

HERNANDO COUNTY EXPANSION

Frequently Asked Questions

It is important to clarify that Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Tampa Bay is a distinct and separate 501(c)(3) organization and is not affiliated with the former Boys & Girls Clubs of Hernando County. Our entry into the Hernando County community represents a fresh start, backed by nearly a century of operational excellence and financial stability. In partnership with the Hernando County Department of Parks & Recreation, BGCGTB will offer programs and services at a facility in Coach Lorenzo Hamilton Sr. Park beginning Summer 2026.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Q: Is this the same organization that previously operated in Hernando County?

A: No. It is important to clarify that Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Tampa Bay (BGCGTB) is a distinct and separate 501(c)(3) organization and is not affiliated with the former Boys & Girls Clubs of Hernando County. Our entry into the Hernando County community represents a fresh start, backed by nearly a century of operational excellence and financial stability.

Since 1926, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Tampa Bay has provided youth throughout the Tampa Bay region with safe, inclusive spaces, best-in-class programming, and life-changing opportunities. As part of our organization's 2026 Centennial celebration, and in partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs of America, we are honored to officially expand our service area to bring these trusted, high-impact programs to the families of Hernando County.

ABOUT THE NEW CLUB

Q: Where will the new Club be located?

A: At Lorenzo Hamilton Park, 899 Kennedy Blvd., Brooksville, which is a county-owned facility with indoor activity space, restrooms, kitchen access, and large outdoor recreation areas.

Q: When will the Club open?

A: Summer programming will start June 8 through July 31.

Q: Who can attend?

A: Elementary-age youth, beginning with students from Brooksville Elementary, with plans to expand to additional schools as capacity allows.

Q: Will transportation be provided?

A: BGCGTB plans to bus students from Brooksville Elementary to the Club during the School year.



Q: How much does it cost?

A: \$75 per week for the Summer. School year fees TBD.

Q: What programs will be offered?

A:

- Homework help & academic support
- Health & wellness programming
- STEM and technology activities
- Sports, recreation, and outdoor play
- Social-emotional development
- Games, arts, enrichment, and leadership development
- Daily snacks and structured activities

DIFFERENTIATION FROM THE PREVIOUS CLUB

Q: What happened to the old Boys & Girls Club of Hernando?

A: The former organization closed independently in 2024 due to circumstances unrelated to Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Tampa Bay. While the brand name is shared nationally, each Club is operated by its own local board and leadership team.

Q: How is BGCGTB different?

A:

- 63 Club and Community Impact Programs currently operating
- Strong fiscal stability and national recognition
- Proven transportation, staffing, and safety protocols
- Centralized HR, Finance, Operations, and Safety departments
- Longstanding partnerships with school districts and municipalities
- Evidence-based programs backed by BGCA

Q: What safeguards are in place to ensure this Club does not close like the former one?

A:

- Dedicated operational funding
- Robust governance, financial controls, and safety systems
- Professional Club Directors trained in youth development
- Nationally standardized programming
- Partnership with the County for facility use



COMMUNITY RELATIONS & TRUST

Q: How is BGCGTB engaging the local community?

A: Through ongoing meetings with:

- Hernando County Parks & Recreation
- Brooksville Elementary leadership
- Local government officials
- Families and neighborhood partners
- Youth-serving organizations

STAFFING & OPERATIONS

Q: Who will lead the Club?

A: A full-time Club Director and additional support staff as needed.

Q: What are the operating hours?

A: Summer hours will be 7:30am - 6pm, Monday - Friday. School year hours TBD.

Q: How many youth will the Club serve?

A: Approximately 40 youth to start, with plans to expand.

MEDIA & PR

Q: What should I do if contacted by media to speak about this expansion?

A: All media requests should be directed immediately to Cassandra Thomas, Chief Marketing Officer (cthomas@bgctampa.org). Please refrain from providing comments and/or quotes to media unless approved by Freddy Williams, President & CEO.

Additional Questions?

Please contact Mandy Taylor, Chief Operating Officer at mtaylor@bgctampa.org