



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF COLLIER COUNTY

S U M M E R

Newsletter



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UPDATES

FREE EVENT
THIS FALL!



THURSDAY
OCT 3
12-1:30 P.M.

Scan the code below or visit
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to RSVP today.

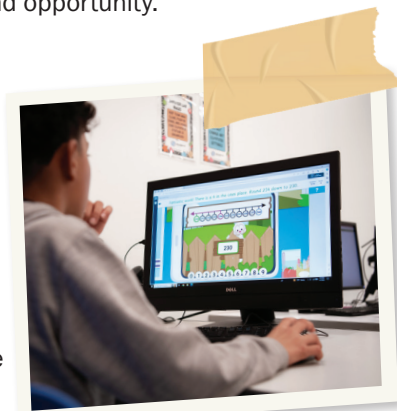


A letter from the President & CEO

As the school year comes to an end, many children eagerly anticipate the freedom of summer. For some, it's a time of adventure and learning. However, for at-risk youth, the summer months can present a challenging void, often lacking in structure, engagement, and opportunities for positive growth. At the Boys & Girls Club of Collier County, we recognize the critical importance of our summer programs in transforming these months into a period of enrichment, safety, and opportunity.

Combating Summer Learning Loss

One of the most significant challenges faced by youth during summer is the phenomenon known as "summer slide," where the lack of academic engagement can lead to a loss of knowledge and skills gained during the school year. Studies indicate that children from lower-income families are disproportionately affected, often falling well behind their peers academically. Our summer programs are designed to counteract this trend by providing engaging educational activities that promote continuous learning. **Through interactive reading sessions, STEM projects, and creative writing workshops, we ensure that our members retain and even advance their academic skills, setting them up for success in the upcoming school year.**



Providing a Safe and Nurturing Environment

For many at-risk youth, summer can be a period of increased vulnerability. Without the structure of school, children may be left unsupervised, increasing the likelihood of exposure to negative influences such as substance abuse and other risky behaviors. Boys & Girls Club offers a safe space where children are supervised by caring adults in a structured environment. **Our facilities become a second home, where safety is paramount, and every child feels valued and secure.**



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Fostering Social Skills and Physical and Emotional Well-Being

Social and emotional development is a cornerstone of our summer programs. Many youth struggle with feelings of isolation and low self-esteem. Our activities are designed to foster social interaction, teamwork, and the development of positive relationships. Through sports, group projects, and community service initiatives, children learn the importance of cooperation, empathy, and leadership. **These experiences build self-confidence and emotional resilience, equipping them with the skills necessary to navigate life's challenges.**

Encouraging Healthy Lifestyles

Our summer programs include daily physical activities such as sports, dance, and outdoor adventures, promoting an active lifestyle. Additionally, we provide nutritious meals and educate children about healthy eating habits, **laying the foundation for lifelong well-being.**

Expanding Horizons

Exposure to new experiences and possibilities is vital for inspiring at-risk youth to envision a brighter future. Our summer programs offer a variety of enrichment activities, including arts and crafts, field trips, and guest speakers from various professions. These experiences broaden their horizons and ignite aspirations, **showing our youth that their potential is limitless.**

Your Support Makes a Difference

Summer programs at our Boys & Girls Club are not just a way to pass the time; they are a lifeline for many youth. They help bridge the gap between potential and opportunity, ensuring that every child has the chance to succeed and thrive. Investing in these programs is an investment in the future, fostering a generation of resilient, well-rounded, and empowered individuals.

We appreciate you and others in the community for your ongoing support for all of our programs, and express our gratitude for any gifts you make to help us with our vitally important summer programming.

Have a safe and healthy summer!



SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS



This summer we have over **900 children and teens enrolled in camp at both Clubs.**

For one child to have three months of structured activities, healthy meals, continued academic support and fun, **it costs our Club \$1,000 per child - a cost we will never pass on to families.**

Your support helps keep summer camp accessible to all local children and teens. **See the enclosed envelope to make a gift today.**

Best regards,

Megan McCarthy Beauvais

President & CEO

Boys & Girls Club of Collier County

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

Paying it Forward

One woman's journey from Club Member to Program Director



Jakella Davis came to Boys & Girls Club of Collier County when she was 9 years old. Attending our Club from second to sixth grade provided Jakella with opportunities and skills to

elevate her confidence and abilities.

As a member, she learned to play multiple sports and honed her basketball skills to become a travel team player. In Chess Club, she was taught critical thinking skills and how to anticipate and think through problems. In



Program Director Jakella Davis

Art Class, she was exposed

to the works of Salvadore Dali and Van Gogh, who were described as dreamers. Her teacher said she was an artist just like them. Jakella was taught that her dreams were as beautiful and inspiring as Dali & Van Gogh's, and to articulate them through art. Being told that her dreams were equally as important as the great artists gave Jakella confidence to move through the world with a sense of pride and conviction.

