OUR HISTORY

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro South was formed in 2019 through the merger of the Boys & Girls Club of Brockton (founded in 1990) and the Boys & Girls Club of Taunton (founded in 1902) in order to maximize our impacts in each respective community and bridge service gaps in our region.

OUR MISSION

We are fueled by our mission “to nurture strong minds, healthy bodies and community spirit through youth-driven, high-impact programming in safe and fun environments” to ensure that every child has a positive place to spend their out-of-school-time hours.

We hold an intrinsic belief that every child deserves an equal chance to pursue the American Dream – to have the opportunity to realize their unique and full potential – to achieve a Great Future.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to ensure the greatest possible impact of our programs on the long-term positive trajectories of our members’ lives.

This vision can only be realized by maintaining lifelong relationships with Club alumni to support them after high school, utilizing data to better understand the outcomes of our programs, and through efforts to ensure and increase the accessibility of our programs.
WHO & HOW WE SERVE

Through a combination of after school, weekend, and summer camp programs Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro South serves boys and girls ages 4-18 at our Brockton and Taunton Clubhouses, Camp Riverside, and at several extension sites throughout Southeastern MA.

Our Brockton and Taunton Clubhouses are each located in areas with CDI (Community Disadvantage Index) ratings of 10 out of a maximum of 10. CDI measures poverty levels, crime rates, and other barriers that inhibit children and their families from succeeding. Families in our region too often face the difficult task of having to cut ‘extras’ from their budget, which can include after school programs and enrichment activities for their children.

Our Clubs offer a critical solution to these problems by inspiring our boys and girls, raising expectations, and providing them with opportunities for educational support to ensure that they can succeed, regardless of their life circumstances.

Our Clubhouses belong to our boys and girls, their families, and to the community at-large. As staff we are the stewards of the organization’s mission and values. Our job is to strive to ensure that each member has a positive Club experience and we encourage parents to provide us with input to improve our programs and operations.

OUR APPROACH TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Boys & Girls Clubs of America’s “Formula for Impact” is a roadmap for Clubs to help ensure that all members achieve three priority outcomes: Academic Success, Healthy Lifestyles, and Character & Leadership.

Creative Expression and Sports & Recreation programs are also core components of our daily program offerings and are intended to foster the well-rounded, positive development of our boys and girls.

We work to provide all our members with high-quality, programming that is safe, fun, age-appropriate, and which makes a measurable difference, with an ultimate goal of imparting to them the skills needed to achieve success in the 21st Century.
Club membership is open to all youth ages 8-18 for our general after school structured choice programming. Youth ages 5-7 must be enrolled in our licensed School Age Child Care program. Annual memberships are valid from September 1st through August 31st and memberships must be renewed annually.

Additional fees may apply to participate in certain programs and activities offered throughout the year, including specialized sports programs, school vacation camps, summer day camp, and other specialty enrichment programs.

Transportation can be provided to/from school to the Clubhouse daily from select schools which are listed on our website.

Youth ages 5-7 must be enrolled in our School Age Child Care program which is licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. The school age licensed program is open to youth ages 5-14 but youth ages 5-7 are required to be enrolled in the program to participate in Club programs.

New members, with their parents, will receive a tour of the facility, meet staff members, and will receive an overview and understanding of Club policies and our Code of Conduct. Members and parents will be held to the standards and policies outlined in this Member Handbook upon signed agreement of receipt.

We are a membership organization and members are required to have their membership card daily, as it serves for their entry to building. There are no exceptions to this policy. If a child loses their card, one replacement card will be issued free of charge. Thereafter, if you child arrives at the Club without a card a $5 fee will be charged for a new card or admittance could be denied. This policy is strictly enforced and parent compliance is greatly appreciated.

Our Clubs operate under an “Open Door” policy (unless registered in the School Age Child Care licensed program), which means that members must sign themselves in and out using their individual membership cards.

Members in our daily after school structured choice drop-in program participate in a schedule of activities that vary daily. These programs provide our boys and girls with resources to support their academic success and healthy development. In addition to evening meal service, other daily programs include: homework help, STEM exploration, various gym games, fine arts and crafts, outdoor play, social recreation, digital literacy, sports leagues, and much more!

