



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
ARIZONA ALLIANCE

AROUND THE ALLIANCE

News and features from Boys & Girls Clubs across the State

Summer fun is in full swing!



Cheyenne Walsh
*Board Chair, Arizona
Alliance of Boys & Girls
Clubs*

When school is out, we're in – and summer camps for youth aged 5–18 are now in session at Boys & Girls Clubs around Arizona. For the 114,000 young people our 17 member organizations serve, summer is an exciting time of exploration, growth, and fun. Working parents across Arizona rely on our Clubs to provide a safe, positive, and affordable place for their children to go during the week. We are thrilled to offer engaging summer programs that keep our members sharp and ready to go back to school. We are also proud to celebrate our 2023 graduates! Our impressive Club alumni give me so much hope for the future, and we are honored to have helped prepare them for the lifetime of success that awaits them on their journey.

NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

Click to watch [Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Scottsdale](#) Club kids talk about why they are so excited for Summer Camp!



Congratulations, high school graduates!



The Arizona Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs is proud to celebrate new Club alumni as they graduate high school and take their next steps into the future. Clubs around the State send their graduates into the world as productive, caring, responsible members of the community who are well-equipped to make an impact.

About 76% of Arizona teens graduate on time, but Boys & Girls Clubs are making a real difference – 97% of Club teens expect to graduate on time, and 86% expect to attend college. Aided by caring teen specialists and youth development professionals, Club members spend their high school years participating in character and leadership development programs, exploring academic and career pathways, and building positive relationships with friends and mentors who prepare them for post-graduate success and beyond. Congratulations, graduates!



On May 12, teens from Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley gathered at the Jerry Colangelo Branch for the organization's 2023 G.P.A. (graduation, promotion, achievement) Event. Members graduating from high school, promoting from 8th grade, or who accomplished any academic achievements this school year came together to celebrate with Club staff and learn more about post-secondary education and workforce opportunities!

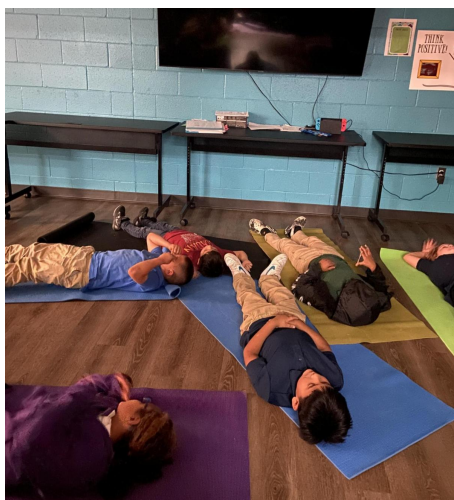
GOOD CHARACTER AND LEADERSHIP

Five teens from the Boys & Girls Club of Bisbee will join nine Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley teens on a flight to Washington, D.C. later this month! Through the Close Up Foundation's Civics Matters Program, Club teens will spend four days in our nation's capital exploring and learning more about government. Thanks to the Arizona Cardinals and owner Michael Bidwill, they will even travel in style on the Cardinals' team plane!



HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson has been successfully implementing SMART Moves, a program that actively promotes healthy lifestyles among members. As part of a grant from the Attorney General's Office, the program utilizes engaging activities and meaningful discussions to empower young people to prioritize their well-being. The impact has been remarkable, with Tucson staff witnessing positive behavior changes among participants! Leanna, a 14-year-old BGCT Club member, shared, "SMART Moves was a fun experience because it helped me learn how to stay healthy in my body and my mind."



Alumni Spotlight: Allison Mertz

Allison attended Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Scottsdale's Thunderbirds Branch for eight years, where she was a BGCS Youth of the Year. She recently took the next step in her career in becoming the Human Resources Coordinator at BGCS, where she gets to make an impact on the organization she grew up attending.

"The Club has prepared me for where I am in life in so many different ways," says Allison. "I learned skills in leadership, public speaking, confidence, responsibility, creativity, and so much more. I learned that being a good person is to care for and respect others and my community. **I definitely wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for what I learned at the Club.**"



[Watch More](#)

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