



The Future of Youth Development

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities (BGCTC) has been a critical resource in our community for nearly 100 years. The locations, programs, and activities have evolved over time, but our commitment to being an accessible, community-based resource for youth has remained constant.

In recent months, BGCTC has received national recognition as a leader in youth development programming during out-of-school time and named an “Exemplary Organization” by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA). This recognition included a visit from Lorraine Orr, Executive Vice President & COO of BGCA.

In an excerpt from a professional blog post, Lorraine provides a detailed account of her visit to BGCTC and shares the following insight:

“The (Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities’) commitment to academic success, innovative programming, and community engagement is truly making a difference. I left feeling hopeful and excited about the future of youth development in our country, and eager to see where they grow from here!”

We are honored to be recognized as a leader in youth development and education and remain dedicated to providing high-quality programming that assures success is within reach of every young person who enters our doors. As we look to the future, we must embrace a growth mindset as we strive to meet the needs of the communities we serve. This includes not only responding to the current academic and opportunity gaps, but more importantly focusing on the root causes.

SUMMER PROGRAMMING BEGINS!

Summer is almost here! BGCTC Club staff will soon prepare for summer programming at the Clubs!

Summer Program Dates: 6/16/2025 - 8/15/2025
(Clubs closed on 6/19, 7/3, 7/4)

Summer Program Hours: Mon - Fri, 8:30AM - 5:00PM
(Hours may vary per Club site)

Programs: Daily programming will include continued focus on academic success, health & wellness, and life & workforce programs, as well as additional opportunities for field trips and summer camp at Voyageur!

Snacks/Meals: Breakfast, lunch, and snacks are provided for all BGCTC youth.*

How to Sign Up? To become a club Member, complete the registration [form here](#) on BGCTC’s website.



Cost: FREE!

*BGCTC will be participating in the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided to all youth ages 5-18 without charge. Youth do not need to be registered for Boys & Girls Club programs to receive meals. Meals will be provided on program days at a first come, first serve basis at the following sites: Mt Airy Boys & Girls Club, East Side Boys & Girls Club, Al Lenzmeier West Side Boys & Girls Club, Jerry Gamble Boys & Girls Club, Southside Village Boys & Girls Club, and John W. Hardeman III Boys & Girls Club. (Hours may vary per Club site; please check each site for details)

boysandgirls.org/about/who-we-are/club-locations



Our North Star

All Members on track for a successful future beyond high school graduation

Literacy is a gateway to upward mobility and is the cornerstone for BGCTC's Academic Success program continuum. Early reading success is a critical first step toward future academic milestones. BGCTC's holistic research-based K-8 literacy education and enrichment program based on the Science of Reading is designed to move kids to and beyond grade level through hands-on skill building experiences.

BGCTC ANNUAL SPELLING BEE

In April, K-5 Club Members from seven sites came prepared and ready to compete in BGCTC's annual spelling bee.

For the past few months, Education Specialists across all Club sites have been diligently working with K-5 Club members on sight words and reading comprehension. By utilizing skills gained through professional development opportunities such as the Lexia Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS), Club staff are able to accommodate different learning styles and adapt their approach to meet the individual needs of each child.



Club Members' hard work, focus, and preparation were truly shown on stage. We are proud to announce that Richfield Centennial Elementary Club has claimed the traveling trophy!



IMPROVING GRADES

Approximately 23 K-8 students from a nearby charter school, Acension, have been consistently attending the John W. Hardeman III Boys & Girls Club. By participating in Club programming, students are receiving academic support that is different than the school day. Through hands-on, multi-sensory activities, Club members learn new ways to enrich and connect learning experiences. These alternative learning experiences often translate into academic gains during the school day.

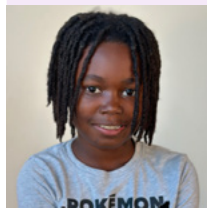
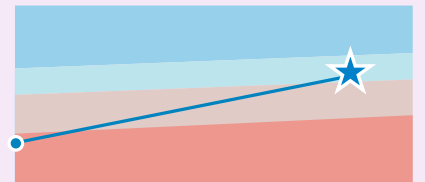
This has been especially evident with Acension students as they have been eager to share their improved school day grades with Club staff. Some Members have even asked their parents to "screen shot" a picture of their grades to send to staff!

