



About the Saint Paul Jaycees

Formed September 11, 1929, the Saint Paul Junior Chamber of Commerce offers its members opportunities to serve their communities, establish rewarding friendships, and create professional contacts. Our first President, Leslie Farrington, was elected National President of the Jaycees in 1933.

The Saint Paul Jaycees have proven to be a driving force behind many Saint Paul traditions. The School Patrol Parade and Picnic, started by the Saint Paul Jaycees, will celebrate its 71st anniversary this year. The Saint Paul Winter Carnival, a world-famous celebration of the snow and cold, would have languished in the history books if the Saint Paul Jaycees had not started an initiative to defrost Winter Carnival in 1936.

The drive and vision of the Saint Paul Jaycees has not gone unnoticed, or unrewarded. Starting in 1943, the Saint Paul Jaycees have been awarded the Giessenbier award four times. This award recognizes highest achievement by a chapter within the Minnesota Jaycees. The Saint Paul Jaycees were voted Outstanding National Chapter in 1957, acknowledging our chapter as first in the nation.

While we are an award-winning chapter, our vision for change in the Jaycee organization has sometimes meant taking a stand for our chapter's members. The U.S. Jaycees revoked the Saint Paul Jaycees' charter in 1984 because we allowed women to participate as full members. We took our case to the Supreme Court, challenging that the U.S. Jaycees cannot deny any membership. By the end of August, 1984, our charter was restored.

One way the Jaycees serve their communities is through partnerships. The Special Olympics and the Saint Paul Jaycees have enjoyed a close relationship since 1972; our chapter still holds an annual holiday party for Minnesota's Special Olympians each year. Missing Children Minnesota receives a portion of the ticket sales from Tunnel of Terror, which in turn supports projects to help find missing children and teach parents how to protect their children through preparation.

In the Saint Paul chapter, each member is rewarded with learning new skills that enhance professional growth, making a difference in the lives around them, and an appreciation of the communities they live in. The Saint Paul chapter is Minnesota's largest, with more than 200 members, ranking among the top 15 chapters in the country. Saint Paul and its surrounding communities benefit from 120 Jaycee-run projects each year, including Tunnel of Terror™, Best 100 Art Show, Holiday Shopping Tour, and the Special Olympics Holiday Party.