



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
ARIZONA ALLIANCE

# AROUND THE ALLIANCE

*News and features from Boys & Girls Clubs across the State*

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

## Welcome to our first edition Alliance Newsletter!

The Arizona Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs comprises 17 Boys & Girls Club organizations. We collectively serve **more than 114,000 young people around the State**, directly empowering them to reach their full potential. Every month, we will share important information from our member organizations to highlight how Boys & Girls Clubs are making a difference in the lives of young people in your community and throughout Arizona. I am constantly in awe of our incredible Club members, and I'm thrilled to have this channel to share more about the essential programs we provide to youth and families across Arizona.

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## NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

### **Boys & Girls Clubs Help Expand Childcare Access**

The Arizona Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs and other out-of-school-time providers have been working on a bill (HB 2227) to expand childcare options for working families. This bill would have allowed families to use their Child Care subsidy vouchers with out-of-school-time providers like Boys & Girls Clubs. The bill received bipartisan support and stakeholders have been working together to address concerns throughout the legislative process.

On Friday, Governor Katie Hobbs announced that she instructed the Department of Health Services and the Department of Economic Security to create a separate

childcare license for "out-of-school-time" programs, which will broaden the types of afterschool, summer, and enrichment programs eligible for licensure. The work done during this legislative session by Rep. Matt Gress has been instrumental in bringing stakeholders together to discuss expanding access to childcare.

The Arizona Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs is grateful to Rep. Gress for his early leadership and to Governor Hobbs for following through to ensure that these updates are made to serve families long into the future.

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## Arizona Alliance Names 2023 Youth of the Year

The Arizona Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs and presenting sponsor [Fiesta Bowl Charities](#) proudly announced **Hakima A.** of [Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson](#) as the 2023 Arizona State Youth of the Year. Hakima, a senior at Sunnyside High School, has been a member of the Roy Drachman Clubhouse for three years. **Camilla M.**, a sophomore at Mica Mountain High School and a member of the Davis–Monthan AFB Youth Program, was selected as the 2023 Arizona Military Youth of the Year.

Both candidates received a post-secondary academic award and will vie for the Pacific regional title in their respective categories this summer. The seven candidates had the chance to meet with Governor Katie Hobbs for an hour following the announcement.

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## Teens gather for annual State Keystone Conference

More than 150 teens from Boys & Girls Clubs across the State gathered at Mesa's Legacy Park for the 2023 Arizona Keystone Conference. Themed "Build Your Legacy," the conference included a full day of professional development sessions, group activities, and speakers



for Keystone Club members and advisors. Teens engaged and socialized with peers, explored relevant issues, and developed skills to support and enhance efforts in their local Boys & Girls Clubs and communities.



## ACADEMIC SUCCESS

On April 28, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Scottsdale hosted its 2nd Annual Spelling Bee at the Virginia G. Piper Branch. More than 50 youth and teen members from seven BGCS branches participated. Each branch held its own spelling bee in the weeks leading up to the event, and sent its top three spellers from four different age groups to participate in the organizational bee. The 2nd Annual Spelling Bee is one of many program event opportunities for members to develop academic and leadership skills while building a sense of community and belonging!

## GOOD CHARACTER AND LEADERSHIP

Members at Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sun Corridor's Nap Lawrence Branch planted new seeds for their Tower Garden Project! Volunteers Susan Conn-Hood and Leslie McWater are guiding the Club members as they learn to grow their own food and care for the environment. After planting their first seedlings, they tended to, observed growth, and harvested their hard work.



## HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

On April 15 (Jackie Robinson Day) the Arizona Diamondbacks teamed up with Boys & Girls Clubs



of the Valley to host a free baseball clinic in celebration of Jackie Robinson. The 75 BGCAZ participants had a fantastic time practicing their baseball skills with minor league players and D-backs staff, and they also learned about Jackie's life and legacy at one of the clinic stations. Each member was even gifted their own baseball mitt to keep practicing their new skills!

## NEW & IMPROVED



The new Yuma Branch of Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley hosted an official grand opening ceremony to celebrate its renewed presence in the City of Yuma. The ribbon cutting and open house reception featured Yuma city council members, business leaders, and other community dignitaries. BGCAZ was aided in start-up and operational costs by the Yuma City Council and Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe.



Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Arizona, in partnership with the Town of Prescott Valley, transformed their 25-year-old Club space into a center for opportunity and great futures! The organization is in the final stages of completing this whole-Club remodel, designed with Club programs and curriculum in mind. BGCAZ is proud to offer this beautiful new space for youth in the community!

## GREAT FUTURES START HERE

### *Alumni Spotlight: Kristina Chumpol, Fiesta Bowl Charities*

Kristina Chumpol, a former Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Scottsdale member and 2006 Arizona State Youth of the Year, was promoted to the newly-created position of Chief of Staff and Vice President of Community Investment at the Fiesta Bowl! She will

lead the planning and execution of the organization's year-round community engagement, provide executive-level support to the Executive Director/CEO on strategic planning initiatives, and advance the vision and business goals of the Fiesta Bowl Organization.



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