At the Club, Jakella learned skills that helped her save a life. She loved going to the pool, learned how to swim, joined the Club's swim team, and became a strong swimmer. While attending a high school travel basketball tournament, Jakella and her friends were hanging out at the hotel pool after a game. When she saw a player from another team fall into the pool and begin to struggle, Jakella jumped to her feet, dove in, and pulled her to safety.

After completing a Master's Degree, Jakella returned to the Club to become a Program Director, working with our

Youth Development Professionals (YDP). Her goal each day is to mentor our YDPs to be intentional, comforting and encouraging with our members. Jakella is actively creating a full circle experience by sharing the wisdom and experience she gained at the Club with our members. Her goal is to have the YDPs be the light in our Club members' days, and help them understand their role to positively impact other member's lives. Jakella shared, "All of the skills I learned at the Club created who I am today and have given me the ability to create the life I want to live. I want to lead our staff to instill in children and teens that this is their safe place to grow physically, academically and emotionally."

Jakella credits much of her high school, college, and professional success to her years at our Club. Her achievements provide a clear example of how Boys & Girls Club support children and teens to reach their fullest potential and to elevate their lives and the lives of others in their communities.



Jakella's ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Graduated from Webber International University, Babson Park, Florida, majoring in Computer Information Systems.

Graduated with a Master's Degree in Pastoral Counseling and Apologetics from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia.

Empowering Future Female Leaders

From First Grade to Freshman Year:

HOW THE CLUB HAS SHAPED ONE YOUNG MEMBER'S WORLD

During grade school, children experience significant growth, both physically and mentally, a direct result of the people and places that surround them. Being immersed in a safe, caring, and learning environment empowers them to reach their fullest potential socially, emotionally and academically. Boys & Girls Clubs of Collier County Member Lindsay is a shining example of how the Club supports and prepares children to achieve their goals and dreams.

Lindsay was 6 years old when she joined our Club as a first grader and, with support from her mom, has chosen to stay for eight years. As she graduates from eighth grade and moves into high school in August, she is also choosing to continue growing as a Club member at the Nichols campus.

While entering high school can be daunting, Lindsay feels confident and prepared because of her participation in many of our specialty programs. She credits the Club's Power Hour Academic Support Program with helping her achieve and maintain a 3.9 GPA and advanced math placement.

"My Club has given me a safe space to focus on my education, my friendships, and my hobbies. During Power Hour, I receive help with my homework. Staff members hold me accountable for my grades and support me when I struggle," said Lindsay. With academic confidence and the knowledge that the Club will provide ongoing academic support, Lindsay has taken the opportunity to go for a rigorous college preparatory course load.



The Club has also prepared Lindsay for her teen years by helping her find her voice and develop her leadership skills. Through her engagement with our Youth of the Year, SMART girls, Teen Talk and Torch Club programs, Lindsay has had the opportunity to become a public speaker, a Club officer, an event organizer and a stellar writer. Each of these roles have challenged Lindsay to step beyond her comfort zone and advance her communication skills. With the support and mentorship of Club staff, Lindsay has become secretary of the Torch Club and is one of three of the Club's 2024 Youth of the Year Scholarship Finalists.

Because Lindsay has chosen to dive into many opportunities on her Club journey, she has gained insights and a level of maturity that will help her successfully navigate high school.

"I have learned so much from the Girl Talk, SMART Girls, and The Blossoming Experience at the Naples Botanical Garden programs, all led by Ms. Tasheekia, Leadership Consultant. She taught me how to spot a good friendship and bad friendship. She taught me what healthy and unhealthy friendships look like and gave me the language and tools to handle them. She has been a role model of what it takes to be a strong and empowered woman. With all that she and the Boys & Girls Club staff have taught me, I know I can be successful."

Lindsay added, "Being a member of my Boys & Girls Club gave me one of my best first-time experiences: flying on an airplane. One summer, I was invited to the Cal Ripken Senior Foundation Camp in Maryland. It was a magical week that helped create life-long memories through the lens of baseball. During camp, I not only learned baseball skills, but



“ She taught me what healthy and unhealthy friendships look like and gave me the language and tools to handle them. She has been a role model of what it takes to be a strong and empowered woman. ”

— Lindsay

Speaking about lessons learned from Club mentor, Ms. Tasheekia



Lindsay participated in Girls on the Run. "This program gave me valuable experiences for building confidence, fostering teamwork, and promoting a healthy lifestyle," said Lindsay. "I will never forget how funny it was to have my mentor, Mr. Skip, who is 6 feet 5 inches tall, wearing a pink tutu and running with me. He encouraged me throughout the marathon, making it much more fun and helping me feel confident and supported."

