

**Memorandum of Agreement  
Between the Department of Interior  
Bureau of Indian Education  
And The  
Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Native Services**

**I. Purpose**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is to improve cooperation between the Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA), its local affiliates in Indian Country, and the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) to enrich the lives of American Indian youth, by supporting programs that discourage violence and drug abuse while encouraging good citizenship and educational accomplishments. The goal is to improve and enhance the educational well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native youth attending BIE-funded schools and dormitories. This MOA is not intended to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by any party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

The mission statements of BGCA and BIE reflect common goals:

**BIE Mission:** "To provide quality education opportunities from early childhood through life in accordance with the Tribe's needs for cultural and economic well-being in keeping with the wide diversity of Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages as distinct cultural and governmental entities. Further, the BIE is to manifest consideration of the whole person, taking into account the spiritual, mental, physical, and cultural aspects of the person within a family and Tribal or Alaska Native village context"

**BGCA Mission:** "To inspire and enable all young people especially those that need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens "

**BGCA Native Services Vision:** "For all American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities that seek to embrace Boys & Girls Clubs to be provided the opportunity to work in partnership with the BGCA Movement in achieving our ambitious vision of great futures for all young people, while sustaining and respecting each community's unique cultural values, traditions, and ways."

**Background**

There are an estimated 500,000 American Indian and Alaska Native children attending kindergarten through grade 12 in the United States. An estimated 48,000 students are in 184 schools funded by the BIE. The remaining students attend public schools on or near Indian reservations or in urban settings. Children attending BIE-funded schools are some of the most disadvantaged in the country. They are impacted by factors such as poverty, alcohol, and substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and violence.

Since 1992, BGCA has served as a catalyst to bring together communities and Tribal governments, the Federal Government, corporate and non-profit organizations to establish nearly 250 clubs, serving approximately 120,000 Native youth in 29 States representing approximately 150 different American Indian and Alaska Native federally recognized Tribes.

The intent of this MOA is to combat the adversity faced by Indian children. It will provide an opportunity for BIE and BGCA to address issues like alcohol and drug abuse while improving academic success by establishing youth clubs in communities that have a BIE-funded school.

## **II. Responsibilities of Each Agency:**

It is mutually agreed and understood by BGCA and BIE that:

### **Boys & Girls Clubs of America:**

- A. BGCA's Native Services will work with BIE personnel when it establishes new clubs in or near schools and dormitories that are funded by BIE.
- B. When it has established a club in or near a BIE-funded school or dormitory BGCA will work with BIE personnel to promote academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles for American Indian and Alaska Native youth through BGCA activities. The goal of these activities is to 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.
- C. BGCA's Native Services will provide customized culturally relevant training programs and will secure partners to strengthen organizations, Native youth development professionals, club executives, board members, and Tribal leaders. These training opportunities will be available to education personnel of BIE funded schools where clubs have been established.
- D. Recognizes that Boys & Girls Clubs in Indian Country are free to tailor clubs to the cultures of the individual tribes where they are located. Tribal councils will be informed and consulted on any plans for club development prior to formation of a club.
- E. Ensure that local Boys & Girls Clubs will exercise reasonable care in its activities in and on Federal Indian school facilities to be used as meeting places.
- F. BGCA will obtain prior approval of all press releases, published advertisements, or other statements intended for the public that refer to this agreement or to BIE, or the name or title of any employee of BIE in connection with this MOA.
- G. Boys & Girls Clubs (BGC) in agreement with BIE schools or dormitories may license their BGC site within these facilities as licensed State child care sites.

**Bureau of Indian Education:**

- A. Will make information available to local school administrators regarding BGCA and will work with local clubs to establish program activities within school settings that have been approved by local school administrators.
- B. Will work with local school administrators, through BIE education program administrators, that chose to partner with existing BGCs operating within the proximity of a BIE school to enhance the education programs, in efforts to help Native youth achieve priority outcomes.
- C. Will work with schools that chose to provide a space for meetings and activities associated with BGC and its prevention activities.
- D. Will work with the BIE Security office to seek security clearances for staff associated with the local BGCs.

**III. Representatives of the Parties:**

Each party will designate a representative to deliver and receive notices and other communications, and to manage the relationship between BGCA and BIE.

As of the effective date of this MOA, the parties' representatives are:

BIE  
Katherine Campbell, Education Program Specialist  
Bureau of Indian Education  
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive  
MS-244, Rm. 1D301-28  
Reston, VA 20192

Carla Knapp, National Vice President of Native Services  
Boys & Girls Clubs of America  
1275 Peachtree Street  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

**IV. Period of Agreement/Modification/Cancellation**

This MOA shall be in effect upon signature of both parties for 5 years from the date of official signing of both parties. Any modifications to this MOA must be by mutual consent and signed by both parties. Either party may terminate this MOA without incurring any liability by giving written notice of at least 30 days in advance.

## **V. Costs and Expenses**

BIE and BGCA will each be responsible for their own expenses and any costs incurred in connection with performance of its obligations under this MOA.

Nothing in this MOA may be construed to obligate the BIE or the United States to any current or future expenditure of resources in advance of the availability of appropriations from Congress, nor does this MOA obligate BIE or the United States to spend funds on any particular project or purpose, even if funds are available.

## **VI. Miscellaneous Provisions**

Other than BIE's support of the principles in this MOA, nothing in this MOA constitutes or shall be interpreted to imply an endorsement by the United States of any product, service, opinions of BGCA.

This MOA in no way restricts BIE or BGCA from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, or individuals.

## **VII. Authorizing Signatures**



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Tony L. Dearman, Director  
Bureau of Indian Education



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Carla Knapp, National Vice President, Native Services  
Boys & Girls Clubs of America

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May 22, 2025

Date

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August 20, 2025

Date