



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE PLATEAU**

Club Family Handbook



Welcome to the family.



Who We Are

“My experiences here at Boys & Girls Club have shaped me into the person I am today.”

– Christian A., Youth of the Year 2021-2022

Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau is a 501(c)3 chartered member organization of Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA), a nationwide movement of community-based, autonomous organizations working to help youth of all backgrounds develop the qualities needed to become leaders. We offer a variety of youth development programming that targets Academic Success, Healthy Lifestyles, and Good Character & Citizenship.



Mission & Vision

"To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens."

Boys & Girls Clubs have a vision for Great Futures. We aspire to provide a world-class Club experience that assures success is within reach of every young person who walks through our doors, with all Club members on track to graduate from high school with a viable plan for the future, while living a truly healthy lifestyle that is grounded in character and citizenship.





Membership

School Year Membership	\$12
Summer Sessions	Rates vary
13+ "Teen" Membership	FREE

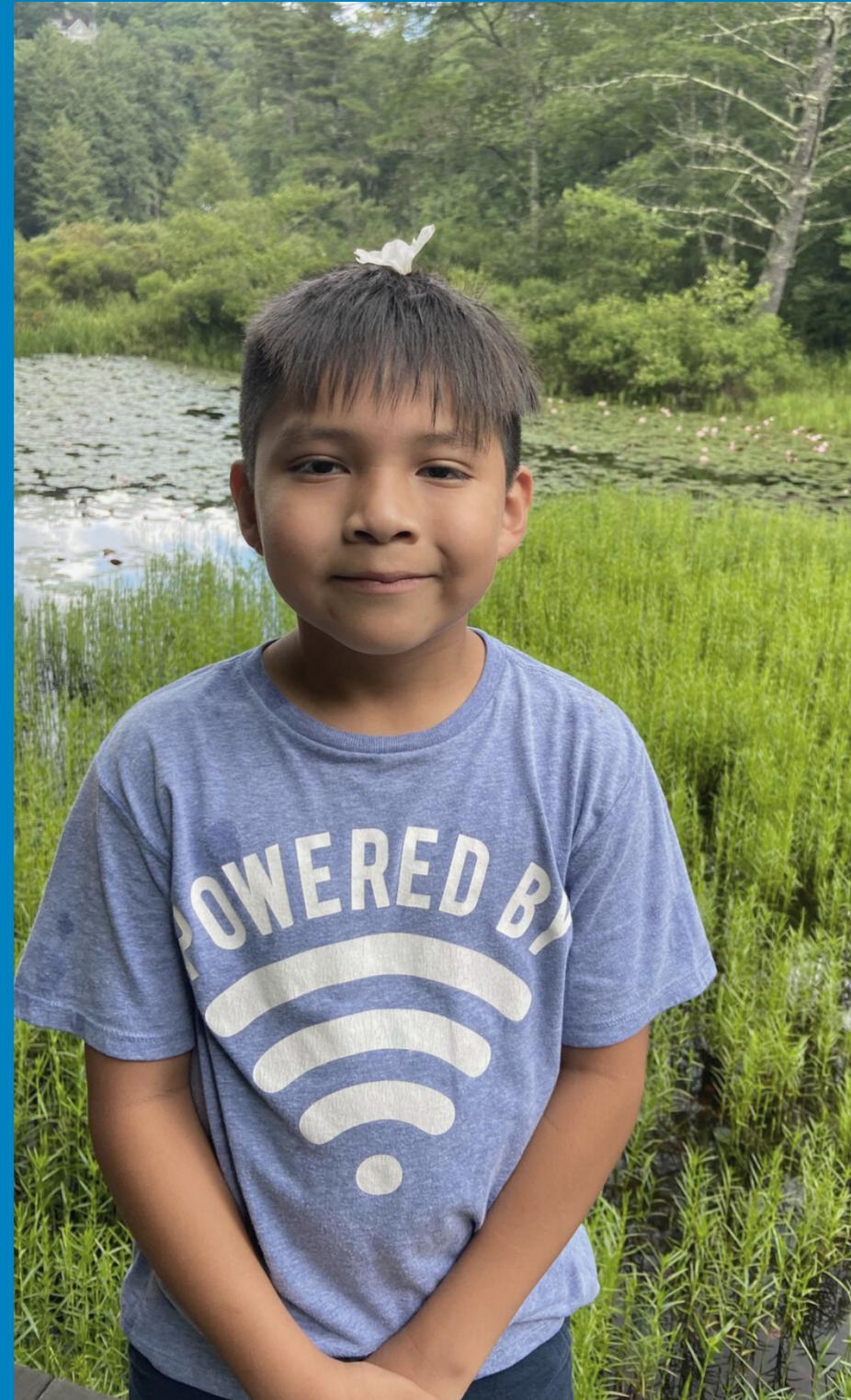
We want members to WANT to come to Club!

