

GREAT FUTURES START **HERE.**



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
543 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

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Summer at the Club!

SAVE THE DATE

September 30, 12:30pm
Rotary Ride
Finish Line Party
Raising Funds for the Club
75 River Street, Santa Cruz



BEST OF AWARDS

BEST
AFTERSCHOOL
CARE
Growing up in Santa Cruz



BEST
SUMMER CAMP
in Santa Cruz County

BEST
YOUTH RECREATION
in Santa Cruz County

Santa Cruz Sentinel
Readers Choice Winners
Readers
Choice
Santa Cruz Sentinel
2022

As we head into fall, we're catching our breath after a very full nine weeks of summer camp fun serving more than 700 local youth. From outdoor adventures to creative arts and STEM activities, summer was packed with a wide variety of enrichment programs that gave our Club kids the chance to learn, grow, and have fun. And this year, we expanded our services through new partnerships with the Santa Cruz City Schools and the San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District, allowing us to provide summer learning and fun to hundreds of first-time Club attendees.

Weekly field trips were once again a highlight, providing our youth with fun adventures outside the Clubs. Downtown members had the opportunity to explore the outdoors and learn about environmental sustainability via the Coastal Watershed Council's "Watershed Rangers" program. Regular trips to the movie theater provided a great way to beat the heat, while giving Club kids the opportunity to catch summer blockbusters like the Super Mario Movie, Elemental, and Indiana Jones. And summer wouldn't be complete without our annual field trips to iconic local attractions like the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, the Boardwalk Bowl and the Roller Palladium.

Inside the Clubs, staff led a range of programs to keep kids engaged and learning. Daily creative arts activities gave our youth the opportunity to express themselves through painting, drawing, sculpture, collage and a wide range of crafts. Our STEM programs were also a huge hit, giving members the chance to engage in science, technology, engineering, and math through hands-on activities and experiments. Our Club kids built robots, conducted chemistry experiments, learned about coding and computer programming, and even built cardboard boats for the staff to race across the indoor pool at the Downtown Club.

Of course, no summer camp program would be complete without fun and games! Our annual Worldwide Day of Play brought together youth from all three Clubs for a day of field games and friendly competition at the Live Oak Clubhouse. The Live Oak Club retained the trophy for yet another year, following impressive performances in Dodgeball, Tug-Of-War, and a Relay Race. From sports and games to karaoke and music and "Just Dance" parties, our Clubs kept kids moving and playing all summer long.

None of these programs would be possible without our amazing staff, who provided guidance, support, mentorship and encouragement to our youth all summer long. Beyond simply leading activities to keep our Club kids engaged, they helped them develop important social skills like teamwork,

Summer Highlights, Continues on page 3



PHOTO BY JAY MELENA

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Executive Director's Message

After a very busy summer filled with field trips, swimming, physical play, outdoor exploration, art, and learning, our Clubs and our youth are settling back into the school-year routine. And as I reflect on the past several months, I can't help but note the many ways that our Clubs have explored new and meaningful opportunities to serve our youth.

Just before the summer season launched, we sent two staffers to a Teen Mental Health training retreat hosted by the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Helena and Calistoga. Over four days in a remote, camp-like setting, our team disconnected from the day-to-day and learned about mindfulness, meditation, journaling, and movement as tools that can support mental wellness. In the months since then, they've incorporated their learnings into Club programming, with the goal of introducing our teens to concrete techniques they can use to help navigate the world around them.

We also had the incredible opportunity to send some of our teens to a summer sleepaway camp hosted by the Boys & Girls Club of Lake Tahoe. This trip was the farthest some of our youth had ever traveled from home, and over the course of three days in the mountains, they participated in traditional summer camp activities, played in the lake, made friends from Boys & Girls Clubs throughout Northern California, and broadened their horizons.

Closer to home, we launched new partnerships with Santa Cruz City Schools and the San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District, which collectively introduced hundreds of new youth to the Club. While our SLV partnership took the form of six weeks of summer day camps at the Quail Hollow campus in Ben Lomond, our SCCS collaboration allowed summer school participants to spend their afternoons swimming, playing games, and making art at the Downtown Clubhouse.

As an organization, we spent our summer learning, growing, and trying new things, which is exactly what we encourage for our youth members. And just like our Club kids, we'll hold on to our summer memories and experiences as we transition back into the school year. In the months ahead, we'll be focused on afterschool programming, with an emphasis on homework help, social-emotional learning and providing the consistent, safe and fun environments our Clubs are known for.

