



# Why Are You Here?

## BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA

## An Inside Look at the Greatest Organization on the Planet.

*For more than a century, Clubs have helped put young people on the path to great futures. Boys & Girls Clubs annually serve nearly 4 million young people, through membership and community outreach, in over 4,100 Club facilities throughout the country and BGCA-affiliated Youth Centers on U.S. military installations worldwide.*

### How We Serve

The Boys & Girls Club Movement includes more than 1,140 independent organizations and the national organization, Boys & Girls Clubs of America. BGCA's Atlanta headquarters, regional service centers and Government Relations office in Washington, D.C., provide assistance and support to Clubs in youth program development, resource development, marketing and communications, and administration.

Independent Boys & Girls Club organizations, which are governed locally, serve youth and communities in more than 4,100 Club locations. In 2013, Boys & Girls Club youth development programs, training and services impacted nearly 4 million children and teens. Child safety is our No. 1 priority; BGCA provides a 24-hour hotline, training and the latest resources to help Clubs be safe places for our nation's youth.

### Our Reach and Scope

#### 4,146 chartered Club facilities, including approximately:

1,500	in schools
400	BGCA-affiliated Youth Centers on U.S. military installations worldwide
300	in public housing
200	on Native lands

#### About the Youth We Serve

5%	are 5 years old and under
47%	are 6-10 years old
19%	are 11-12 years old
19%	are 13-15 years old
10%	are 16 and older
55%	are male
45%	are female

#### Ethnicity of Youth Served

Caucasian	32%
African-American	28%
Hispanic/Latino	23%
Multi-racial	5%
Asian-American	3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	2%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1%
Other race/Unknown	6%

## Our Mission

To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

## Core Beliefs

The Boys & Girls Club Provides:

- A safe place to learn and grow
- Ongoing relationships with caring, adult professionals
- Life enhancing programs and character development
- Hope and opportunity



## Our History



The Boys & Girls Club of America had its beginning in 1860 with three women in Hartford, Connecticut. Believing that boys who roamed the streets should have a positive alternative, Mary Goodwin, Alice Goodwin, and Elizabeth Hammersley organized the first Club and a cause was born.

In 1906, several Boys & Girls Clubs decided to affiliate. The Federated Boys Clubs in Boston was formed with 53 member organizations-this marked the start of a nationwide Movement and our national organization.

In 1931, the Boys Club Federation of America became Boys Clubs of America.

In 1956, Boys Club of America celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and received a U.S. Congressional Charter.

In 1990, in order to recognize the fact that girls were a part of the cause, the national organization's name was changed to the Boys & Girls Club of America.

In 2006, we celebrated the organizations centennial.

## Club Code

I believe in God and the right to worship according to my own faith and religion.  
I believe in America and the American way of life, in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.  
I believe in fair play, honesty, and sportsmanship.  
I believe in my Boys & girls Club which stands for these things.

## 5 Key Elements

1. A Safe, Positive Environment
2. Fun
3. Supportive Relationships
4. Opportunities and Expectations
5. Recognition

## 3 Core Areas

1. Academic Success
2. Good Character & Citizenship
3. Healthy Lifestyles

## 5 Programming Areas

1. The Arts
2. Sports, Fitness, and Recreation
3. Health & Life Skills
4. Character & Leadership
5. Education and Career
6. Specialized Programs

## THE ARTS

*These initiatives are designed to allow young members to embrace their creativity and learn.*

### Clay Tech: A Club Tech Curricula

Clay Tech is a fun, hands-on introduction to animation for members, especially those ages 13 to 18, that promotes the importance of teamwork and provides an educational, engaging and fun experience.



### DramaMatters Afterschool

DramaMatters Afterschool is a drama education program for Clubs that encourages members ages 6 to 18 to engage in hands-on activities. Drama education builds self-confidence, sparks creativity and boosts academic achievement.



### Digital Arts Suite and Festivals

Club Tech's Digital Arts Suite teaches members ages 6 to 18 how to create computer-generated art. In each of the five tutorials (Web Tech, Design Tech, Photo Tech, Music Tech and Movie Tech), members advance.