Our Teen Centers allow members ages 13-18 to have their own designated social spaces, college access resources, service learning and leadership clubs, and special social events.
At our Clubs, we welcome everyone’s involvement by providing families with financial assistance through our CLUB-Cares Financial Assistance program. It’s an important part of our mission to ensure every child has a chance to benefit from our life-changing programs.

If you need financial assistance, please visit our website or the Member Services desks for a financial assistance application. Reduced fees are available in the areas of membership, licensed child care, summer camp and other programs.

The amount of assistance is based on need, as determined by family income guidelines. Our Clubs reserve the right to request back-up documentation for all financial assistance applications. By accepting financial assistance you agree to update our Clubs should your financial circumstances change.

We count on the generosity of our donors and community partners to help our members thrive. Donations to the Great Futures Annual Campaign allow us to continue to provide financial assistance to children who would otherwise be financially unable to participate in our programs.

Our Clubs operate under an “Open Door” policy (unless registered in the School Age Child Care licensed program), which means that members must sign themselves in and out using their individual membership cards. We do not know on a daily basis how many members will be attending the Club. As a Parent You Should Know:

- The membership services being offered by our Clubs are not licensed by the Department of Early Education and Care or any other state agency.
- Our Clubs offer drop-in services and members will receive appropriate staff supervision that meet programmatic goals and safety standards.
- Our Clubs are not responsible for the care or supervision of members beyond program closing times.
- Members may arrive at or depart at any time during the program day.
- It is a parent’s decision if their child is mature enough to attend our Clubs.

All members are required to scan in and out of the Club each day. Members ages 8-12, are not allowed to leave our Clubs without an adult. If they choose to do so they may lose other privileges and their parents will be notified. Members 13-18 are permitted to leave our Clubs one time per day; thereafter they will be denied reentrance for the remainder of the day. They are encouraged to return within one hour and they are required to check in and out with staff.
MEMBERSHIP HOURS

Administrative hours are Monday-Friday from 6:30 AM to 8:00 PM during the school year and Monday-Friday from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM during the summer.

Operational Hours are based on the hours listed below during the school year.

• Youth Members Ages 5-15 | 2:00 PM to 6:30 PM
• School Age Child Care | 6:30 AM to 9:00 AM & 2:00 PM to 6:30 PM
• Teen Members Ages 13-18 | 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM (No entry after 7:00 PM)

Hours change during school vacations and early release days to accommodate working families. These days are determined by programming needs and to best accommodate families. Any additional hours will be posted for notice.

Our Clubs will be closed for the following holidays:

• New Year’s Day
• Memorial Day
• Independence Day
• Labor Day
• Thanksgiving Day and the day after Thanksgiving
• Christmas Day

Our Clubs will be closed briefly before and after our summer camp programs. Additional staff training days may be held throughout the year. Any additional closings will be posted well in advance for any other reason.

EARLY & LATE FEE POLICY

There will be a $10 fee per 15 minutes that your child is left at our Clubs before or after our hours of operation. Children will not be allowed back until the fee has been paid. Multiple infractions will result in membership suspension.

PHONES & PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell phones, electronic games, and any other kind of personal electronic devices are not allowed at our Clubs. These devices are banned because they are disruptive during programs and are too easily stolen. If your child brings these devices to our Clubs and is noticed by a staff member they will be taken and secured at the front desk. The parent or guardian will need to retrieve the item from the front desk. Repeated offenses will be subject to further discipline. The use cell phones are permitted in our Teen Centers for teen members only.

If you need to reach your child in the event of an emergency call the Clubhouse and we will have your child come to the phone. If they need to call you in the event of an actual emergency we will allow your child to call from the front desk. Messages may be left at our Clubs for members.
TRANSPORTATION
The Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro South offers limited before and after school transportation services to and from our Clubhouses to ensure that our programs are accessible to as many youth as possible.

Transportation services are provided at a modest weekly cost and provide a convenient, reliable solution for working parents/guardians to ensure that their children get safely to and from our Clubhouses and city schools.

We not recommend outside transportation providers for travel between school and club. Please see our member services desks or website for more information on transportation programs.

CHILD PROTECTION
Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro South takes the prevention of child abuse extremely seriously. We recognize that child abuse and inappropriate contact of children is a pervasive problem throughout the United States which must be managed in a proactive manner if we are to protect those in our care.

