



It's Time to Adopt your Ducks!

As part of their rigorous daily workout, 15,000 bright yellow ducks sporting fashionable black sunglasses, are swimming laps and lifting weights in preparation for the 12th Annual Rubber Duck Derby. This year's event will be held Saturday, May 15, at Clarks Bridge Park, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. "Adoptee" parents will wait anxiously in hopes of winning one of many great prizes including the Grand Prize - \$10,000 Cash which was donated by an anonymous donor in support of the Derby.

"This is always such a fun event and this year we have added new events and activities that should appeal to everyone," said John Gram, chairman. "We would like to ask everyone to help by adopting ducks for \$5 each and then come



Scenes from last year's Derby.

out on race day for a fun filled day for the entire family. For those who like to run or just enjoy a good party, we have added the 5K Derby Dash & Bash which will be held Friday evening on May 14th."



New Expanded Event!

5K Derby Dash & Bash - Friday, May 14, 5-9:30 pm downtown Gainesville. We are putting a fun spin on the typical 5K road race by mixing racing, entertainment, and food in a modern social fitness event.

Rubber Duck Derby events - Saturday, May 15, 10-4 Duck Fest - festival atmosphere, arts & crafts, jewelry, pottery, entertainment, health screenings, kids' nest, chicken-que and much more!

V.I.D. (Very Important Duck) Corporate Race - Exclusive party and race for corporate sponsors.

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Boys & Girls Clubs

Summer Program Registration

May 1 • 9 am - 1 pm • Teen Center



Looking for a fun, educational, and affordable option for your child during the summer? Look no further!

During the summer, kids are involved in a variety of engaging activities, all of which are under the supervision of adult professionals, including the Boys & Girls Clubs' five core program areas.

The BGCHC plays a powerful role in making summer a time for learning while still having fun.

Diverse daily activities effectively transform the entire Club into a "learning center," providing youth the opportunity to learn while participating in different activities such as baseball, soccer, swimming, arts & crafts, dance and drama. In addition, children can participate in field trips to swimming pools, bowling alleys and movie theaters. Space is limited and is taken on a first-come, first-serve basis.

CLUB FIT



"I like Club Fit because we play games and I lose a lot of weight and get stronger and faster."

Juvenul Galvan, age 12



Club Fit is a multi-faceted program designed to promote health and wellness in our youth. Club Fit gets kids moving and thinking about health and fitness on a daily basis. The program is designed to keep participants moving for an hour every day and, more importantly, having fun at the same time.



"I love to be at Club Fit because we play so many games and do so much exercise that we get hot and I lose weight - now my pants fit."

Mary Holland, age 11

Best Buy gives back



We were absolutely delighted to have employees from the local Best Buy and the Best Buy district office come out to our Teen Center for the Martin Luther King Day of Service to give it a fresh coat of paint as well as some much needed cleaning. Best Buy is very committed to our Clubs and we appreciate their investment into our kids!

Chess Club - an activity to enjoy



BGCHC youth enjoying a game of chess.

If you're wondering what type of activities your child might participate in at a Boys and Girls Club, well here is one you might not have thought of - Chess. Thanks to the efforts of Dennis Little, chess club instructor and volunteer, the BGCHC Chess Club was formed. Made up of youth from the local Club, the group has competed in several competitions in the metro Atlanta area sponsored by the Atlanta Chess Club. The Club was formed to expose youth to the game of chess, which helps improve critical thinking and concentration and combines fun, good-natured competition and strategy. Most of the youth in the club have never played chess before.

In the News

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Hall County means a lot of things to a lot of people. It is a safe haven for kids with nowhere else to go. It's a place where many within our commu-



Joe Ethier

nity have grown, learned and became better citizens because of their involvement. It is an organization where donors can truly make a difference in the lives of the people of Hall County. It is a movement that believes in the potential of every child. But at its core, this Club is a family with 1,400 kids, 30 staff, 33 board members and countless supporters and volunteers, all working toward a common goal - improving the future of Hall County....one child at

a time.

Darrell is a 9 year old at White Sulphur Elementary who was having problems with his grades. He felt like he wasn't good enough or smart enough to get better. In 2008, Darrell started coming to the Club every day. At first, he sought out attention through negative ways. However, as time went by we noticed improvement. We watched Darrel improve his grades from a 77 average to a 92. We watched him become a model student because someone at the Club cared.

Darrel is one of hundreds who walk through our doors on a daily basis. Together, we work to help each child. Because of you, we are helping to shape the future leaders of our community. Simply put, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Hall County works.

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

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Teryan Rucker Wins State Youth of the Year

Teryan Rucker, a 12-year member of Boys & Girls Clubs of Hall County, has been named the Youth of the Year for the state of Georgia by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA). In addition to winning this prestigious title, Rucker will also receive a \$1,000 scholarship from the Reader's Digest Foundation. He is among hundreds of Youth of the Year winners across the country recognized by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) for his sound character, leadership skills and willingness to give back to the community.



Teryan Rucker.

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.

This summer, Rucker will compete against other youth from states located in BGCA's Southeast Region. If named regional winner, he will be awarded a \$10,000 college scholarship and advance to the national competition in Washington. 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.

"Our Club is extremely proud of Teryan and his accomplishments," stated Joe Ethier, chief professional officer, Boys & Girls Clubs of Hall County. "Clubs serve over 100,000 young people in the state of Georgia and the fact that he has been recognized as the leader of that group is staggering. This award is the first of its kind for a

member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Hall County and is a testament to his hard work, our staff and the support of our community. He is a shining example of the good work that happens within our walls on a daily basis."

Teryan Rucker attributes much of his success in school and future aspirations to the life lessons he learned while at the Clubs. Raised by his mom, a single-parent, Rucker's life took a tragic turn on January 1, 2009 when his mother suddenly died in his arms. The first person he called was the director of the Boys & Girls Clubs Teen Center, Derrick Caldwell. "I knew that he would talk to me and help me with anything," Rucker said. "He told me I could let this tear me down, send me to the streets or I could let this be an inspiration to become everything I dreamed of and fulfill my mamma's dreams. The

Boys & Girls Club has given me so much over the years and now I want to give back by helping other children and the community by being active in community service clubs like the Keystone Club."

Keystone Club is a leadership and service club for boys and girls ages 14-18.

Rucker attends Gainesville High school where he was the captain of the football team and is involved with various clubs including F.C.A and the Academics Club. He believes "education is the key to success". Despite the various obstacles facing youth today, he has found the motivation within himself to remain strong minded and career driven. Rucker knows that he needs his education to be successful in life and will attend North Greenville College in the fall where he has received a scholarship to play football.