

Unit 3: Healthy and Safe Relationships

Introduction

Boys & Girls Clubs of America seeks to provide a safe, positive place for the thousands of American children and teens who are on their own every day after school. Its thousands of clubs across the United States offer these kids a safe place to learn and grow. Through its programs, the organization aims to help all young people reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. You can find out more about these programs at the Web site below.

Links to Explore:

Boys & Girls Clubs America

<http://www.bgca.org/>

Directions:

- Follow the link above to the Big Brothers Big Sisters home page.
 - Click on the links at the left of the page labeled “Who We Are” and “Programs.” Then browse through the various sub-pages that can be reached from each of these pages.
 - After exploring all these parts of the site, answer the following questions:
1. When and where was the first Boys Club founded?
 2. How many American children and teens are part of Boys & Girls Clubs?
 3. What are the four key characteristics of a Boys & Girls Club?
 4. In what areas are national programs offered through Boys & Girls Clubs?
 5. Briefly describe the following Boys & Girls Club programs: CareerLaunch, Triple Play, Youth for Unity.

Answers:

1. In 1860 in Hartford, Connecticut
2. 4.8 million
3. The clubs are dedicated youth facilities, open daily, professionally staffed, and available and affordable to all youth.
4. National programs are available in the areas of education, the environment, health, the arts, careers, alcohol/drug and pregnancy prevention, gang prevention, leadership development and athletics.
5. CareerLaunch is a career exploration and mentoring program for teens ages 13-18. Triple Play is a dynamic wellness program that demonstrates how eating right, keeping fit and forming positive relationships add up to a healthy lifestyle. Youth for Unity is a diversity education program designed to combat prejudice, bigotry and discrimination.

Additional Links to Explore:

Use the links below to gather additional information on the activity topic. When appropriate, have students extend their research to include important concepts contained in these Web sites.

Boys and Girls Clubs in Indian Country

This partnership between BGCA and Native American tribes aims to provide a positive place for Native American youth to celebrate their culture and community, to enjoy healthy fun with their peers, and to learn new skills and self-confidence under the guidance of responsible adults.

<http://www.naclubs.org/>

Afterschool Alliance

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit organization that advocates for quality, affordable programs for all children. Its mission is to increase public and private investment in afterschool programs at the national, state and local levels.

<http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/>

Boy Scouts of America

The National Council of the Boy Scouts of America supports more than 300 local councils that provide quality youth programs for boys around ages 11–17. The program helps young men strengthen their character, improve personal fitness, and become good citizens.

<http://www.scouting.org/>

Girl Scouts of the USA

Girl Scouts of the USA is the world's preeminent organization dedicated solely to girls. It provides an accepting and nurturing environment in which girls can build character and skills for success in the real world.

<http://www.girlscouts.org/>

Camp Fire USA

Camp Fire USA offers programs in youth leadership, self-reliance, after-school groups, camping and environmental education, and child care. Its mission is to build caring, confident youth and future leaders.

<http://www.campfire.org/>