



NATIVE
SERVICES

HONORING *the 30 year* HISTORY OF NATIVE CLUBS





Celebrating 30 Years

Boys & Girls Clubs on Native Lands

This booklet is incredibly special, as it marks 30 years of Boys & Girls Clubs on Native Lands, and reflects the history and successes over the last three decades of our efforts to change for the better the lives of Native youth.

Throughout our past in Indian Country, Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) Native Services and our Native Club staff have worked tirelessly to serve Native communities across the country, providing youth with safe, fun, nurturing and educational places to learn and grow. From offering life enhancing culturally-relevant programs, to strengthening the cultural identity of Native youth, to promoting positive youth development, our objective is clear – to keep Native youth learning, growing and building the Great Futures they deserve, while sustaining and respecting each community's unique cultural values, traditions and ways.

To that end, BGCA Native Services has been and will continue to be committed to strengthening and growing the positive opportunities to which Native youth have access through Boys & Girls Clubs. By way of staff trainings, conferences and workshops, leadership events, culturally-relevant resources and Native Adaptations of BGCA programs, endeavors such as these demonstrate our efforts to empower each one of our nearly 250 Native Clubs to enable the more than 120,000 youth in nearly 150 Tribal communities, to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens.

From here, you'll read about our history, our partners, our members and our successes, as we celebrate our Native Clubs and what it's taken to get where we are today. And while we're excited to look back over the last 30 years, it's vital that we also look forward to the next 30 years and beyond to give Native youth the ability to reach their full potential and to sustain the rising voice of Native people.



LETTER *from the* NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT OF NATIVE SERVICES

As we've now reached a milestone in 2022 – the year in which we proudly celebrated our 30th year anniversary of Boys & Girls Clubs on Native Lands, I have had many opportunities to reflect on our journey as an organization over the past three decades.

As our list of achievements has grown, so too has our ambition for creating an even more meaningful impact. What started out as a vision to stay true to our mission at BGCA “to serve all young people,” today we are the largest Native youth serving national organization, impacting hundreds of thousands of Native youth over the past 30 years. We are now influencing the lives of over 120,000 Native youth in 28 states representing nearly 150 Tribal communities in 236 Clubs.

Since my time at BGCA and through the creation of BGCA Native Services in 2013, I have had the great privilege of working with so many of our Sovereign Tribal Nations to sustain and support the development of Boys & Girls Clubs who are shaping their future leaders. Watching the vast potential of the young people whose lives these Clubs have impacted come to fruition as they graduate high school, earn their degrees, become the next Tribal leaders, Tribal employees or go out into the world to inspire change in their own professional careers is nothing short of extraordinary; it's what keeps me sustained in this important work each and every day.

To this end, our incredible Native Services team here at BGCA has been working tirelessly to bring culturally relevant services, programs, resources, trainings and cultural competency to all of our Sovereign Tribal Nations who have a Boys & Girls Club or the desire to establish a Native Boys & Girls Club. I am incredibly proud BGCA Native Services and all we have accomplished collectively and feel hopeful about what the future holds for us.

Finally, I'd like to say thank you to all of you who have walked alongside us on this journey over the past 30 years: our Tribal Leaders, Club Leaders, Club Staff, and our Partners and Ambassadors, for their unwavering dedication to advancing our mission. None of this would be possible without the commitment of BGCA to support the bright futures we envision for Native youth. We are confident that our Native Clubs will continue to grow and be successful in the next 30+ years.

I look forward to what is next as we continue to provide a safe nurturing place where our youth build resilience and thrive as their true authentic selves, as we work together on behalf of future generations.

Woliwoni,

Carla Knapp

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







LETTER *from the* **EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT & CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER**

At BGCA, we proudly celebrate our 30th anniversary of Boys & Girls Clubs on Native Lands. Our journey began in 1992 and we approached our work in Indian Country staying true to our North Star, our mission “to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.” With these thirty years of service to Native and Indigenous youth, we have reached a tremendous milestone that supports our vision to “Provide a world-class Club Experience that assures success is within reach of every young person who enters our doors, with all members on track to graduate from high school with a plan for the future, demonstrating good character and citizenship, and living a healthy lifestyle.”

As the Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer at BGCA, I have had the privilege to see firsthand the positive impact Clubs have on the lives of Native and Indigenous young people throughout the United States and Territories. In the 30 years since opening our first Club on Native Lands, today there are 236 Native Clubs serving primarily Native and Indigenous youth. This has not happened by accident: community leaders see the impact that Clubs have in the lives of their young people, and they want more. More community care, more positive outcomes, more opportunity, more life and workforce preparedness, more self-esteem that comes from playing as a valued member of a team.

They want more connectedness to community, to self, to family, to others. All things that our Clubs work to foster through mentorship, programming, and intentional practice. Every Native community deserves the best we have to offer them, and they deserve a Boys & Girls Club.

I recently returned from a visit to our Club in American Samoa, where 526 young people are served every year. The Club staff and volunteers embody pride in their Native heritage, pride in their work, and a deep commitment to bettering their young people’s futures while honoring their histories. My promise and commitment is to honor that work. To commit to honoring the heritage and sovereignty of every Native community we serve. To commit to seeing every young person, as deserving, capable, and possessing limitless potential. And to commit to growing the Boys & Girls Club presence on Native Lands until every Native young person has access to our programming, facilities, and our support.

Above all, I would like to thank our Tribal and Club Leaders. They have been instrumental in the success of Native Clubs over the past three decades. We look forward to the next 30 years and the next generation as we stay true to our mission, our guide, our North Star for years to come.

Lorraine Orr
Executive Vice President & COO
Boys & Girls Clubs of America







Mission

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

Vision

Strengthening Native youth's cultural identity through programming that explicitly promotes positive youth growth and development along critical cultural, social, emotional, intellectual, and physical dimensions through viable and sustainable organizations.

Core Beliefs

A Boys & Girls Club Provides:

- A safe place to learn and grow
- Ongoing relationships with caring adult professionals
- Life-enhancing programs and character development experiences
- Hope and opportunity







HONORING OUR HISTORY

BGCA and its leadership team embarked on a dedicated initiative to make serving Native communities a top priority. Under the direction of then BGCA President, Roxanne Spillet, the first Native Boys & Girls Club opened outside of San Diego, CA in 1972, serving the Pala Band of Mission Indians as a member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego.

