



Club Esteem

CLUB HAPPENINGS

Club Esteem's Official Newsletter



UNITED WAY
Space Coast

Partner Agency



*Inspiring youth in grades 1-12 in Brevard County
to achieve academic and personal excellence!*

SUMMER 2025 WORKSHOPS

LEARNING

- **SAT and ACT Preparation** with Ms. Jorden, Math Teacher at RFM
- **Launch Into Literacy** with Darby Miller of Early Learning Coalition
- **Junior Achievement** with Club Esteem staff
- **Chess** with Mr. Rasan Hicks and Mr. Derrick
- **World Cultures** with Dr. Biggs, and Mr. A
- **American Sign Language** with Ms. Sierra Sharp, ASL Instructor
- **Environmental Science** with Cheryl Caldwell of Melbourne ECO Division and Jane Higgins Conrandina Native Plant Society
- **Sea TurtleTech Program** with Sea Turtle Conservancy

GROWING

- **Life Skills** with our friends and partners from Eckerd Connects and Big Brothers Big Sisters
- **Health and Wellness** with Dr. B, a retired physician and Ms. Susie, former nurse
- **College Readiness** with Club Esteem alum and Bethune Cookman University sophomore, Tylan Jones
- **Finance Workshop** with Mr. Tony Laurendi, Real Estate Associate and Retired Aerospace Engineer
- **Makings of a Fine Young Lady** with Club Esteem's Executive Director Ellena Little
- **Truist Real World Finance Simulation** with Truist Financial

CREATING

- **Music** with Mr. A and Ms. Susie
- **Fashion Design and Sewing** with Ms. Faye of Faye's Fashions
- **Crochet** with Ms. Sierra Sharp
- **Fine Art, Woodworking, and Pottery** with
- **Digital Media** with Ashley Song, CEO of JTM Film and Media Productions, LLC
- **Speak Your Fire! Slam Poetry** with Mr. Rasan Hicks (F.L.O.W.S. LLC)
- **Vision Boards and Goal Setting** with Club Esteem staff and Sheena Patterson Realtor at Keller Williams Realty of Brevard
- **Dance, Cheerleading and Color Guard** with high school dance, cheerleading and color guard team members

► PERSONAL FINANCE

Students gained real-world money skills in our **Summer Finance Workshop with Mr. Tony!** They learned the basics of budgeting, saving, and smart spending—tools that will help them build confidence and make informed financial choices for the future.

Truist Bank also worked with Club Esteem to help bridge that gap for our students with their **Real World Finance Simulation**. This program was designed to empower young adults with financial strategies such as creating a budget, saving money, making investments and more.



► SUMMER READING

During the summer, many students experience the “summer slide”—a loss of reading skills that occurs when kids don't have regular opportunities to read outside of school. We were so lucky to have Darby Miller from the **Early Learning Coalition of Brevard** bring their Launch into Literacy program to Club Esteem. Programs like this help prevent the summer slide by keeping kids engaged, confident, and excited about reading all summer long. We were also proud to serve as a **United Way Feed and Read** site again this year. Through this annual program, students participate in fun reading activities and receive a nutritious meal and a book to take home at the end of each session.

DID YOU KNOW? 97% OF CLUB ESTEEM THIRD GRADERS ARE READING ON GRADE LEVEL, AS COMPARED TO 58% IN BREVARD COUNTY.





► ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

This summer, we were lucky to have experts **Cheryl Caldwell (City of Melbourne ECO Division)** and **Jane Higgins (Conrandina Native Plant Society)** leading workshops related to environmental science, which covered gardening, birdwatching, studying gopher tortoises and insects and learning about water conservation and recycling.

We also had a special visit from **Florida Wildlife Hospital & Sanctuary**, who led our aspiring scientists through an incredible workshop, meeting and learning about a variety of animals! Students also had the opportunity to explore the fascinating world of zoo archaeology and connect hands-on with wildlife and conservation education.



