

Because YOU cared

Doing Whatever It takes to continue Building Great Futures



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SOUTH ALABAMA



“ Instead of kids having guns in their hand, we want them to have a guitar in their hands.”

Cory Penn

Guitars Not Guns
Kiwanis Branch Director

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Take a look inside  to find out more about our current programs.

Building Future Leaders



12 Club Locations to Reach Youth

Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama's mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama is a non-profit youth organization catered to empowering 6-18 year-olds in the South Alabama area. We are molding the minds and futures of our youth in a fun, safe, and interactive Club environment!

We partner with a wide-variety of companies, organizations, and individuals in our community, which brings a range of opportunities for our members. The programs we offer expose our youth to various fields and traveling opportunities so that they may have options for future careers.

Like/Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok @ BGCSouthAL!



1. Semmes Branch
2. Bernard Malkove Branch
3. Meadowlake Elementary
4. Sonny Callahan Branch
5. Chastang-Fournier K-8
6. Kiwanis Branch
7. Optimist Branch
8. R.W. Gilliard Elementary
9. Hollingers Island Elementary
10. Mobile County Training
11. Calloway-Smith Middle
12. Foley Branch



Corporate Spotlight Lexus of Mobile

On October 1st, Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama celebrated our 30th Annual Mayors' Cup Golf Tournament presented by Lexus of Mobile. The tournament took place at Magnolia Grove, which features creeks, marshland and lakes, with each of the 54 holes carved through indigenous hardwood and pine. 174 golfers enjoyed perfect weather, with the sun shining and a steady breeze all day. After a day of golf, players enjoyed a dinner followed by door prizes and the Mayor's Cup awards presentation. No one won the hole-in-one prize this year, which would have been a three year lease on a brand new Lexus, but there is always next year!

Craig Mathews, General Manager of Lexus of Mobile, was first introduced to the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama in 1993 by a close friend. Craig became involved that year with the Mayor's Cup Golf Tournament and has been a sponsor ever since. In 1996, the Tournament became part of the national organization, Lexus Champions for Charity (LCFC). LCFC was created with the goal of assisting dealerships to form and enhance relationships with their local communities and charities through the game of golf. They have raised more than \$400 million since 1987 for nonprofit organizations such as Boys & Girls Clubs.



Over the years, Craig has been impressed with the personal stories of kids in the clubs and the new opportunities they have to further their education through club involvement. "Anytime you are part of a corporation, you look for ways to be involved with and give back to good organizations. Boys & Girls Clubs has always been a top organization to me." He values the relationships he has built through sponsoring the annual golf Tournament and especially the support from Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson for the past eight years.

Partner with our friends at Lexus by donating to Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama today. Thank you to our friends at Lexus of Mobile!



Thank you Dr. Cyle and Mary Ellen Ferguson



Dr. Cyle and Mary Ellen Ferguson are just two of the generous donors who are investing in the futures of Boys & Girls Club kids through a Donor-Advised Fund.

"We are investing in young people today with the sure belief it will result in a better tomorrow for everyone," said Mary Ellen Ferguson.

A donor-advised fund, or DAF, is an account where assets may be held for donation to charity over time. A sponsoring organization manages the account; the donor recommends how to invest the assets and to which charity donations will be made.

In addition to providing much-needed financial support to charities, donor-advised funds can provide more immediate income tax deductions for donors, as well as potentially reduce capital gains taxes and estate taxes.

Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama can provide you with the necessary information on our organization which you can share with your financial adviser or attorney as you consider donor- advised fund grants.

To learn more, contact Brenda Carlisle at 251-432-1235.

"My wife and I chose Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama to be a recipient of grants from our donor-advised fund because we know the need is great in our community for programs which have a proven impact," stated Dr. Ferguson.



COMMITMENT TO SAFETY



Employee Spotlight Sherri Mims

Sherri Mims is our new Chief Safety Officer. She is responsible for ensuring Child Safety within the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama and sustaining Facility Safety. She practices and utilizes a variety of safety procedures that are critical in protecting our youth and staff. Sherri meets with Branch Directors about potential problems and solutions and researches new and innovative ways to ensure the safety and health of our youth and staff!

