Campaign Fact Sheet

Updated May 2025

America Needs Club Kids & Club Kids Need You.

Tomorrow's leaders are at Boys & Girls Clubs. In the hours outside of school, Club Kids are safe, active, and learning — gaining the skills and experiences to become the scientists, innovators and community change-makers we need.

1 in 2 kids don't have access to afterschool programs and 1 in 7 kids are left alone after school.

For communities around the country, Boys & Girls Clubs' doors are open, enabling parents and caregivers to work and support their families — while young people inside are learning, growing, and building the skills they need for great futures.

When kids have Clubs, our future is in good hands.

America needs Club Kids.

Our Mission	Our Future
To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.	Boys & Girls Club Kids represent the best of our country. They are the next scientists, doctors, teachers and community change-makers. We are committed to equipping them with the skills they need today, so they can become the future leaders who shape our world.

Open the Door to Great Futures

- Every day across this country, a young person walks through the doors of a Boys & Girls Club — and their life begins to change.
- Why? Because at the Club, we open doors. Not just to buildings, but to belonging, belief, and possibility.
- When we open the Club door for kids today, we shape all our tomorrows.
- At a time when our nation faces challenges in education, mental health, workforce readiness, and belonging — Club Kids are the answer.
- Club Kids are resilient, creative, compassionate, and prepared. They are not only our future — they are our *now*. And it all starts when we open the door.
- It's about unlocking potential. It's about creating safe spaces where young people feel seen and supported. And it's about making sure every kid in every community knows there is a door open just for them — at the Club.
- Inside those doors, young people are learning to lead, to code, to serve, to advocate, and to dream big. They're finding mentors, making friends, and discovering their purpose. They're becoming artists, athletes, engineers, and change-makers. They're building futures we all need.

- The America of tomorrow will be shaped by the way we invest in kids today.
- At a time when youth are facing disconnection and division, Clubs provide unity, opportunity and support.
- Boys & Girls Clubs open the door to a future generation of leaders who will propel our country forward.
- America needs Club Kids — young people who are ready to lead, lift others up, and shape a better tomorrow. But they can't do it alone.
- They need you — your voice, your support, your partnership. Help open the door, so even more kids can walk through and step into their greatness. Because when you open the door to a Club, you're opening the door to a better future for all of us.

Raising America's Kids for Over Half our Nation's Lifetime

- Boys & Girls Clubs of America opens the door to enriching afterschool experiences that are affordable for families and accessible to millions of kids.
- Boys & Girls Clubs have kept kids safe, active and learning for over half our nation's lifetime. Today, our alumni are everywhere, with 1 in 19 Americans growing up in a Boys & Girls Club.
- Boys & Girls Clubs are rooted in U.S. communities. With more than 5,500 locations, we serve youth in cities, schools, public housing and on Native lands. We also support families in the Armed Services, reaching youth on and off U.S. military installations worldwide.
- Every dollar invested in Boys & Girls Clubs has a nationwide impact, returning $10.32 in U.S. economic benefits.

These key messages are intended to be evergreen, framing our organizational narrative and providing high-level descriptions of how Boys & Girls Clubs of America communicates our brand and impact to stakeholders. Please consider adjusting as needed depending on your audience.

Additional Resources: BGCA Impact Card | BGCA Elevator Talk Card

ACADEMIC RECOVERY & SUCCESS

Today, 2 in 3 fourth graders in America are not proficient in reading.1	**Boys & Girls Clubs help more students stay on track and graduate with a plan for the future.**
• The average U.S. student is half a grade behind in school.2 • Since returning to classrooms after the pandemic, academic scores in reading and math have dropped to the lowest levels seen in decades. Only a third of 4th and 8th graders are on grade level in math and reading.3 • U.S. high school graduation rates are dropping, with 38 out of 50 states projected to see declines through 2041.4	• Boys & Girls Clubs keep kids engaged and learning year-round. With afterschool programs in STEM, art, literacy, and more, Club Kids are more likely to retain math and reading skills during the summer and get A's and B's when returning to school. • Boys & Girls Clubs support students in planning for life after school, including helping with college applications, financial aid, and career exploration. 2-in-3 Club high school seniors have explored career options, compared to 1-in-4 of their peers nationally.5 • 97% of Boys & Girls Club teens expect to graduate high school, while only 87% graduate nationwide.6 • With over half of Club teens planning to pursue a bachelor's degree or higher, Boys & Girls Clubs will help boost the population of adults (14%) with advanced degrees.7

[1] *Nations Report Card (2024), NAEP Reading: Reading Results*
Education Recovery Scorecard (2025), Pivotal-Ed-Report-Pandemic-Recovery-to-Long-Term-Reform-A-District-Level-Analysis.pdf
Nations Report Card (2024), NAEP Reading: Highlights | NAEP; NAEP Mathematics: Mathematics Results
[2] *Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates. Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*
[3]
[4] *(2024), https://www.wiche.edu/knocking/key-findings/graduates/*
[5] *Post-graduation readiness report - YouScience (2022); BGCA NYOI Member Survey (2024)*
[6] *National Center for Education Statistics. (2024). High School Graduation Rates. U.S. Department of Education, https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator/coi*
[7] *U.S. Census (2021), Census Bureau Releases New Educational Attainment Data; BGCA NYOI Member Survey (2024)*

LIFE & WORKFORCE READINESS

Young adults are feeling adrift, with more than 1 million teenagers in America not in school or working.8

- 3-in-4 recent high school graduates feel under-prepared for life after high school.9
- Most high school students (79%) want more work experience, but very few have gotten it (2%).10
- Students and recent graduates may lose over $70,000 in lifetime earnings because of pandemic interruptions in their education.11

Boys & Girls Club teens are gaining the skills and experiences to be successful in future careers.

