

= Boys ' Club ( Parks and Recreation ) =

" Boys ' Club " is the fourth episode of the first season of the American comedy television series Parks and Recreation . It originally aired on NBC in the United States on April 30 , 2009 . It was written by Alan Yang and directed by Michael McCullers . In the episode , Leslie tries to integrate herself into the local " boys club " by drinking wine from an illegal gift basket , and gets into trouble as she tries to accept responsibility for her supposed mistake . In a B story , Andy cleans his apartment while Ann is at work .

The episode included beer and props from Upland Brewing Company , a real @-@ life company based in Bloomington , Indiana , in an attempt to give Pawnee an authentic Indiana atmosphere . " Boys ' Club " received positive to fair reviews , with some commentators praising the episode for better developing the show 's supporting characters .

According to Nielsen Media Research , it was watched by 5 @.@ 28 million households in its original airing , which was consistent with the previous week . " Boys ' Club " and the rest of the first season of Parks and Recreation was released on DVD in the United States on September 8 , 2009 .

= = Plot = =

The episode opens with Leslie ( Amy Poehler ) and Tom ( Aziz Ansari ) responding to an incident at a park trail , where teenage boys are picking up plastic baggies of dog droppings and throwing them at each other . Leslie tries to stop them but ends up playing along with the boys and admitting that it is fun . Later , at the Pawnee town hall , a construction company has sent a gift basket with wine and cheese to the parks department , but Leslie locks it away because they are not allowed to accept gifts over \$ 25 . Later , she and the others in the department look at a new social @-@ networking site that April ( Aubrey Plaza ) has set up for the pit construction project . The site already has seven friends , including city planner Mark ( Paul Schneider ) , who Leslie is disappointed to see is friends with many scantily clad young women . Leslie and Ann ( Rashida Jones ) see Mark and other city planners drinking beer in the town hall courtyard . Leslie describes it as the exclusive " boys ' club " and proposes that she and Ann crash it .

When they come outside , Mark and the others welcome them warmly . Leslie enjoys herself at the party and , when the beer runs out and the party is about to end , she keeps it going by retrieving the wine and cheese from the gift basket . The next morning , she feels guilty and , despite her boss Ron 's ( Nick Offerman ) assurance that " [ i ] t 's not that big a deal , " Leslie issues a public apology to every government official in Pawnee , including a link to the new pit website . Later , however , she learns April has placed a drunken video of herself drinking the rest of the wine on the site , even though she is only 19 . Ron tells Leslie an ethics board has called for a disciplinary hearing with Leslie . Leslie apologizes to the board and defends April , accepting responsibility for the video . As the questions from the board continue , Ron angrily defends Leslie , insisting , " Leslie has never broken a rule in her life , to the point that it 's annoying . " He abruptly ends the meeting and insists they will have to go through him to give Leslie anything more than a slap on the wrist .

Later , Leslie learns she will receive a letter in her file , which disappoints her strongly until Mark tells her he has seven in his file , and that most of the guys have at least one . Mark welcomes Leslie " to the team " , which makes her proud .

In a B story , Ann 's normally lazy boyfriend Andy ( Chris Pratt ) decides to surprise her by cleaning up their messy house while she is gone . He cleans up the house ( although he throws their garbage into the pit ) . After cleaning it , he bathes himself in a children 's pool in the backyard and plays music on his boombox . Angry neighbor Lawrence steals his boombox , prompting Andy ( who has two broken legs ) to chase the neighbor naked through the streets on his crutches . Later , Ann arrives home and is pleased with Andy 's housework , with Andy telling the documentary crew he expects to get " gently laid " later .