In 1992, BGCA launched an intentional decision to charter Clubs in Indian Country. **Robbie Callaway**, Former Senior Vice President from BGCA, and **Dom Nessi**, Deputy Assistant Secretary from the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), visited the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota to meet with Oglala Lakota Tribal leadership.

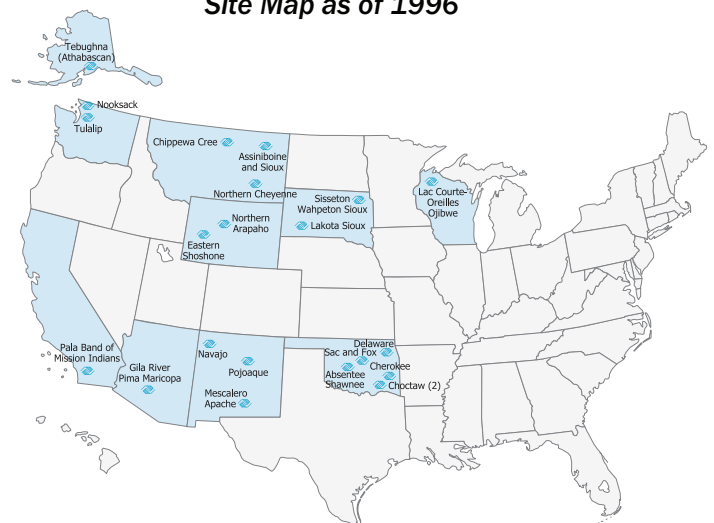
Together, they developed a landmark plan to establish the SuAnne Big Crow Boys & Girls Club, the first Boys & Girls Club organization on Native Lands.

Building on this historic event, BGCA continued its dedicated efforts to open new Native Clubs and provide Club programming, engaging HUD as an official partner in 1996 under a special initiative (centered in HUD's Office of Native American Programs) designed to create and expand the number of Native Clubs.

From 22 Native sites to a commitment of what was thought at the time to be a lofty goal of 100 Clubs, BGCA was dedicated to strength its impact in Native communities across the country.

Boys & Girls Clubs on Native Lands

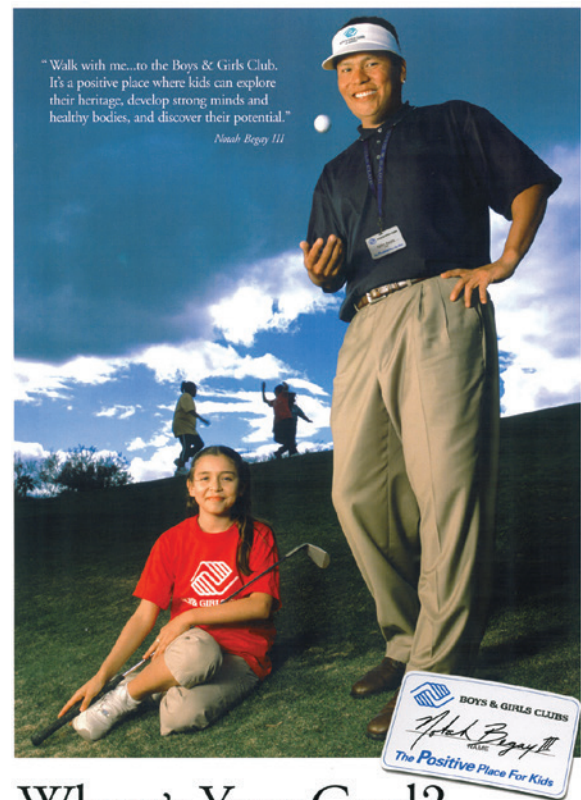
Site Map as of 1996



BGCA recognized that 100 Clubs across Native communities would not be enough and continued along its effort. Today, with nearly 250 Native Clubs serving over 120,000 Native youth and representing over 150 Tribal communities, BGCA is proudly the largest youth service provider for Native youth. Over the past 30 years, BGCA has established an enduring presence on Native Lands and has committed to improving the capacity of Boys & Girls Clubs to serve a greater number of Native youth as we continue to move forward. We have built upon our impact by improving our Clubs' ability to build and sustain strategic collaborations with Tribal leaders and key stakeholders, as well as influential national partners.

Our early partnerships with key Native champions such as **HUD** and **NCAI, Indian Gaming Association, Nike N7, Notah Begay III** (Professional Golfer), as well as private entities and federal agencies including **USDA, DOJ, BIA** and **HUD** set the stage for growth and strengthening the identity of Native youth. Through culturally based programming that promotes positive youth development along critical cultural, social, emotional, intellectual, and physical dimensions through sustainable organizations and partnerships, Boys & Girls Clubs have become a key partner for Tribes.

Through our growth, we now have reached another exciting milestone the chartering of our first Urban Indian Center (Boys & Girls Clubs of the Minneapolis American Indian Center) in 2018. We also began chartering Native Clubs in American Samoa, Bureau of Indian Education Schools, Residential Dorms, Wellness Centers and even local Indian Health Centers.

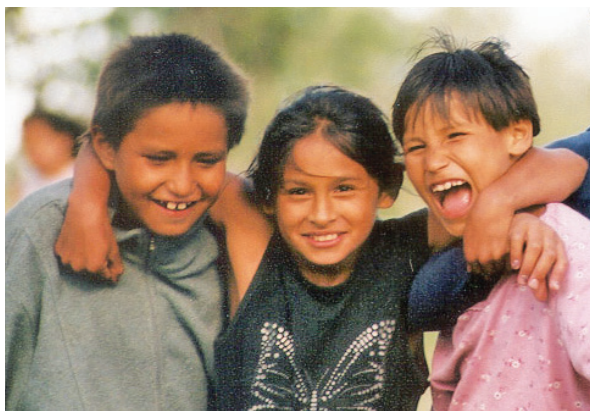


Where's Your Card?

Native professional golfer Notah Begay III utilized his platform to promote Native Boys & Girls Clubs.

Additionally, an important recognition was reached in 2000, when Jeremy Simmons was named the first Native American Regional Youth of the Year Finalist. This sent a powerful message from Tribal communities to the rest of our Boys & Girls Club Movement. That same year, the Native American Service to Youth Award was created to acknowledge key individuals assisting Native Clubs. One Native organization even won the State Youth of the Year title three years in a row.