We are committed to taking proactive steps to protect children in our programs and facilities. Our comprehensive Child Protection Policy outlines policies within the four elements of screening and hiring, training, supervision, and feedback systems. All relevant policies are reviewed every three years and utilize language that is specific and clear for all staff members. If an allegation does occur we will proactively work with the authorities and the family to respond in a prompt and empathetic manner. For a copy of our comprehensive Child Protection Policy please visit our member service desks or website.

LOST & FOUND
Each of our Clubhouses and Camp Riverside has a lost and found. Any items found that may be of value will be located in the lost and found and can be claimed by parents. Found items will be cleaned out the last day of each week and given to local organizations.

Our Clubs are NOT responsible for lost or stolen items. Children should not bring valuables and treasured items to our Clubs unless the child is prepared to keep track of their items at all times.

Bicycles and skateboards are permitted. Bicycle racks are available at our Clubs and members can lock their bicycles while participating in programming. Bikes, skateboards, scooters, etc. can not be stored inside our Clubhouses.
**HEALTH & MEDICATION POLICY**

We will treat cuts, scratches, bumps, and boo-boos. If your child requests treatment of a cut or scratch we will clean the wound, apply an antibiotic/pain reliever and bandages as needed. If your child requests an ice pack we will provide them with one after evaluation by our staff.

Our staff is permitted to administer some over-the-counter basic care items, such as sunscreen, insect repellent, etc. These items must be furnished by the parent/guardian. Under no circumstances are members allowed to carry any medications, prescriptions or over the counter drugs on their person while at our Clubs. Required items must be given to our staff. Our Clubs are not responsible for reactions or improper use of sunscreen, insect repellent, etc. or any item that is borrowed from other members. Parents/guardians of any member requiring emergency health care will be notified immediately.

To comply with health regulations, and in fairness to all members and families, parent/guardians are asked to keep a member home anytime the child has a fever, rash, contagious illness, head lice, sore or runny eyes, or any other evidence of illness. Members demonstrating symptoms of a contagious illness must be picked up immediately by the parent/guardian or designated adult.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

Our Clubs make every effort to open during inclement weather to best serve our members and families. Information regarding our posting during inclement weather is posted on our website, Facebook pages, and local radio and TV stations, including Fox25, WCVB Channel 5 Boston, and public access channels.

**NUTRITION PROGRAM**

We provide nutritious meals to our youth each evening during the academic year, and both breakfast and lunch during the summer months to ensure that no member who wishes to eat at our Clubs leaves hungry. Each day we serve meals to nearly 400 of our members; totaling more than 8,000 meals served per month and more than 100,000 meals served annually. In addition to meal service, we work to teach our members how to choose healthy foods when they are not at our Clubs and to make the connection between eating well and feeling well.

We also aim to eliminate the anxiety that comes with not knowing where one’s next meal will come from. By removing this worry from our members’ minds we empower them to better apply their efforts in school and to just be kids. Children are encouraged to enjoy the food our Clubs provide. We only allow outside packed lunches and do not allow any food delivery or fast food.
MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

Our rules are common sense and mirror the rules children must follow at school.

- The Golden Rule applies! Do unto others, as you would have done unto you.
- Asking for money from staff or other members is not allowed.
- Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
- Members must stay in their assigned group at all times.
- RESPECT yourself, other members, the staff, and your Clubhouse.
- Members must check in and out at our front desks. See open door policy.
- Borrowing, lending, or trading of any items including, but not limited to; money, game cards, toys is not permitted. Members must leave with the same items they brought.
- Youth must be in designated areas only and under the supervision of an adult staff member or approved volunteer.
- We strongly encourage members do not wear flip-flops. They tend to break when a child is active and then the child is barefoot the rest of the day. Sneakers are strongly recommended every day.
- Our Clubs encourage new members. Visiting youth are required to sign up using a guest form and a parent must sign a form for one week membership. When they arrive and they must follow the same rules as members. Visitor passes are valid for one week. Visitors must be between the ages of 8-18.
- Eating and drinking is allowed in designated areas only. For the safety of our members and potential food allergies, no outside food is permitted in the other than packed lunches for meal purposes only. Our Teen Centers permit items only for meal service, no food may be ordered from outside vendors!

DRESS CODE

We follow the same guidelines as local public schools regarding attire.

