

## **Boys & Girls Clubs of America and Guitar Center partner to host “Music of Tomorrow” event for youth**

**Atlanta, GA** — Oct. 2, 2024 — The two organizations, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and Guitar Center, have partnered to foster youth creativity through the creation of a new event called “Music of Tomorrow.” This event is designed to inspire youth to explore musical composition and creation by hosting various workshops. These workshops will take place at the [Ford Amphitheater](#) in Colorado Springs, Colorado, beginning at noon on June 21, 2025.

Gabe Dalporto, CEO of Guitar Center, said the company will provide music instructors, instruments and recording equipment for the workshops held throughout the event. Doing this, Dalporto hopes to impart a passion for music to the next generation of musicians.

“Coming from a family of musicians, some of my fondest memories growing up were of visiting Guitar Center stores with my father where we obsessed over the incredible guitars,” [Dalporto](#) said.

To conclude the “Music of Tomorrow” event, the BGCA and Guitar Center will host giveaways, and offer attendees prizes and employment opportunities. These include:

- Giveaway
  - The “Music of Tomorrow” contest winner will be gifted an instrument of choice from the Guitar Center.
  - One year of free music lessons
  - One year of free membership at BGCA (includes BGCA’s Music Maker program)
- Internships and Employment opportunities
  - Musicians, mentors and college students in attendance will be offered internship credit and employment opportunities at BGCA and Guitar Center.
- Gifts
  - Discount coupons for use at any Guitar Center across the country
- Scholarships
  - Needs-based scholarships of \$500 and \$1,000 for high school students pursuing higher education in music
- Donations

- Throughout the event, attendees will be able to make donations to BGCA and the Guitar Center. These donations will be used to host further events and support youth who desire to pursue learning an instrument.

The Guitar Center and BGCA aim to create a space that is accommodating and supportive of parents and guardians, regardless of background, and to involve individuals from the community in supporting an important cause —the youth who are the future of our nation.

“After all, providing great futures for kids and teens depends on all of us, and the time to take responsibility and act is now,” said [Jim Clark](#), CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

For more information about “Music of Tomorrow” or to contact the BGCA team, call our headquarters at [404-487-5700](#) or submit a [contact form](#).

### **About the Boys & Girls Clubs of America**

[Boys & Girls Clubs of America](#) is a nonprofit youth center founded in the 1860s. We support youth by providing positive outlets for creative self-expression and focusing on leadership skills and academic excellence. With over 5,000 clubs nationwide, the BGCA provides after-school and summer programs to accommodate your needs as a parent. The BGCA is [headquartered](#) in Atlanta, Georgia.

### **About Guitar Center**

[Guitar Center](#) is a leading music instrument and equipment retailer that also offers music lessons. It caters to seasoned and beginner musicians and carries a variety of instrument brands, including Fender, Epiphone, Gibson and Ibanez. [Founded](#) by [Wayne Mitchell](#) in 1959, Guitar Center is headquartered in Westlake Village, California.

### **Media Contact**

Anna Vogt | Colorado State University | [avogt120@colostate.edu](mailto:avogt120@colostate.edu)

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Anna Vogt  
JTC 351  
News Release  
October 2, 2024

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## **Media Alert**

### **Guitar Center and The Boys & Girls Club of America: Invitation to attend the “Music of Tomorrow” event**

**Colorado Springs, Colo. — Oct. 10, 2024** — The Guitar Center and The Boys & Girls Clubs of America are immensely excited to invite you to attend the “Music of Tomorrow” event, which will take place June 21, 2025 — World Music Day. This monumental one-day event will highlight music as a developmental tool for children.

**What:** Media opportunities will be made available (and accessible) to capture the “Music of Tomorrow” event. Attendees are encouraged to take photographs or videos to get coverage of this first-of-its-kind event.

**When:** Saturday, June 21, 2025: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Where:** Ford Amphitheater, 95 Spectrum Loop, Colorado Springs, CO 80921

**Details:** Due to the nature of “Music of Tomorrow,” the event will be held for one day only July 21, 2025, beginning at 10 a.m. The Guitar Center and Boys & Girls Club of America will allow attendees to participate in live music workshops. A music competition will highlight children’s passion for music. During this event, children will be awarded scholarships, memberships and gifts.