- **2000:** First Native American Regional YOY Finalist – **Jeremy Simmons**
- **2008:** First State of Maine YOY – **Gary Fearon**
- **2009:** State of Maine YOY – **Morgan Talty**
- **2010:** State of Maine YOY – **Jeremy Lamson**



Native youth build positive relationships through culturally relevant programming.

Our Clubs offer opportunities to provide Native youth with ongoing positive and impactful relationships with caring adult professionals, a safe place to learn and grow, life-enhancing programs, character development experiences and, a continued emphasis on hope and opportunity.

With a key priority to honor local Tribal culture, Native Clubs strengthen their youth's cultural identity through programming that explicitly promotes positive youth growth and development along critical cultural, social, emotional, intellectual, and physical dimensions through viable and sustainable partnerships and inclusive programming.

The future of our communities' rest in the hands our youth and a Tribal seven generations principle. It is their health and wellbeing that will impact the future of many Native communities and Boys & Girls Clubs build leaders. By investing in young people and providing them with a sense of place and tradition, a community ensures that it will have bright and capable leaders for generations to come. Native Boys & Girls Clubs will carry a lasting legacy forward.

MEET OUR NATIVE AMBASSADORS

Did you know that BGCA Native Services Ambassadors serve as role models who choose to use their voice to strengthen relationships?

These influencers help create awareness for BGCA Native Services to large audiences through testimonials and brand advocating.

Native Ambassadors include **Triana Browne** (Miss USA 2019 - 2nd Runner Up), **Thomas C. Brasuell** (Roberto Clemente Foundation), **Chris Harris, Jr.** (NFL Cornerback, Denver Broncos), **Sam McCracken** (Nike N7), **Curt Mohl** (Dougherty & Company, LLC), **Valerie Red-Horse Mohl** (East Bay Community Foundation), **George Rivera** (Pueblo of Pojaque), **Andra Rush** (Dakkota Integrated Systems), **Martin Sensmier** (Native American Actor), **Ernest Stevens, Jr.** (Indian Gaming Association), **Major General Alfred A. Valenzuela** (Army Officer) and **Edgar Villanueva** (Native Americans in Philanthropy).



History of Native Clubs

The timeline below outlines key events and initiatives that led to the growth of Native Boys & Girls Clubs from 1992 – 2022.



1992

The first Native Club organization (SuAnne Big Crow Boys & Girls Club) is established.



1999

Former President Bill Clinton visits Pine Ridge and Navajo Nation; directs several funding agencies to support SuAnne Big Crow Boys & Girls Club's new building.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) sets a goal of 100 Native Boys & Girls Clubs.

2001

100th Native Club is established.



2003

On the T.R.A.I.L. to Diabetes Prevention program is piloted in six (6) Native Clubs, with the help of BGCA, Nike, National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and Indian Health Service (IHS).

2002

SMART Moves is adapted to serve Native youth at 10 pilot sites through HUD ONAP funding.



BGCA inducts the first Native American into the Alumni Hall of Fame, George Rivera of Pojoaque Pueblo, an artist, former Tribal Leader and former member of Boys & Girls Club of Santa Fe.

2008

BGCIC non-profit 501(c)(3) was created. NCAI secures OJP funding for the NNAMP.

2007

Seminole Tribe of Florida hosts the 2007 Native Summit in Hollywood, Florida.

2004

Additional funding for SMART Moves is secured through Corporation for National Community Service. US Department of Health and Human Services provides 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.; Department of Justice/ Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and Dr. Susan Weinberger of Mentor Consulting Group.



2005

First Native Summit is held in Phoenix, Arizona.



An MOU is signed by the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) to support Native Clubs.

Dave Anderson is elected as the first Native American to serve on the BGCA National Board.

2006

Indian Gaming Association (IGA) announces Boys & Girls Clubs in Indian Country, Inc. (BGCIC) as a beneficiary of their charitable fundraising campaign.

2012

Ernie Stevens, an enrolled member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin and Chairman of NIGA, is inducted into BGCA's Alumni Hall of Fame.

BGCA celebrates 20 years of Native Clubs!

**2013**

BGCIC hosts the 2013 Native Summit in Arizona.

BGCA establishes the Native Services Unit.

**2014**

BGCA Native Services refreshes MOU to develop partnerships with 10 BIE dorms to run BGCA Community Impact Programs.

2010

BGCIC launches the BGCIC AmeriCorps VISTA Project.

2016

BGCIC signs an MOU with IHS and the American Indian College Fund. Partnerships are secured with Red Nose and Walmart.



BGCA Native Services hosts the Native Great Think in Washington, D.C.

BGCA Native Services establishes a new presence on BGCA.net and adapts Project Learn and DIY STEM for Native Clubs.

**2015**

BGCA Native Services hosts the 2015 Native Summit in New Mexico, as well as regional Native Learning Events and the first Native ALP.



Nearly 900 Native youth gather in Washington, D.C. for the Inaugural White House Gathering.



BGCA Native Services adapts My.Future for Native Clubs.

2017

BGCA Native Services hires first Director of Strategic Growth. The Native Great Think White Paper is released.

BGCA Native Services hosts the first Native Public and Private Partners Summit and the 2017 Native Summit.

**2019**

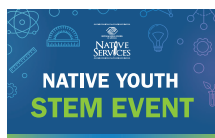
BGCA Native Services hosts the 2019 Native Summit in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

**2021**

A partnership with Boeing is secured.

BGCA's First Native National Days of Advocacy was held.

Native youth gathered virtually on BGCA's MyFuture digital platform for a Native Youth STEM Event.

**2022**

BGCA Native Services hires first External Safety Analyst.

PaaWee Rivera, Senior Advisor and Tribal Affairs Director for The White House, is inducted into BGCA's Alumni Hall of Fame.

BGCA Native Services launched Indigenous Connections, a new Movement Resource Group for Native Club professionals.



BGCA Native Services hosts the 2022 Native Summit in Orlando, Florida in celebration of 30 years of Clubs on Native Lands.

**2020**

BGCA Native Services hosted a 3-day interactive Virtual Teen Summit "Be There".



