1. **Why is NAR getting involved with BGCA?**
BGCA is the largest youth serving organization in America, with more than 4,100 Clubs located throughout the country and on military bases across the world. There are BGCA Clubs in every state and practically every community. Just as REALTORS® are integral part of their communities, so too are Boys & Girls Clubs.

REALTORS® are actively engaged in their communities, volunteering their time to several worthy causes and organizations. NAR is providing members with an easy way to stay connected with their communities by giving back to a youth organization in need.

1. **How can I get involved?**First, Contact your Local and State Association to find out if there are any large-scale efforts being planned in your community. If not, [find a local Club](http://www.realtor.org/programs/boys-and-girls-clubs-of-america/information-for-members) in your area. Then, reach out to the Club director to start a dialogue with him/her about how you can get involved and what the Club’s needs are. From there, you and the Club director will organize a formal meeting to get the ball rolling and start planning your involvement.

There is a section of the toolkit that can help reach out to a Club director and set up a planning meeting.

1. **What types of volunteer activities can I be a part of?**There are many ways you can volunteer your time at a local Club. You could offer tutoring assistance, teach a class, become a coach, join a fundraising committee or help plan an event, to name a few. It’s important to remember that every Club will have specific needs, so be sure talk with the Club director first to find out what the Club’s needs are and how you can help.

For additional inspiration, [read the success stories](http://www.realtor.org/programs/boys-and-girls-clubs-of-america/success-stories) submitted by members who have already supported or are currently supporting a local Club.

1. **The only Clubs in our local area are on Indian reservations and/or military bases. Can I volunteer my time at the Clubs too?**

Yes! In cases such as this, there are additional clearances that may need to be obtained, however. Reach out the local Club to find out more.

1. **I'm already involved with another not-for-profit. Do I have to end my relationship with that organization?**

Absolutely not. NAR encourages all members to volunteer and give back to their communities in whatever way they see fit. The new affiliation with BGCA is just one way they get involved, but is by no means, the only way.

1. **Is there any required training or an application process to volunteer?**

This is on a case-by-case and Club-by-Club basis, depending upon the nature of the volunteer project. For things such as mentoring or leading the youth in a program, there is definitely training. Almost all Clubs will have some form of orientation for volunteers.

All volunteers will have to undergo a criminal background check before working at a Club. This is a measure all Clubs take as of part of its charter with BGCA. Each Club has a different background check policy, depending on its needs; therefore, the type of background check, length of time for the process and/or the cost of background checks may differ depending on the Club.

1. **Is NAR or BGCA keeping track of member involvement?**In order to track the successes and contributions the REALTOR® Family is making to BGCA, we are asking that members share their volunteerism efforts via email at narbgca@realtors.org. BGCA is also asking their Clubs to notify them of their work with members of the REALTOR® Family.
2. **What information is available about starting a local Club in our area? Can NAR and BGCA help bring a Club to our community?**

While there are certainly youth across the country who need support, starting a Club involves long-term planning with executives at the local level. It’s something that must be sustained and there are a whole host of requirements to start and keep a Club running. Additionally, the community must be able to support the Club and ensure that there is a sufficient number of youth able to attend the Club over a number of years. Contact a member of BGCA’s Organizational and Executive Development Services team for more information.

1. **I tried to find a local Club, but there are none in my area. How can I get involved when no Club is accessible to us?**

There’s at least one Club in every Congressional District in the U.S., so, there is probably one in your area that serves the market, but it may be in a neighboring town.

1. **Can I make a financial donation to my local Club?**
Absolutely! All donations, even to a local Club, should be made through the [national BGCA website](https://secure2.convio.net/bgca/site/Donation2;jsessionid=4CDEEE9F1ABE0E24E9C7CDE71CD20132.app247a?df_id=8745&8745.donation=form1), where you will be able to direct your donation dollars appropriately. No matter the size of your donation or how it was collected (e.g., via a fundraiser or individual contribution), the funds should be made through the national BGCA organization donation site so they can properly track all donations and NAR can add you to our online “Honor Roll of Contributions.”

If you are making a donation that exceeds $1,000, please also notify Beatrice Woody, national director of Account Strategy and Development at BGCA, at bwoody@bgca.org.

1. **I made a donation to my local Club. Can I get recognition even though I donated it directly to the local Club and not through the national BGCA organization?**

NAR and BGCA are keeping track of all contributions made by the REALTOR® family, financially and otherwise. If you made a donation directly to a Club, please email narbgca@realtors.org outlining the amount of money donated and what Club the donation was made to. Once we can verify the donation was received, we can add you to the Honor Roll of Contributions.