



AFTER SCHOOL CURRICULUM GUIDE

“I like that my daughter loves the program so much that she doesn’t want to leave when I go to pick her up”

-BGC Parent



87%
of our participants
report earning
mostly A's & B's

We believe that **every child has greatness inside of them** and our job is to help that greatness shine. Our program is designed to 1) help each child feel like they are great; 2) learn fundamental skills they need to realize their greatness like teamwork, goal setting, and perseverance; 3) help each child explore what makes them uniquely great by exposing them to a variety of activities from athletics to drama to computers; and 4) help each child see their great future in front of them and a viable path to achieving that future.

All of our programs and activities are designed to be **fun AND purposeful**. In fact, fun is one of our most important tools. Most of the time the participants don't even realize they are learning...but they are. Because they are having fun and bonding with our staff they want to keep coming back. We know that the more often a child comes and the longer a child is involved in our program the greater their success in our three priority outcome areas.

3 Priority Outcomes

- 1) **Academic Success** = graduate from high school ready to pursue college, trade school, military or a career
- 2) **Good Character and Citizenship** = be an engaged citizen involved in the community and strong moral character.
- 3) **Healthy Lifestyles** = Adopt a healthy diet, practice healthy life style choices, avoid risk behaviors, and make a lifelong commitment to fitness.

**98% of our participants plan
to go beyond high school**



"I like the friendly and understanding staff members. I love that my child enjoys the after school program and that they set aside time for homework." - BE GREAT Academy Parent



Our Mission

Our mission is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

95%

*of our Club parents
would recommend
us to a friend*

Programs

The BE GREAT ACADEMY is the after school program of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands. We have a lineup of tested and nationally proven programs that address today's most pressing youth issues, teaching young people the skills they need to succeed in life. We offer programs with a purpose in an affordable, safe, fun environment.

**Our programs revolve
around five core areas
of focus:**

- Character & Leadership
- Health & Life Skills
- Sports, Fitness, & Recreation
- Education & Career Development
- The Arts



BE POSITIVE - BE RESPECTFUL - BE A LEADER

Our Character & Leadership programs are developed to help youth become responsible, caring citizens and acquire skills for participating in the democratic process. They also develop leadership skills and provide opportunities for planning, decision-making, contributing to Club and community and celebrating our national heritage.

***Our members
completed over 5,000
hours of community
service last year***



CHARACTER MATTERS...

A Torch Club is a powerful vehicle through which Club staff help meet the special character development needs of adolescents at a critical stage in their life. Torch Club members learn to elect their officers and work together to implement activities in

four areas: service to Club and community; education; health and fitness; and social recreation. The Staples National Torch Club Awards are presented annually to Torch Clubs with outstanding programs and activities in each area. Each year, Torch Club members from across the country take part in a service learning experience through the National Torch Club Project.

BELIEVE YOU CAN ACHIEVE!

Goals of Growth teaches Club members skills for setting and achieving goals, helps them identify their own strengths, and enhances their self-esteem by reinforcing their progress and recognizing their success in realizing their goals. Members set goals in six areas:

- Club Involvement
- Discovery of new knowledge, skills and pastimes
- Service to others
- School improvement
- Personal improvement
- Career awareness



Be Responsible
Be Prepared
Be Educated

Programs in Health & Life Skills develop young people's capacity to engage in positive behaviors that nurture their own well-being, set personal goals and live successfully as self-sufficient adults.

Get Healthy!

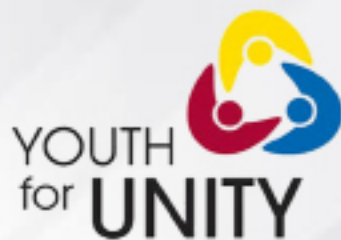
Part of Triple Play, Healthy Habits was designed to incorporate healthy living and active learning in every part of the Club experience. Healthy Habits emphasizes good nutrition, regular physical activity and improving overall well-being.



EcoKids®

Environmental Education

EcoKids is a program that is intended to raise overall awareness about conservation and the environment while allowing members to focus on their own campus. Campus clean-ups, gardening projects, and recycling programs will bring these issues to life!



Youth for Unity!

Through a comprehensive set of interventions, the Youth for Unity program aims to promote and celebrate diversity while combating prejudice, bigotry and discrimination.