Celebrating
30 Years

Boys & Girls Clubs on Native Lands



The Alumni Hall of Fame

NATIVE HONOREES

Boys & Girls Club alumni across the world began the journey to their Great Future within Club walls. Boys & Girls Clubs have been molding and influencing youth for generations. In 2002, the first Native honoree, George Rivera, was inducted into BGCA's Alumni Hall of Fame.

Meet our distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame honorees. Each of these outstanding inductees first got their start at their hometown Boys & Girls Club!



GEORGE RIVERA

Artist and Teacher

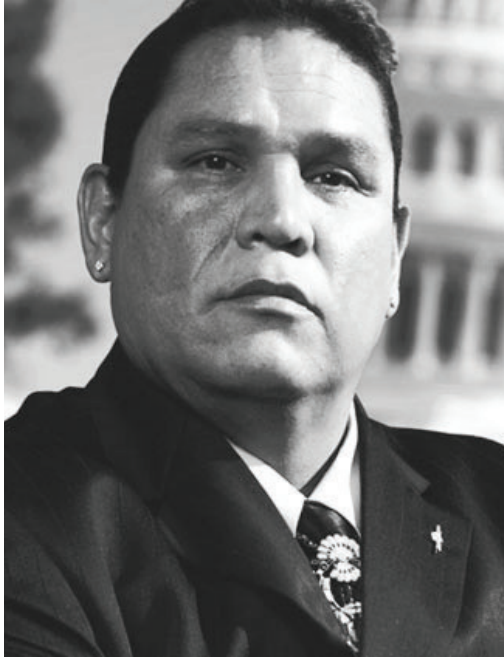
Inducted: 2002

Native artist and teacher George Rivera first taught art at the Santa Fe Boys & Girls Club, which he joined at age 12, becoming the Club's Boy of the Year in 1981. Lieutenant governor of New Mexico's Pojoaque Pueblo since 1992, he has pursued community and economic development through art and education. He founded and designed the Poeh Cultural Center and Museum, an arts and education facility that promotes public understanding of Pueblo history and culture. Rivera is working to ensure a bright future for local youth as chairman of the board for the Pueblo of Pojoaque Boys & Girls Club, which he helped establish.

“ *I am so appreciative of what the Boys & Girls Club has done for me over the years. I believe it was a turning point in my life that made me successful in what I do today and who I am forever. I am grateful for what the Boys & Girls Club did for me, the Club saved my life and so many others!* ”

- George Rivera





ERNEST STEVENS, JR.

Native Leader and Activist

Inducted: 2012

At age 15, Ernie Stevens drove a car, worked full-time and considered himself a grown man. His mentors at the Oneida Boys Club taught him how to be a kid again, he says. Club staff provided Ernie with much-needed male role models. They also gave him the chance to compete in sports, helped him develop self-discipline – and convinced him to return to school. Stevens has served as councilman for the Oneida Nation and a leader for the National Congress of American Indians. He is now chairman of the Indian Gaming Association and a respected Native civil rights advocate who supports local Clubs.

“*The Club shaped my life and gave me the role models and self-discipline to return to school and better my self and my future.*”

- Ernest Stevens, Jr.



PAAWEE RIVERA

Government Official

Inducted: 2022

PaaWee Rivera is a native of the Pueblo of Pojoaque, a Native American Tribe located north of Santa Fe, New Mexico. A graduate of Dartmouth College, PaaWee helps shape the way Tribal communities are respected and empowered through his work with the president and the White House. He helped launch the inaugural White House Tribal Nation Summit in 2021. He also led critical conversations on Native American policy at the Democratic National Committee and served as director and advisor to Senator Elizabeth Warren.

“*The Boys & Girls Club is a place for youth to explore opportunities and discover their potential. The Club develops leaders to be positive role models to their peers and to generate change that uplifts entire communities.*”

- PaaWee Rivera





BGCA Native Services:

WHO WE ARE

BGCA Native Services—led by people of Native heritage—works tirelessly to provide culturally relevant support to Boys & Girls Clubs on Native Lands. We are proud to be the largest service provider to Native youth in the United States. We must remain resolute in our focus on talent and know our ability to increase program quality and strengthen organizational capabilities must remain in the forefront of our work.

Through our federated model, BGCA Native Services provides direction, strategy and culturally appropriate support to Boys & Girls Clubs on Native Lands. Led by people of Native heritage, Native Services is committed to addressing the challenges unique to Native communities while celebrating the incomparable strengths Indigenous youth inherently possess. Rooted in the cultural and historical context of Native communities, BGCA Native Services enhances BGCA's ability to:

- Build and sustain collaborations with Tribal leaders and stakeholders
- Provide professional development training, resources and networking specifically for Native Clubs
- Strengthen Native youth's cultural identity through customized programming

BGCA Native Services has a unique understanding of issues related to serving Native youth through working with Native communities, and provides culturally relevant programs, resources, services and training.

Through our support to Native Boys & Girls Clubs, each state has a designated Director of Organizational Development that provides direct service to the organization's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Volunteer Officer, Program Staff, its board and/or Tribe. Our Directors provide frequent communication and travel to Clubs for site visits. They link Clubs to resources, advise them on program improvement and partnership building.



The Native Services team also provides individual consultation and is one of the primary mechanisms for supporting Club organizations to help build and grow their capacity to have the greatest mission impact on youth; implementing consultation service which expand the Boys & Girls Club Movement and interpreting the goals and objectives of BGCA to member organizations.

Providing local capacity building: technical assistance to ensure they have access and know how to best use culturally relevant tools and programming to support learning, which will ensure Native youth are on track to graduate and on the path to a successful future.



A NOTE FROM BGCA'S PRESIDENT & CEO

“ It is with great personal and professional pride that BGCA celebrates our 30th anniversary of serving youth on Native Lands in the United States. We are honored and privileged to be the largest provider of services to youth and families from Tribes across America. Our quest is to continue advancing our services to reach additional Native youth and provide them with culturally representative programs and curriculum to best meet their needs. One of the highlights of our commitment to Tribes and Indigenous people is through our dedicated Native Services team at BGCA. Now and its 10th year, the benefits have been clear and significant in providing support, services, and strategic counsel to Native Clubs across the country. ”

Jim Clark

President & Chief Executive Officer, Boys & Girls Clubs of America



TELLING *the* STORIES OF NATIVE CLUBS

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF THE LAC COURTE OREILLES OJIBWE BAND

Founded in 1996, Boys & Girls Club of the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Band became one of the first Boys & Girls Clubs on a Native Reservation. At the time, the Tribal Governing Board of Lac Courte Oreilles was determined to create a place for youth to go to be safe, learn new skills, enhance their education and life views. Through the hard work and generosity of many, that dream became a reality. The Club began with a Drug Elimination Grant through the Housing Authority and continues to thrive today, serving over 600+ youth each year throughout the community.