- No suggestive or revealing attire is allowed.
- Pants must be worn at or above the waist.
- Cubbies are provided for youth to store belongings. These areas are’t secure.
- Non-prescription sunglasses are not permitted in the building.
- Students should wear clothing that does not create a disruption.
- Bare midriffs, see-through blouses, and strapless clothing are prohibited.
- Items with provocative, offensive or violent, images/slogan are prohibited.
- Items advertising alcohol or tobacco products are prohibited.
- T-shirts and sweatshirts must have sleeves.
- No hats, caps, bandanas, hoods, or wallet chains allowed.
- Shorts with inseams no more than three inches above the knee are permitted.
- Tennis shoes must be worn in the gym. No flip-flops except during assemblies.
We believe that discipline is not about punishment. It is about coaching and guiding young people to understand the value and benefits of behavior that meets their needs without infringing upon others.

Discipline is a daily learning process for young people. Staff must provide a structured setting that never waivers or changes. Members must understand the rules and limits of their behavior to benefit from their Club experience. Discipline is the proactive process of limiting the time for negative behavior through positive alternatives and interventions.

Discipline is not the consequences of poor behavior. Club members must have reinforcement for their behavior. There is a greater chance that positive behavior will be repeated and developed into a lifetime pattern if adults recognize and appreciate this type of behavior starting at a young age.

If our focus is on the negative, with the absence of positive recognition, young people will misbehave just to secure the attention they desire. Our staff team understands that many forms of negative behavior are simply a child’s desire for attention and recognition. When negative behavior is not followed by immediate correction a young person will often feel the adult does not care and a guidance and bonding opportunity is missed.

Our staff understands that in the relationship building effort between a young person and staff members there will be friction and testing. This is just part of the process that youth attempt during the discipline learning experience.

Staff members are fair, consistent, preventive, and take immediate action to correct a negative behavior or to recognize a positive behavior. We have high standards for our members.

Acceptable behavior is defined by the following:

- Respect for yourself
- Respect for others
- Respect for our Clubs

This is our motto and it is repeated daily by Club staff and displayed around our Clubhouses. Our members need to understand that there are both negative and positive consequences from their personal behavior.

The following guidelines are the approved steps for our staff to use in daily program operations.
BEHAVIORAL STEPS

This is the process of reinforcement of positive behavior and not accepting the negative behavior by Club members. Staff creates a program environment that helps youngsters be more successful. Staff ensures that they are proactive in preventing negative behavior to occur through the observation of behavioral and program operation clues. Our behavior steps are based on restorative practice research that encourages positive behavior and seeks to understand the psychology behind negative behavior.

First **(GREEN) Warning**: Includes but is not limited to failure to respect staff and other Club members and interfering with daily programming.

**Action**: Verbal warning to member. Three verbal warnings in a one-day period will result in a yellow offense.

Second **(YELLOW) Warning**: Three repeated offenses of disrespect towards staff or other Club members with a one-day period.

**Action**: Written yellow report that will remain on file and a copy is to be mailed or hand-delivered to parent or legal guardian, immediate phone call at time of action to inform parent or legal guardian of offense, service program or two-day suspension (decision to be mutually agreed upon by staff, parent, and member). Report must be signed and returned prior to return to the Clubhouse.

Third **(RED) Warning**: Threat or action of physical harm against yourself or others, destruction of property belonging to our Clubs or another member. A yellow warming followed by a repeated offense will automatically result in a red warning.

**Action**: Written red report that will remain on file and a copy to be mailed or hand-delivered to parent or legal guardian, immediate phone call at time of action to inform parent or legal guardian of offense, immediate removal from programming and a one-week suspension. Reinstatement of membership will occur after a behavior meeting with the member, parent, and Executive Director to set mutually agreed upon behavior goals for the future. Reinstatement will also require weekly follow ups between the member and the Executive Director. Report must be signed and returned prior to return to the Clubhouse.

Continued negative behavior that creates an unsafe environment for fellow members and/or staff may result in a child’s membership being revoked. This decision will be at the discretion of the senior management team. This decision is not taken lightly and will be a collaborative discussion between all parties. This decision may be appealed within 30 days of the incident and must be made in writing to President & CEO outlining a corrective plan for the member.
**ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**

We enforce a Zero Tolerance policy for the following negative behaviors to ensure the safety of our staff and members to provide a safe and positive experience for all. Any/all of the following behaviors and will immediately result in a red warning and possible loss of membership:

- Fighting
- Stealing
- Bullying/Intimidation
- Threatening the safety of a member or staff member
- Weapon possession - real or fake
- Damage to our facilities or equipment. Families will be billed for repairs.

