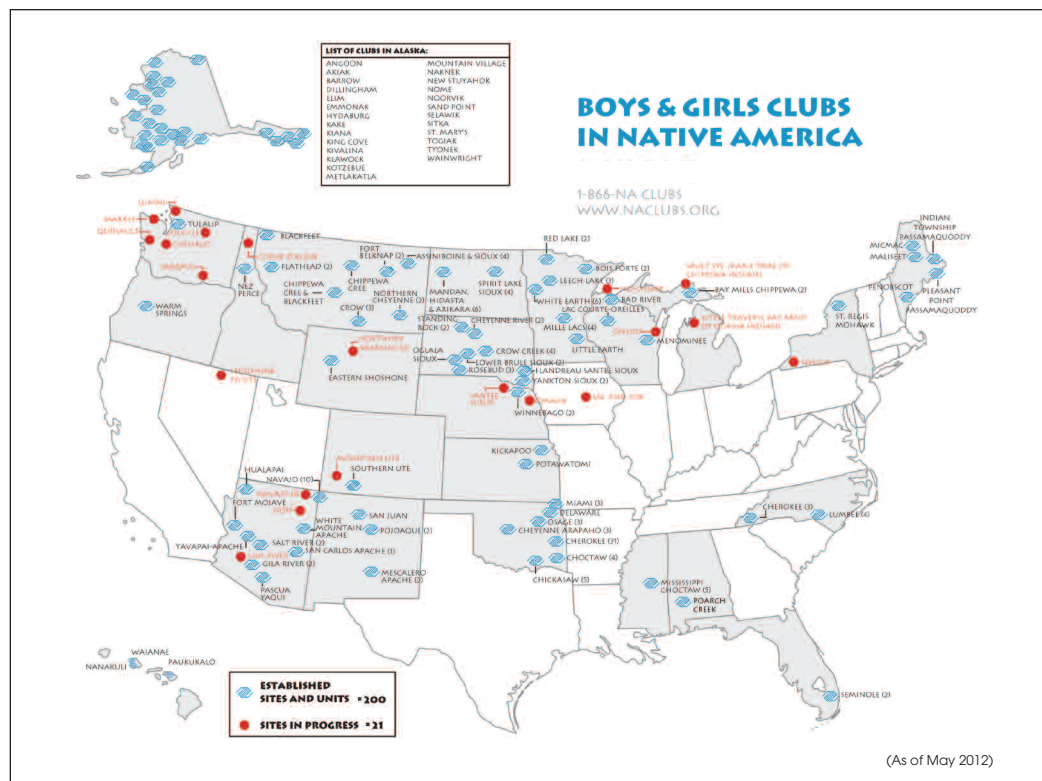


Boys & Girls Clubs in Indian Country Forging New Path

Club was established in the Oglala Sioux community in Pine Ridge, South Dakota. This first Club on Native American Lands marked the beginning of a truly unique collaboration. Since 1992, Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) has served as a catalyst bringing together Native American communities and tribal governments, the Federal government, and corporate and other non-profit organizations to establish nearly 200 Clubs, serving nearly 90,000 Native youth in 24 states, representing 90 different American Indian, Alaska Native, and Hawaiian tribal communities. Today, BGCA continues its pledge to assist communities and expand youth development in Indian Country.

By building upon a proven youth development model that has evolved over 150 years, BGCA is committed to addressing the problems and issues unique to Native American lands – rural locations, high poverty rates, and shortage of trained youth professionals. BGCA has contributed over \$50 million in federal funds for Native Clubs, and has produced support materials and customized training specifically focused on Indian Country needs. The Native American National Advisory Committee (NANAC), a special advisory group convened in 1997, provides leadership and support for this singular mission. The Native American Sustainability Fund was then established to acquire funds to sustain existing quality Clubs and to obtain funds to develop new Clubs in Indian country. A case statement, *Boys & Girls Clubs on Indian Lands: A Program That Works*, was published in 2003 to help promote this effort.

BGCA is especially proud of several special initiatives in Indian Country, including the 2002 opening of a \$6.2 million state-of-the-art Club in Pine Ridge, South Dakota; a partnership with the Navajo Nation (the largest reservation in the United States) that includes the opening and maintenance of many Clubs on their land; a pilot program for G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training),



to help youth avoid involvement in youth violence, gangs, and criminal activity; and a pilot program for SMART Moves, BGCA's award-winning alcohol and drug prevention program which led to the publication of *SMART Moves Make SMART Kids: Adapted for Indian Country*; in partnership with the Indian Health Service and National Congress of American Indians, *On the T.R.A.I.L. to Diabetes Prevention*, a national program to promote awareness of diabetes and the development of healthy lifestyles, currently implemented in 39 Native American Clubs; and a program establishing a National Native American Mentoring Program at multiple Clubs sites in partnership with the Navajo Nation and National Congress of American Indians.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America offers Clubs a working plan for long-term sustainability – a matter critical to Indian Country in serving generations to come. This approach includes continuous national and local fundraising efforts, as well as annual Club planning guidelines, to ensure Clubs will continue to offer positive alternatives for Native American youth. ♣

For more information about Boys and Girls Clubs, call 866-NACLUBS or visit www.naclubs.org.