Our programs are designed to be fun, engaging, and intentional. Access to membership will always be affordable, and we will never price anyone out of participation. Please contact Club Staff if you are concerned about membership fees.

Bus transportation to the Club for after-school programs is provided from Blue Ridge School and Summit Charter School. BGCP provides transportation for Club-sponsored activities.

Once enrolled, members are given unique ID numbers that they use to "check in" and "check out" from our office. This is one of the first things that they will learn when they come to Club. This attendance system is one of our simplest and most effective safety measures!

Club members should attend every day to get the most from our services, but research shows that attending Club just two times each week can make a difference in a young person's life.





Staff & Volunteers

The Magic Makers

BGCP staff members specialize in positive youth development practices; our goal is to provide a safe, fun atmosphere for children and youth to learn and grow.

Program leaders at the Club are part-time employees who are current typically undergraduates at Western Carolina University pursuing careers in fields such as education, psychology, recreational therapy, environmental health, or parks and recreation.

Our programming leadership team includes Vivian Weatherby (Operations Director), Spencer Copen (Program Director), Brittany Gray (Office Manager), Carmen Waite (Outreach Director) and J'Len Wilson (Youth Development Specialist). Please visit www.bgcplateau.org to learn more about our Senior Staff team.

Volunteers are an integral resource for our programming, and our members are often inspired by our volunteers' dedication to community and service.

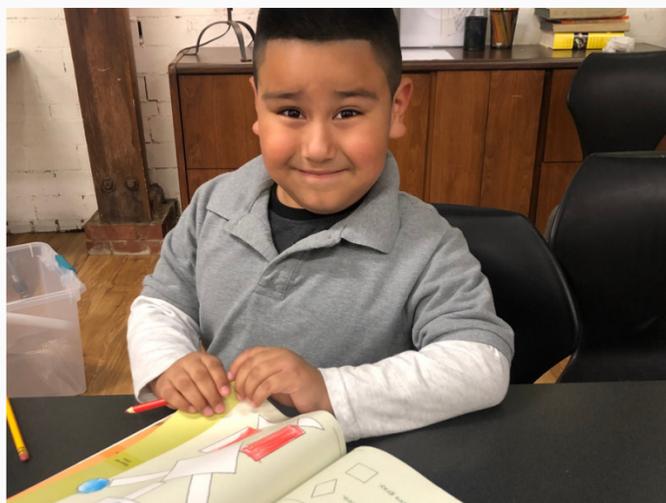
All staff and volunteers are required to undergo strict *annual* background screening.





Programs

Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau strives to offer a variety of age appropriate activities and enriching, engaging programs that target three areas: Academic Success, Healthy Lifestyles, and Good Character & Citizenship. Regular attendance is key for members to have an optimal Club experience, and attendance is a privilege; this is why we require members to participate in all activities unless otherwise directed by a medical professional.



The culture of learning at BGCP motivates members to achieve academic success in school; we offer Power Hour daily for members to work on homework or other school-related enrichment projects.

Outside of school work, we engage members with active learning opportunities. Rozy, for example, is an program that combines a creative building or crafting experience with real-world job parallels.

Our experiential approach is designed to guide our members in exploring their own interests and goal pursuits.



If your Club member is worn out at the end of the day, he/she/they likely had a great time in Triple Play. Triple Play time at Club is reserved for sports and fitness games, and we showcase a wide variety of opportunities including classic favorites like kickball, soccer, or Capture the Flag. Triple Play contains skill building components - to teach rules and abilities associated with each sport and game, but also to reflect and reach for softer skills such as sportsmanship, teamwork, and communication.

High-Yield Activities, or HYA for short, are activities designed for fun and social recreation with a purpose. HYAs are numerous and various; we may play group icebreaker games, dissect owl pellets, or paint a mural during a high-yield activity. These periods are often filled with exceptional programs from our Community Partners.