### ImageMakers National Photography Program

This year-round program encourages Club members ages 6 to 18 to learn and practice black-and-white, color, digital and alternative process photography. The ImageMakers National Photography Program Resource Guide is full of fun, creative activity ideas.



### National Fine Arts Exhibit Program

This year-round program encourages artistic expression among Club members ages 6 to 18 through drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, mixed media and sculpture displayed at local and regional exhibits. Using the interactive National Fine Arts Program Guide



## SPORTS, FITNESS & RECREATION

*These Club programs help develop fitness, a positive use of leisure time, reduction of stress, appreciation for the environment and social and interpersonal skills.*

### PGA Sports Academy

The PGA Sports Academy introduces youth, ages 7 to 13, to the sport of golf to help young people build character, and develop healthy and active lifestyles.



### WANNA PLAY?

WANNA PLAY? encourages youth ages 6 to 12 to increase their overall fitness and health through physical activity and improved nutrition education, while learning the fundamental skills of baseball and softball.



### Jr. RBI

Jr. RBI is designed to teach the fundamentals of baseball and softball to children ages 5 to 12. It also serves as a feeder program for the RBI program.



### RBI: Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities

RBI provides training to Clubs wishing to start or expand boys baseball and girls fast-pitch softball leagues for ages 13 to 15 and 16 to 18. RBI teams representing Club leagues are eligible to participate in sports clinics.



### Triple Play: A Game Plan for Mind, Body and Soul

Triple Play, a comprehensive health and wellness program, strives to improve the overall health of Club members ages 6-18 by increasing their daily physical activity, teaching them good nutrition and helping them develop healthy relationships.



## HEALTH & LIFE SKILLS

*These initiatives develop young people's capacity to engage in positive behaviors that nurture their own well-being, set personal goals and live successfully as self-sufficient adults.*

### Date SMART

Date SMART is a supplement to SMART Girls and Passport to Manhood for Club members ages 13 to 18. Through fun and easy-to-use sessions, members learn how to achieve mutually supportive relationships free of violence and abuse.



### Passport to Manhood

Passport to Manhood promotes and teaches responsibility in Club boys ages 11 to 14. Passport to Manhood consists of 14 sessions, each concentrating on a specific aspect of character and manhood through highly interactive activities.



### SMART Girls

An outgrowth of the popular and effective SMART Moves program, SMART Girls is a health, fitness, prevention/education and self-esteem enhancement program for girls ages 8 to 17.



### SMART Moves

The SMART Moves (Skills Mastery and Resistance Training) prevention/education program addresses problems such as drug and alcohol use and premature sexual activity.



### NetSmartz

NetSmartz teaches Internet safety skills through engaging multimedia activities and offline interaction with Club professionals in three age-appropriate groups.



### Healthy Habits: A Triple Play Program

Designed to incorporate healthy living and active learning in every part of the Club experience, Healthy Habits emphasizes good nutrition, regular physical activity and improving overall well-being.



## CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP

*Helping youth become responsible, caring citizens and acquire skills for participating in the democratic process is the main thrust of these programs. They also develop leadership skills and provide opportunities for planning, decision-making, contributing to Club and community and celebrating our national heritage.*

### Million Members, Million Hours of Service

Studies show that young people who engage in service do better in school, maintain positive relationships with adults and avoid risky behaviors. BGCA's Million Members, Million Hours of Service efforts will help Boys & Girls Clubs increase the number of youth participating in volunteer and service projects to 1 million members each donating at least one hour of service in a single year.



### Torch Clubs

Torch Clubs are chartered, small-group leadership and service clubs for boys and girls ages 11 to 13. A Torch Club is a powerful vehicle through which Club staff can help meet the special character development needs of younger adolescents at a critical stage in their life.



### Keystone

Keystoning is the Boys & Girls Club Movement's ultimate teen program. This unique leadership development experience provides opportunities for young people ages 14 to 18. Youth participate, both in and out of the Club, in activities in three focus areas: academic success, career preparation and community service. With the guidance of an adult advisor, Keystone Clubs aim to have a positive impact on members, the Club and community.