- Clubs ensure teens know all their options after high school, including college, trade school, entry-level jobs or joining the military. Club 12-graders are twice as confident as their peers nationwide (95% to 42%) to know the education or training needed for their chosen career.12
- Boys & Girls Clubs help teens secure their first jobs, explore entrepreneurship and practice money management to grow their independence. More than half of Club high schoolers have worked in the past year and 70% of Club adult alumni are employed.13
- With nearly 12,000 STEM jobs anticipated by 2033, Boys & Girls Clubs offer hands-on opportunities for youth to engage in STEM from an early age. 4-in-5 Club tweens show interest in science, computers, and technology, while 1-in-5 Club teens are considering a career in STEM.14

[8] *The Annie E. Casey Foundation (2023), Youth not attending school and not working by age group | KIDS COUNT Data Center*
[9] *Post-graduation readiness report - YouScience (2022)*
[10] *Career readiness: How can we impact millions of teens immediately? ASA.org. (2022), https://www.asa.org/research/work-based-learning-an-essential-tool-for-career-readiness/*
[11] *Huh, N. Y., The Wall Street Journal (2023), https://www.wsj.com/articles/pandemic-learning-loss-could-cost-students-70-000-in-lifetime-earnings-11672148505*
[12] *Post-graduation readiness report - YouScience (2022)*
[13] *BGCA NYO Member Survey (2024); BGCA Alumni Survey (2021)*
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2025), https://www.bls.gov/emp/tables/stem-employment.htm
[14]

YOUTH HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Gen Z is still recovering from years of pandemic social isolation and economic instability.

- America is experiencing an epidemic of loneliness, with 40% of U.S. high schoolers feeling sad or hopeless.15
- 1-in-5 young adults in their 20's don't feel connected to any community, while 1-in-3 crave a sense of belonging.16
- Rising inflation in the U.S. is causing more families to experience difficulties affording enough food, with half of public school students now eligible for free or reduced-price lunches.17
- Out of every 5 students in a classroom, one of them has experienced bullying on school property, while 1-in-6 kids has been bullied behind a screen.18

Boys & Girls Clubs are the connection between school and home, helping to make sure kids' physical and mental needs are met.

- Boys & Girls Clubs provide positive, nonjudgmental spaces where youth are listened to and supported. Nearly all Club teens (92%) say they have an adult to talk to at the Club when they need help, compared to only 40% nationally who have such an adult at school. 19
- Boys & Girls Clubs connect youth to supportive communities from an early age, with nearly all Club Kids (92%) feeling accepted at their Club and half of Club alumni still in touch with friends they made at the Club.20
- Clubs ensure kids eat daily nourishing meals after school and throughout the summer, serving more than 80 million meals nationwide every year.21
- 1-in-6 kids has experienced online bullying. At Boys & Girls Clubs, young people learn how to "unplug" from their phones and overcome social media's most harmful effects, spending half as much time daily on social media (2 hours) than the average teen (4 hours).22

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[15] *CDC, Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data Summary & Trends Report: 2013-2023*

[16] *Harvard Youth Poll (Spring, 2025), 50th Edition - Spring 2025 | The Institute of Politics at Harvard University*

[17] *U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey," 2000-01, 2012-13, and 2019-20 through 2022-23, https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d23/tables/dt23_204.10.asp*

[18] *CDC, Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data Summary & Trends Report: 2013-2023*

[19] *BGCA NYOI Member Survey (2024); YouthTruth Emotional & Mental Health Survey (2022), https://youthtruth.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/YouthTruth_EMH.pdf*

[20] *BGCA NYOI Member Survey (2024); BGCA Alumni Survey (2021)*

[21] *BGCA Health & Well-being One-Pager (2024), Health & Well-being Data One-Pager 4.8.2024.docx*

[22] *SMART Girls Outcome Evaluation (2018-2019) Cumulative Report (Claremont, Calif.: Claremont Evaluation Center, Claremont Graduate University), Mental Health Summary-Download File - BGCA.net; CDC, Daily Screen Time Among Teenagers: United States, (July 2021 – December 2023), https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/168509*

YOUTH CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP	
Growing up in a deeply polarized nation, many of today's young people feel powerless. • Nearly all young people (91%) believe that everyone should have access to civic education, however, only 4-in-10 feel prepared to take civic action.23 • Three-quarters of young people believe the U.S. is more divided than ever.24 • In 2022, 1-in-3 young eligible voters felt like their vote didn't matter.25	**Boys & Girls Club Kids take positive action in the world.** • Boys & Girls Clubs open the door for young people to be heard in halls of power. Hundreds of Club Kids travel to Capitol Hill every year to speak directly with U.S. Congress members about issues they care about. • Boys & Girls Clubs Kids learn to problem-solve together, with nearly all (93%) comfortable working with people who are different from them. 88% also say that if they're the leader of a group, they make sure everyone in the group feels important.[26] • Boys & Girls Club Kids are community minded. Most have done things to help people in their community (85%), with Club adult alumni twice as likely to volunteer than other adults.27 • Through service and leadership opportunities, Boys & Girls Clubs equip the next generation of advocates who think critically about issues. 9-in-10 Club teens say they can stand up for what they think is right, even if their friends disagree.28

23 *State of Young People 2024 Research Report - America's Promise Alliance*
24 *State of Young People 2024 Research Report - America's Promise Alliance*
25 *CIRCLE Post-Election Survey (2022), Youth in 2022: Concerned about Issues but Neglected by Campaigns | CIRCLE*
26 *BGCA NYOI Member Survey (2024)*
27 *BGCA Alumni Survey (2021)*
28 *BGCA NYOI Member Survey (2024)*