Community Partner Organizations

Field Trips are an important piece of Club programming. Sometimes the best days at Boys & Girls Club are actually AWAY from the Club!

We're lucky enough to have a great list of partners in the community who work with us to provide opportunities for our members:

- Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust
- Highlands Biological Station
- Friends of Panthertown
- Albert-Carlton Library
- The Bascom
- Chattooga Club
- Southwestern Community College
- Camp Merrie-Woode



Program Offerings

- ✓ Healthy Lifestyle Education
- ✓ Team Sports
- ✓ Academic Support
- ✓ Social Recreation
- ✓ Visual Arts
- ✓ Career Exploration
- ✓ Outdoor Recreation
- ✓ Performing Arts
- ✓ Creative Writing
- ✓ Odyssey of the Mind
- ✓ Table Games
- ✓ Lifetime Sports
- ✓ Gardening
- ✓ Yoga & Mindfulness
- ✓ Gaming
- ✓ Financial Literacy
- ✓ Service Learning



Health and Safety

✓ Injuries & First Aid

Club staff are trained to provide a safe physical and emotional space for members, but accidents do happen. When members get sick or injured and are treated with basic first aid at the Club, families are notified at pick up and provided with a copy of our injury documentation. Club staff will attempt to contact families right away in cases of emergency.

✓ Safety Guidance

BGCP utilizes guidance from various sources to plan safe, fun programming. We're fortunate to be neighbors with the fire department, and we collaborate frequently with the Jackson County Health Department. Our Club also follows guidelines set by the CDC and North Carolina Department of Health.

✓ COVID-19

During the COVID-19 pandemic, BGCP will continue to follow strict guidelines regarding group sizes, shared supplies, and social distancing. Masks are required at the Club during indoor and some outdoor activities.

Encouraging proper and frequent handwashing is an important step in preventing the spread of COVID and other diseases both in the Clubhouse and at home.

Contagious illnesses like COVID, flu, and Strep throat spread easily in our close-knit community. If members display signs and/or symptoms of a contagious illness, they will be sent home and should isolate until 24 hours after symptoms (including fever, cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea) have dissipated without the use of medication.





Emergency Procedures

When emergency situations occur, Club is prepared. Our Operations & Safety Committee completes BGCA's Annual Safety Review, as is required for all Boys & Girls Club member organizations. We also review situations that require additional preparation and Emergency Operating Policy including events such as:

- Major injury or illness of member, staff, or volunteer
- Fire, flood, tornado, and other weather-related threats
- Damage to or inability to use utilities
- Other physical threats requiring evacuation or sheltering in place
- Pandemics and/or other global health crisis

Club is currently following guidance from the Department of Health and Human Services, CDC, and BGCA on operating procedures curing COVID. Safety is our top priority.

Honor Pledge & Member Expectations



Be responsible. Be respectful. Be great.

Respectful behavior is the key value represented in the Club Honor Pledge.

Everyone present at Club has the right to feel safe and the right to be treated with dignity and respect. We intentionally hold ourselves and our program participants to high standards with simple rules. We expect all Club members to behave responsibly and respectfully.

Children and youth must have the physical, mental, and emotional maturity to act and interact responsibly in the Club setting. We understand that Club members will sometimes make decisions that do not meet these expectations. When this happens, we work to help our members learn from these experiences and consider alternative choices when faced with similar challenges.

