

academic
success.

citizenship &
character.

healthy
lifestyles.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

8281 Goodwood Blvd. Suite H
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
(225) 383.3928
www.BeGreatBatonRouge.org

Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Baton Rouge, LA
Permit No. 939

CLUB TIMES

Volume 29 No. 1

Baton Rouge Club Member Named Louisiana Youth of the Year

Briana Augustus, a four-year member of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Baton Rouge, has been named the Louisiana Youth of the Year by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA). She is among hundreds of Youth of the Year winners across the country recognized by BGCA for her sound character, leadership skills and willingness to give back to the community.

In addition to winning this prestigious title, Briana will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from the Reader's Digest Foundation and a \$1,000 scholarship from the Tupperware Brands Corporation. Being named Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Club member can receive. The title recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community and Boys & Girls Club, as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome.

"Briana and all Youth of the Year nominees are living proof that Boys & Girls Clubs across the country are fulfilling their mission of inspiring and

enabling young people," said Roxanne Spillet, President, BGCA. Briana is a senior at Belaire High School.

She is heavily involved with extracurricular activities including her church, choir and step team. She is the Belaire Senior Class President and Secretary for the Beta Club. She is in the top 10 percent of her high school class and has a current GPA of 3.4. Her goal is to enroll in Louisiana State University this year and plans to major in broadcast journalism.

This summer, Briana will compete against other youth from states located in BGCA's Southeastern Region. If named regional winner, she will be awarded a \$10,000 college scholarship and advance to the national competition in Washington, D.C. The National Youth of the Year receives an additional \$15,000 college scholarship and will be installed by President Barack Obama during a ceremony in the Oval Office.



Louisiana Youth of the Year candidates pose for a picture at the Old State Capitol before the announcement ceremony. (left to right) Corinne Vaughn, Kytara Frazier, Alora Redden, Deion Bessard, Ashia Cannon, Briana Augustus and Alexandria Osborne.



Secretary of State Jay Dardenne announced Boys & Girls Club of Greater Baton Rouge Club member, Briana Augustus, winner of Louisiana Youth of the Year 2010.

a note from

Pat R. Van Burkleo,
President and Chief Professional Officer

We have always known that what we say to children and how we say it can make a big difference. A parent or teacher who yells and degrades a kid can cause serious problems for him/her. So praise has long been considered the cure to many childhood and societal problems from bullying to alcoholism. We have been working under the assumption that praise boosts self-esteem and, ultimately, performance in sports, school and work.

Research has called this assumption into question. A Stanford study showed that children who were praised for their intelligence (i.e. "You are so smart") did not fare as well as children who were praised for the effort ("Good job, you worked really hard").

Award-winning journalist and Olympian table tennis player Matthew Syed reveals the hidden clues to success--in sports, business, school and just about anything else you'd want to be great at in his book, "Bounce: Mozart, Federer, Picasso, Beckham and the Science of Success." Syed contends that success is more about opportunities than talent. His opportunity to belong to a table tennis club in his community was more important than his athletic ability.

In Malcolm Gladwell's wonderful book "Outliers," he says it's time on task that makes success. The hours you're putting in practice are more important than ability. David Beckham kicking the soccer ball from the same spot for hours on end as a child contributed greatly to his success.

We have learned that access, praise and time on task all are major factors in success, maybe even more important than genes, talent and ability. This is why the Boys & Girls Club is so important and successful.

The Club provides access for hundreds of children to participate in life-changing programs. Everyday afterschool and during the long hot months of summer, the Club is open.

The Club has qualified, trained youth development professionals who work with Club members and praise their hard work. They provide those words of encouragement that are so important. The Club also spends a lot of time on academics in a structured program that values character development and has high expectations from its members.

There is little wonder why the Boys & Girls Club is the positive place for kids.

Belaire High School

Club Members Learn Interview Skills from People Like You



(left) Club members from Belaire High School participated in mock interviews hosted by members of the Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM) on April 8. Julie Bergeron (far right) along with many other members of SHRM visited the school and helped participants learn the importance of good interview skills and professionalism. This activity is just one way the Boys & Girls Club works to prepare members for the workforce and other future aspirations.

Members appreciated the advice given to them by the members of SHRM. Club members enjoyed speaking with SHRM volunteers about their future aspirations. This opportunity was beneficial for all in attendance. Through this activity, community leaders were able to see the quality of members and members learned from the experience of volunteers.



SMART Girls Will Become SMART Women

Junior League Volunteers Guide Young Women at Annual Event



The Junior League of Baton Rouge (JLBR) sponsored the third annual SMART Girls Conference on April 27 at the Catholic Life Center. Skills, Mastery and Resistance Training, SMART, teaches skills that are essential to the positive development of young girls in our community. Club members participated in workshops on motivation, self-respect, health and fitness and academics. Everyone in attendance had the opportunity to hear Gerri Hobdy, Baton Rouge Area Foundation, speak and motivate our girls to "fly, because you can do anything you want to." (Above right) Some volunteers for the event include: Jamie Noel, event chair; Gerri Hobdy, guest speaker; Heidi Hebert, event chair; and Vanessa LeFleur, JLBR member.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Baton Rouge
Helping kids reach their full potential to...

BE GREAT

Teaching Kids "Safety First"

Safety Town Teaches Critical Lessons to Kindergartners



Safety. It's often the most important lesson for our children to learn. Club members who participated in Safety Town learned how important safety really is. 40 companies and community organizations sponsored this program. Safety Town was located in three parishes in a total of 17 schools reaching more than 1,020 students. Nearly 300 people volunteered making this year's Safety Town a great success. This miniature town taught kindergartners how to cross the street, stop at a railroad crossing and who to call if there is a fire all while riding a tricycle and getting stickers from community volunteers.