LEVELING UP AT THE CLUBS



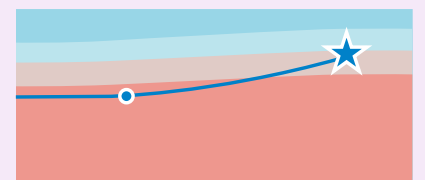
Congratulations to **Janessa*** for leveling up in reading! Janessa is a fourth grader and known for her vibrant personality and her eagerness to volunteer whenever the opportunity arises. By staying committed to her goals, Janessa has made significant progress as a reader. From fall to spring, she has moved from the "high risk" category to "low risk" category.

JANESSA'S SCORES FROM FALL TO SPRING



Congratulations to **Brady*** for leveling up in reading! Brady is a fifth grader and has a genuine love for learning. Whether he is building something or diving into a new book, he always finds a way to make the story come alive. From fall to spring, Brady has moved from the "high risk" category to "low risk" category.

BRADY'S SCORES FROM FALL TO SPRING



*Names changed for privacy

BGCTC's Teen Pathways Life & Workforce Readiness program provides tailored education and resources to guide young people as they discover and build skills and interests, learn how to apply their skills and interests to the future workforce, and prepare for and connect to workforce opportunities.



GREAT FUTURES FAIR – CONNECTING PASSION WITH PURPOSE

In April, over 100 Club teens and alumni gathered at the Jerry Gamble Club for BGCTC's annual Great Futures Fair. Businesses, schools, nonprofits and trade unions tabled at the event to talk to participants about their post-secondary paths. It was an exciting day filled with hands-on activities, meaningful connections, professional headshots, and seminars that focused on health care, entrepreneurship, and marketing.

This event is designed to introduce BGCTC teens to metro area education and employment options and provide opportunities to learn more about immediate and long-term employment tracks.

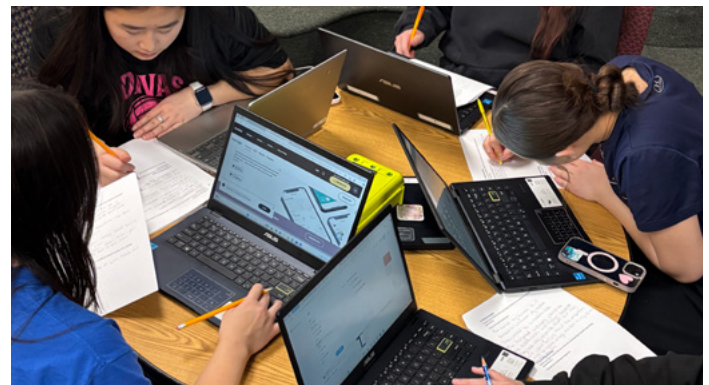


Club youth participated in hands-on activities and received professional headshots.

PREPARING FOR SUCCESS IN THE BUSINESS WORLD

At BGCTC's East Side Club, Girls Group teen members have been exploring business education by creating entrepreneurial opportunities. Through hands-on learning, participants are gaining insight as they work through the steps of developing a business plan, completing market research, identifying their ideal customer, and connecting with local entrepreneurs.

In May, participants created thoughtful presentations complete with a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis to showcase to family and fellow Club members. A wide array of business concepts were presented including home elevators, digital tracking devices, and resources to support those experiencing homelessness.