Read on for more information about happenings at the Club this fall, and ways you can support our youth on their path to Great Futures. Thanks, as always, for being a part of our Club community!

With gratitude,



Lis DuBois
Executive Director

President's Message

What a wild, crazy, and fun summer we had at all three of our Clubhouses along with our new summer site at Quail Hollow. We served more youth this summer than we have since well before Covid, and also strengthened our partnerships with local school districts to help keep the youth of our community engaged and busy during the summer break.

Now that the excitement of summer is over, we are focusing on the academic year and what our staff does so well, fostering personal connections with each of our kids, so that they know they are special and unique. Staff accomplish this by encouraging academic success along with developing each child's passion, whether it be through the arts, sports, or through the many other activities offered at each of the Clubhouses.

Fall and winter bring the ever-popular youth basketball program which keeps the Downtown gym continuously full of kids learning skills that will not only benefit them physically but help to create camaraderie and teamwork. In November, staff will focus on gratitude activities around Thanksgiving and then compassion and serving others in December.

As always, I want to thank the amazing staff of BGCSCC for their dedication and commitment to the youth of our community. They are the key to our success by conveying true concern and caring for our kids. Thank you!



Carol Scurich
Board President

Summer Highlights, Continued:

communication, conflict resolution and empathy. We are so grateful for their dedication and hard work - as well as the smiles, caring, and fun they bring to the Club each day.

We hope our Club kids had as much fun as we did, and that they'll take the memories, skills and lessons learned this summer as they settle back in at school this fall.

"I was excited to go to Tahoe with the Boys and Girls Club. We had so much fun! I got the opportunity to go on a speed boat with my friends and one of my favorite staff members. I got to eat good food and meet so many new people from other clubs. We were able to hangout at the lake during the day, play basketball and volleyball in the evening and enjoy a bonfire and games at night. One of my favorite parts was the car ride where we also made tons of memories when we stopped at IN-N-Out for lunch on the drive."

—Mariam A

"My experience at the Boys & Girls Club this summer was a lot of fun. I got to enjoy going on field trips and doing water play with the kids. I was given the opportunity to go on a Tahoe camping trip with some of our teens where we made a lot of memories. While at the club I enjoyed getting involved in games and activities such as dodgeball and spoons. We also brought back "Game Nights," in which the teens can bring video games and other game consoles from home and we all stay after the club closes to play. Out of all these activities this summer, my favorite part of it all was our "Lock-In" sleepover with the teens. I had so much fun running around all night and making midnight cookies with them. I can't wait for next summer and I hope we can do it all again!"

—Genesis S. (Club Alumni, former Youth of the Year, and current Live Oak Club Staff Member)



Transitioning Back to School

Why I Love Going Back to School

At the Club, our programming and energy levels vary a lot throughout the year. From the constant fun and excitement we experience in the summer to the deep connections and socio-emotional growth we see in the fall, winter, and spring during afterschool programs. Our members are growing up right before our eyes, and I'm excited to see who they become while playing a small but significant part in their stories.

Undoubtedly a time of accelerated growth for kids and staff alike, the after-school program holds a special place in my heart. The focus of our members shifts from field trips and fun to friendships and success. Unique to this time of year is the consistency and quality of programming, our directors learning what their members enjoy, and tailoring activities to fit their needs. New to this school year's programming is what staff have dubbed "The Kinder Cave" which serves as a safe space for our youngest members to learn social skills and strengthen core academic areas through games and fun exercises. Walking Bus is a personal favorite of mine—a time when our teams' main goal is to learn how to best communicate with our kids, indulge their interests and imaginations, be silly, and be fun—it is the only time of the day I can say hardly feels like work. I think the Club shines brightest in the school year, and I'm proud to play a part in its success.

—Vanessa H.

Youth Development Director
Downtown Clubhouse

School Challenges

As the new school year begins, many Club kids have a tough time adjusting to the demands of academic life. At the Boys & Girls Club, we're proud to support our members as they transition from summer fun back to a new school year.

For some, like Mari S. (9), the hardest part of going back to school is "feeling like I've forgotten everything" they learned the previous year. Others need help with specific subjects in order to succeed. As Ashley S. (12) explains, "I struggle with math and I am able to get support from the Club staff" to stay on track. At the Club, we provide academic support and resources to help youth overcome these challenges and achieve their goals through programs like PowerHour, which offers daily mentor-supported homework help, and Summer Brain Gain, which is designed to help mitigate summer learning loss.