#### **Photo/Video/Interview Opportunities:**

- The “Music of Tomorrow” contest will begin promptly at 2:30 p.m.
- After the contest, prizes and scholarships will be distributed at 4 p.m.
- Guitar Center and BGCA music workshops will be hosted all day starting at 10 a.m.
  - Music instructors and other professionals in the industry will hold staff workshops.
- Guitar Center and BGCA representatives will be present to answer questions and connect.

#### **Media contacts for RSVP or questions:**

Anna Vogt | Colorado State University | [avogt120@colostate.edu](mailto:avogt120@colostate.edu)

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## About

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America is a nonprofit organization that boasts numerous benefits for youth attendance. The BGCA's history began in 1860 in Hartford, Connecticut (Boys & Girls Clubs of America, n.d.-b). The BGCA state that their [mission](#) is to "enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens."



*(Photo credit: The Boys & Girls Clubs of America/<https://www.bgca.org/about-us/>)*

## 2022 Youth Outcomes : Our Positive Impact on Youth

According to the BGCA's youth outcome data and [2022 National Outcomes Report](#):

- "97% of Club teens expect to graduate from high school, and 88% expect to complete some kind of post-secondary education" (Boys & Girls Clubs of America, n.d.-a).
- "94% feel safe from harm" (Boys & Girls Clubs of America, 2021).
- "87% get to explore new things" (Boys & Girls Clubs of America, 2021).

[Click here](#) to donate to the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and support local youth!

**Media Contact:** Anna Vogt | Colorado State University | [avogt120@colostate.edu](mailto:avogt120@colostate.edu)

## Commonly Asked Questions

**Q: How do the Boys & Girls Clubs of America ensure your child's safety?**

**A:** The BGCA requires staff and volunteers to adhere to strict safety policies and protocols. These include background checks, mandatory reporting, safety committees, expert training, and reference requirements. To learn more about BGCA's safety policies, [click here](#).

**Q: What programs are offered at the BGCA?**

**A:** The BGCA offers many programs — some of which have different age requirements—that can help inspire passion and interest in children. This includes programs in sports, the arts, workforce readiness and education. Do you want to explore the programs at the BGCA? [Click here](#) to view all the programs offered at the BGCA.

**Q: How much does enrollment at the BGCA cost?**

**A:** Enrollment fees vary depending upon club location. [Click here](#) to find a club near you and learn more! For more answers to questions or concerns, visit [the Boys & Girls Clubs of America](#). To directly contact the BGCA, fill out this [contact form](#).

## References

Boys & Girls Clubs of America. (n.d.-a). *Club impact*. Boys & Girls Clubs of America.  
<https://www.bgca.org/about-us/club-impact/>

Boys & Girls Clubs of America. (n.d.-b). *Our mission & story*. Boys & Girls Clubs of America.  
<https://www.bgca.org/about-us/our-mission-story/>

Boys & Girls Clubs of America. (2021, January 5). *2020 NYOI national outcomes report, Boys & Girls Clubs of America*. Boys & Girls Clubs of America . [https://issuu.com/bgca/docs/20-yodv-0389-2020\\_nyoi\\_national\\_outcomes\\_report\\_fi](https://issuu.com/bgca/docs/20-yodv-0389-2020_nyoi_national_outcomes_report_fi)



## Gabe Dalporto | Chief Executive Officer

Gabe Dalporto became chief executive officer of Guitar Center in October 2023; he succeeded Ron Japinga. His role includes overseeing Guitar Center operations. According to an official statement, Dalporto “brings to Guitar Center over 25 years of transformation experience at customer-centric organizations.”

*(Gabe Dalporto/Guitar Center)*

Prior to obtaining the title of CEO, Dalporto was part of Guitar Center's board of directors for nearly seven years, beginning in December 2018 and continuing until the present day. Dalporto achieved success with other companies including LendingTree — where he was the executive advisor to the CEO — and Udacity — where he held the title of CEO.

Clark attended the University of Florida and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, earning a bachelor's degree in nuclear science and a master's degree in nuclear engineering, respectively. His passion for Guitar Center runs deep. Clark states he looks forward “to continuing to enhance that same in-store experience for our customers while also leveraging my digital transformation expertise to meet customers wherever they shop. It's rare in life to have one's personal passions and professional interests align so perfectly, and I'm thrilled to lead such an iconic brand into its next phase of growth.”

