



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE UMPQUA VALLEY

CLUB CONNECTION

NOTE FROM THE CEO



"Summertime," "spring break," and "holidays" are words that bring memories of fun and adventure to mind. As we wrap up the summer of 2025 and look forward to the new school year, please accept the immense gratitude of the Club's board of directors and me.

In this newsletter, you'll see highlights from our summer camps, get information about upcoming athletic opportunities, and learn why summer learning is so important for our youth.

Thanks to support from Roseburg Schools and grant funding, this summer included a full month of scholarship-supported afternoon programming designed to complement the School District's summer offerings.

Another standout moment was a meaningful and impactful meeting between several of our teen members and Senator David Brock Smith and Representative Virgil Osborne, providing youth with a unique opportunity to share their perspectives directly with state leaders.

For another summer, your support made it possible to provide our community's kids with fun learning opportunities. Thank you to our sponsors, donors, collaborators, volunteers, and staff for going the extra mile—it truly makes a difference in the lives of our youth.

Our entire community wins when all kids—especially those who need us most—have great experiences right here in Douglas County. Your support of the Boys & Girls Club of the Umpqua Valley makes that possible. Thank you for all you do. We wish you a successful school year ahead.

Thanks,

Troy Johns

We welcome feedback - email contactus@bgcuv.org to tell us what you think!

SUMMER CAMP

This summer, the Boys & Girls Club of the Umpqua Valley welcomed hundreds of kids to our vibrant and enriching Summer Camps. Thanks to the generous support of our donors and stakeholders, members enjoyed a season filled with hands-on STEAM activities, outdoor adventures, creative arts, and team-building games.

We had ten weeks filled with fun in our STEAM camps for kids in 1st through 12th grade. Our younger members have been exploring what it takes to fly, how to create unique inventions, and learned the skills to explore our natural world. The teens have enjoyed learning skills in the kitchen, building teamwork while playing ultimate frisbee, and exploring skills they'll need for the future.

On top of our STEAM camps, we also hosted ten weeks of sports camps which included gymnastics, martial arts, and even bike safety. Along with building skills for a variety of sports, our campers also learned the importance of teamwork, communication, and good sportsmanship.

Our dedicated staff created a safe and inspiring environment where kids could explore new interests, build confidence, and form lasting friendships. This was one summer to remember, thank you for investing in their growth and joy!



SUMMER LEARNING LOSS

FROM DR. JILL WEBER



Summer learning loss can have a lasting impact on students. Without regular engagement in learning during the summer months, many students lose academic ground, especially in reading and math. This can make it more difficult to start the school year with confidence and can contribute to long-term gaps in achievement and opportunity.

One of the most valuable skills students can strengthen during the summer is reading. Strong reading skills are not only essential for academic success but are critical for future success in college, career, and everyday life. Confident readers are better equipped to comprehend complex information, solve problems, and actively engage in their communities.

Summer learning loss does not affect all students equally. While some students maintain or grow their skills, others fall behind. Often, the difference is access—access to books, enriching activities, safe spaces to learn, and adults who support learning – make a measurable difference.

To address this, Roseburg Schools offers a range of summer learning opportunities for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. These programs include academic support, hands-on learning, and enrichment activities designed to build skills, spark curiosity, and foster social connection. Elementary and middle school students participate in structured reading, writing, and math lessons, while high school students have opportunities to recover credits, complete coursework, and prepare for future academic goals. As part of a grant-supported partnership, students in our K–12 summer programs can also attend the Boys & Girls Club of the Umpqua Valley in the afternoon at no cost to them. This extended-day model provides a full day of learning and enrichment, including meals, outdoor activities, creative projects, and mentoring—all in a safe and supportive environment. This approach not only supports academic growth but also strengthens students' confidence and engagement. These efforts align with Oregon's Early Literacy Framework and reflect a commitment to ensuring that all students have access to meaningful summer learning experiences, regardless of their background.

Across Roseburg, students are spending their summers building friendships, exploring new interests, and developing the academic and social skills they need to succeed. From reading with a teacher to creating projects at the Club, every experience helps students grow and return to school ready to learn. What happens in the summer makes a difference in the year ahead—and beyond.



Did you know that 25% of our staff are previous Club kids? Many of our Club kids come back to work for us while school is out for the summer – because they know how valuable positive role models are for our current Club kids!

