

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES: ATHLETICS BEYOND THE CLUB

Athletics continued to create opportunities for members both inside and beyond BGCMC. As part of that effort, 68 members and staff attended a Miami Marlins game, with several youth experiencing Major League Baseball in person for the first time. Members also participated in additional sports-focused outings, extending their exposure to athletics beyond the programs offered at their individual Clubs.

These experiences complement BGCMC's continued investment in athletics as part of the Healthy Lifestyles pillar. While Club-based programming gives members the opportunity to participate, practice, and develop their abilities, experiences outside the Club expose them to the broader world of sports and recreation. For youth who may have limited access to professional sporting events or other recreational experiences, that exposure can introduce an entirely new interest.

Together, BGCMC's athletics programming and off-site experiences create a more complete approach to recreation, allowing members to play the game, see it at another level, and discover sports and activities they may want to pursue for years to come.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP: YOUTH OF THE YEAR



While 2026 Youth of the Year Angie P. continues to represent BGCMC throughout the community, the next group of Youth of the Year candidates are already preparing to step forward and share their own stories. The Youth of the Year process is designed to develop much more than a strong speech.

Candidates participate in public speaking and communication training, learning how to articulate their experiences, advocate for issues that matter to them, and represent their Clubs. Their preparation also included a leadership experience at EPCOT, where candidates stepped outside their usual surroundings for activities focused on teamwork, communication, decision-making, and personal growth.

That development is an important part of why Youth of the Year remains BGCMC's premier youth leadership program. While one member will ultimately earn the title, every candidate gains experience speaking in front of others, representing themselves professionally, and recognizing the value of their own voice. As Angie continues her year of service and representation, the next class is already building on that example and preparing to become the next generation of BGCMC leaders.

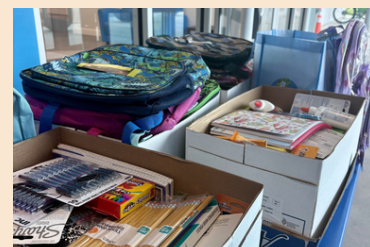


ACADEMIC SUCCESS: READY FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

A successful school year starts with making sure students have the resources they need before they ever step into the classroom. Across BGCMC, community partners helped members and families prepare by providing backpacks, school supplies, classroom essentials, and access to important health services.

Employees from the Martin County Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller's Office joined other community supporters in collecting and donating supplies for Club members. At the same time, the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) visited multiple Club locations to provide free physicals, helping families complete an important back-to-school requirement while reducing another potential barrier to starting the year prepared.

These efforts complement the academic support members receive throughout the school year. By helping address practical needs alongside learning, BGCMC can ensure more young people arrive at school healthy, equipped, and ready to focus on what matters most: learning and succeeding in the classroom.



CLUB EXPERIENCES: SUMMER EXPLORATION



Summer programming took members into new environments where they could reinforce lessons from the Club, explore new subjects, and visit destinations that may otherwise be out of reach. Trips to Lion Country Safari, LEGOLAND Florida, and Sailfish Splash Waterpark demonstrate the range of educational, programmatic, and recreational outings incorporated into the summer.

At Lion Country Safari, members observed wildlife up close, learned about different species and habitats, and asked questions as they explored the park. A trip to LEGOLAND Florida brought members from the HERO program together, providing a real-world setting to practice skills emphasized through HERO, including emotional regulation, patience, problem-solving, and peer support. At Sailfish Splash, members had an opportunity for active recreation and outdoor play alongside their peers.

Together, these trips show how BGCMC uses field experiences as an extension of Club programming. Some reinforce specific lessons, others introduce members to new subjects and environments, and others simply provide access to recreation and the kinds of memorable moments that are an important part of childhood. Each destination serves a different purpose while broadening what is available to members through the Club.

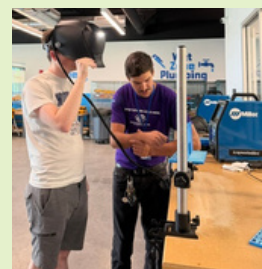
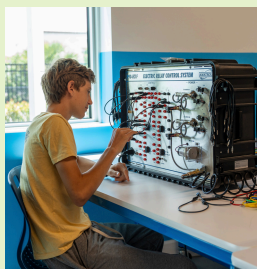


WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: SUMMER BOOTCAMPS

BGCMC continued to introduce career exploration earlier through a series of five hands-on summer workforce bootcamps offering 65 participant spots to students in grades 6–12. Rather than learning about technical careers from a presentation or textbook, participants worked directly with the tools, technology, and processes associated with Robotics, 3D Printing, Electrical, Skilled Trades, and Welding.

