

CLUB NEWS

Spring 2026



Honoring Our Graduating Seniors



As graduation approaches, we are proud to celebrate the many Club members preparing to take their next steps beyond high school. Our graduating seniors have grown in so many ways at the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence — as students, leaders, athletes, role models, and young people with bright futures ahead. While each journey is unique, they all leave a lasting impact on our Club community. In this section, we highlight two seniors whose stories reflect the resilience, growth, and potential we are honored to see in so many graduates.



Meet Rauzilin O., Our 2026 Youth of the Year!

Rauzilin O., a senior at Central Catholic High School and longtime member of the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence, has been named our 2026 Youth of the Year — an honor recognizing leadership, service, academic commitment, and dedication to community. Since joining the Club at age nine, Rauzilin has grown into a remarkable young leader whose resilience, heart, and determination inspire others.

At BGCL, Rauzilin found a second home where she built confidence, formed meaningful relationships, and discovered her potential. Through sports, volunteering, and caring staff, she learned to embrace new opportunities and grow into a young woman committed to giving back. Her story reflects what is possible when young people are supported, encouraged, and empowered to lead.

As she advances to the next level of Youth of the Year competition, the opportunity to earn a national scholarship could help ease the financial burden of college for her family. Raised by a single mother supporting Rauzilin and her three brothers, she understands how life-changing this opportunity could be — opening doors for her future while honoring the family behind her.

Meet Javier L., a Record-Breaking Leader on and off the Court



Javier L., an 18-year-old senior at Central Catholic High School, has made a lasting impact at BGCL through his leadership, discipline, and growth on and off the court. A Club member since fifth grade, Javier first came to BGCL to be around friends and play basketball, but over time, the Club became a place where he learned values that shaped him beyond the game.

Through academic basketball, Keystone, service, and working at the Club, Javier credits staff and coaches with helping him understand that success is about more than what happens on the court. As he shared, "Because of BGCL, I understand life's values and how they translate not only to the basketball court, but to being a better student, a better brother, a better athlete, a better friend, and eventually a better person in my community."

That mindset has fueled an exceptional high school career. This year, Javier became Central Catholic's all-time leading scorer, joined the 1,500-point club, and helped lead one of the top teams in the state. As he prepares to attend Brandeis University, his story reflects the power of hard work, strong values, and a community that believes in you.



Congrats grads! We are so proud of you all!



CLUB HAPPENINGS

Dude Lab Takes Flight with Raytheon's Parachute Challenge



Club members put their creativity and problem-solving skills to the test during a special Dude Lab activity led by Raytheon volunteers. Youth designed and built parachutes for small monkey figurines, testing different shapes and sizes to see which could lift their monkey through a simulated wind tunnel.

As they tested and adjusted their parachutes, members explored air flow, lift, drag, and design while learning that engineering often means experimenting, making changes, and trying again. Thank you to Raytheon for bringing this engaging STEM experience to BGCL and helping science and engineering come to life in a playful, memorable way.

See our young engineers in action!



Members Find Their Voice in Our Recording Studio



Inside the new recording studio, members are making the most of the space by creating and recording their own podcasts! One member, Cecilia, has already launched her own five-minute podcast series, Interviews with Cecilia, where she leads conversations with staff, Club members, alumni, and friends of the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence.

With support from Ryan, Cecilia designed the cover art for her series and is learning every step of the process — from recording and editing to posting episodes on YouTube. Through this hands-on project, members are building confidence, creativity, communication skills, and real-world media experience, one episode at a time.

Torch Club Gives Back to Salem Animal Rescue

Torch Club members recently put their leadership and compassion into action by purchasing food and toys for animals at Salem Animal Rescue. Through this thoughtful service project, members helped support animals in need while learning the importance of giving back to the community.

Their kindness is a wonderful reminder that even small acts of service can make a meaningful difference — for people, pets, and the organizations that care for them.



Seventh Graders Build Interview Skills at Berkeley Conference

Twenty 7th grade Club members recently completed soft skills training at the Berkeley Mock Interview Conference, where they practiced interviewing with admissions officers from several area private schools. Members received helpful tips and personalized feedback, building confidence as they prepare for future academic opportunities.



Internship Opportunities Wanted!

We're seeking internship opportunities for our high school members. If you have openings available, contact Sarah Hogue at shogue@lawrencebgc.com.