= = Production = =

" Boys ' Club " was written by Alan Yang and directed by Michael McCullers . McCullers co @-@ wrote two of the Austin Powers films and directed Pohler in the comedy film Baby Mama . The cold open scene , with kids throwing bags of dog feces at Leslie , was added to the episode after the rest had already been filmed , and was directed personally by series co @-@ creator Greg Daniels . The bags were actually filled with mashed potatoes . Daniels said of the opening , " There were a lot of people who felt this was not in good taste , but to me , this was one of the most fun things about the show . " The restriction prohibiting Pawnee employees from accepting gifts over \$ 25 was based on real @-@ life municipal regulations the Parks and Recreation producers encountered during their research . The scenes filmed in the town hall outside courtyard were filmed on a studio sound stage , and the ethics board review scene was filmed inside the city hall building of Pasadena , California .

Like most episodes of Parks and Recreation , a great deal of the scenes in " Boys ' Club " were improvised by the actors . For example , Nick Offerman improvised the line " Put it in an e @-@ mail ? " , which he said when Leslie told him she had a very long story to tell him . Schur thought the line was " my favorite thing in the show " , and they made him say in it every subsequent take during filming . Aziz Ansari also improvised a majority of the scene in which he helped Leslie prepare for her ethics board review . Dean Holland , Parks and Recreation 's editor , said it was his favorite scene from the entire first season . Amy Poehler improvised the line at the courtyard gathering , after she accidentally spilled several beer bottles , " I feel like I 'm already in the boys ' club . Look at those bitches cleanin ' up after me . " Schur said the line helped develop Leslie 's character in future episodes because " we realized that Leslie can be a little bit cooler than we had originally thought " . The scene with Ron describing his ideal government was written for a different episode , but was moved to " Boys ' Club " when the producers decided it fit better there . Schur said it was his favorite moment in the episode . " Boys ' Club " ends with Leslie and Mark toasting a beer to each other because Schur said , " It 's a running joke in the writer 's room that every episode should end with clinking beers . "

Photos of Parks and Recreation producers were included among the photos of past city council members on the town hall walls . The photo of Hiscock is the one Leslie said she believes , " No matter what direction I move , he 's always staring at my chest . Mark 's social networking site featured in " Boys ' Club " included the character with a wide range of promiscuous women . The pictures were shot during a photo session during which , according to series co @-@ creator Michael Schur , " We brought in a lot of women and basically said , you 're really trashy . You 're trashy women , and we 're going to take your picture now . " During the courtyard party scenes , a brief clip shows Poehler , Jones and Schneider dancing together . The clip was actually the three actors out @-@ of @-@ character playing around between takes , but the Parks producers decided to add it to the episode .

Michael Schur , co @-@ creator of Parks and Recreation , said " Boys ' Club " marked an attempt to better develop Andy Dwyer . Schur said , " We definitely wanted to dimensionalize his character and not make him just a one @-@ dimensional douchebag . " In the episode , Andy plays a tape of himself singing a song called " Ann " , which he wrote as a romantic ballad for her . Chris Pratt actually wrote and performed the song himself for the show , although he said in an interview , " it really wasn 't much " . Pratt actually appeared on set naked while filming the scene in which he chases Lawrence through the streets without clothes on . Schur said the scene was written because Pratt " loves taking his clothes off " . It proved difficult to film the scenes with Pratt bathing in the children 's pool because the bubbles disappeared so quickly that multiple takes were required . The scenes with Andy running naked through the streets with his crutches to get his boombox back were inspired by a real @-@ life experience from the set . During filming , an announcement was made that specialty coffees were available for the cast and crew , and Pratt ran quickly after them with the crutches . Greg Daniels added it to " Boys ' Club " because he found the experience extremely funny .

In an attempt to lend authenticity to the fictional Pawnee , Indiana setting , Parks and Recreation producers contacted the Bloomington , Indiana @-@ based Upland Brewing Company and asked them to provide empty beer bottles and labels for the scene with the characters drinking in the town

hall courtyard . The company provided props for their beer brand Dragonfly IPA , and Upland officials said their prominent appearances in the episode generated positive publicity for the company : Scott Johnson , marketing operations manager for the brewing company , said , " As soon as it went off , everyone starts calling me and e @-@ mailing me . " They also drink Vernors ginger ale , a soft drink very popular in Indiana . Windell D. Middlebrooks makes a guest appearance as Brian , one of the men attending the during the courtyard party . Middlebrooks was cast simply based on his work on Miller High Life commercials , in which he steals beer from bars that he deems unworthy of it .