### Youth of the Year

Since 1947, Youth of the Year has been Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier recognition program, celebrating the extraordinary achievements of Club teens. Club members who earn the youth of the Year title embody the values of leadership service; academic excellence; and healthy lifestyles.



## EDUCATION & CAREER

*BGCA has implemented the programmatic strategy **Every Member, Every Year**, designed so that all Clubs, no matter their size or resources, can partner with youth, parents, schools and other community stakeholders to implement at least one of three approaches: academic enrichment and school engagement; targeted dropout prevention; and intensive intervention and case management. Our aim is to ensure that all Club members graduate from high school on time, ready for a post-secondary education and a 21st-century career.*

### Graduate for Más

Graduate for Más is a program track offered to Club members in partnership with Taco Bell Foundation, as an extension of Taco Bell Foundation's national initiative that provides tools and resources to teens while tracking their progress toward graduation and life goals.



### Summer Brain Gain

Summer Brain Gain is a fun, educational program that aims to prevent summer learning loss and keep kids on track for the coming school year.





### Summer Brain Gain: READ!

Supported by Staples, Summer Brain Gain: READ! is a 12-week summer reading program to improve the reading skills of youth with a new book presented each week per age group.



### My.Future

The My.Future initiative transforms the way young people use technology in Clubs. Supported by Comcast, My.Future encourages youth to develop digital literacy and earn certifications, or digital badges, as they progress through the learning experiences. Starting with "Essentials," My.Future provides Club youth with foundational technology skills, then advances to "Extensions" where youth could learn robotics, game design and even online journalism based on their interest pathways.



### DIY STEM 2.0: Hands-on STEM activities for Tweens!

Do It Yourself STEM brings all the fun of scientific exploration into members hands as they work with peers to create cool artifacts that demonstrate scientific principles!



### CareerLaunch

This fun and exciting program, sponsored by Bank of America and Gap Foundation, prepares teens for the world of careers and work. Through CareerLaunch, Club teens 13-18 years old embark on a journey to explore possible vocations, make sound educational decisions and find success in the world of work.



### Money Matters: Make It Count

Money Matters promotes financial responsibility and independence among Club members ages 13 to 18. Participants learn how to manage a checking account, create a budget, save and invest, start small businesses and pay for college.



### Power Hour: Making Minutes Count

Power Hour: Making Minutes Count provides Club professionals with the strategies, activities, resources and information to create an engaging homework help and tutoring program that encourages Club members at every age to become self-directed learners.



### Diplomas to Degrees (d2D)

**Diplomas to Degrees (d2D)**, BGCA's new college readiness program, provides a range of services to guide Club members as they work toward high school graduation and prepare for post-secondary education and career success.



### BE GREAT: Graduate

This program uses the early warning signals -- attendance, behavior and course failure -- to identify youth at risk of dropping out of school.



### Junior Staff: Cultivating Tomorrow's Club Professionals Today

Junior Staff is a small-group program that is both practical and user friendly. It assists Club members ages 13 to 18 in exploring a career in youth or human services, particularly Boys & Girls Club work.



## Project Learn

Project Learn reinforces the academic enrichment and school engagement of young people during the time they spend at the Club.

**PROJECT LEARN**

## SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

*These initiatives focus on meeting the significant and specific needs identified within Boys & Girls Clubs. Their broad scope complements several or all of our core program areas.*

### Family PLUS: Parents Leading, Uniting, Serving

The Family PLUS initiative enables Clubs to partner with families and collaborate with other community agencies to ensure the positive development of youth through programming, resources and support.



### Delinquency and Gang Prevention/Intervention Initiative

This community-based initiative targets young people ages 6 to 18 that are at high risk for involvement or are already involved with delinquency and gangs. These youth and teens are directed to positive alternatives and learn about violence prevention.



### Latino Outreach

The Latino Outreach Initiative provides Clubs with effective strategies to reach, serve and empower Latino youth and families.



### Youth for Unity

Through a comprehensive set of interventions, the Youth for Unity program aims to promote and celebrate diversity while combating prejudice, bigotry and discrimination.



