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BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE BEMIDJI AREA

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2025



SAVE THE DATE
GALA 2026
MASQUERADE
02.20.26

Summer Recap

READ OUR HARVEST
REPORT HERE



Our Club had an EXCITING summer! Over 100 kids helped in the garden and became total planting pros. They grew hundreds of peppers, onions, colorful cauliflowers, broccoli, baby cabbages, fennel, eggplant, cantaloupe, cucamelons, cucumbers and more! **Scan the QR code above to read our fall Harvest Report.**

Mights, grades K-3, had amazing adventures to the State Park, Headwaters Science Center, and Apple Blossom Village where they created art from nature, made stone soup, and practiced their archery skills.

Family nights, pottery, and water fun were checked off the Tweens and Teens' summer list, as well as visiting our furry friends at Eagle Vista Ranch and catching fish at Camp Wilderness.

Club On-The-Go, a weekly summer program at Conifer Estates, also made fun memories with water days, ice cream and visits to the Paul Bunyan Playground. They also had a tremendous time at Itasca State Park where they hiked, learned about river life and how the flow goes across our country, and played their hearts out on the playground.



A Place to Grow: Amarachi's Story of Connection and Care

When Amarachi first joined the Club three years ago, it wasn't always easy. But even early on, the now 8th grader knew she could go to Club staff for guidance and support.

"Sometimes I would just be having a really bad day, so I would go and we would just sit down and talk," Amarachi shared. "Club staff always listened to me and they were never judgmental."

Through the Club's mentorship program, Amarachi learned a great deal from Savannah Martin, who recently served as the Club's Cultural Liaison.

"Savannah taught me that some friends weren't right for me, and she held me accountable," Amarachi said. "The Club has helped me grow as a person a lot."

Since meeting Amarachi for the first time, Savannah shared how proud she's been and how she's watched Amarachi develop important skills alongside the strengths she already had.

"Amarachi has really great leadership skills, and she has a lot of passion," Savannah said. "Communication used to be difficult for her, but now she's learned to uplift people's strengths, how to ask for help, and how to establish healthy relationships with herself and others. It's been amazing to see that growth."

Amarachi is an important part of the Club's Tween and Teen program, bringing laughter and an unshakable spirit. She even volunteers with fellow Club Teens at special events. She has a hard time imagining what her life would be like if she hadn't come to the Club.



"Without the Club. I wouldn't have some of the friends that I have now and I feel like my life would be really different...It's just a really great place."
-Amarachi





BECAUSE SURVIVING 9-5 ISN'T THE GOAL. THRIVING IS.

Club Kids are the entrepreneurs and employees of tomorrow, so a new program is starting at the Clubhouse to help prepare our Club Tweens and Teens for their options in the Bemidji area and beyond. **9 to Thrive** is a part of our Career Launch program and offers Club youth a way to explore a future job. If this sounds like a Dolly Parton song, you are on the right track! Through real-world experiences with local businesses and professionals, Club members will get the chance to discover careers and get the inside scoop on what different jobs are really like. Hearing from business partners will give Club kids the opportunity to explore career passions and build the **confidence**,

curiosity, and **skills** to be a valuable employee in their future workplaces.

Local professionals will be invited to the Clubhouse each month and bring hands-on activities and incentives that showcase their business. Club members may have the opportunity to visit business locations during select months. The goal of the program is to provide Club youth with the knowledge to make smart decisions about their futures and connections with people doing work that matters. **America needs Club Kids – the next generation full of potential.**

Clubhouse Renovation Update

The Clubhouse at 1600 Minnesota Ave is abuzz with excitement about our newly renovated space for Tweens and Teens, as well as our growing staff. In the past 12 months, local contractors tore out underutilized old locker room space that was being used as storage and created an office suite and two new bathrooms for Club members. Other underutilized spaces were modified to create **three new programming areas** which will be used to focus on (1) mentoring, arts and culture, (2) e-gaming, and (3) homework help, emotional wellness, and reading.

These updates are essential as the Club grows. When the Bemidji Clubhouse was initially built 20 years ago, the Club served 20 children and had 2 full-time staff. **Now, the Club serves over 500 children annually and 14 full-time staff members.**

The new office suite features eight new workstations, a kitchenette, and a bathroom with a shower. The two single-stall bathrooms for Club members provide facilities to the Tweens and Teens, a growing demographic of Club members who previously had to share one bathroom that was not near their program space. The new bathrooms, located right between the Tween and Teen program spaces, help youth spend more time engaged in Club activities.

We are so grateful for the donors who made this possible!



Blackduck Branch

Our Blackduck Branch had an exciting and successful first-ever summer program! From team builders and yoga to STEM projects and park picnics, our 57 Club kids, grades K-6, were busy making memories and friendships. They explored butterfly lifecycles, bioluminescence, and pollination, and had a blast with bottle rockets, flower paint, Ferris wheels, and water day fun.

We also celebrated Harper S. as our Member of the Month! Harper shines during art time, filling her projects with color, joy, and love. A passionate reader, she loves sharing books with friends. Though she's one of our youngest, Harper's big heart, creativity, and kindness make the Club a better place for everyone.

Follow along with our *Blackduck Branch Bulletin* for other updates and celebrations! Scan the QR code to read more.



Want to be part of the fun? We're hiring! Join our team and help create a fun, positive space for kids to learn, grow, and thrive. Visit our website for more details - bgcbemidji.org.



Join our Legacy Society!

Make a planned gift to support a future generation of kids.



A planned gift can reduce the overall tax burden of your estate while providing a lasting legacy for Bemidji and Blackduck kids. Planned giving also allows you to fulfill your own philanthropic aspirations as part of your will or estate plan.

Together with your financial advisor or attorney, we can help you explore a planned gift that best meets your goals.

Planned gifts may take the form of:

- Bequest
- Beneficiary Designation
- Individual Retirement Account (IRA)
- Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)

Email us to explore your options!
Scan QR code or email emily.fairchild@bgcbemidji.org



JOIN US FOR AN
OPEN HOUSE
OF OUR NEW SPACE!
TUESDAY, NOV. 18TH
5PM - 7PM