the County Council to preserve the funding for Club Adventure, Kids Day Out, and Summer Fun Center programs so they can continue serving as pillars of support for families like mine. These programs are not just recreational—they are vital services that empower families and strengthen our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Bonnie Calabria
Silver Spring Resident