The experiences ranged from designing and producing objects through 3D printing to electrical wiring and hands-on exposure to construction and welding. Robotics participants also received VEX robotics kits to take home, allowing them to continue building and experimenting after the bootcamp ended.

The bootcamp model introduces workforce development before students reach the point of choosing a college, credential, apprenticeship, or career path. Early, hands-on exploration helps students identify where their interests and abilities may fit, while BGCMC's broader workforce programming offers a next step through advanced training, industry-recognized credentials, and employment preparation.



STAFF HIGHLIGHT: PABLO FALCON, STUDIO CLUBHOUSE DIRECTOR



For Pablo Falcon, music has been a lifelong passion. Raised by parents who played instruments and inspired by a father who served as his elementary school music teacher, Pablo began pursuing music seriously after high school before eventually finding his way into music education.

Today, Pablo brings those experiences together as BGCMC's Studio Clubhouse Director, a role he describes as a dream job he never saw coming. Through the Studio Clubhouse, members learn instruments, write and record music, perform, and explore podcasting, gaining a creative outlet while being introduced to different forms of artistic expression.

For Pablo, the work is also deeply personal. By sharing the encouragement and guidance that shaped him as a young musician, he hopes to give members the same kind of support as they find their own creative voice and begin to see where it can take them.



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE LATEST EDITION OF FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS OF MARTIN COUNTY, FEATURING "FLETCH'S PERSPECTIVE."](#)



HEALTHY LIFESTYLES: STRATEGIC THINKING IN ACTION

Six members of the Jensen Beach High School Chess Club took their skills beyond the Club, traveling to Orlando to compete in the 2026 World Chess Festival, a three-day event that brought together chess players from around the world.

The competition marked a significant step for the team. All six members entered the tournament unrated, competing through multiple rounds against experienced players. By the end of the event, the Jensen Beach team had earned first place with the highest combined point total, and each participant walked away with an official U.S. Chess Federation rating.

The experience demonstrates how Club programming can progress from learning and practicing a skill to competing at a much higher level. Chess challenges members to think strategically, anticipate consequences, remain focused under pressure, and adjust when a plan does not work. For these six members, those lessons moved from the chess boards at their Club to an international competition setting, giving them a measurable benchmark of how far they had progressed.



DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: CEO COUNCIL

BGCMC welcomed members of its CEO Council to connect with organizational leadership, learn more about the work taking place across the Clubs, and discuss how the local business community can play an even greater role in advancing the mission.

2026 Youth of the Year Angie P. joined the conversation, giving Council members the opportunity to hear directly from a Club member about her experience and the role BGCMC has played in her life. Her participation put a young person's voice at the center of a conversation about the organization's future and the impact of continued investment.

The CEO Council brings together business and community leaders whose experience, networks, and perspective can strengthen BGCMC's work, particularly as the organization expands workforce development and career pathways. Their involvement creates a direct link between the needs of young people and the expertise and resources of Martin County's business community, helping BGCMC build relationships that can lead to mentorship, career exposure, employment, and other opportunities for members.



CULINARY TEAM IN ACTION: FORK IN THE ROAD

Over the summer, BGCMC's Fork in the Road food truck and catering program brought its culinary talents to a clam bake-themed 90th birthday celebration for more than 40 guests. Led by Chef Daniel Bettencourt, the team prepared individually wrapped baskets of shrimp, clams, mussels, potatoes, and other traditional favorites, complemented by appetizers, charcuterie, and the Culinary team's signature chocolate chip cookies.

Teen members worked throughout the event, serving food and engaging with guests while gaining firsthand experience in the expectations of a professional catering operation. Their involvement extended beyond the kitchen, giving them experience in hospitality, customer service, presentation, and the many details required to successfully execute a private event.

The celebration also served as a showcase for Fork in the Road. Many guests left with a better understanding of both the quality of BGCMC's catering operation and the workforce development taking place behind it. By bringing Fork in the Road into private events and other community settings, BGCMC can provide teens with authentic work experience, introduce new audiences to the organization, and generate revenue through a program designed to prepare young people for future employment.



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