

Summer

NEWSLETTER 2025



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KICKING OFF THE SCHOOL YEAR WITH COMMUNITY, FUN & SUPPORT

On July 25, 2025, the Boys & Girls Club of Joliet hosted a Back to School Event for club members and their families. Youth enjoyed a fun-filled day with cotton candy, an indoor bouncy house, a barbecue lunch, and other activities to commemorate the new school year.

In addition to the festivities, community partners joined us to share resources with families and connect with youth about upcoming opportunities. Mr. Craig Lockhart, a TRIO representative, met with middle and high school students to talk about program opportunities, provide study prep materials, and answer questions. The Scouts also shared exciting news about launching new teen programs and ways for youth to get involved in activities already happening at the Club.



Parents had the chance to participate in a brief nutrition presentation from the Illinois Extension program, while Trinity Services provided information about resources available through their counseling center.

The Boys & Girls Club of Joliet would also like to thank those who made this event possible. Thanks to the generous support of Amazon New Lenox, Victory Cathedral Worship Center, and Silver Cross Circle of the Kings Daughters and Sons Inc., the Club was able to provide 140 backpacks filled with school supplies to members and their families. We are truly grateful for their generosity in helping our youth start the school year on a high note.

This event not only celebrated the return to school but also helped prepare our youth and families for a successful year ahead.



SUMMER 2025 PROGRAM STATISTICS

286

Number of Youth Enrolled

5,678

**Number of Meals/
Snacks Served**

100%

**Parents surveyed said their child benefited
from the summer program.**

100%

**Parents surveyed said they would
recommend the program to
other families.**

100%

**Parents surveyed the program helped
their child stay active, engaged,
and learning.**



**Parents have shared their appreciation for
the impact the Club has on their children:**

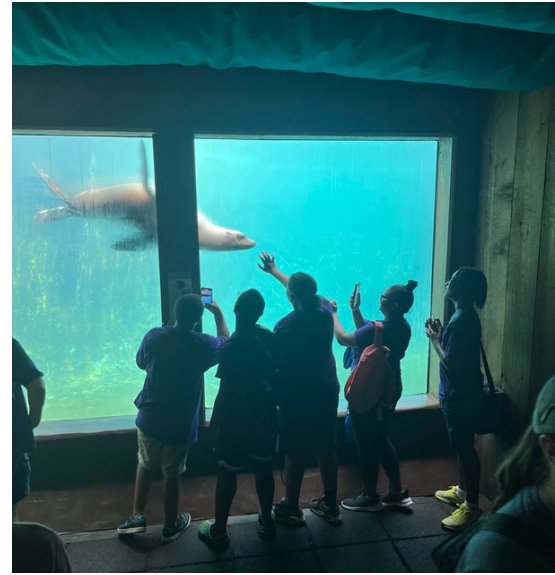
“Helps teach social skills.”

**“Allows kids to interact with each
other while supervised, and
encourages them to stay active.”**

“100% happy with the program.”



Summer on the Go: Joliet Slammers, Family Fun & Wild Adventures



Field trips are all about adventure and fun! They give our youth the chance to try new experiences, share laughs with friends, and make lasting memories—while also exploring opportunities beyond their community.



Powered by Our Partners

Through partnerships with **Buffalo Wild Wings Foundation** and **Give Something Back**, the Club was able to provide summer employment opportunities for ten young people ages 16–24 as part of the Summer Youth Employment Program.



Old Navy partnered with the Club to provide workforce readiness opportunities for our high school youth, helping them build skills and prepare for future career success.



Club teens took part in a College and Career Exploration visit at **All About U Barber College**, where they learned about the barbering profession, entrepreneurship, and the path to owning a business.



The Your Foot, My Foot Foundation hosted a 4-week soccer camp for Club members, giving youth the opportunity to learn new skills and techniques while building confidence on the field.

Powered by Partners

The **Kids Golf Foundation** gave club members the chance to build new skills on the golf course! The foundation supplied equipment and a full curriculum, making it possible for members to learn and practice the game.

A special thank you goes to BCG Joliet Board Member, Mr. James Holifield, for leading the sessions and teaching our youth the mechanics of golf. Members practiced at the Club throughout the summer and wrapped up their experience with a visit Inwood Golf Course, where they had the chance to practice on the driving range and experience playing out on the green.



Club members headed to **Strike and Spare II in Lockport** for a fun and engaging bowling experience. While enjoying time on the lanes, they also picked up the basics of the game—focusing on stance, aim, and delivery—while strengthening teamwork and sportsmanship skills.

These bowling opportunities were made possible thanks to the support of the Buffalo Wild Wings Foundation and the Kids Bowl Free program.



United Way of Will County
Funded Community Partner

UPCOMING EVENTS

JOIN US FOR A MEMORABLE EVENING!

REWIND & RECONNECT
ALUMNI EVENT



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF JOLIET

Whether you were a member in the '70s, '90s, or 2000s – this night is for YOU.

Welcome Back This event is free, but RSVPs are encouraged



Thursday, October 9th 2025 226 E Clinton St, Joliet, IL, 60432
Starts @ 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

BACK DOWN MEMORY LANE

The Boys & Girls Club of Joliet is excited to welcome everyone to our Rewind & Reconnect Alumni Event on Thursday, October 9 from 5:30 - 7 pm! This special evening is a chance for former members, friends of the Club, and all who have been touched by our community to come together.

The evening will include Club tours, the Hollenbeck Family Scoreboard Dedication, light refreshments, and—most importantly—a chance to reconnect with old friends and make new memories. This is a free event. Hope to see you there!

bgcjoliet.com for more information

Rotary Club of Joliet Cash Raffle

Thank You to the Rotary Club of Joliet for selecting the Boys & Girls Club of Joliet to be the recipient of its \$40,000 Rotary Raffle Proceeds. Starting September 9 through October 21st, you can go online and show support to the Rotary Club of Joliet and the George Werden Boys & Girls Club by clicking on the link below.

For over 125 years, the Rotary Club of Joliet has made a significant impact on the quality of life in the community. Proceeds from this year's raffle will fund the renovation of the George Werden Buck Boys and Girls Club swimming pool room wall. The wall facing Eastern Avenue (directly across from Joliet Central High School) is currently boarded up with deteriorating wood, glass panels and framing beyond repair. Renovation of the wall will enhance energy efficiency, natural lighting and community aesthetics and provide a strong barrier to potential vandalism and inclement weather benefitting 250 club members who use the pool as well as the community.

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/79999769-9130-4cd5-bdc2-16e17e2b49bf>

Boys & Girls Club Annual Campaign



GIVE HOPE

The Boys & Girls Club of Joliet has set an ambitious **Annual Campaign Goal of \$350,000** to support its vital programs for youth in the community. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the club has already raised **\$246,579.52—achieving 70% of its goal.**

We are **Incredibly Grateful** for the generous donations we've received so far through our Annual Campaign. **These contributions are already making a big impact—helping us prepare for an exciting and enriching summer for our Club members.**

Here's how your support is helping:

Transportation – Ensuring safe and reliable travel for field trips and daily activities

New Teen Space – Providing furniture and supplies to create a welcoming environment for our teens

Summer Scholarships – Assisting families in need so every child has access to our programs

Program Supplies – Stocking up on materials for hands-on learning and creative projects

Fun Fridays – Covering food, games, and entertainment to celebrate each week

Operational Support – Keeping our facilities running smoothly and safely



GIVE HOPE today by making a one-time gift or becoming a monthly donor. Your support makes a lasting impact.

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