**PARENTS & VISITORS**

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro South values the health and safety of our members. All volunteers working with our children undergo background checks. All adults (including parents) who are not volunteering are NOT permitted to be in program spaces. Parents picking up their children from the Club should stop at the member services desk so their child can be escorted to the dismissal area.

We do make exceptions for parents and guardians who stay for programs such as swimming lessons or meets, basketball games, and talent showcases, etc. Those who are staying for these programs must follow these rules:

- Remain in the designated program area (gyms, Aquatics Center) at all times.
- Sign-in upon entry, provide a photo ID, and wear a visitor badge.
- Utilize staff/adult bathrooms during your visit.
- Visitors must be escorted by staff while traveling throughout the building.

**FIELD TRIPS**

Occasionally, Club members are invited to participate in off-site activities. Generally, Club vans are used for transportation. Permission slips are always required and provided to parents/guardians in advance of trips. Members are selected for participation at the discretion of the staff and generally chosen for good behavior, volunteer service, or level of participation in programming.

**CLUB CLEANLINESS**

All members are asked to help keep their Clubhouse clean. Members should participate in Club clean up when requested by staff.
PHOTOGRAPHS

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro South occasionally makes use of photos and/or videos of members and activities for marketing and publicity purposes. Photos could be used and not limited to the following: newspaper, social media, flyers, internet, brochures, etc.

If you do not want your child to be photographed for the purposes listed above, please be sure to indicate this desire on your child’s membership application.

INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

The internet allows members to access thousands of libraries and databases. Transmission of any materials in violation of any national or state regulations is prohibited. These include but are not limited to: any copyrighted materials and threatening or obscene materials.

Access is a privilege and not a right. Any inappropriate use will result in cancellation of these privileges. While it may be unlikely your child will access objectionable material our Clubs cannot guarantee that this won’t happen.

There are computers available at our Clubhouses for our members’ use. During after school hours, computers are limited to homework purposes only.

Technology programs are a part of our daily schedule, and there is also scheduled time for members to enjoy personal time to use computers for communicating and playing games.

Staff members monitor computer usage in order to keep Club members safe as they use technology at our Clubs. In addition, firewalls are used to prohibit sites that are deemed unsuitable for our Club environment.

Regardless of close supervision and monitoring, there remains the possibility of coming into contact with inappropriate material.

If a member mistakenly accesses inappropriate content, he or she should take the following steps:

1. Turn off the computer’s monitor.
2. Immediately tell a staff member.

Using computers and related equipment at our Clubs is a privilege that is earned by attending internet safety training. Additional training is required for teens interested in visiting social media sites.
MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

In order to ensure a safe, fun, and impactful Club experience for all members, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro South strictly enforces a Member Code of Conduct. The membership rules as stated are designed to ensure that members are accounted for at all times, that all members and staff feel safe and respected while they are at the Club, that age-appropriate behavioral development is consistently reinforced, and that all staff and members are acting as positive representatives of the Club community at all times.

Member Code of Conduct

• Bring your membership card everyday
• Be respectful to fellow members and staff
• Say only good things about others
• Keep your hands to yourself at all times
• Try your hardest and participate in programs and activities
• Play fair and be honest
• Avoid improper language
• Walk at all times outside of the gym
• Practice good manners
• Do the right thing all the time

OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR MEMBERS

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro South is committed to developing our region’s youth by instilling in our members a sense of:

**Competence** – Our members feel proud and confident when they can demonstrate new knowledge or skills acquired through participation in regularly scheduled Club programs.

**Usefulness** – Our members derive satisfaction and fulfillment knowing that they can contribute and provide something valued by others through the completion of community service projects or by helping around their Club.

**Belonging** – Our members recognize that they are a part of something bigger than they are. As Club kids, they belong to a community, and they have opportunities to join teams and peer groups.

**Power and Influence** – Our members know that their opinions are heard and that they can have the ability to influence others by assuming leadership positions within groups, by helping to develop a new Club program, and as role models for younger members.
As a chartered member of Boys & Girls Clubs of America, we use the national organization’s Formula for Impact model that focuses on the priority outcomes of Academic Success, Healthy Lifestyles, and Character & Leadership.