But it's not just about academics. For many of our members, the Club is a place to connect with friends and build social skills outside of the classroom. Without the Club afterschool, members say that they might be walking home alone, or "just calling friends from home." The Club is their place for community and connection. When asked why he likes coming to the Club, Isaiah V. (6) explained simply, "I get to see my friends." Whether offering resources that will help them succeed, or simply providing a fun place to connect with their peers, our Clubs are committed to providing safe and supportive spaces for youth to learn, grow, and thrive on their path to Great Futures.



A DAY AT THE CLUB



As an organization with a long history of serving youth and a nationally recognized logo, we frequently hear from parents, donors, and community members that they believe in the work we do, but that they don't know many specifics about our programs. So what does a day in the life of a Club kid in our afterschool program look like? Here's a taste!

Each day, we serve on average 250 kids across our three Clubhouses. The afternoon starts at nearby schools, when the bell rings and class is dismissed. Our staff meet kids on campus and provide supervised "walking buses" to guide about 80% of our members to the Club. These daily walks offer a healthy form of active transportation, as well as a great time for casual check-ins, talking, and learning about the triumphs and struggles of the day at school. Once they reach the Clubhouse, it's a mix of free play and structured programs - giving kids both the freedom and direction they need to thrive.

At our clubs, members can choose from a range of activities, including playtime in the games room, arts & crafts, rec swimming, or outdoor physical play. We also offer programs like Triple Play, Power Hour, SMARTMoves, which are built upon evidence-based practices developed by our partners at Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Here's a look inside a typical afternoon at our Downtown Clubhouse:

2:30—Check-In / Walking Bus - staff mentors arrive at school, meet Club kids, and walk them safely to the Clubhouse.

3:00—Free Play - Games room, gym, and self-directed play time.

3:15-3:30—Snack Time - While we call it snack, our servings are balanced and large enough to fuel growing kids - whether for playtime in the gym later, or to get that homework done!

3:30—Assembly - All kids gather for announcements, positive "shout outs," and the plan for the day's rotations.

3:35-4:30—Power Hour / D.E.A.R. Time - A Club staple, this is a dedicated time where every member in the clubhouse works with staff mentors to get that homework DONE! For kids who don't have homework, it's time to Drop Everything And Read (DEAR). Still an aspiring reader? Our youngest members join a staff read-a-loud.

4:30-4:45—Enrichment Activity Rotation 1 - Gym (Soccer, DodgeBall, Basketball, etc.), STEAM room (Science Technology Engineering and Math), or Aquatics (swim lessons or rec swim).

5:00-5:30—Enrichment Activity Rotation 2 - Creative Arts (music, art or theater) or Aquatics (swim lessons or rec swim).

5:30—Closing Rotation - Wind down with a movie in the multipurpose room.

6:00—Club Closes - Head home, having played, finished homework, and eaten a meal at the Club!



PHOTO BY JAY MELENA



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What Club Families Are Saying

As the 2022-23 school year wound to a close, we invited parents and caregivers to share feedback about their family's experience with the Club. Nearly 80 families took the time to participate in our survey, and their responses demonstrated that our Club community truly is a special place for local youth. But don't take our word for it! Here are a handful of anonymous responses shared by Club parents and caregivers:

"We love that the staff seems to really care about the kids. All of the kids seem like they love the club. Our child is an only child and really thrives on being around other children in a safe environment. The club allows us to work longer hours and we are happy to know our child is safe and enjoying themselves at the club!"

"The club is extremely reliable—stable staff, consistent programming and hours, known expectations."

"They have gotten to know my child as an individual. He loves going there and feels respected and cared for. From the moment the walking bus picks him up at school to the minute I pick him up, I know that he is with people who care about him, encourage his growth and work to help him be his best person."

"The staff is so caring and nurturing! They help our son feel secure and provide really fun activities all year around! We are incredibly grateful for BGC and how you help raise our children!"

"I love the consistency, friendships, kindness of staff, and the enrichment programs (art, martial arts, music, sports)."