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*(Jim Clark/The Boys & Girls Clubs of America)*

### **Jim Clark | President and CEO**

Jim Clark has been president and chief executive officer of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, based in Atlanta, Georgia, since January 2012. Clark manages 4,700 BGCA facilities nationwide, including branches located in U.S. military installations. As president and CEO, Clark has prioritized the organization, networking and digital expansion of the BGCA. Moreover, he has aimed at improving child safety policies and protocols.

Since Clark's inauguration as CEO, BGCA enrollment and membership accruement have increased by 30%. Similarly, BGCA revenue has increased 46%. Before becoming president and CEO, Clark served 10 years on the BGCA's board. From 2004 to 2011, he was the president and CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee. Clark is "dedicated to ensuring that every child has access to the resources and opportunities needed to succeed."

Clark attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and obtained a degree in business administration. From 1979 to 2003, he worked in publishing at Journal Sentinel, a media outlet. During his 24-year tenure, he became senior vice president. Clark resides in Atlanta, Georgia, with his wife, Samantha, and their two children.

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## BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA

# November Newsletter

### For parents: How the Boys & Girls Clubs of America support youth development through music

Choreographed dancing and harmonized singing. Music blaring out to a crowd of proud parents and community members. This summarizes the brilliant performance of the [Fashion Queens](#), a youth group from the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, during the Youth of the Year event.

[Youth of the Year](#), held annually, aims to showcase the importance of leadership, among other traits and skills. However, music-based performances, like that of the Fashion Queens, highlight the importance of music as a developmental tool for youth.

According to [one article](#) from the National Library of Medicine, “Music may expose the child to challenges and multi-sensory experiences which enhance learning abilities and encourage cognitive development. In particular, music can also engage cognitive functions, such as planning, working memory, inhibition, and flexibility.

Furthermore, a [survey](#) from Guitar Center states that 82% of parents want their children to learn an instrument. Moreover, 55% of these respondents also support increasing musical education in school curriculum.

Interestingly, another [study](#) from the American Psychological Association states that youth who play an instrument and participate in music programs (like band and orchestra) have better academic performance.

The Fashion Queen’s performance during Youth of the Year is just one example of how music empowers young people at the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Through programs like [MusicMakers](#) and [Lyricism 101](#), the BGCA equips youth with skills that benefit them in the short and long term.

These programs serve as a potent reminder to parents that supporting youth in musical endeavors is not just about providing fun and entertainment — it’s an investment in their future. By making these opportunities accessible, the BGCA is helping to shape a generation equipped with resilience, creativity and the skills to succeed.

## Youth of the Year expanded: Who are the 2024-25 finalists

### National Youth of the Year

Youth of the Year, which began in 1947, is an annual event hosted by clubs throughout the nation to honor teens with exceptional leadership skills. Six teenagers are selected as finalists during the Youth of the Year Celebration. After, one regional teen and one military teen are given the title of BGCA spokesperson.

Other awards from the BGCA include Youth of the Month and Junior Youth of the Year. Unlike National Youth of the Year, Junior Youth of the Year is geared towards youth ages 10-13.

Concluding the National Youth of the Year Celebration, let's introduce you to this year's finalists:

**Taylor R.: National Military Youth of the Year | Rima B-B.: Midwest Youth of the Year**



**Rozaria D.S.: Northeast Youth of the Year | Kayleigh S.: Southwest Youth of the Year**



**Arya P.: Pacific Youth of the Year | Nico E.: National Youth of the Year**



**What to expect in 2025**

Teens interested in participating in this event have only months to prepare for the 2025 Youth of the Year Event. The 2025 Youth of the Year schedule goes as follows:

<b>Southwest Youth of the Year</b>	May 2025	Dallas, TX
<b>Southeast Youth of the Year</b>	June 12, 2025	Atlanta, GA
<b>Northeast Youth of the Year</b>	June 17, 2025	New York City, NY
<b>Midwest Youth of the Year</b>	June 26, 2025	Chicago, IL
<b>National Military Youth of the Year</b>	August 2025	Washington, DC
<b>National Youth of the Year</b>	September 2025	Los Angeles, CA

For more information about Youth of the Year, [click here](#).