### Teen Initiative

The Teen Initiative provides program resources, grant funding, training and technical assistance to Club staff and boards so they can deepen their impact on teens in their communities.

**BE GREAT**

### myclubmylife.com

Content on myclubmylife.com is designed to provide positive information for teens while remaining relevant. Fun, interactive content elements and celebrity interviews are mixed with information on academic achievement, setting goals, job search tips and financial literacy.



### Club Tech

Through fun, interactive lessons, Club Tech teaches youth essential digital literacy skills, which are necessary to succeed in school and in the job market.



# AT BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS, CHILD SAFETY IS JOB #1

Ensuring the safety of children is fundamental to the mission of Boys & Girls Clubs. For more than 100 years, child protection and safety have been the bedrock principles of our work. The many actions we have taken over the years include advocating for the passage of the U.S. PROTECT Act, which improved background screening systems and access. We've also partnered with the FBI, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and the CDC to contribute to the development of safety practices that benefit ALL youth-serving organizations.



In today's world, young people are faced with enormous challenges – from poverty to the high school dropout crisis to an obesity epidemic – that threaten their chance to have great futures. And, unfortunately, headlines remind us every day that we live in a dangerous world that puts too many young people – America's most precious resource – at serious risk.

Given these realities, we must be ever-vigilant in ensuring that our Clubs are safe havens for America's youth, staffed by caring adult mentors who have the best interests of kids at heart. While child safety has been priority #1 for Clubs throughout our history, our work in this area is never done.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) is committed to helping our Clubs provide a safe and secure experience for youth. Through our Child & Club Safety Department, we implement a six-step plan that follows the best practices available today, using the latest advances in technology and expertise:

1. **Criminal background checks** are required for every staff member and volunteer who has direct contact with children. BGCA partners with LexisNexis, the world's largest data company, to provide the most comprehensive screenings available today.
2. Through our partnership with Praesidium, one of the nation's leading safety experts, BGCA provides a **24-hour toll-free Child Safety Hotline** to allow Club managers, staff members, volunteers and Club members to confidentially report suspicions or concerns. For **Club-related** child safety issues, contact the Child Safety Hotline at (phone) 866-607-SAFE (7233) or email [SafeClub@PraesidiumInc.com](mailto:SafeClub@PraesidiumInc.com). For child safety concerns that are **NOT** related to a Boys & Girls Club, contact the Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-4-A-Child (1-800-422-4453).
3. Ongoing training and supervision of staff are critical. Clubs participate in a wide variety of **child safety training** conducted through seminars, conferences and webinars.
4. **Safety policies and procedures** must adhere to the highest standards. Clubs are required to report any suspected child abuse to local authorities. No adult should ever be alone with a child – all activities inside and outside the Club must have appropriate ratios of staff and members.
5. All **facilities and vehicles** are required to comply with federal, state and local safety laws. BGCA works with leading experts in the area of **security technology** to develop state-of-the art solutions for our 4,000 sites.
6. We work hard to create a Culture of Safety, which includes the following initiatives:
  - **National Child Safety Advisory Task Force**, made up of leading experts
  - **National Peer Review Program** to share best practices
  - **National Safety Award Program** to recognize leadership and innovation
  - **National Child Safety and Protection Symposium**, a forum to enable all youth organizations to share their best ideas and solutions for protecting kids.





# BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SPRINGFIELD

**GREAT FUTURES START HERE**  
FORMULA FOR  
**IMPACT**

**YOUNG PEOPLE  
WHO NEED US MOST**



**OUTCOME-DRIVEN  
CLUB EXPERIENCE**



**PRIORITY OUTCOMES**



**FIVE KEY ELEMENTS  
FOR POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**



**HIGH-YIELD  
ACTIVITIES**



**TARGETED  
PROGRAMS**



**REGULAR  
ATTENDANCE**



**ACADEMIC SUCCESS**

Graduate from high school ready for college, trade school, military or employment



**GOOD CHARACTER & CITIZENSHIP**

Be an engaged citizen involved in the community, register to vote and model strong character



**HEALTHY LIFESTYLES**

Adopt a healthy diet, practice healthy lifestyle choices and make a lifelong commitment to fitness