In 2006, the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe, through a CBG Grant and a Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Nation Grant, was able to fund a brand new facility for the Club. Located just behind the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal School, the Club is within walking distance for most of the kids right after school. The intent for this new site was to develop a gathering place where a large populous of Native youth could travel by foot, reducing the transportation issues felt by Clubs in rural areas.

Another objective was to attract troubled youth and provide them with alternative activities during out-of-school hours. “Our Club is most times the only consistency our kids have in their lives,” Club Executive Director Heather DiCosimo explains. “A high percentage of our youth have parents that have passed away, are incarcerated or they are displaced within foster care. Our Club truly is their surrogate family. They know we will be there day after day regardless of external factors.”

The Club is equipped with a state-of-the-art technology center and provides high-quality year-round programs such as arts curricula, sports and recreational activities, teen leadership activities, alcohol and drug free drum and dance groups working with SMART Moves programs, and various other cultural and traditional activities. To this day the Club is a well-established positive place for Tribal youth in the community to spend their free time, make new friends, learn new life skills and feel safe doing so.



Club youth from Boys & Girls Club of the Lac Courte Oreille Ojibwe Band from Hayward, Wisconsin.



AKWESASNE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB, SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE

Akwesasne Boys & Girls Club, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is the positive place for kids at and near the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation which spans the U.S. and Canadian border in rural northern New York state and Southern Ontario and Quebec.

The idea for a Boys & Girls Club in Akwesasne began in early June 2001, when the Akwesasne Housing Authority (AHA) director met with a staff member of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Health Services about working on a project to provide services to Akwesasne youth. Using HUD funds, AHA set up an office and pledged three months of funding to bring the project to reality. Later that same month, the Akwesasne Boys & Girls Club, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe was duly adopted as an official Tribal organization, and was chartered by BGCA in September 2001.

Each year the Club serves over 500 registered Club members per year through five Clubhouses. Each Clubhouse provides after school programs, summer camps, food, cultural activities and athletic programs. The Club also has established partnerships with Tribal organizations, area higher education institutions, and non-profit organizations to bring enrichment services to Club youth.

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe and community at Akwesasne embraced the concept of a Boys & Girls Club due to the goals and standards of the Boys & Girls Club Movement meshed with traditionally held Mohawk customs and beliefs. Mohawks are dedicated to future generations and all decisions must be made with respect to the impact on the 7th generation. The mission of the Boys & Girls Club Movement parallels those customs and beliefs – to inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. Summed up by Logan L., the Club's 2021 Youth of the Year winner, "The impact of the Club has been very important to my life and it set me up for a much brighter future!"



Youth from Akwesasne Boys & Girls Club, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe performed traditional dance at BGCA Native Services' 2022 Native Summit in Orlando, FL.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE NATION

The Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation in Montana covers nearly 450,000 acres and is surrounded by rolling hills and pine-covered mountains. Of the more than 12,000 enrolled Tribal members, approximately 6,000 live on the reservation; more than half are under age 18. After the tragic alcohol- and drug-related deaths of two Northern Cheyenne youth in 1993, Tribal Chairman Levando “Cowboy” Fisher and a few other determined Tribal members began searching for a way to make a difference in the lives of community youth. They saw an opportunity in the Boys & Girls Club and pursued it.

Their efforts paid off in 1993 when the Club was officially chartered, making it the second chartered Club on a reservation and serving hundreds of community youth while providing a safe, structured and positive environment for young people after school, during holidays and summer vacation.

Since that time, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northern Cheyenne Nation has been a cornerstone of the community, developing strong working relationships with local schools, law enforcement and Tribal Programs. Because the Clubs units are centrally located in the community, “they are the hub for youth and community events. The Club is considered a safe haven for the kids and families in the community,” says Geri Small, Club CEO.

Like other Boys & Girls Clubs across the nation, Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Cheyenne Nation offers an array of activities to help children and teenagers develop strong character and build self-esteem.

These activities reflect the Tribe’s recognition of the importance of strong, healthy children to the future of the Tribe. The Club encourages its members to be involved with the world outside the reservation, but not to lose sight of their traditional values and heritage, either. In line with that vision, one of the Club’s main goals is to encourage their youth to discover their own creativity and sense of purpose and to develop leadership skills that provide an understanding of the Cheyenne culture, traditional values and sense of responsibility for self, others and for their homeland. Activities such as summer day camps to various Cheyenne land sites give Club members the opportunity to learn stories and traditions from Cheyenne elders. The Club even has a partnership with Chief Dull Knife College to engage Club members in a Cheyenne language program.

Making all of these programs a reality requires strong and vital communication among the Tribe, the Housing Authority, the community, and the Boys & Girls Club. Each shares a common purpose and commitment to providing diverse opportunities and helping the youth of the Northern Cheyenne Nation become productive, responsible and caring Tribal members and citizens.





CLUB PROGRAMS

with NATIVE ADAPTATIONS

For 30 years, Native Boys & Girls Clubs have taken great strides to intertwine modern and historic cultural values into Club programming. This unique approach provides Native youth an opportunity to stay connected with their heritage and preserve Tribal traditions and customs, while also encouraging them to learn new ways to carry on and honor their community culture.

BE THERE



Be There is a comprehensive approach to help Clubs and BGCA-affiliated youth centers integrate best practices in supporting youth experiencing bereavement and other major life-altering losses (not only to help youth process through their grief, but to also provide resilience development as part of the long-term approach in preparing youth to reach their full potential.)

While the challenges that Native communities face are great, the resiliency of those Native communities is even greater. The decades of superior youth development, advocacy and support that Native Services provides is inextricably linked to that resiliency even as it serves to reinforce it.

The program provides trainings, resources and strategies that help Clubs increase their capacity to support youth, staff and families who are grieving. It also supports Clubs in creating a high-quality Club Experience for all youth by investing in building a safe, positive environment, establishing supportive relationships and creating a sense of belonging.