From Adolescence to Manhood

Professionals Lead by Example for Our Male Club Members



One core value of the Boys & Girls Club is to improve the citizenship and character of our members. Passport to Manhood is a 16-week program that instills in Club members confidence, courage, integrity, excellence, patience, respect and responsibility. On April 30, the Passport to Manhood program culminated with a luncheon held at the Camelot Club.



(above left) Board member Chad Sullivan, Keogh, Cox & Wilson, assists a Club member with tying a tie during the tie ceremony of the luncheon.

(left to right) Board member Thomas Temple and his co-workers from Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, L.L.P., Jordan Faircloth, Carroll Devillier, Jr. and Chris Billings attended the event.

Our Future Leaders Participate in Youth Legislature

The Club Teaches Citizenship Through Mock Legislative Sessions



(above) Representative Jim Tucker, Louisiana Speaker of the House, speaks to Youth Legislature delegates.

May 4 concluded the Boys & Girls Club's 2010 Youth Legislature program. This year, more than 1,700 students participated representing 39 public, private and home schools from nine different parishes.

Youth Legislature is a two-day mock legislative session for middle school students allowing them to learn the legislative process first-hand. This program provides students with the experience that supports and solidifies information studied in the classroom. Youth Legislature promotes and encourages youth leadership characteristics, participation, cooperation and teamwork among peers. It gives students the confidence they need to participate in leadership roles in high school and in their community.

All together, the Club hosted seven two-day sessions from March - May 2010.



Sprite Step-Off

Club Members Benefit from National Competition

On January 16, Sprite hosted the national Sprite Step-Off Competition at Southern University. As part of this local qualifying competition, every step team volunteered at the Boys & Girls Club the day of the event. More than 80 "steppers" volunteered at the Club's Park Forest site. Steppers taught Club members a step routine as well as provided small group discussions about the importance of education and the requirements needed to go to college.



(above) Stella Ringer and Ronald McDonald present Carlos Daniels, Boys & Girls Club Director of Programs, with \$4,500 for the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Baton Rouge on behalf of the Sprite Step-Off Competition.



Get Involved!

Opportunities for You to Support Your Boys & Girls Club.

John A. Manda, Jr. Memorial Golf Classic - June 7

For the past 14 years, Manda Fine Meats has hosted the John A. Manda, Jr. Memorial Golf Classic benefitting the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Baton Rouge's after-school and summer programs. This year, the tournament will be held at Copper Mill Golf Club on Monday, June 7. This tournament has consistently grown over time, becoming a rewarding fundraiser and a much loved event. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for the event or putting together a team, visit www.brclubs.org or call us at (225)383-3928. We hope everyone can come out for a day of fun and support for a great cause!



Read Aloud Volunteers

This summer, the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Baton Rouge is proud to be hosting two Freedom School sites at Forest Heights Academy and University Terrace. 150 Club members will attend this program beginning June 21. One aspect of the program asks community member to serve as "read aloud guests." Everyday, one adult comes out and reads their favorite childhood book to Club members. This is one way to get involved in the Club this summer. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Onya Carter, Director of Volunteer Services, at onya@brclubs.org.

The Freedom Schools program was established in 1973 by Children's Defense Fund. This program works hard to ensure each child is equipped with the necessary skills to succeed in life. It boosts each student's motivation to read, and generates a more positive attitude towards learning, while connecting the needs of children and families to the resources of their communities.

A Day to BE...

The Taco Bell Foundation for Teens is sponsoring "A Day to BE..." a new initiative for the Boys & Girls Club. On Tuesday, June 29, Club members will learn from local business and community leaders during a morning of job shadowing. You can get involved and share insights on exactly what it is to "BE like you." For more information, please contact Chelsey Laborde, Resource Development Associate, at (225)383-3928 or visit www.brclubs.org for more information.

The Taco Bell Teen Experience Grant is a part of the national strategy to end America's high school dropout crisis. The purpose of this grant is to create more opportunities for real-world learning focused on career planning, academic success and community service.

Board of Governors

Chris Funes
Our Lady of the Lake

Renee Furr
Community Volunteer

Christopher Jones
Keogh, Cox & Wilson

Perry Leslie
KPMG

Michael McKay
Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann, L.L.C.

Pat R. Van Burklee
Boys & Girls Club

Board of Trustees

Joe Alton
Capital One

Verge Ausberry, Jr.
LSU Athletic Department

Trey Cloud
Jones Walker

Jason DeCuir
Attorney at Law

Lynn Dickerson
Community Volunteer

Chris Funes
Our Lady of the Lake

Trey Godfrey
Cyntreniks, L.L.C.

Victoria Griffin
Baton Rouge Coca-Cola

Norman Landry
The Mall at Cortana

Tommy LeJeune
Faulk & Winkler, L.L.C.

Danny McConnell
McMakin Financial

John McDermott
Taylor Porter

Pat Minor
Manda Fine Meats

Robert Sindelar
Community Volunteer

Adam Smith
EBR School System

Thomas Spradley
Spradley & Spradley, Inc.

Chad Sullivan
Keogh, Cox & Wilson

Thomas Temple, Jr.
Breazle, Schse & Wilson, L.L.P.

Erin Wilder-Doomes
Phelps Dunbar, L.L.P.

Follow Us!



www.brclubs.org

BE GREAT

Our Mission: to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.