



Open the door to a thriving future.

Clubs Prepare Teens for Life, Work and Leadership

Adolescence is a period of rapid development. Teens are forming identity, building social and emotional skills and creating deeper connections with others. They need experiences that offer them autonomy, responsibility and the support of caring adults to plan for their futures and grow into confident, capable young people.¹

Yet many U.S. teens face serious obstacles. About one in five teens aged 12 to 17 report experiencing anxiety symptoms in the past two weeks.² Others grow up in environments marked by economic instability, unsafe neighborhoods, food insecurity³ or limited access to quality schools, mentors and early work experiences. These conditions create gaps in the skills and leadership abilities teens need to transition successfully into adulthood.⁴

Boys & Girls Clubs help close that gap. Club programming gives teens hands-on skill-building experiences – from community service projects to first jobs – that enable them to graduate from high school, enter the workforce and lead. At the center of their Club Experience are their relationships with trusted adult mentors – Club staff who know them personally, guide them through challenges and help them make informed decisions about their educational and career paths.

Clubs graduate leaders prepared to make a positive impact in their lives and communities.

Turn the page to see Clubs' impact.

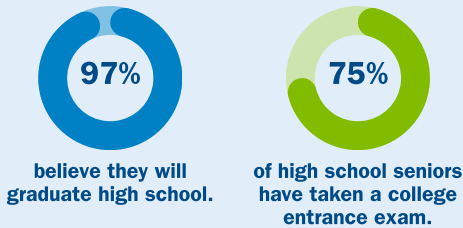


Club Teens Are Ready for Life after High School

Through workforce readiness programming, career exploration, mentoring and postsecondary planning, Clubs help teens:

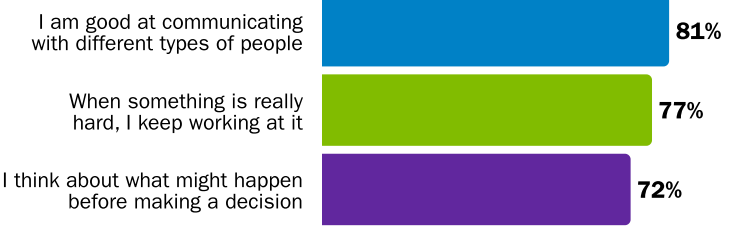
Prepare for Graduation and Postsecondary Education

The majority of Club teens in all grades (97%) believe they will graduate high school. Three in four Club members who are high school seniors have taken the SAT, ACT or another college entrance exam.



Build Essential Skills for Career Success

Eighty-one percent of Club teens say they are good at communicating with different types of people. Nearly three-quarters (72%) think before making decisions and 77% persist in what they work on even when it is difficult.



Feel Confident and Prepared to Pursue their Career Goals

Eighty-eight percent of Club teens believe that they can have any job they want when they grow up. Most Club teens (87%) know what career they want to work toward and 88% feel prepared to get a job.



Club Teens Lead with Integrity and Respect

In Clubs, teens are trusted, heard and expected to lead. Through leadership programs, service opportunities and daily interactions with caring adults, teens build confidence, agency and a sense of responsibility for others and their communities. Club teens:

Advocate for Themselves and Others

Most Club teens (91%) advocate for change if something isn't working for them and stand up for what they think is right (81%). More than three-quarters (78%) say they can make a positive difference in their communities.



Have the Tools to Be Capable Leaders

Most Club teens (84%) listen to everyone's ideas even if they are different from their own, and 81% ask questions to try to understand how others feel. Three in four say they are comfortable sharing their opinions, even if others disagree.



The National Youth Outcomes Initiative (NYOI)

BGCA helps Club organizations build their capacity to collect and use data to measure youth outcomes, demonstrate their impact and improve their programming and Club Experience.

The NYOI's principal tool for gathering youth outcomes data is a survey administered to members each spring. The survey measures youth achievement in health and well-being, character and leadership, academic success and life and workforce readiness. It also asks members about their perceptions of their Club Experience. In 2025, nearly 150,000 Club members from more than 3,700 sites completed the survey.

The Club member data featured here come from this survey. Access a [list of citations](#) for the external data sources used.

America
Needs
Club Kids
Club Kids Need You.

Learn more about the mission and work of Boys & Girls Clubs and how you can get involved.
bgca.org/get-involved