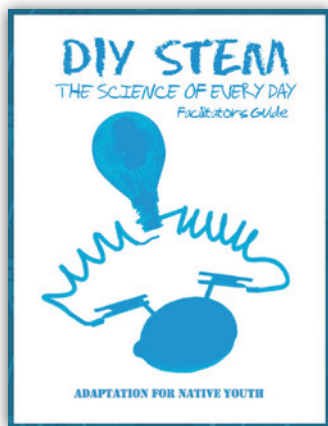
DIPLOMAS TO DEGREES



Diplomas to Degrees is a college readiness program that guides Club members as they work toward high school graduation and prepare for post-secondary education and career success. The program assists youth in securing financial aid and fosters supportive, culturally relevant relationships with adults who can provide support throughout the college experience.

The culturally-adapted version of this curriculum assists teens to develop both short- and long-term goals, while familiarizing them with postsecondary education opportunities through experiences like college tours.

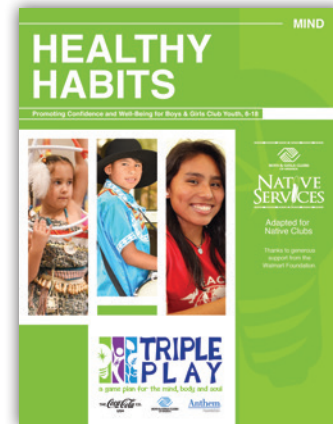
DO IT YOURSELF (DIY) STEM



DIY STEM is an activity-based program that brings scientific principles to life. The program uses items commonly found in the Club or that can be easily procured, to introduce Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematical (STEM) concepts to youth. The program can be implemented in its entirety or as separate units depending on the needs and interests of various Club kids.

The program requires youth to think deeply so they can build skills to become the professionals, builders, researchers, educators and leaders as Club staff guide them to explore STEM-related concepts. The Native-adapted curriculum brings crucial anecdotes relating these curriculum units to the Club members' cultural realities – infusing STEM and indigenous cultural concepts.

HEALTHY HABITS



Healthy Habits is designed to incorporate healthy living and active learning into every part of the Club Experience. Healthy Habits emphasizes the importance of acknowledging the relations and interconnectivity of good nutrition, regular physical activity and mental fitness for improving overall well-being.

The program, for ages 6 to 18, is the Mind component of Triple Play: A Game Plan for the Mind, Body and Soul and encourages the adoption of specific routines and everyday practices in order to align one's life with overarching wellness.

BGCA Native Services has reviewed the Healthy Habits curriculum to provide Native Clubs with an adaptation of the curriculum that is more reflective of Native cultural beliefs and understandings of the holistic nature of health and well-being.

MYFUTURE



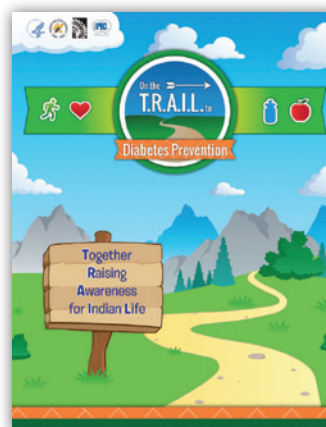
MyFuture is an online curriculum created by BGCA to give youth the technology skills they need to thrive in today's digital world.

Through personalized and engaging hands-on experiences, teaches youth valuable digital skills.

MyFuture Digital Essentials helps youth understand their media world, identify and develop digital interests and earn certifications as they make progress.

The curriculum was reviewed to provide Native Clubs with an adaptation that is more reflective of Native cultures. The adaptation was designed to give Clubs the ability to create their own activities and to encourage students to explore their cultural heritage while increasing their digital literacy.

ON THE T.R.A.I.L. TO DIABETES PREVENTION

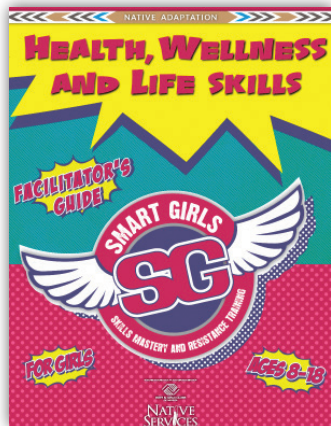


In 2003, BGCA, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), IHS and Nike, Inc., initiated a prevention program aimed at reducing the onset of Type 2 diabetes among Native youth. The program – On the T.R.A.I.L. (Together Raising Awareness for Indian Life) to Diabetes Prevention – is an innovative combination of physical, educational and nutritional activities that align with ideas of holistic wellness within many Native communities.

T.R.A.I.L. is comprised of a 12-chapter curriculum that provides Native youth with a comprehensive understanding of healthy lifestyles in order to prevent diabetes and attain emotional, mental, physical and spiritual balance.

An evidence-based approach is woven throughout the program – a principle that BGCA has always centered in its approach to youth development. Programs draw from Tribal traditions and history to learn about nutrition, food choices, media influences and the impact of diabetes.

SMART GIRLS



SMART Girls is one of BGCA's top programs, taught year-round at Clubs across the country, reaching girls ages 8 to 18. Its targeted curriculum ensures girls get the right information and the support at the right time and encourages each girl to explore and express her individuality through discussions, hands-on games and activities, roleplay, take-home activities and collaborative decision-making and problem-solving. Separate modules are specially tailored to three distinct age groups: 8 to 10, 11 to 13 and 14 to 18; the interactive, engaging, small-group sessions build camaraderie.

The SMART Girls Native Adaption aims to assist Club staff in tailoring the program to be culturally relevant and responsive to the unique strengths and needs of Native girls in their Club.

Many indigenous scholars have found that promoting positive youth development among Native youth demands a holistic approach to program design that incorporates key wellbeing vital to their culture.

For the full list of adapted programs, please visit NAClubs.org.