► SEA TURTLE TECH

This summer also marked the fifth year of Club Esteem's partnership with the **Sea Turtle Conservancy at the Archie Carr Refuge** Sea Turtle TECH Mentoring Program! Through this series of eight workshops, Club Esteem students had the chance to connect with STEM professionals and gain hands-on experience in wildlife preservation.

Program highlights included wildlife observation trips, virtual reality sessions, snorkeling, turtle nest excavation, satellite tracking and attending the Tour de Turtles sea turtle release at Disney Vero Beach Resort. Special thanks goes to **Disney Worldwide Services** for their generous contribution.

Opportunities like these give our students an incredible glimpse into careers in environmental science and natural resource management. We are incredibly grateful to the partners involved in these programs for inspiring the next generation of conservation professionals!





Melbourne and Palm Bay Police Departments PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



At Club Esteem, we're proud to partner with our local law enforcement agencies to build stronger, safer communities. Throughout the year, our collaborations with the Melbourne Police Department and the Palm Bay Police Department have created meaningful opportunities for engagement, learning, and celebration.

This summer, Club Esteem students enjoyed a fun-filled Water Play Day complete with sweet treats, generously hosted by the City of Melbourne Police Department.

In September, several of our students and alumni took the stage at a special Community Law Enforcement event with the Melbourne Police Department, where they delivered an inspiring presentation. Our Executive Director, Ellena Little, was also honored with an award recognizing her leadership and dedication to the community.

In October, Club Esteem joined forces with City of Melbourne leaders—including the mayor, city council, Fire Chief, City Manager, Parks & Recreation, command staff, and more—for National Night Out at our Heritage Park Apartments location. The event promoted drug and crime prevention awareness and brought together families for food, giveaways, and plenty of fun.



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



We were also honored to attend the Eddie Lee Taylor Community Center Legacy Banquet, where community leaders and partners were recognized for their dedication and service. Among the honorees were Palm Bay Chief of Police Mariano Augello, several officers, and our own Executive Director, Ellena Little. Congratulations to all for this well-deserved recognition!

This is the power of partnership--collaboration between youth, community organizations, and law enforcement can foster mutual respect, understanding, and a shared commitment to a brighter future.



CLUB ESTEEM'S
MYSTERY
DINING
EXPERIENCE
OCTOBER 25, 2025

The Case is Closed on this 2025 Annual Fall Fundraiser!

Our first annual Mystery Dining Experience was an unforgettable evening filled with laughter, great food, and a little detective work!

Guests stepped into character for a night of mystery-themed fun – solving clues, competing for prizes, and taking part in games like Match the Catch Phrase and Detective Bingo.

Our alumni also shared moving testimonials that demonstrate the real real impact Club Esteem makes in the lives of underserved youth in Brevard County.

The costumes, laughter, and community spirit made it an evening to remember! Thank you to everyone who attended the event and helped us fill our treasure box.

Special thanks to...

- Bryd's Eye Photography for capturing all the fun!
- Our incredible sponsors Kaye Cantrell and our Treasured Anonymous Donors for making this event possible!
- DJ BG for the fantastic music!
- Les and the whole team at Cloud Parlor Café for the delicious food, drinks and hospitality!

Together, we raised almost \$15,000 to support youth in our community!





ADVENTURES IN STEAM

Club Esteem's National Society of Black Engineers Jr Chapter started the year off with micro:bit projects and learned how to use block code to program leds, make music, and even advanced concepts like radio communication with Bits4Bots!

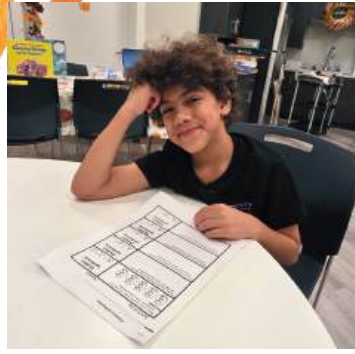
Then later in the semester, students designed and tested parachutes— experimenting with speed, weight, and mass to see how each factor affected flight and landing.

