BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Red River Valley - Monthly Newsletter October 2026

YOUTH OF THE MONTH

Youth of the Month is a Club-driven experience that aims to recognize and honor Club members who exemplify strong character and leadership. To achieve this recognition, the Club member will have consistently demonstrated growth and/or skill in the following areas: Character, Leadership, Responsibility, and Group Participation.

Our Jefferson Youth of the Month for September were: Emme M.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT – CALM CORNERS:

A Calm Corner is a designated area that supports children's social-emotional development by providing a quiet place to take a break when they feel overwhelmed, upset, or need time to regulate their emotions. This proactive approach encourages emotional awareness, independence, and positive behavior. Staff guide youth in recognizing when they may benefit from a break and how to use the Calm Corner appropriately. Through this support, youth can practice self-regulation, develop healthy coping skills, and return to activities when they feel ready.

OUR JEFFERSON CLUB IN ACTION

Clubs provide youth with experiences that build essential social-emotional and subject-specific skills in each of BGCA's four priority outcome areas. In September, our Jefferson Club had the following experiences:

- Health & Wellbeing: 625 experiences with Emote Control; Huddle Time; Sports, Rec & Fitness
- Character & Leadership: 61 experiences with Leadership & Service
- Academic Success: 356 experiences with High Yield; Power Hour
- Life & Workforce Readiness: 134 experiences with STEAM; Career Launch: Kids

NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

On October (10/8/26), we held our fall Create & Connect family engagement event! We had (14 families attend with a total of 29 people) our open-house–style event ran from 4:00–6:00 p.m. and offered our families the opportunity to participate in a hands-on painting activity with their kids, learn more about the academic supports we offer, and time to connect with Club staff.

Waterford Early Learning:
Beginning in November, youth in grades K-2 attending Jefferson afterschool program will be participating in Waterford Early Learning, an adaptive digital learning program that provides personalized instruction in reading, math, and science. Waterford Early Learning adjusts content based on each child's skill level and learning progress, allowing youth to receive targeted support where they need it most. Research shows that youth who use Waterford Early Learning consistently demonstrate stronger academic growth than those who do not participate. Waterford Early Learning will be implemented for 15 minutes daily during Power Hour as a supplemental learning tool to reinforce classroom instruction, support skill development, and provide individualized learning opportunities for students.

Advisory Group 26-27
The first Advisory Group meeting of the 2026–2027 school year was held on October 20, 2026. The Advisory Group plays an essential role in strengthening our programs and ensuring they reflect the needs of the community by:

- Providing input on program goals, priorities, and community needs
- Strengthening partnerships that support youth development
- Reviewing program progress and guiding continuous improvement
- Ensuring youth and family voices are included in planning and decision-making

The meeting also offered a fun opportunity to celebrate the importance of out-of-school time programs! In recognition of the 27th annual **Lights On Afterschool**, our Advisory Group participated in the *Lightbulb Challenge*, joining a nationwide effort to raise awareness of the positive impact afterschool programs have on youth, families, and communities.

Volunteer with us!
The work we do is critical for the success of the youth in our community, and we could not do it without our committed volunteers. Our Clubs have a diverse set of volunteer opportunities that vary by site and age group. With a variety of volunteer opportunities available, you can assist with our day-to-day activities, engage in a specific program of interest, or bring your own special skill or talent to share with our Club Kids!
If you are interested in volunteering with our Clubs, please fill out the **Volunteer Interest Form** located on our website.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOUR STUDENTS SUCCEED?

Each day at BGC, students participate in Power Hour (reading, homework help, educational games). If you have specific ideas of what students could use extra practice on, please reach out. We can individualize targeted practices by student, grade, subject, etc.

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21st CENTURY LEARNING CENTER GOALS:

- 21st CCLC students will show increases in student engagement and exhibit positive behavioral changes.
- 21st CCLC program will increase the number of students who meet expected learning gains each year.
- 21st CCLC programs will reduce disparities in school engagement, behavioral, and academic outcomes for selected subgroups.
- 21st CCLC programs will increase parent and community engagement.
- 21st CCLC programs will increase the number of students who are choice ready.