On the day of the episode 's original American broadcast on April 30 , 2009 , the official NBC Parks and Recreation website launched a duplicate of the Sullivan Street Pit social networking site which was featured in the episode , complete with photos of the pit , the list of " friends " from the show and a link to Mark 's page and his photos with scantily clad women . The pit page , as well as the regular NBC website , also included the actual video of Aubrey Plaza pretending to drink wine and get drunk , as it was featured on the episode . Schur said for those scenes , " We just gave Aubrey a camera and told her to just drink wine and talk to the camera . "

= = Cultural references = =

The social networking site developed for the pit project is inspired by sites like MySpace and Facebook , which were extremely popular when the episode was first broadcast . Leslie makes a public apology to all female government officials in alphabetical order , starting with Minnesota Republican Rep. Michele Bachmann , Wisconsin Democratic Rep. Tammy Baldwin ( Democrat , Wisconsin ) and Illinois Democratic Rep. Melissa Bean . On her desk , Leslie has framed photos of U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor . The apology scene was filmed with the camera on a tripod , something seldom done in the documentary @-@ style series . An online game of Scrabble is visible on the computer screen in Ron 's office during one scene . It is exactly the same Scrabble game he had been playing with Tom in the previous episode , " The Reporter " . While preparing Leslie for her ethics board review , Tom asks if she has ever fantasized about Ron " covered in Powerade " . This is a reference to commercials for the sports drink , in which athletes sweat the multi @-@ colored liquid while working out .

= = Reception = =

In its original American broadcast on April 30 , 2009 , " Boys ' Club " was watched by 5 @.@ 28 million households , according to Nielsen Media Research . This rating was consistent with the previous week even as other NBC shows , like the new Southland , saw a drop in ratings . " Boys ' Club " received a 2 @.@ 3 rating / 8 share among viewers aged between 18 and 34 , and a 2 @.@ 3 rating / 7 share among viewers between 18 and 49 .

The episode received positive to fair reviews . Alan Sepinwall , television journalist for The Star @-@ Ledger , said " Boys ' Club " was funnier than previous episode and included scenes with good physical comedy involving Leslie , particularly when she spilled the beer bottles ; he also praised Andy 's " naked crutch chase " . Matt Fowler of IGN said the episode gave a little more insight into Leslie 's " aspirations about wanting to be a woman who succeeds in government , which is a step in the right direction " , but Fowler said her constant mistakes and wrong decisions bog down the story . Fowler said the best part of the episode was Andy 's subplot , particularly the scene in which he hops down the street naked on his crutches . Keith Phipps of The A.V. Club gave the episode a B-grade , and said the Amy Poehler character needs to be more fully formed in future episodes . Phipps said most of the show 's laughs came from supporting characters Andy , Tom and Ron ; he also particularly praised Ron 's shutdown of Leslie 's hearing and his monologues of the ideal government : " One guy , who sits in a small room at a desk . And the only thing he ? s allowed to decide is who to nuke . " Jeremy Medina of Entertainment Weekly liked that the episode included a moral crisis of sorts for Leslie , who he described as " a fully @-@ realized character instead of a

caricature " .

= = DVD release = =

" Boys ' Club " , along with the five other first season episodes of Parks and Recreation , was released on a one @-@ disc DVD set in the United States on September 8 , 2009 . The DVD included cast and crew commentary tracks for each episode , as well as about 30 minutes of deleted scenes . The deleted scenes included on the DVD were originally featured on the official Parks and Recreation website after the episode aired . In one of the scenes , Leslie bought a gift basket and returned it to the business that provided the original one , in an attempt at what she called " ethical restitution " . In another scene , Leslie apologized to April for introducing her to alcohol , prompting April to later tell the camera she has had fake IDs in Indiana , North Dakota and Delaware since she was 14 years old .