Be Fit Be Healthy Be Creative

Programs in Sports, Fitness & Recreation develop fitness, positive use of leisure time, skills for stress management, appreciation for the environment and social skills through the nationally recognized Triple Play program.



a game plan for the mind, body and soul

Triple Play, BGCA's first comprehensive health and wellness program, developed in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, strives to improve the overall health of Club members by increasing their daily physical activity, teaching them good nutrition and helping them develop healthy relationships. In the fall, this program focuses on the Body

component. The Body competent boosts Clubs' traditional physical activities to a higher level by providing sports and fitness activities for all youth. Body programs include six Daily Fitness Challenges; Teen Sports Clubs focused on leadership development, service and careers in athletics; and Triple Play Games Tournaments, inter-Club sectional tournaments that involve multiple team sports.

In the spring, the program centers on the Mind component. The Mind component encourages young people to eat smart through the Healthy Habits program, which covers the power of choice, calories, vitamins and minerals, the food pyramid and appropriate portion size.

***We schedule at least
60 minutes of active
time each day***

Sports Tournaments

Fall Sports Tournament

In the fall our campuses compete in flag football and kickball. Each campus focuses on skills, teamwork and sportmanship. Following the intermural sports play we celebrate success with a fall sports Tournament at Memorial Stadium in the Rosewood Community each year. The tournament includes flag football, kickball, cheerleading, dance, concessions.

Winter Sports Tournament

In the winter our campuses compete in dodgeball. Each campus focuses on skills, teamwork and sportmanship. Following the intermural sports play we celebrate success with a winter sports tournament each year. The tournament includes dodgeball and performances by our cheerleaders and step teams.

You don't want to miss these exciting opportunities to spend time with family and friends while cheering on your team.

Be Smart Be Organized Be A Great Student

Programs in Education & Career Development are designed to ensure that all Club members graduate from high school on time, ready for a post-secondary education and a 21st-century career.



Dedicated time to complete homework



PowerHour
:making minutes count

Power Hour: Making Minutes Count provides Club

professionals with the strategies, activities, resources and information needed to create an engaging homework help program that encourages Club members at every age to become self-directed learners.

Power Hour materials provide practical tips and best practices for recognition and incentives, behavior management, volunteer recruitment and training, collaboration with other organizations, and use of technology and the internet.

97%
of our participants
complete their
homework

Cyber Smarts



NetSmartz

NetSmartz teaches internet safety skills through engaging multimedia activities and offline interaction with Club professionals in three age-appropriate Modules: Clicky's Web World, NetSmartz Rules, and I-360.

Topics include personal safety, shopping safety and ethical use of the internet. BGCM collaborated with the Center for Missing and Exploited Children to develop NetSmartz. Funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs.



Be Inspired.
Be Talented.
Be Creative.

Programs in the Arts are designed to foster creativity in young people, and give them outlets for self-expression. From photography to hip-hop, our arts programs have something that will inspire everyone.

The World's A Stage!

Performing Arts

Performing Arts programming consist of Drama, Music and Dance curriculums. These programs are designed to use theatre techniques and skills to build self-confidence, spark creativity and boost academic achievement. Members of all experience levels join together to play games and create performances while reinforcing literacy & problem solving skills and practicing teamwork, public speaking and processing emotions.

Visual Arts

Our award winning, and nationally recognized visual arts program helps members build confidence, learn patience and develop new skills. Members participate in lessons in drawing, painting, sculpture, mixed-media, pastel, printmaking and collage work. Young artists not only gain exposure to a wide variety of media, but have the chance to have their work displayed at our Annual Art Exhibition.



When School's Out We're In



Out-of-School Programs

At Boys & Girls Clubs, we do our best to provide services to our families when school is out. Boys & Girls Clubs offer summer camp, winter break camp, and spring break camp at various locations throughout the Midlands. For information on locations, availability and more, visit our website at



SPECIAL

EVENTS

Annual Arts Exhibition

Our Annual Visual Arts Exhibition is an opportunity for our young artists to experience their first gallery show, to engage with members of the community and meet local artists. The inspiration and mentorship that our members receive from this event benefits not just the members and artists, but the Midlands Community as a whole.