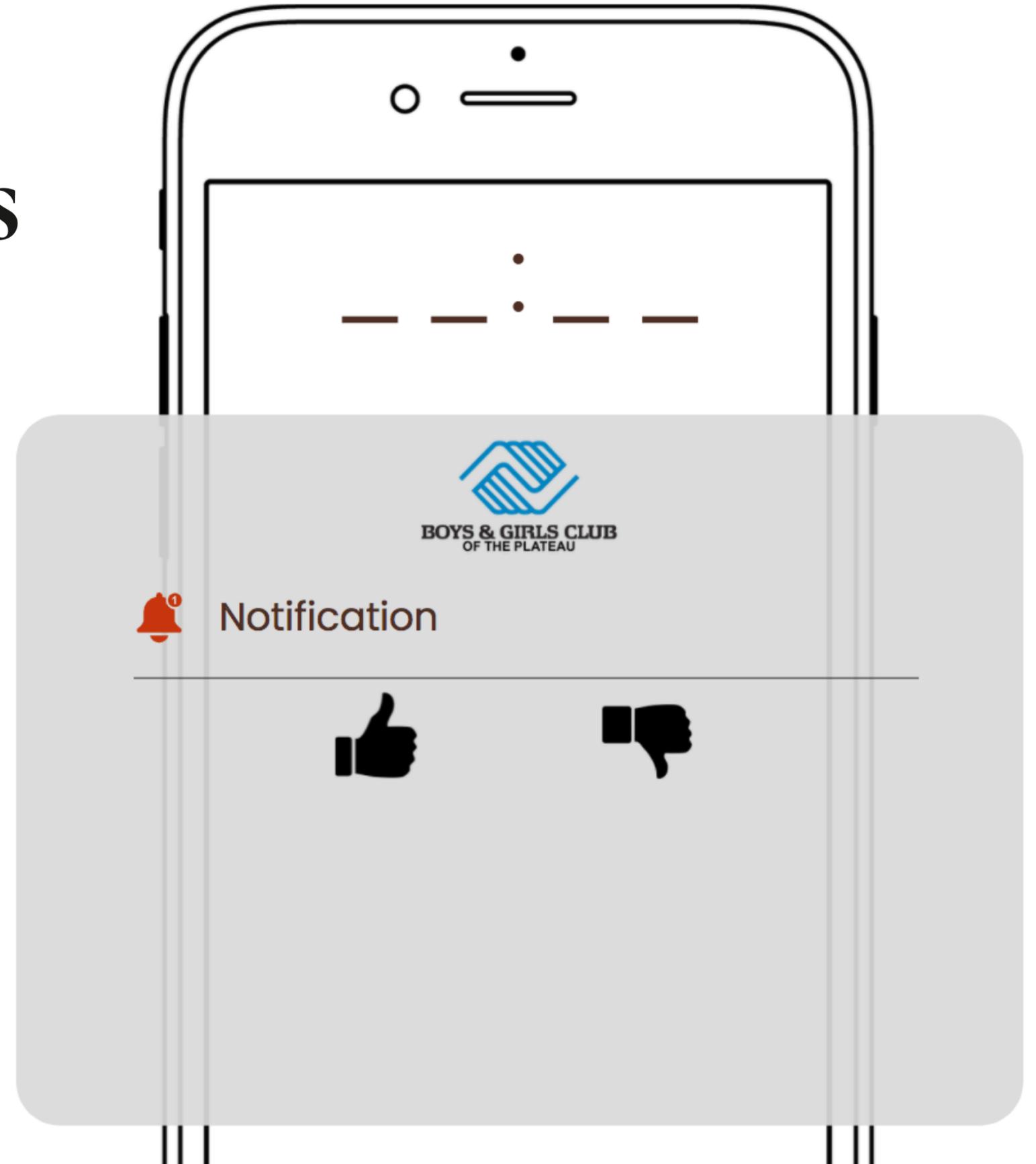
Club attendance is a privilege. Our Honor Pledge exists to educate members on making positive choices and to uphold a safe, welcoming atmosphere. Because of this, members unable to fulfil the pledge may face consequences such as Club service, suspension, or expulsion.



Parent Notifications

Some days, you may receive a small document that looks like a phone notification. We want you to know what's going on at Club!

Member behavior, the good and the bad, is important for us to recognize. These notifications are one of the simplest ways we keep parents in the loop about the daily emotions and actions that we experience with our members.





Technology at the Club

Members are allowed to use technology at the Club; both ours and personal devices. However, anyone with access to Club tech (including the wireless network) must agree to responsible, acceptable use.

Members must take responsibility for personal and borrowed devices. Members may not lend their personal devices to any other Club members, and the Club is not responsible for the security of the device or loss/damage/theft of a personally owned device.

Devices may not be used to record, transmit or post pictures, video or other information of or about a person or persons at the Club without direct permission from a Club Senior Staff member.

BGCP staff reserves the right to inspect and confiscate a member's personal device if member is using the device inappropriately. Our Acceptable Use Policy explicitly forbids certain behaviors including using a device without permission, and using a device for disrespectful communication in any fashion. This policy applies to all use of technology at the Club.

Please email info@bgcplateau.org for more information or a copy of the full policy.



Recognition & Rewards

Youth of the Month and Youth of the Year are Club recognition and positive reinforcement programs designed to intrinsically motivate members to engage in the Club experience and culture; during Youth of the Month periods, members and staff can nominate and vote for Club members who deserve recognition for outstanding character and citizenship. Being nominated for Youth of the Month is a huge honor.