Within these core areas, we engage our kids through academic support services, career exploration, the arts, community service opportunities, leadership development, daily fitness and recreation, and more.

Throughout our history, we have implemented a combination of Boys & Girls Clubs of America-chartered programs along with activities we design ourselves to best suit our Club members.

Today, our core programming areas include:

**Academic Success**

Academic success programs foster a love of learning and enable youth to become proficient in basic educational disciplines, apply learning to everyday situations and embrace technology to achieve success in a career.

**Character & Leadership Development**

Programs in character and leadership development empower youth to support and influence their Club and community, sustain meaningful relationships with others, develop a positive self-image, participate in the democratic process, and respect their own and others’ cultural identities.

**Healthy Lifestyles**

Programs which promote healthy lifestyles 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.

**Creative Expression**

Programs which promote creative expression enable youth to develop their creativity and cultural awareness through knowledge and appreciation of the visual arts, crafts, performing arts, and creative writing.

**Sports & Recreation**

Sports and recreation programs develop fitness, positive use of leisure time, skills for stress management, appreciation for the environment and social skills.
ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Our programs in Academic Success help to provide our youth with the skills and resources they need to succeed in the classroom, apply learning to everyday situations, and embrace 21st Century technology to achieve career success.

At the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro South members engage in educational programs and receive support services that assist in improving their academic performance, creativity, and critical thinking skills.

The Learning Center at our Brockton Clubhouse and the Robert F. Stoico FIRSTFED Charitable Foundation Educational Achievement Center at our Taunton Clubhouse are enriching environments that reinforce the importance of education and aim to inspire a lifelong love of learning in our members.

Each afternoon, our members can be found working on writing assignments, reading for fun, and participating in word games. Daily homework help and tutoring is provided to our kid’s ages of 5-12 through our Power Hour program, and members ages 13-18 receive their own academic support services in our designated Teen Centers.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Education Programs

Our STEM education programs provide our members with an integrated, experiential approach to learning and applying concepts which will prepare them to solve complex problems today and in the future. The ultimate goal of our STEM programming is to help meet the educational needs of our members by supplementing and reinforcing what they learn during the school day.

High-Yield activities are a staple of our STEM education programs and are designed to pique our members’ interest in STEM topics through fun, hands-on experiments, nature walks, hydroponic gardening, weather observation and measurements, simple chemistry projects, and more. Members who express a particular interest in these programs can join our STEAM Team and have the opportunity to work in smaller groups on more involved projects over extended periods of time in our state-of-the-art STEM Labs.

SkillTech is a BGCA nationally developed program aimed at familiarizing members with technology, particularly the use of computers and the basic software skills that are necessary to excel in school and in the modern workplace.

Our Robo Tech and Immersion Learning programs engage our youth in the exciting worlds of robotics and marine biology through immersive multimedia and team-based missions.
College Access & Career Exploration

Many of our academic success programs are designed specifically to service teen members and are implemented in our dedicated Teen Centers which are open to members ages 13-18.

As members transition to high school they received additional support in researching their options for the future and applying to college or trade schools and in preparing to enter the workforce. In addition to assisting members with completing college essays and applications, our staff of teen-focused youth development professionals take members on college tours and help with applying for financial aid and scholarships.

Our Youth Jobs program helps teen members acquire the necessary skills for entering the workforce, from professional etiquette to resume writing and interview practice. After completing the educational training component of the Youth Jobs program, members are placed in jobs in the community or at the Club to help them gain real-life work experience.

Our Money Matters financial literacy program provides our younger members with the knowledge and skills they need to form positive financial habits and become fiscally responsible and successful young adults. The program uses interactive activities to help educate members about topics such as budgeting, managing a checking account, investing, and paying for college.

Our Diplomas 2 Degrees college readiness program assists Club members as they work toward high school graduation and prepare for post-secondary education and career success.

CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP

Our program offerings in Character & Leadership development are designed to help our members acquire the skills and knowledge to make a difference in their communities and create brighter futures for themselves in the process. These programs help members foster a positive sense of self, develop new ways of communicating their perspectives, increase their capacity to understand the ideas and feelings of others, and explore societal and personal values.