Sherri is originally from Chilton County, Alabama. Outside of work, she enjoys playing the trombone and making jewelry. She recently relocated to Mobile for better opportunities offered to her family. Sherri chose to work for BGCSA because she wanted to have a positive impact on the youth in our community!

Sherri would like to see our next generation learn from both the triumphs and failures of those that came before them. As Sherri states, "If they do so, our world will be in great hands and they will reap the benefits from generations of struggle."

BACKPACK SAFETY



- 1 Choose a backpack with wide, padded shoulder straps and a padded back
- 2 Don't overstuff a backpack; it should weigh no more than 5% to 10% of your child's body weight
- 3 Go through the pack with your child weekly, and remove unneeded items to keep it light
- 4 Adjust the pack so that the bottom sits at your child's waist
- 5 Remind your child to always use both shoulder straps. Slinging a backpack over one shoulder can strain muscles



STUDENT BUS SAFETY



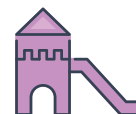
- 1 Wait for the bus to stop before approaching it from the curb
- 2 Walk 10 feet in front of the bus where you can see the bus driver, and they can see you
- 3 Look both ways to see that no other traffic is coming before crossing the street
- 4 Teach your children to stand 6 feet (or three giant steps) back from the curb
- 5 Make sure your bus driver knows any allergies or health conditions you have that may result in an emergency on the bus

PARENT BUS SAFETY



- 1 Obey school zone speed limits
- 2 Never pass a bus loading or unloading children
- 3 The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them to safely enter and exit the bus
- 4 If the yellow or red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, traffic must stop
- 5 Be alert; children often are unpredictable, and they tend to ignore hazards and take risks

PLAYGROUND SAFETY



- 1 Teach kids not to walk directly in front of or behind kids on the swings
- 2 Avoid strangulation by removing necklaces, and leaving sweatshirts with drawstrings at home
- 3 Limit playtime at peak sun exposure time and familiarize yourself with the signs of heat illnesses
- 4 Learn how to identify concussion symptoms to keep kids safer on the playground
- 5 Surfaces around playground equipment should be covered in a soft surface such as wood chips, mulch, sand, or rubber mats



At Boys & Girls Club Child Safety is Job No. 1

Ensuring child safety is fundamental to the mission of our Club. We work every day in a fun and safe Club environment so kids can have every opportunity to be successful in life. We have ZERO tolerance for inappropriate behavior of any kind, including child sexual abuse or misconduct, and we put resources behind that stance.

SAFETY POLICIES

BGCSA has comprehensive safety policies in place that protect youth – including, but not limited to, supervision, transportation, communication and prohibiting private one-on-one contact.

24-hour Toll-free Child Safety Hotline:

We encourage all staff, members and families to report any incident or situation they feel is unsafe. Through our national partnership with Praesidium, one of the nation's leading safety experts, BGCSA members and staff have access to a confidential 24-hour toll-free Child Safety Hotline, **866-607-SAFE (7233)** or email SafeClub@Praesidiuminc.com.



MANDATORY BACKGROUND CHECKS

Mandatory criminal background checks are required every year for every staff member at BGCSA. In addition, criminal background checks are required for any volunteer who has direct contact with children. All potential employees and volunteers are also run through several databases including the National Sex Offender Registry.

Required Immediate Reporting: BGCSA staff and volunteers are all mandated reporters. We are required to report any critical incident/safety concern to local authorities immediately. We are also required to report any critical incident to Boys & Girls Clubs of America within 24 hours.

SAFETY TRAINING

Ongoing training and supervision of staff is critical. We participate in a wide variety of child safety training conducted such as conferences, webinars and a semi-annual safety symposium. We also engage leading third-party safety experts to provide guidance for our policies and approaches, including Praesidium, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, and the National Children's Advocacy Center.

Safety Committee: BGCSA has a dedicated safety committee to provide input and guidance on local policies and safety strategies.

State and Local Laws: We comply with federal, state and local safety laws, including those impacting facilities and vehicles.

SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS

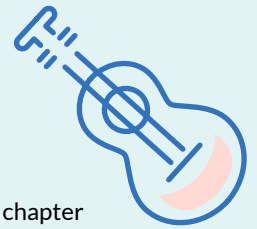
Nationally, Boys & Girls Clubs of America works with leading experts in the areas of safety, security and technology to develop state-of-the-art solutions for Clubs. Partners include:

- National Child Safety Advisory Task Force, made up of leading experts and organizations
- Blue Ribbon Taskforce, comprised of local Club leaders charged with providing input on the safety direction and key safety initiatives
- Mental Health First Aid, a national program that teaches skills to recognize and respond to signs of mental illness and substance abuse
- Crisis Text Line, a confidential text message service for youth in times of crisis





Program Spotlight Guitars Not Guns



Tuned for Success

Guitars Not Guns, a national program with a chapter at our local Kiwanis Branch Boys & Girls Club, encourages youth to find healthy and creative means of expression through music.

Students, ages 8-18, get tuned in for success with guitars and lessons under the guidance of a qualified teacher. Students discover the healing power of music as an alternative to guns in the eight-week program with an hour session each week. They master changing from one chord to another as well as perseverance & discipline and build self-esteem. "Instead of kids having guns in their hands, we want them to have a guitar in their hands," says Cory Penn, Kiwanis Branch Director.

Additionally, students who complete the entire 8-week program earn the right to keep the guitar and receive advanced instruction for another 8-week session. Penn says, "When they hear about that, they're like 'Oh, I got to come to class' They're telling their parents, 'I need to be on time. Don't take me out early.'"

Guitars Not Guns instills a love and appreciation for music that children can carry with them for the rest of their lives. The program is not just for music performers. The music studio at the Kiwanis Branch also features keyboards and a recording studio to train future sound technicians.



Follow the trail
bgcsouthal.org/bluroof



Across South Alabama there is a low reading proficiency in children and a lack of interest in reading for fun. Rosa Monteiro, Director of Academic Success at Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama (BGCSA) has an approach to literacy that gets more books into the hands of youth and families. BGCSA has a collection of little libraries called the Blue Roof Library Trail, with over 30 small libraries in our area.

There are also Blue Roof Reading Spots placed in local clinics, barbershops and courthouses—any place families might need to wait. Youth can read those books onsite aloud to another person waiting or the barber cutting their hair.

The Blue Roof libraries can be sponsored by companies or organizations, and decorated as the sponsor likes so they feel a sense of ownership and a connection to the community. It is \$100 for a reading spot \$150 to sponsor a library. To sponsor a library, call 251.432.1235 or email rmonteiro@bgcsouthal.org.

Read, Learn, Achieve.

The Blue Roof Library Trail is part of the BGCSA "Read, Learn, Achieve Initiative." This initiative includes the Gulf Coast Children's Book Festival and Let's Read Mobile, our story time video program of popular children's books.



Developing 21st Century Leaders

Keystone Clubs

The ultimate Boys & Girls Club teen program, Keystone Club, provides leadership development opportunities for teens age 14 to 18. Teens participate in activities focusing on academic success, career preparation, and community service both in and out of the Club. With the guidance of an adult advisor, Keystone Clubs impact members, the Club, and the community positively.

"Keystone has allowed me to be a leader in my Club and Community."

Morgan



BGCA hosts an annual National Keystone Conference for Boys & Girls Club teens that brings together members from all across the globe. Throughout the conference, Keystone members engage and socialize with peers, explore relevant issues, and develop skills to support and enhance efforts in their local Boys & Girls Clubs and communities.



Torch Club is a "club within the Club," helping to meet the special character-development needs of younger adolescents ages 11 to 13. The small group develops and strengthens their 21st-century leadership skills, giving them a firm foundation of good character and integrity.

Members elect officers and work together to implement projects in the four focus areas: service to Club and community, education; health and fitness; and social recreation.



Old Navy proudly supports Torch Club with its annual back-to-school donation drive. Additionally, Climate SuperStars, an online environmental challenge sponsored by Samsung Electronics America, annually offers charter Torch Club members opportunities to win Samsung products ranging from Galaxy Tabs to large-screen TVs. The success of the program would not be possible without assistance from sponsors.





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OF SOUTH ALABAMA

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GOING THROUGH
TOUGH TIMES,
GIVE THEM MORE
MOMENTS LIKE THIS.**

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