

# Celebrating 20 Years OF PARTNERSHIP



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF TUCSON



parks in focus  
Udall Foundation



## Parks in Focus: Connecting Tucson Youth to Nature through Photography Since 1999

Twenty years ago, the Udall Foundation teamed up with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson (BGCT) to pilot a simple idea: put cameras in the hands of 12 middle school youth and lead them on an action-packed adventure to visit, photograph, and explore some of Arizona's most inspiring landscapes and celebrated public lands.

This idea became the Stewart L. Udall Parks in Focus® Program, an education program of the Udall Foundation committed to

engaging underserved youth with nature and our nation's public lands through photography and outdoor learning.

Flash forward to 2018: Parks in Focus hosts hundreds of hours of hands-on after-school activities, weekend outings, and summer camping trips with dozens of BGCT youth each year. Participants learn about science, history, culture, technology, and art as they hike, camp, explore, and photograph settings ranging from city parks to the Grand Canyon.

### Total Impact: 1999 to 2018



**725**  
total BGCT kids  
reached



**3,200**  
total hours of  
activities with BGCT



**350,000+**  
estimated number of  
photographs taken



**40+**  
total parks & AZ  
sites explored



**2,175**  
estimated number of  
s'mores consumed

## Recent Participant Testimonials



My experience with Parks in Focus was amazing! The trips were a lot of fun, and I especially loved taking pictures of the amazing sites we visited. The staff were very helpful and generous. Parks in Focus is a must-do program!

**Eddie, age 14**

Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson



Parks in Focus changed me a lot. Before, I never really wanted to be outside. I would stay inside most of the time playing video games, but as soon as I joined the program, it opened up a whole new scenario for me.

**Melquidez, age 12**

Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson



Parks in Focus was an amazing adventure. The hikes we went on were beautiful, exciting, and fun. I learned a lot about different types of plants and animals and even learned to love broccoli! It was the most fun I've ever had!

**Mer'jai, age 10**

Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson

## Frequently Visited Sites

Agua Caliente Regional Park · Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum · Chiricahua National Monument · Coconino National Forest · Coronado National Forest · Grand Canyon National Park · Mount Lemmon · Red Rock State Park · Saguaro National Park · Slide Rock State Park · Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument · Sweetwater Wetlands · Tohono Chul Park · Tucson Botanical Gardens · Tumacácori National Historical Park · Wupatki National Monument · Walnut Canyon National Monument

## For More Info

To learn more about Parks in Focus, visit [www.udall.gov](http://www.udall.gov) or contact Bret Muter at [muter@udall.gov](mailto:muter@udall.gov) or [520.901.8569](tel:520.901.8569).