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## The face behind the Boys & Girls Clubs of America

### Jim Clark | President and CEO



(Jim Clark/The Boys & Girls Clubs of America)

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### Jim Clark: "Music of Tomorrow" as an event for the local Colorado Springs, Colorado, community



Wrapping up Youth of the Year, we're thrilled to introduce our next major event: "Music of Tomorrow"! In partnership with Guitar Center, this one-day experience on June 21, 2025 — World Music Day — will offer young people in Colorado Springs a chance to explore instruments and participate in engaging music workshops.

We chose Colorado Springs as our host city to honor a community deeply connected to the Boys & Girls Clubs of America: the United States military. With five nearby installations, including Fort Carson and the U.S. Air Force Academy, this region is home to many military families. "Music of Tomorrow" celebrates these youth, creating a space for kids of all backgrounds to connect and explore music together.

Parents, this event is unique, blending music, community, and celebration. Scholarships will be awarded to high school students aiming to study music in college, and the Guitar Center will give the winner of our music competition an instrument of their choice. Join us from noon to 6:00 p.m. at Ford Amphitheater — it is accessible and open to all. For more information, reach out at 404-487-5700 or visit our website to learn more about our programs for youth of all ages.

#### **Ways to give: Donate to "Music of Tomorrow" and support local youth**

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America and Guitar Center are accepting donations for the "Music of Tomorrow" event in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Donations will help fund the music workshops, scholarship/gift giveaways, entertainment and music competition.

For those who want to contribute to this noteworthy event, [click here](#).

We thank you for your donations and for helping to make this event come to life!

Best Regards,

Jim Clark



## **BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA**

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## Who We Are



### Mission

“To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.”

### Contact Us

**Phone:** 404-487-5700

**Web:** <https://www.bgca.org/about-us/contact-us/>

**National Headquarters:** 1275 Peachtree Street NE Atlanta, GA 30309-3506



## About Us

### Life-enhancing programs

The Boys and Girls Clubs of America offer a variety of programs for club members ages 6-18, including areas of focus in:

- Sports & Recreation
- Education
- The Arts
- Workforce Readiness
- Character & Leadership

### Mentorship

Our mentorship program, which includes 400,000 staff and volunteers, encourages youth to explore interests and grow their strengths.



**BOYS & GIRLS  
CLUBS OF  
AMERICA**  
1275 Peachtree  
Street NE  
Atlanta, GA 30309

**BOYS &  
GIRLS  
CLUBS OF  
AMERICA**

*Great futures start here.*



## Commitment to Safety

### Safety Policies and Actions

Safety is of utmost importance. The BGCA requires staff and volunteers to adhere to strict safety policies and protocols. These include background checks, mandatory reporting, safety committees, expert training, and reference requirements.

However, it doesn't end there. Other policies, like reference requirements and safety assessments, are in place at all clubs.

We also offer youth resources, including the Child Safety Helpline and Crisis Text Line.

**According to our 2022 Youth Outcome report...**

**94%** of youth members feel safe from harm at their club location.

*“As a proud member of Boys & Girls Clubs of America’s National Child & Club Safety Task Force for the past 10 years, I’ve witnessed and applaud the organization’s continual commitment to protecting youth.”* – Chris Newlin, MS

LPC, Executive Director, National Children’s Advocacy Center

## How to Enroll

### Memberships

Visit <https://www.bgca.org/get-involved/find-a-club/> to find a BGCA club near you!

BGCA Memberships vary based upon location.

### Military



The Boys & Girls Clubs of America offer free or reduced annual memberships that provide your child with high-quality programs and caring mentors.

For more information, visit <https://www.bgca.org/about-us/military/>.

## Jim Clark: CEO of the BCGA

### A Message for Parents

*“As the nation’s leading youth-serving organization, Boys & Girls Clubs of America is working alongside local clubs and communities across the country to ensure what matters most to today’s youth matters to us all.”*

- **Jim Clark, CEO of the BGCA**



Front of business card



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF AMERICA**

**Back of business card**

# Anna Vogt

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*The Boys and Girls Clubs of America*

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## **Letter: Dual-enlisted military families and the struggle for childcare**

### **The Problem**

As part of a dual-enlisted military family, I often juggle many responsibilities. Let's face it; while the military offers some security, it can make other aspects of life difficult — especially if your spouse is also enlisted.

My husband and I tried to manage these duties together, but our conflicting schedules resulted in a balance of carefully constructed chaos. We had to start looking for an after-school program after our schedules changed because we would both get home two hours after my 9-year-old daughter would arrive home from school.