Dear Friends & Supporters,

As we look ahead to another exciting summer at the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence, our team is preparing for seven weeks of enriching programs, new experiences, and a safe, supportive environment for the young people we serve. Summer remains one of our most meaningful seasons, filled with learning, growth, and connection. We are also seeking additional summer internship placements for high school members and college students through our workforce development program. Your partnership helps open doors, build confidence, and create pathways to future success. Thank you for your continued support.



Sincerely,
Markus Fischer, Executive Director

INSIDE OUR TECHNOLOGY CENTER



In our Technology Center, members get hands-on experience with tools and skills shaping the future. From 3D animation and printing to Minecraft Education, flight simulation, coding, Photoshop, graphic design, videography, and stop-motion animation, kids explore, create, and problem-solve. Through projects and our own film festival, they showcase their creativity while becoming inventors, designers, storytellers, and innovators.

Ready for Takeoff! Members Explore Flight Simulation

Members ages 10 and up can explore aviation through Microsoft Flight Simulator after completing training. They can take off from places like Logan Airport, follow real flights, see real-time air traffic, and experience changing weather conditions, all while building geography, map reading, compass, focus, and decision-making skills.

Ryan also created 3D-printed pilot wings members earn by completing challenges, including routes from Lawrence to Maine, Lawrence to Nantucket, and Vermont to Lawrence to Nantucket. After earning three wings, members receive a 3D Cessna 172 kit—the same model they fly in the simulator.



From Idea to Object: 3D Printing in Action

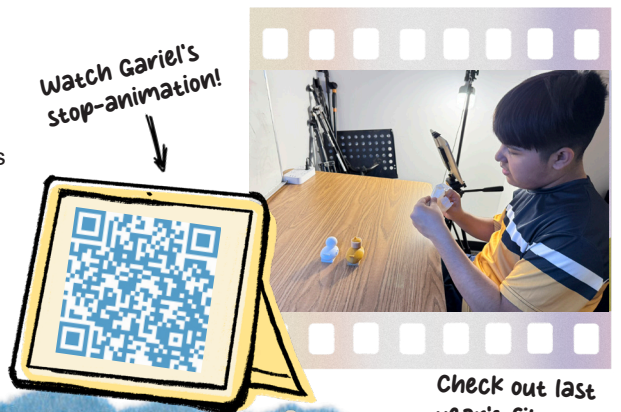
One exciting way members bring their ideas to life is through 3D printing. Using Tinkercad, they design 3D models and print creations with our Dremel DigiLab 3D printer. Many even create objects and figures for their stop-motion animation videos, turning designs into tools for storytelling and hands-on learning.

Members also learn they are not just making toys or figures—they are creating objects with purpose. One member noticed the computer headphones needed better storage, so he designed and printed custom holders that attach to tables. After measuring carefully so they fit securely and held the headphones properly, his design became a real solution now used throughout the Computer Room.

Stories in Motion: Stop Animation

Another favorite activity in the Tech Center is stop animation, where members create videos using scenes, characters, and often 3D figures they designed and printed themselves. They learn photography, storytelling, scene building, and video editing as they take dozens of photos and build their story frame by frame.

One talented and creative member, Gariel, has created a stop-animation series with multiple episodes and seasons. He designs characters, records voices, and uses a ukulele to create music in the recording studio. His recent episode was showcased in our film festival, highlighting the creativity and storytelling skills members develop.



The BGCL Film Festival Showcases Creativity

On April 21, our Technology Center hosted a special Film Festival celebrating members' hard work and creativity. The event welcomed 100 members and featured eight selected videos.

After months of creating, members shared stop-animation films, skits, and live performances. They wrote, directed, filmed, and edited projects with guidance from Ryan and Tristan. The festival gave members a chance to see their ideas come to life on screen while celebrated by peers.





BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF LAWRENCE

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A Day on the Course FORE Great Futures!



Get ready to hit the greens for one of our favorite events of the year! On June 15, supporters, community partners, and friends of the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence will come together for a day of golf, connection, and impact in support of the youth we serve.

Our annual Golf Tournament is more than a day on the course. It's a chance to invest in brighter futures for kids and teens while enjoying contests, great company, and our Silent and Live Auctions that evening — all in support of a mission that changes lives.



Upcoming Events to Remember:

- Awards Night → June 4
- Graduation Party → June 10
- Golf Tournament** → **June 15**
- Summer PB Funfest → June 25

Ways to Get Involved



Whether you donate an auction item, sponsor, or help spread the word, every contribution creates new possibilities for BGCL youth.

Visit our website for more info!



Interested?
Contact Sarah Hogue at
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or via (978) 683-2747 x128