IN THEIR WORDS

“ As a proud indigenous women, and a member of the Board of Directors for Boys & Girls Clubs in Indian Country, it makes my heart full knowing the impact our Clubs are making with Native youth. Their hard work each day is what defines our success over our 30 year history, and I am honored to be a part of it. ”

Andra Rush

Chief Executive Officer, Dakkota Integrated Systems

“ Boys & Girls Clubs across our Native communities have made lasting generational impact for our youth; I have witnessed firsthand the powerful results when Boys & Girls Clubs partner with Tribes and deliver fun and engaging programs. ”

Dan Lewis

Native Insight

Founding Member of the Native Advisory Committee

“ The growth, expansion and impact of Boys & Girls Clubs on Native Lands has benefited our youth and communities in many measurable ways and I am proud to support the life changing work of BGCA Native Services. ”

Gary Wendt

Retired, Capital Management



Meet our **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Boys & Girls Clubs in Indian Country Board of Directors advocates for all Clubs on Native Lands, through fundraising, partnership building and communicating with local Clubs and Tribal agencies. The board is composed of BGCA national staff and leaders from partner organizations.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dan Lewis

President & Chief Executive Officer
Native Insight, LLC

John Underwood

Managing Director
Goldman Sachs & Co.

Carla Knapp

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

Kelly Concho-Hayes

Lead Director of Organizational
Development, Native Services
Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Lorraine Orr

Executive Vice President and
Chief Operations Officer
Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Andra Rush

Chief Executive Officer
Dakota Integrated Systems

Kristine Morain

Executive Vice President,
General Counsel
Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Valerie Red-Horse Mohl

President & Co-Founder
Known Holdings

Gary Wendt

Retired
Capital Management





OUR PARTNERS

Thank you to our dedicated partners for their ongoing generous support. Their contributions and support enable us to provide vital programming and resources to Native youth each year.

AMERICAN INDIAN COLLEGE FUND

The American Indian College Fund, through its commitment with BGCA, has opened up scholarships exclusively for qualified Boys & Girls Club members to attend Tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) in the immediate proximity of their Club. Students must apply and be accepted into a TCU to be considered. Upon acceptance, the scholarships are renewable annually as long as students meet the college's eligibility requirements.



BOEING

Through BGCA Native Services' partnership with Boeing, the company provides program support and capacity building for both new and existing Native Clubs, as well as providing employee community engagement in coordination with Boeing Native American Network (BNAN) employee leaders.



BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between BGCA and its local affiliates in Indian Country and the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) allows collaboration to enrich the lives of Native youth by supporting programs that discourage violence and drug abuse, while encouraging good citizenship and educational accomplishments. The goal of this partnership is to use the strengths and expertise of both organizations to improve and enhance the educational well-being of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth attending BIE-funded schools and dormitories.



INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

BGCA Native Services secured an MOU with Indian Health Service (IHS) to address mental health and wellness on Native Lands. Over the years, IHS has provided Mental Health First Aid training to Native Club professionals across different regions. IHS also provides funding for the Type 2 diabetes prevention program, *On the T.R.A.I.L. to Diabetes Prevention*, a combination of educational, physical and nutritional activities that provides youth with a comprehensive understanding of healthy lifestyles with the long-term goal of preventing and/or reducing the onset of Type 2 diabetes. Club members draw from Native traditions and history to learn about nutrition, food choices, media influences and the impact of Type 2 diabetes.



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) is the nation's oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization. Founded in 1944, NCAI strives to be the unified voice of Tribal nations and plays a leading role in developing a constructive and promising vision for Indian Country. NCAI's purpose is to secure and preserve the sovereign rights of American Indian and Alaska Native communities and to promote their common welfare.



NORTHWEST AREA FOUNDATION

This partnership aims to expand the number of Native Clubs delivering workforce development programming to Native youth and ensure that Native Clubs can deliver the highest-quality Club Experience by providing an assessment tool that sets Clubs up for continuous improvement. Our goals are to increase Clubs capacity to provide high-quality Workforce Development programs, guiding Native youth to develop 21st century skills and a clear vision of their future career goals. The project meets the Foundation's funding priority for increasing good jobs through development and training that helps to prepare individuals with low incomes for successful futures.



NOVO FOUNDATION

Novo Foundation's initiative seeks to help restore and strengthen indigenous knowledge and life-ways as potentially transformative in addressing some of the world's—and similarly, some of Indigenous communities'—most pressing problems. Through this partnership, the Novo Foundation and BGCA Native Services are working together to improve the ability of our Native organizations to build and sustain strategic partnerships and key stakeholders through culturally relevant services, youth development programs adapted for Native youth that are driven by outcomes and leadership trainings for Club staff and Board Members.



OJJDP

The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP)'s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) supports BGCA through grants that allow us to strengthen, expand, and implement youth mentoring activities and youth development programming.



POLARIS

BGCA Native Services, in partnership with Polaris and others, are working together to promote science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to Native youth. This opportunity ignites passions and motivate young people attending Boys & Girls Clubs on Native Lands. Through our partnership with Polaris and others, in celebration of National Native American Heritage Month during the month of November, we found ways to promote and incentivize Club youth to participate on BGCA's digital platform, MyFuture and earn digital recognition in the form of stars, which recognize the individual activities that young people do in Clubs; badges, which recognize clusters of activities; and master badges, which recognize when young people have completed significant programming in the form of a learning pathway with a main focus on STEM and the activities and badges that have been adapted for Native youth in efforts to create an inclusive environment for Native youth to thrive.



RED NOSE DAY

The mission of Red Nose Day, the signature fundraising campaign by nonprofit Comic Relief US is to help end the cycle of child poverty and ensure a healthy future for all children in the US and around the world. BGCA Native Services has received proceeds from Red Nose Day, which will be used to build capacity and support increases in average daily attendance in Native Clubs.



THE WALMART FOUNDATION

The Walmart Foundation has provided funding to support Healthy Habits, BGCA's outcome-driven nutrition education program for Native youth. This program addresses the fact that Native youth face much higher rates of diabetes than their non-Native peers by providing access to nutritional education. Healthy Habits is focused on basic cooking techniques, smart food shopping, working around resource constraints and using resources from the local community to create healthy meals.



YALE UNIVERSITY

The initial partnership between Native Boys & Girls Clubs and Yale University came through the 2019 Charles Carl Fellowship Award which enabled Chief Executive Officers from various Boys & Girls Clubs on Native Lands to attend a three-day conference at the Child Study Center in the Yale School of Medicine. This award was made possible by the generous contribution of Dr. Charles Carl, a Yale-alumnus and community psychiatrist aiming to promote Native wellbeing. The event reflects a budding partnership between Yale Child Study faculty and BGCA's Native Services team which continues to evolve.