“ I love who I am becoming. ”
— Lindsay

I also learned valuable life lessons from trained coaches. The camp focused on teamwork, personal responsibility, and communication. I have been able to apply these skills in my middle school years as a student participating in group projects with my classmates. It has allowed me to become the voice of the group, and be able to lead and help others. Overall, my experience with my Boys & Girls Club is helping me be a productive young lady and I love who I am becoming."



2024 CORE AREA UPDATES

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Students in the 21st Century Community Learning Centers plunged into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) activities to master coding, critical thinking, and engineering challenges. From coding their initials in binary with pipe cleaners to exploring engineering

through various Lego challenges, students immersed themselves in dynamic experiences, fostering problem-solving skills and creativity to prepare them for success.



COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

New this year, Club members participated in a two-week camp focused on career readiness. Using a tool called the Career Experience Wheel, members learned about different career opportunities available in culinary, logistics, computer science and information technology, and health science at Immokalee Technical College.

In culinary, members worked in the

iTown Cafe, learning how to prep food, operate the cash register, serve customers, and close the cafe. In logistics, students learned how packages get to their doorsteps. In computer science and information technology, members dismantled a computer and put it back together. In health science, members toured clinical studies labs and learned about the many health science career paths.

The iTech Summer Career Experience Wheel was instrumental in helping students learn about different careers and gain hands-on experience.



CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Now chartered at both our Immokalee and Naples Clubs, the Keystone Club is led by high school members, with guidance from an advisor. The Keystone Club is designed to develop essential soft skills and leadership qualities, including creating an understanding of the importance of community service. Through the member-driven Club, teen participants are actively involved in selecting leaders, creating an annual agenda, and implementing strategies to enhance overall experiences

for members. The Club engages in fundraising initiatives, organizes field trips, and implements service projects.

RIGHT: Bolch Keystone members extended their hospitality to elementary members, inviting them to their “teen room” for a day of organized play-based learning. Teens led the elementary members in Tic-Tac-Toe, Jeopardy, Pictionary games, and an experiment with electrical circuit kits.



THE ARTS

Famous artist Henri Matisse believed “creativity takes courage.” Boys & Girls Club art instructor Ms. Victoria shares that belief, leading Club members on courageous journeys through her art classes. She encourages students to express themselves with various art mediums. They can experiment with

still life using plastic modeling clay, color mixing exercises, and self-portrait projects, stretching their imaginations and building confidence.

“Children are creative by nature, and their curiosity and desire to create inspires me,” said Ms. Victoria. “The greatest triumph is seeing their

wonderful works, their happy faces and pride when they complete a piece of art.”



HEALTH & LIFE SKILLS

In a new pilot program launched early this year, third and seventh graders received training and developed skills to live a safer, more healthy life. The Law Enforcement Against Drugs and Violence (L.E.A.D.) program is designed to provide youth with the tools and resources needed to reject drugs, combat cyberbullying, and deter violence.

“The staff members at Boys & Girls Club of Collier County know that after school hours as well as the

summer months are the peak times for juvenile crime and when kids are most likely to experiment with drugs, alcohol and cigarettes,” said Nick DeMauro, CEO of L.E.A.D. “This is why the Club provides educational programs and a safe space for kids in Collier County during these times. We believe our program is helping members steer clear of harmful substances and stay on a path toward success.”



The Law Enforcement Against Drugs and Violence (L.E.A.D.) programs are generously funded through partnerships with the Florida Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, the Department of Children & Families, and the Collier County Sheriff's Office.

SPORTS, FITNESS & RECREATION

During spring break, Nichols Club members traveled to Bolch Club to compete in the Spring Sports Olympics. The competition in soccer, flag football and other sports was fierce and friendly. This event created an opportunity for Nichols athletes to spend time on the Bolch campus and experience a different atmosphere, build new friendships, all while enjoying friendly competition.



INSIDE:
SUMMER
NEWS, EVENTS & MORE



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF COLLIER COUNTY
7500 DAVIS BLVD.
NAPLES, FL 34104



Mr. & Mrs. Summer Supporter
1234 Naples Way
Naples, FL 34102

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SAVE THESE DATES
TO SUPPORT OUR YOUTH!



THURSDAY
OCT 3



SATURDAY
NOV 2



THURSDAY
FEB 6



WEDNESDAY
FEB 26

For more information, visit www.bgccc.com/events

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF COLLIER COUNTY

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