Awards

2000 First Native American Regional Youth of the Year (YOF) Finalist - Jeremy Simmons
Native American Service to Youth (NASY) Award - Ron Gurley, Boys & Girls Clubs of Green Country

2001 NASY Award - Rick Robinson, Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Cheyenne Nation

2002 NASY Award - Dom Nessi, Former Member of NAC and Rainy Finn, Boys & Girls Club of the Leech Lake Area
First Native American inducted into the BGCA Hall of Fame - George Rivera, Pueblo of Pojoaque

2003 NASY Award - Steve Rice, BGCA Advocate
2004 NASY Award - Tresa Eagle Tail, Boys & Girls Clubs of Green Country and Robbie Callaway, Former Senior VP, Government Relations, BGCA

2005 NASY Award - Denise Ballard, Cherokee Youth Center Boys & Girls Club and Gary Edwards, Former Member of NAC

2006 NASY Award - Janice Randall, Boys & Girls Clubs of Tahlequah

2007 NASY Award - Carla Knapp, Penobscot Nation Boys & Girls Club

2008 First State of Maine YOY - Gary Fearon, Tribal Member
NASY Award - Robyn Simmons, Mescalero Apache Boys & Girls Club

2009 NASY Award - Jarrett Baker, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Three Affiliated Tribes
State of Maine YOY - Morgan Talty, Tribal Member

2010 State of Maine YOY - Jeremy Lamsom, Tribal Member

2012 Second Native American inducted into the BGCA Hall of Fame - Erin Stevens, National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA)

Jeremiah Milbank Gold Medallion Award - Jackie Pata, Executive Director, NCAI

2018 Southwest Region Military YOY - Brianna Shepherd, Tribal Member

Service to Native Youth Award - Don Hatch

2015 Service to Native Youth Award - Don Christy

2016 BGCA Club Makeover - Okhaya Owinge Boys & Girls Club, NM

2017 BGCA Club Makeover - Lumbee Boys & Girls Clubs, NC

History of Native Clubs

The Movement

The Movement that began in Pine Ridge has grown into a national network of nearly 200 Boys & Girls Clubs that serve over 85,000 Native youth, from over 100 different American Indian, Alaska Native, Hawaiian and American Samoan communities in 27 states. Currently, BGCA is the nation’s largest youth service provider for Native youth.

BGCA Native Services Unit

Seeing the need for culturally relevant services, Lorraine Orr and Jim Clark of BGCA established the Native Services Unit (NSU) in February 2013. Through their unique understanding of the issues and ways of life relevant to serving Native youth and experience working with Native communities, BGCA’s NSU is committed to addressing the challenges that are unique to Native lands. They provide learning opportunities that are culturally relevant and meaningful, and develop each Native organization for long-term sustainability. The NSU team is made up of talented Tribal Members and descendants of Tribes across the nation.

BGCIC Board of Directors

The BGCIC Board of Directors, comprised of BGCA National Staff and partner organizations, seeks to advocate for Native Clubs by fundraising, building partnerships, and communicating with local clubs and tribal agencies.

Native Advisory Committee

Native Advisory Committee (NAC) provides leadership and insight on Native history, traditions, values and culture that will help establish and refine BGCA’s systems and methods of service to assure the greatest benefit for Native Clubs.

Sustainability

BGCA created the Native American Sustainability Fund thanks to BGCA Chairman Rick Goings and the BGCA Board. This fund was established to support Clubs to ensure that Native youth would have equal opportunities for a successful future. Major contributors to this fund today include the BGCA Board of Governors, The Case Foundation, AlState, Shikopee Mowwakanton Sioux Community, and the National Indian Gaming Association.
History of Native Clubs

The timeline below outlines key events and initiatives that led to the growth of Native Boys & Girls Clubs from 1991–2017.

1991: The leadership of Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA), after being made aware of the incredible challenges Native communities in the U.S. face, embarked on a special initiative to make serving Native communities a priority. Robbie Callaway from BGCA and Dom Nessi from the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) visited the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota to meet with Oglala Lakota Tribal leadership. They also visited Jack Thorpe and leaders of the Sac and Fox Tribe in Oklahoma.

1992: The first Native Club organization (SuAnne Big Crow Boys & Girls Club) was established.

1999: Former President Bill Clinton visited Pine Ridge and the Navajo Nation; directed several federal agencies to support SuAnne Big Crow Boys & Girls Club’s new building. BGCA set a goal of 100 Native Boys & Girls Clubs.

2002: BGCA collaborated with federal agencies to construct a 30,000 square foot, $6 million building for the youth of Pine Ridge. USDA Rural Development and BGCA teamed to contribute to this multimillion dollar facility. Other agencies who contributed to this project included HUD, DOJ, and DOI.

2003: Founded in 1988, SMART Moves began with the Reagan Administration under Secretary of HHS, Otis R. Bowen. With knowledge that Native communities face obstacles including unemployment, drug, alcohol, tobacco use, and teen pregnancy, SMART Moves was adapted to serve Native youth at 10 pilot sites through funding from HUD ONAP. BGCA created the Native American Sustainability Fund.

2004: Additional funding for SMART Moves was secured through Corporation for National Community Service. HHS provided a grant to develop the National Native American Mentoring Program (NNAMP) to reach children of incarcerated parents thanks to Navajo Nation, BGCA, NCAI, FirstPic, Inc., DOJ, OJJDP, and Dr. Susan Weinberger of Mentor Consulting Group. Native Club Executives took part in the first Advanced Leadership Program.

2005: An MOU was signed by the Bureau of Indian Education to support Native Clubs. Dave Anderson was elected as the first Native American to serve on the BGCA National Board.

2007: The first Native Summit was hosted by the Seminole Tribe in Hollywood, FL.

2008: NCAI secured CJP funding for NNAMP.

2010: FirstPic, Inc. in collaboration with BGCA, launched the Boys & Girls Clubs in Indian Country (BGClC) AmeriCorps VISTA Project. During the first 4 years, the VISTA Project placed 57 VISTA members and 73 Summer Associates at 23 Native Clubs.

2012: BGCIC hosted the 2013 Native Summit in Arizona.

2013: BGCIC hosted the Native Services Unit (NSU).

2014: BGCIC hosted the 2015 Native Summit in New Mexico, regional Native Learning Events, and the first Native A.P.

2015: BGCIC secured partnership with Verizon.

2016: A Native non-profit was created using the BGClC 501(c3). BGCIC also signed an MOU with IHS, and the American Indian College Fund. Partnerships were secured with Red Nose and Walmart. BGCIC re-established a Native Club in California.

2017: The Native Great Think White Paper was released.

Celebrating 20 Years of Native Clubs!

20 Years Indian Country

Celebrating 25 Years of Native Clubs!