During our 30 year history, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global health emergency in March 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic caused widespread disruption in Tribal communities and forced Native Boys & Girls Clubs to adapt our understanding of what it means to be a youth-serving organization. Native communities were hit hard by the virus and relied on the many services Boys & Girls Clubs provide every day. Despite the challenges during this unprecedented time, there were countless examples of Club leadership, staff, youth and families who rose to meet the challenges of operating during a global pandemic.

Thanks to support from our partners and the resilience of Indigenous people, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic,

Native Clubs were able to continue to
BE THERE for kids as a source of

LIGHT, HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY.



Recognizing a Milestone: **30 YEARS OF NATIVE CLUBS**


The past 30 years have been an incredible journey for Boys & Girls Clubs on Native Lands. BGCA Native Services has provided Native Clubs with assistance and support in youth program development, safety, board and staff development, organizational planning, resource development, marketing and communications, administration and management.

We are immensely proud of the growth we have achieved and the continuing strides that have been made towards realizing the four key pillars of the Great Futures 2025 Strategy. We have worked to increase program quality through continued development of culturally relevant tools and resources for youth professionals. Through customized training for Clubs to build capacity through coalitions, partnerships, and skill growth, we work to strengthen organizations and leadership. We advocate for youth development through lifting up Native voices at all levels of influential corporate and government leadership. Sustainable growth is critical as we expand our reach to more and more Native youth in communities that need us most.

We have committed to strengthening the cultural identity of Native youth through programming that promotes positive youth development along critical cultural, social, emotional, intellectual and physical dimensions through sustainable organizations.

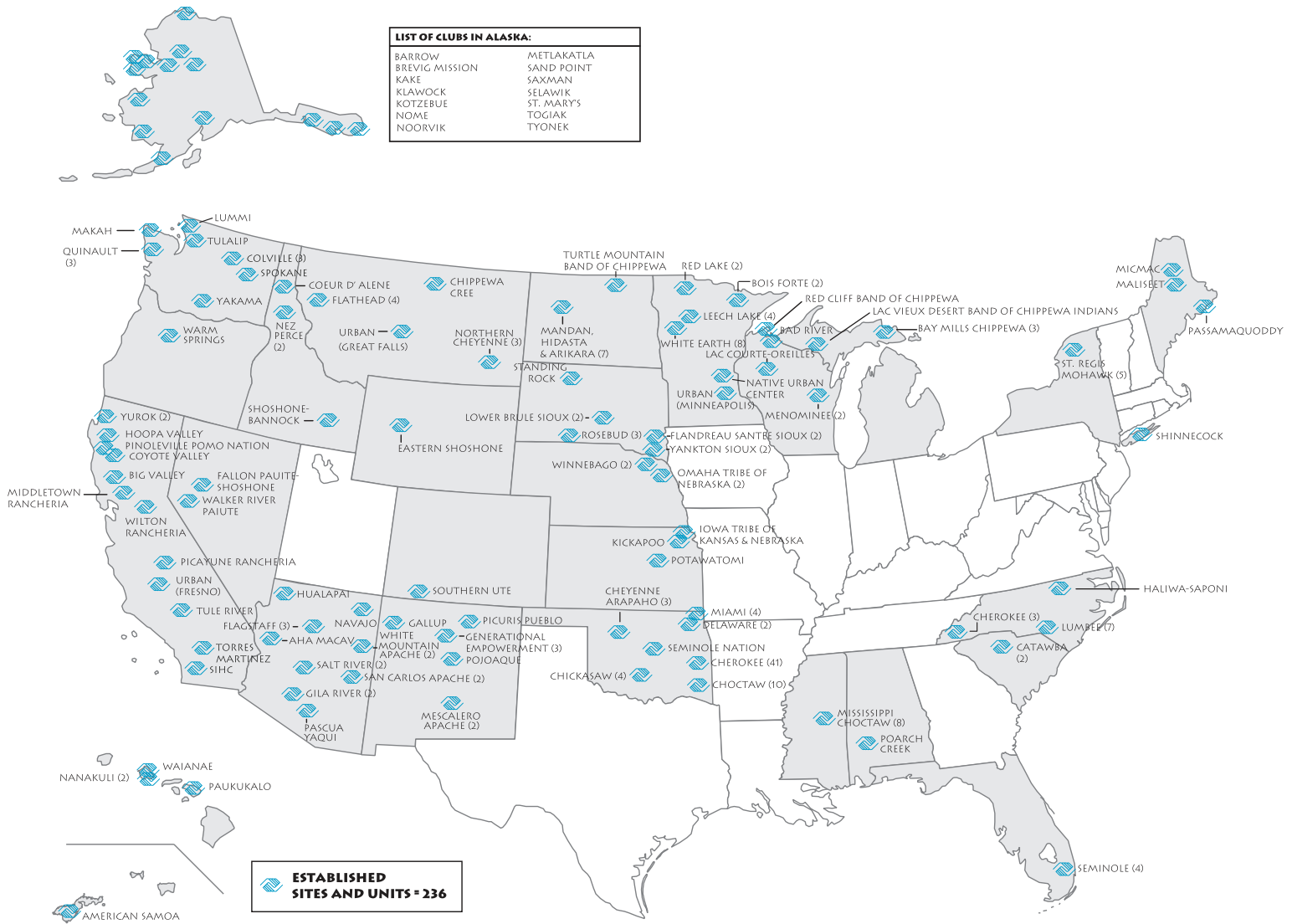
Building from the past, looking to the future, and focusing on the now, together we will close the opportunity gap for Native youth by providing high-quality experiences in a safe environment that drives positive youth outcomes, helping Native youth achieve academic success, build character and lead healthy lives.

We can and will change the trajectory of millions of young lives on Native lands, preparing them to become the innovators, leaders and problem-solvers who will shape our world. BGCA Native Services looks forward to what our collective efforts will achieve in the next 30 years and beyond!





NATIVE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS



Nearly **250**
Native Clubs



Over **120,000**
Native youth served



Over **150**
Tribal communities





BGCA NATIVE SERVICES

1275 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30309
Direct: (972) 897-7819 | **E-mail:** BGCANS@BGCA.ORG