Family Feedback

POSITIVE EXPERIENCES

My child feels safe at the Club **100%**
 My child enjoys coming to the Club . . . **94%**
 I feel welcome at the Club **100%**

SUPPORTS

The Club plays an important role in my family's life . . . **99%**
 The Club benefits me as a caregiver **97%**
 I can count on the Club if I need support **100%**



Spotlight on BGCA Programs

PowerHour: Making Minutes Count provides Club professionals with the strategies, activities, resources and information to create an engaging homework help and tutoring program that encourages Club members of every age to become self-directed learners.

National Fine Arts Initiative: This year-round program encourages artistic expression among Club members ages 6 to 18 through drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, mixed media and sculpture displayed at local and regional exhibits.

SMART Moves: SMART Moves is a prevention and education program addressing problems such as drug and alcohol use and premature sexual activity.

Project Learn: Project Learn reinforces the academic enrichment and school engagement of young people during the time they spend at the Club.

Summer Brain Gain: Summer Brain Gain is comprised of one-week modules with fun, themed activities for elementary school, middle school and high school students that are aligned with common core anchor standards.

Triple Play: A Game Plan for the Mind, Body and Soul is BGCA's proven health and wellness program. Since launching in 2005, Triple Play has made more than 14.4 million connections with kids and teens, promoting the importance of physical activity and proper nutrition through the program's three components: mind, body and soul.

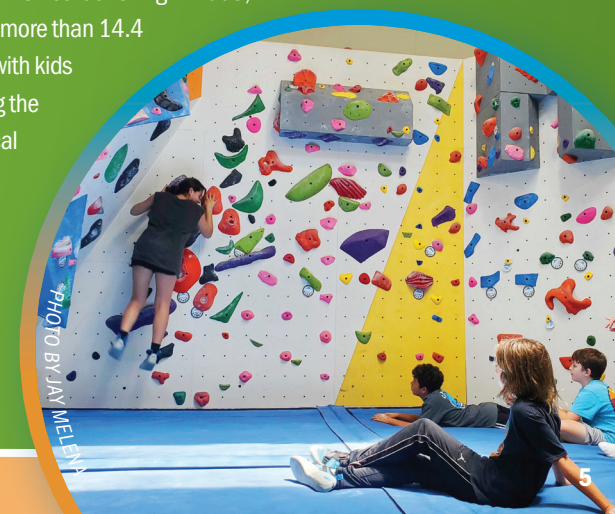


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New and Returning Aquatics Programs

I'm just a great swim instructor with experience in Lifeguarding and coaching swim teams. I joined the Club because it is the perfect setting to give the lifelong gift of water safety. My goal at Boys & Girls Club is to create an inclusive and supportive aquatic space for kids who need an outlet to exert themselves, but also hold space for those kids who haven't had an opportunity to engage with aquatic activities.

Oftentimes kids in the clubhouse ask me to teach them how to swim so they can earn permission from our lifeguards to enter the deep end of the pool. When kids take initiative to learn new aquatic skills they are also choosing to embark on a fitness, wellness, and water safety journey. That's what makes me excited; they see it as playtime, but it is much more than that. We have a safer aquatic space when we can teach our kids to swim and allow them to become strong swimmers by engaging in aquatic activities.

The Downtown Clubhouse aquatic facility is a hidden gem, and as one of the few pools in Santa Cruz we have a civic duty to extend aquatic access to our community. With efforts to further our mission of enabling all young people, especially

those who need us the most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens, we have put together the following programs:

Swim Team

The Stingrays Swim Team is a non-competitive after school program that provides an inclusive and supportive environment for kids ages 5-17 to improve their swimming skills.

During practices, swimmers will improve technique in freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly and diving.

Swim Lessons

Our swim Lessons are geared to take kids from an introduction to water safety up to being "swim team ready." The beginner, intermediate, and advanced group swim lessons are on a 1:5 instructor to student ratio to ensure that every kid gets the attention they need to progress. Private swim lessons are also available for one-on-one coaching.

Lifeguarding Certification

To help alleviate the county-wide lifeguard shortage, we will be offering Lifeguarding Certification courses. The Red Cross Lifeguarding Certifications include CPR/AED for professional Rescuers and First Aid.

Junior Guards

Jr. Lifeguards will introduce and even prepare swimmers for the physical demands of lifeguarding in a pool setting. The program will challenge and train swimmers of all ages to excel in the practice and implementation of water safety.



Our Board Members: Caring, Commitment, Community

I joined the Board of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Santa Cruz County three years ago because, growing up as a club kid in our Downtown club house, I know first-hand how important this organization is to families in this community.