BGCUV ATHLETICS

Flag Football and Volleyball registration is OPEN!

Both close on September 5th so
please register soon!



We are always looking for
volunteer coaches for all of our
sports programs, please reach out
to Alli Smith at asmith@bgcuv.org
if you are interested.

**More information is on our
website or give us a call
at 541-440-9505.**

IMPORTANT DATES

8/19: BACK TO SCHOOL FAMILY NIGHT

8/20 – 10/18: CARTER'S FUNDRAISER

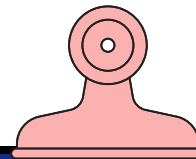
8/25 – 8/29: CLOSED WEEK

9/1: CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

9/1 – 9/30: SIZZLER FUNDRAISER

9/13: 18TH ANNUAL CELEBRATE KIDS DINNER
& AUCTION

11/11: CLOSED FOR VETERAN'S DAY



TICKETS ARE ON SALE!!

SEPTEMBER 13, 2025
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

18TH ANNUAL CELEBRATE KIDS

Building Blocks to Great Futures

Scan here or visit our website to get your tickets now!



www.bgcuv.org/celebratekids



Thank You to all our volunteers, staff, and board members that make our events such a success each year!

CLUB DEVELOPMENT

Our annual Great Futures campaign is well underway, and we need your help! We are hoping to further our mission and provide Great Futures for even more youth this year! Last year, 2,496 kids participated in the Club through our after-school programs, summer camps, and our athletics program.

Here are some ways you can support BGCUV:

- Donate directly – [click here!](#)
- Sponsor an event, sports teams, or a program – check out our sponsorship packet and reach out to Sara at sanderson@bgcuv.org for availability.
- Take your kids to Elmer's – 10¢ from every kid's entrée is donated back to the Club!
- Link your Fred Meyer card to BGCUV via their Community Rewards program.
- Grab a Blue Bag the next time you're at the Club to donate your cans and bottles!
- Join the Sustainer's Club – make monthly donations that fit your budget and provide reliable support to BGCUV.
- Leave a legacy – contact Sara about joining our Legacy Society.

We have had some amazing developments in grants – we received grants from the Roundhouse Foundation, Umpqua Health Alliance's Community Health Improvement Plan, the Taco Bell Foundation, and Marie Lamfrom Foundation.



Family Night

at the Boys & Girls Club of the Umpqua Valley!

August 19, 2025
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES!

Thank you to our participating community partners!

 **RAFFLE** Bikes, Backpacks, other fun school items! **RAFFLE** 

*Come check out the **WOW Truck!***

STAFF SPOTLIGHT JEREMIAH FALLON

A bit about Jeremiah: "I started working at our Club in June 2014, when a director, who was also my ultimate frisbee teammate, encouraged me to apply for a position running STEAM summer camps for teens.

With a background in STEM and a dedication for volunteering instilled by my mother, I had been actively involved in programs such as SMART reading and Youth Court throughout middle and high school. I was even volunteering at the VA when I started working at the Club, and the work I did with the kids when I started really felt like it was filling that need to be helpful. I enjoy coming to a place where I can help kids improve and grow. Whether it's fostering new friendships or teaching them how to use a 3D printer, I enjoy meeting them where they are and helping them succeed."



Jeremiah has a passion for encouraging our teens to find their voice and to build up their leadership skills. Due to his leadership, we have been able to participate in some exciting opportunities for our teens statewide.

"Recently we were lucky enough to host Senator David Brock Smith and Representative Virgle Osborne for a listening session with our kids. Last October, we went to a Teen Leadership Summit where our teens were able to participate in breakout sessions for things that they think are important: ranging from teen mental health to volunteerism and youth voice. We've since gone to several other leadership events including a field trip to the capital to listen to our state legislators in session. Due to our involvement in teen leadership opportunities, Bethany Thrasher, the Director of the Oregon Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs reached out and asked if we would be interested in hosting a listening session and helped us set it up by reaching out to the politicians responsible for the citizens in our region and it ended up being a great experience for our kids!" Our teens were fully engaged, asked insightful questions, and had meaningful conversations with our state's legislators. Experiences like this help build social skills, expand career ideas, and build confidence. We're thrilled about the Great Futures that lie ahead!



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Alli Smith, *Athletics Director*

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Boys & Girls Club of the Umpqua Valley

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