High standards of conduct, personal responsibility, and honoring commitments to others are encouraged and recognized through our Member of the Month and Youth of the Year programs. Our annual Youth of the Year competition is aligned with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America National Youth of the Year program, which honors the extraordinary achievements of teen Club members.
Through service learning programs like **Torch Club** (ages 11-13) and **Keystone Club** (ages 14-18) our youth are empowered to support and influence their Club, sustain meaningful relationships with their peers, act as role models for younger members, and make a positive impact on their community. Our caring staff provides mentorship that helps kids to develop a positive self-image and learn to respect their own and others’ cultural identities.

Positive Social-Emotional Development is one of our most important goals for our members. Social-emotional development improves youth’s readiness to learn, self-confidence, behavior, academic performance, and overall personal development. Socially and emotionally competent youth are better prepared to navigate the world around them and are more likely to succeed in school, at the Club, and in life.

**Passport to Manhood** engages adolescent boys in discussions and activities that reinforce character, leadership, and positive behavior as they make the transition from childhood to manhood.

**SMART Girls** helps adolescent girls explore their attitudes and values as they build skills for eating right, staying physically fit, getting good health care, and developing positive relationships with peers and adults.

**HEALTHY LIFESTYLES**

Our Healthy Lifestyles programs develop our members’ capacity to engage in positive behaviors that nurture their own well-being, set personal goals, and live successfully as self-sufficient adults.

**Triple Play** is BGCA’s comprehensive health and wellness program and it was developed in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Triple Play is implemented all around the country in Clubs like ours and 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 with a focus on nourishing the **mind**, **body**, and **soul**.

Triple Play’s **Mind** component encourages young people to eat smart through the Healthy Habits program, which covers the power of choice, calorie intake, vitamins, the food pyramid, and appropriate portion size. The **Body** component boosts Clubs’ traditional physical activities to a higher level by providing sports and fitness activities for all youth. Body programs include several Daily Fitness Challenges; 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. The **Soul** component helps build positive relationships and cooperation among young people.
CREATIVE EXPRESSION

At our Clubs we enable youth to develop their creativity and cultural awareness through knowledge and appreciation of the visual arts, crafts, performing arts, and creative writing. Our members engage in the programs which empower them to express themselves, build confidence, and build communications skills.

Our visual arts programming encourages members to express themselves through drawing, painting, and photography. Members have the opportunity to display their artwork throughout the Clubhouse and even exhibit their creations at local galleries and at BGCA’s **National Fine Arts Exhibit**.

We are proud to be a **Music & Youth Initiative** partner site with a full recording studio located in the Teen Center at our Brockton Clubhouse which offers members opportunities to learn all aspects of music production - from building instrumental skills, to song composition, to recording and performing.

SPORTS & RECREATION

Sports and Recreation programs are designed to help keep our members active while promoting a positive use of leisure time, developing their athleticism, teaching them skills for stress management, instilling an appreciation for the environment, and strengthening their social skills through their participation in team-oriented activities. We offer many organized Club & Travel Sports Leagues including: basketball, floor hockey, soccer, and volleyball. Team sports help our members develop a sense of belonging and commitment to others. They also teach our members how to set goals and work together to achieve milestones through persistence.

We believe that swimming is an essential life skill, and that all youth should have access to affordable swim lessons to ensure that they are safe in and around water. As such we offer numerous **Aquatics** programs for youth 6 months and older to teach the basics of water safety and survival. Swimming and other water-related recreational activities are especially popular among our members during the warmer summer months. Besides the benefits of cooling down and getting exercise, water play provides a rich sensory experience for children. Playing with water is important for the development of a child’s sensory integration. Exposing kids to a new environment like a pool or splash pad helps them learn to identify and process new stimuli and respond appropriately.

Our Aquatics staff are dedicated to safety in and around water for every Club and staff member. All Aquatics staff are trained in lifeguarding, CPR/AED, First Aid & Emergency Oxygen. We have monthly in-service trainings that focus on different areas of risk and prevention, and practicing skills and scenarios.
Brockton Clubhouse
233 Warren Avenue
Brockton, MA 02301
508-584-5209

Taunton Clubhouse
31 Court Street
Taunton, MA 02780
508-824-4341

Camp Riverside
388 Harvey Street
Taunton, MA 02780
508-824-3311

bgcmetrosouth.org