The Ft. Carson Army Base's Child Development Center (CDC) only accepts children up to 5 years old, and babysitters are costly. Neither my husband nor I have family in the state that could help us with this situation, and I was beginning to run out of sustainable options.

Conveniently, Colorado Springs, Colorado, is home to multiple Boys & Girls Clubs of America locations, two of which are near Ft. Carson Army Base. The BGCA is a nonprofit organization that offers after-school and summer programs for youth of all ages.

However, my foremost priority as a parent is my child's safety and security.

The BGCA's safety policies and practices echoed my resounding need for security. They've implemented several protocols to protect children, such as mandatory annual background checks, mandatory reporting and safety assessments.

### **The Outcome**

It's been four months since my daughter started attending the Boys & Girls Club of the Pikes Peak Region, and I couldn't be happier with my decision. She has started participating in various new clubs, her grades have risen, and she is making friends.

I'm grateful to the staff for being accommodating and communicative. They are helping to give my daughter the community she needs to thrive as a military brat.

Signature: *Mona Lisa*

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**\*Information about BGCA is found on: <https://www.bgca.org/>**

**Letter to editor: <https://gazette.com/editor/>**

**I chose The Gazette in Colorado Springs, Colorado, as my outlet. They have an Op-Ed section and give clear instructions on how to submit a letter to an editor. Moreover, they**

**distribute in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where my campaign will take place. If The Gazette's editor chose to accept my Op-Ed, I would reach my primary audience and increase my event's newsworthiness (but not in an obvious manner).**

**For The Gazette, an Op-Ed can be an opinion, editorial or letter column (many outlets with an Op/Ed section are newspapers). I believe that this Op-Ed (written by a fictional character inspired by my experience as a military wife and brat) would fall under the "letter" category of The Gazette's Op-Ed column.**

**This character isn't arguing or attempting to blatantly persuade the reader to believe or act on anything. She is merely a military parent sharing her story. Other letters on The Gazette's website are similar in that their goal is to inform the audience based on the writer's personal experience.**

**Additionally, the Op-Ed section of The Gazette is very alive. They publish content frequently (multiple times a week), and the newspaper's daily [readership](#) is 122,200 people on average. Only one editor is listed for the Op-Ed section, and I made the letter 300 words or under to get priority.**



## PSA Radio Script

### **15-second PSA**

At the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, we know that your child's safety is of the utmost importance, and we pride ourselves on taking the necessary steps to ensure we can help your child build a bright future.

Visit [bgca.org](http://bgca.org) for more information and to find a club near you!

### **30 second PSA**

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Visit [bgca.org](http://bgca.org) for more information and to find a club near you!

### **60 second PSA**

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We require all staff and volunteers to adhere to strict safety policies and protocols. These include background checks, mandatory reporting, safety committees, expert training, and reference requirements.

According to our 2022 Youth Outcome report, 94% of youth members feel safe from harm at their club location.

Coupled with our club and mentorship programs, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America offers youth a place to explore their passions, create lasting connections and become leaders.

With over 4,000 clubs nationwide, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America provides after-school and summer programs to fit any parent's needs.

Visit [bgca.org](http://bgca.org) for more information and to find a club near you!



Visuals for “Music of Tomorrow” event in Colorado Springs, Colorado, at the Ford Amphitheater