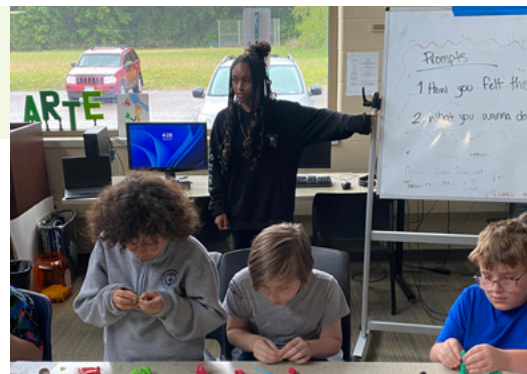
BGCTC's Healthy Bodies & Healthy Minds program creates a culture of wellness to positively impact the health and wellbeing of the young people we serve. Activities focus on instilling positive conflict resolution techniques, encouraging positive behaviors, setting personal goals, and building resilience skills that nurture and strengthen kids' minds and bodies.

HEALING THROUGH A.R.T.E. (ART, REFLECT, TALK, AND EMPOWER)

Each year, Club teens participate in BGCTC's Changemaker Challenge, a challenge put forth for Club teens to identify a social issue that sparks their passion, educate themselves on their chosen issue, and then develop a project that can actively drive change in their communities.

Satiza, an Al Lenzmeier West Side Club member, wanted to give young people safe and healthy ways to express their emotions as they are developing their mental health. As a result, Satiza created "ARTE" for the purpose of raising awareness for mental health, providing an outlet for healing through art therapy, and encouraging young people to speak about their challenges and have the courage to seek out the support they need.

Satiza has led fellow Club members through hands-on, guided art projects that will be showcased as an art exhibition. In addition, Satiza coordinated an event for community members and Club members that includes art activity stations and live performances!



Satiza leads fellow Club Members through hands-on, guided art projects.



IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR SUMMER CAMP AT VOYAGEUR!

BGCTC's Voyageur Environmental Center and Club (Voyageur) is nestled in a vast natural habitat in Mound that includes a lake, archery range, miles of hiking trails, and year-round sleeping cabins. Over the years, Voyageur has provided many unique opportunities for thousands of BGCTC youth to explore the great outdoors within a safe and trusted environment.

Through hands-on, experiential programs, youth increase their connection to the environment, deepen their interest in STEM careers, enhance their creativity, and bring awareness of their role within ecosystems. Spending time at Voyageur helps youth develop an appreciation for nature, develop wilderness survival skills, and experience how to be both leaders and valuable members of a group.

With summer quickly approaching, BGCTC staff at Voyageur are preparing to have the best summer camp season ever! Weekly overnight camps and day camps for BGCTC youth ages 8-18 will be offered starting in June. To learn more, visit boysandgirls.org/programs/voyageur.



SPiRiT of VOYAGEUR



At Voyageur, we're committed to making outdoor learning and adventure accessible to all kids in our Twin Cities community. Our programs are designed to break down barriers and create space for growth, leadership, and discovery.

Now through June 30, you can help make the Voyageur experience possible for BGCTC youth by contributing to **Spirit of Voyageur 2025**. Visit boysandgirls.org/spirit-of-voyageur to make your gift today and see how you can support the next generation of leaders, learners, and environmental stewards.



Did you know that you can sponsor a camp experience for BGCTC youth? A gift of **\$500** covers the full cost of one youth's summer camp experience—including transportation, meals, gear, and five days of confidence-building and community. Want to give monthly? Just \$42/month sends a child to camp by next summer.

Get Involved with the Clubs!

Volunteer

boysandgirls.org/get-involved/volunteers

- 1 **Committed volunteers help magnify the impact of the Clubs.**

Become a Corporate Partner

boysandgirls.org/corporate-partnerships

- 2 **Corporate partners help advance the BGCTC mission and provide ongoing support.**

Make a Recurring Gift

boysandgirls.org/give

- 3 **A recurring monthly donation, no matter the amount, is a powerful investment in the next generation.**

Join Our Team

boysandgirls.org/get-involved/careers

- 4 **Make a difference by helping youth reach their full potential.**

UPCOMING EVENTS



Morrissey Hospitality Golf Classic
Bunker Hills Golf Club | July 25, 2025
Purchase Golf Packages & Sponsorships



Scholar Event

June 18, 2025
East Side Boys & Girls Club, 12pm – 2 pm