One element that is key to continuing to grow the Club's ambitions and impact is a thriving and engaged board of directors. When building our board, we look for community members who demonstrate key traits like energy, curiosity, connectivity in the community, and dedication, as well as those with the skills to lead and support committees ranging from Safety and Facilities, to Finance and Resource Development. These are driven, goal-oriented professionals and community leaders who are committed to making a difference in Santa Cruz. Great board members are curious about the organization's programs and look for ways to leverage their networks to maximize visibility for the Club. And, they're ready to show up - at Board meetings, in committees, and at community events where they can help move the Club forward towards our goals. It's meaningful, tangible work that is complementary to our professional, family, and community-based lives.

We're grateful for the service of our current Board members and for those who have served over the years. And we're excited to welcome an incoming cohort of new Board Members we'll be onboarding this fall.

Seana Sullivan

Seana Sullivan
Board Development Committee Chair

Board of Directors

Carol Scurich
BGCSCC PRESIDENT
Retired, City of Santa Cruz

Ryan Cash
BGCSCC TREASURER
Bay Federal

Cheryl Shapiro
BGCSCC SECRETARY
Central California Alliance for Health

Tyler Atkinson
McManis Faulkner

Peter Dean
Morgan Stanley

Walt Henning
Retired, McCormick & Co

Jeff Moise
BiRite Foods

Tom O'Rourke
ANB Insurance

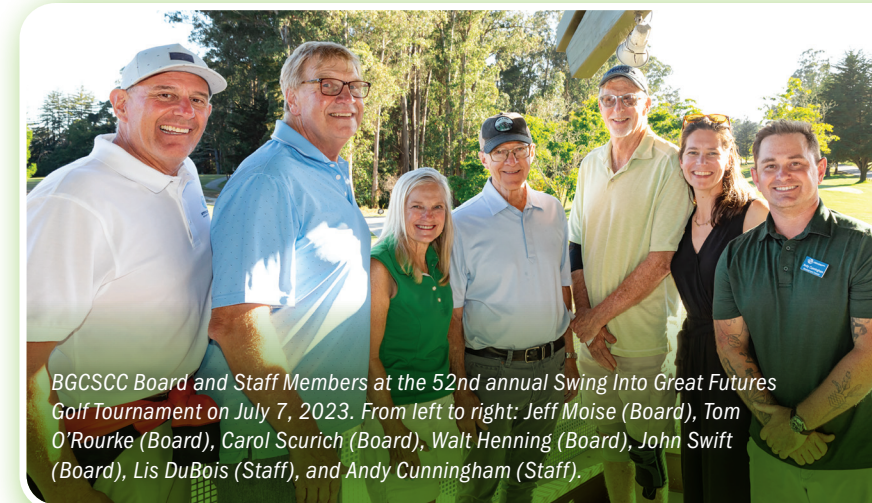
Corky Roberson
Performance Food Services

Seana Sullivan
Tubi

Teresa Swart
Google

John Swift
Swift Consulting Services

Robert Terrance
Retired, UCSC



BGCSCC Board and Staff Members at the 52nd annual Swing Into Great Futures Golf Tournament on July 7, 2023. From left to right: Jeff Moise (Board), Tom O'Rourke (Board), Carol Scurich (Board), Walt Henning (Board), John Swift (Board), Lis DuBois (Staff), and Andy Cunningham (Staff).



Santa Cruz Sunrise Rotary Bike Ride Raises Funds for the Club



We are thrilled to announce that the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Cruz County has been selected as the primary beneficiary of the Sunrise Rotary of Santa Cruz's 26th Annual Charity Bike Ride. The ride will take place on September 28-30th, and we're honored to be the recipient of a \$50,000 donation from the Sunrise Rotary.

The donation will help us kickoff the revitalization of our Downtown Club's indoor pool area. This much-needed refresh will help us provide a safer and more welcoming space for our young members to learn, grow, and have fun. We are incredibly grateful for the support of the Sunrise Rotary in making this work possible. The Sunrise Rotary of Santa Cruz has a long history of supporting local organizations that make a positive impact in our community. We are proud to be among the many organizations that have benefited from their generosity and dedication to service.

We invite everyone to join us in supporting the Sunrise Rotary's 26th Annual Charity Bike Ride and helping us build a brighter future for the young people of Santa Cruz County. We hope to see you at the finish line party on Saturday, September 30th, at Santa Cruz County Bank (75 River St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060). **Thank you for your support!**

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