Our Club Cash Program is a reward system based on currency created at the Club; members can earn "Club Cash" to spend in the Club Store, which is stocked with prizes, games, school supplies, snacks, and other goodies.

Our goal is to motivate members to make choices that reflect responsible, uplifting culture. The Club Cash program is designed to support this vision while also teaching the basics of money management.



Club Communications

✓ Main Office

Our office is a hub of information for families, and during check-out is the best time for Club staff to communicate information about upcoming program opportunities. This is also a great time to discuss member experience and schedule future meetings.

✓ Contact Information

Parents and guardians listed as primary contacts will automatically be opted in to Club communications via email, phone, and text. If you feel you are not receiving Club communications, please contact our office so we can verify that we have correct contact information, which is vital for emergency situations.



Sample Daily Schedules



FRIDAY, JULY 16TH



TUCK

ANIMALS ROCK

7:30-9:30	DROP IN	
9:30-10:45	1ST - OWL PELLETS (PAVILION)	JAMES, CAROLINE, AUTUMN
10:45-12:00	2ND - TRIPLE PLAY (FIELD)	TATE, JAMES, CAROLINE
12:00-1:15	LUNCH (GYM)	
1:15-2:45	3RD - TRIPLE PLAY (GYM)	CAROLINE, TATE, AUTUMN, LEA
2:45-3:00	SNACK	CAROLINE, TATE, LEA, JAMES
3:00-5:00	4TH - BIRDS (OFF CAMPUS)	TATE, LEA, JAMES

CHATTOOGA

7:30-9:00	DROP IN	STAFF
9:00-9:30	1ST - TRIP PREP (BLACKTOP)	LEA, NICK, MARIA
9:30-12:00	2ND - PANTHER TOWN HIKE	LEA, NICK, MARIA
12:00-1:15	LUNCH (GYM)	
1:15-2:45	3RD - OWL PELLETS (PAVILION)	JAMES, NICK, ZION
2:45-3:00	SNACK	JAMES, NICK
3:00-4:00	4TH - ANIMAL MASK CRAFT	MARIA, CAROLINE, AUTUMN
4:00-5:00	5TH - ODYSSEY	AUTUMN, NICK



TEENS + 12S

9:00-5:00	ELK SIGHTING @ GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK	CAMERON, YOSELIN, J'LEN
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Summer Camp

BGCP PROGRAMS

VIERNES
EL 30 DE ABRIL



GROUP	PROGRAMS	STAFF
TUCKTOOGA	3:30 - 4:15 SNACK + SMART MOVES PAVILION 4:15 - 4:45 YOUTH OF THE YEAR & AWARDS CEREMONY BLACKTOP 4:45 - 5:45 TRIPLE PLAY - PACMAN TAG GYM	DEE, BRANDON, YOSELIN
ODYSSEY OF THE MIND	3:30 - 4:15 SNACK + TEAM MEETING GYM 4:15 - 4:45 YOUTH OF THE YEAR & AWARDS CEREMONY BLACKTOP 4:45 - 5:45 TRIPLE PLAY - CAPTURE THE FLAG FIELD	AUTUMN, ZION
TEENS	3:30 - 4:15 SNACK + HEALTHY HABITS TEEN CENTER 4:15 - 4:45 YAY YOY YAY BLACKTOP 4:45 - 6:30 TRIPLE PLAY + FREE TIME TEEN CENTER	JAMES, J'LEN
	4:15 - 4:45 RECOGNITIONS CEREMONY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACADEMIC AWARDS TRIPLE PLAY AWARDS CITIZENSHIP AWARDS OM TEAM RECOGNITION YOUTHS OF THE YEAR 	

School Year





Mark Your Calendars!

We anticipate a Grand Opening in the brand new Club facility at

558 Frank Allen Road by

April 1st, 2022

We hope all families will join us on this day and celebrate the many new opportunities and adventures for our young people.

On this day, we also hope to welcome Kindergarteners to join the Club, many members who may be waitlisted due to capacity limitations, and even a bus of new members from Highlands School.



Contact



spencer@bgcplateau.org
vivian@bgcplateau.org
j'len@bgcplateau.org
membership@bgcplateau.org
carmen@bgcplateau.org
info@bgcplateau.org

Non-program related inquiries:
lori@bgcplateau.org

