

Boys and Girls Club of Rosebud recognized for Summer Food



Photo by Rich Winter

Lunch lady Lisa McKnight getting ready for the evening meal at the Boys & Girls Club of Rosebud. Not pictured but also part of the cooking crew is Naomi Miller.

PIERRE, S.D. – At a recent gathering of state agency representatives in Arlington, Va., the U.S. Department of Agriculture recognized Rapid City Area Schools and the Boys and Girls Club of Rosebud for their efforts with the Summer Food Service Program in 2016.

Summer Food Service Program sites operate in low-income areas to provide meals and snacks to children during the summer months.

The Rapid City Area School District was recognized for increasing participation numbers and for enhancing its summer meals program by partnering with the local YMCA to provide beneficial activities to children in new, innovative ways.

The Boys and Girls Club of Rosebud was recognized for its social media presence, which has resulted in continued increased participation in its summer

meals program. In addition, the club's participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program during the school year has established a year-round feeding program which enhances the reach of USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs.

Statewide, the number of Summer Food Service Program sites also increased from 87 in 2015 to 93 in 2016. In summer 2015, 465,973 meals were served. While summer 2016 meal numbers are not yet final, they are projected to be over 475,000.

In early 2017, the South Dakota Department of Education will announce when applications open for 2017 Summer Food Service Program sponsors and sites. Community organizations, nonprofits, schools, tribal and local governments can apply to be sponsors if they operate in low-income areas, serve a group of mostly low-

income children or operate a summer camp with a high proportion of low-income participants. Parks and recreation departments, city and county health departments, libraries and neighborhood service agencies can participate as sites or sponsors. Organizations interested in reviewing sponsor responsibilities can watch the Summer Food Service Program Overview on the South Dakota Department of Education's Summer Food Service Program webpage.

The Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option are federally funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered by the South Dakota Department of Education. This agency is an equal opportunity provider. More information on the summer programs is available at <http://www.doe.sd.gov/cans/>.