Education Day

Join us as we celebrate the brilliance of members. Boys & Girls Clubs members from Richland, Lexington, Newberry, Fairfield, and Kershaw counties will come together to compete throughout the day in events such as Math, Spelling, US and SC Team Trivia, and Public Speaking.

Family Fun Day

Each year BGC holds several events that are fun for the whole family! Family Fun Day with the Columbia Fireflies is our end-of-the-year celebration. This event is our chance to show our appreciation to all of our families and partners and celebrate our successes.

FAQ

Where are the Clubs located?

Our BE GREAT Academy programs are located in the schools themselves. We partner with the schools to use their facilities.

Do we help with homework and allow outside tutors to come into the Club?

Yes, one hour is dedicated to homework time Monday – Thursday and our staff and volunteers are there to assist if needed. We will allow outside tutors to come to the program, but they will have to complete the screening process we use for employees before they can interact with any child in our program.

How do I enroll my child?

New parents, please create an account in our Parent Portal at www.begreatacademy.org, then enroll your child for the desired location and services.

Returning parents, please log in to your account in our Parent Portal, then select “Enroll my child” and choose the desired location and services.

I have more than one child. Can I enroll my additional children at a discounted fee?

Yes, please select the appropriate discount when you enroll your child.

Will BGCM continue to allow drop-in participants (children whose parents or day care are late picking up)?

We will allow one visit for free, but require the parent to pay for a daily package after the first time.

What are the fees to enroll my child?

There are no registration fees to enroll your child. Your daily fee will be based on the market rate at your location and any discounts or reduced rates for which you qualify. A non-refundable payment for the first five days of services is due in order to complete your registration.

Is financial aid available?

Yes, for qualifying families. You simply choose the rate you qualify for. Upon enrollment, fax the required documents to our secure fax line (1.803.675.0475) or bring the required documents to our Service Center to verify the rate you selected. You are awarded the rate immediately upon enrollment, but must provide verification of the rate within five business days. If you do not verify the reduced rate, you give BGCM permission to recoup the difference between the market rate and the rate you choose.

How long has the Midlands had Boys & Girls Clubs?

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands has been around since 1959.

Does the United Way of the Midlands support the Boys & Girls Club of the Midlands?

Yes, BGCM receives about 4% of our funding from United Way.

How does the Boys & Girls Club select staff and what training do they receive?

Staff are selected because of their love of working with children. Each staff member completes extensive training totaling in 16 hours annually in the latest youth development techniques. Our staff go through a thorough screening process that includes fingerprinting and a background check.

What's the member/staff ratio?

BGCM wants every child to have fun and learn. We average 15 members to one staff member. Parents rate our staff as very professional and always energized.

Are all staff CPR/First Aid certified?

Each club has at least two staff that are CPR/First Aid certified.



Teen Programs



Established in 1947, Youth of the Year is BGCA's premier recognition program for Club members, promoting service to Club, community and family; academic success; strong moral character; life goals; and poise and public speaking ability. The program is most effective when used as a year-round tool for fostering young people's character, personal growth and leadership qualities.

Local Clubs recognize members ages 14 to 18 as Youth of the Month winners and select a Youth of the Year, who then participates in state competitions. State winners each receive a \$1,000 scholarship and participate in regional competitions. Five regional winners each receive a \$10,000 scholarship and compete on the national level.

The National Youth of the Year receives up to an additional \$50,000 scholarship and is installed by the President of the United States.

Working for the future

Our Job Readiness Training program assists Club members in exploring a career in youth or human services, particularly at Boys & Girls Club. Young people prepare for future roles as human services professionals by participating in career development activities, discovering the importance of community service, building customer service skills and completing a Club apprenticeship. Clubs that implement this program make an investment in the development of Club members' interpersonal skills, work ethic and sense of community responsibility. Working for the future.



Digital Arts

Tech saavy teens get to show off their skills with our Digital Arts workshops. Members get to learn creative computer software through the development of digital photography, graphic design, animation, film editing, digital music making, and app design.

“My son loves the after care providers and I feel this is what makes the program a success. They genuinely care for the members. I don't have to worry when my child is there - he has assistance with homework and activities that help him grow.”

-BGC Parent



803.231.3300

begreatacademy.org