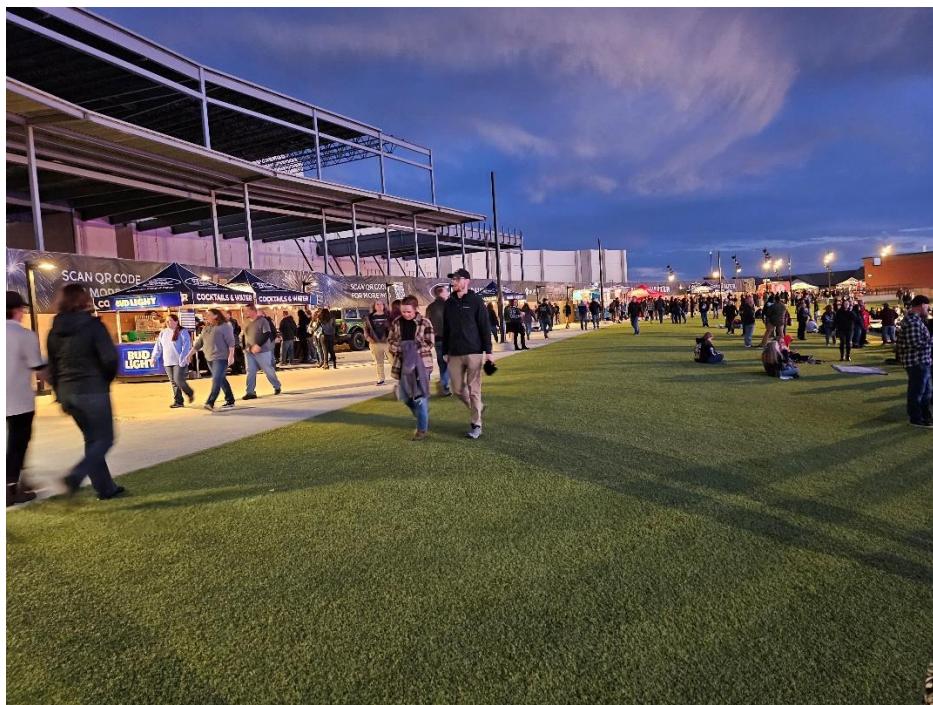
*(The stage — where the music competition will take place — and seating at Ford Amphitheater in Colorado Springs, Colorado, for “Music of Tomorrow” event. Photo credit: Anna Vogt.)*



*(Seating, lighting and fire pits at Ford Amphitheater in Colorado Springs, Colorado, for “Music of Tomorrow” event. Photo credit: Anna Vogt.)*



*(Available space for food and merchandise vendors at Ford Amphitheater in Colorado Springs, Colorado, for “Music of Tomorrow” event. Photo credit: Anna Vogt.)*



*(Available space for music workshops and brand ambassadors at Ford Amphitheater in Colorado Springs, Colorado, for “Music of Tomorrow” event. Photo credit: Anna Vogt.)*



*(Portable sound recording booth to be used at Ford Amphitheater in Colorado Springs, Colorado, for “Music of Tomorrow” event. Photo credit: <https://www.tourgosolution.com/standard-single-wall-booth/portable-vocal-booth-home-studio-booth-sound-isolation-booth.html>)*



*(Instruments and music equipment that will be introduced to youth used at Ford Amphitheater in Colorado Springs, Colorado, for “Music of Tomorrow” event. Photo credit: <https://www.istockphoto.com/photos/musical-instrument>)*



*(Sign that will be displayed repetitively throughout the Ford Amphitheater in Colorado Springs, Colorado, for "Music of Tomorrow" event to keep the event family-friendly and age appropriate. Photo credit: <https://www.shutterstock.com/image-vector/no-smoking-sign-drinking-caution-prohibited-2334068177>)*



*(Bounce house for entertainment at Ford Amphitheater in Colorado Springs, Colorado, for "Music of Tomorrow" event. Photo credit: <https://www.dreamstime.com/illustration/bounce-house.html>)*

Social Media Posts for “Music of Tomorrow”

Facebook



Boys & Girls Clubs of America

21 hours ago ·

Join us for “Music of Tomorrow” on World Music Day at the Ford Amphitheater in Colorado Springs, Colorado! Hosted by the BGCA and Guitar Center, this one-of-a-kind event will feature a music competition for local youth, music workshops, giveaways and more!

#MusicOfTomorrow #BGCA #GuitarCenter #FamilyFun #MusicAndFood



27

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Like

Comment

## Instagram



bgca\_clubs • Follow  
Original audio

...

Calling all parents, musicians and students! We are excited to announce "Music of Tomorrow" at Ford Amphitheater in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Get ready to jam out and create music with [@GuitarCenter!](#)

#BGCA #GuitarCenter #MusicOfTomorrow  
#MusicAndFood #FamilyFun #Giveaways  
#MusicWorkshops #GreatFutures



## X (Twitter)

 Boys & Girls Clubs of America ✅ @BGCA\_Clubs  
21 hours ago · 

Ready for the ultimate music experience? Join us at the Ford Amphitheater in Colorado Springs, Colorado for "Music of Tomorrow" on World Music Day!

#GreatFutures #MusicOfTomorrow #BGCA #GuitarCenter

 Guitar Center ✅ @guitarcenter

Love music? We do, too! Our instructors are ready to show you how to play instruments and create your own tunes. Let's celebrate youth on World Music Day.



...



A Post your reply 