We are excited to have instructors Anthony Hickman of NSBE and Northrop Grumman, Larsha Johnson of Microbots LLC and Roger Hickman of Rising Star Leadership Development leading their team in this fun-filled STEAM learning class after school at Club Esteem. We look forward to keep exploring, building, and innovating together every week!





LEARNING AT HERITAGE PARK APARTMENTS



FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL

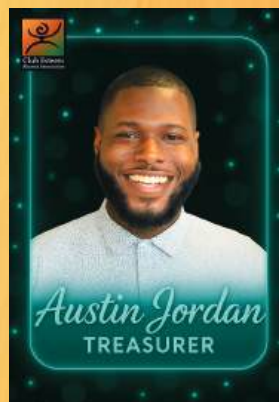
CLUB ESTEEM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

We're building something powerful — and we want YOU to be a part of it!

Whether you were part of the earliest days or just graduated, the Club Esteem Alumni Association is your chance to reconnect, give back, and uplift the next generation.

Want to get involved? Send us an email at clubesteemalumni@gmail.com. Stay tuned as we continue to grow, plan events, and create new opportunities for alumni to stay connected and make a difference!

MEET THE FIRST MEMBERS OF THE CLUB ESTEEM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD



Not Pictured:
Cailayla Scott, Executive Board Member

These dedicated alumni are stepping up to lead, connect, and represent our growing network of past Club Esteem participants. Each of them brings passion, purpose, and a deep commitment to giving back to the program that helped shape their journey.

WAYS TO SUPPORT

Make a donation.

Scan the QR code or visit us at www.clubesteem.org/giving to make a donation.



A donation of **\$5000** provides two students with a full year of Club Esteem's transformative programs and support.

A donation of **\$3500** will support one child through one year of participation in Club Esteem's after-school and summer programs.

A donation of **\$1500** will give a child the opportunity to receive tutoring, work experience and character building education at one of our four satellite locations.

Interested in enrolling your child at one of our five locations? Give us a call at 321-409-8942.

Get involved! Become a...

DONOR VOLUNTEER TUTOR
MENTOR COMMUNITY PARTNER
SPONSOR AMBASSADOR



Follow us on social media!

Facebook: Club Esteem Inc.

Instagram: @clubesteem

LinkedIn: Club Esteem Inc.



CLUB ESTEEM INC.
3316 Monroe St
Melbourne, FL 32901

Club Esteem



Thank You to Our Recent Donors!

L3Harris Foundation
Paypal Giving Fund
Bank of America Foundation
Starbucks Foundation
City of Melbourne Police Department
Annette E. Parker Fund
John K. and Julia R. Roach Fund
Disney Worldwide Services
Trusit Financial Corporation
Orlando Magic Youth Foundation
Wilkinson Family Fund
United Way of Brevard
Valeta Cameron
Mr. Dave and Mrs. Anne Davis
Dr. Harry and Mrs. Mary Deffebach
Marla Dolan
Pam Jefferies
Yvonne Minus
Shannon Pitner
David Tweed
Chris Adams
Felicia Brooks
Mrs. Kaye Cantrell
Dennise Caro
Mr. Terry and Mrs. Melinda Casto
Mr. Ian and Mrs. Jordan Christian
Kaori Fischer
Ashley Horskin
Mr. Rocky and Mrs. Ellena Little
Mr. Simon and Mrs. Tsakara Little
Toni McGovern
Tim and Erin Schuck
Kevin Steward
Mr. George and Mrs. Jan Todd
Merlene Carr
Lucenuia Clark
Amelia Holaway
Desiree Jones
Wahida Muhammad
Jessica Muriel
Lisa Ann Parrish Smith
Sacoya Smith
Lolisha Williams
Shalissa Williams
Emiral Wright
Mr. Tyrone and Mrs. Denise Carter
Kaprecia McLin
Cayla Puzie



You inspire us to achieve excellence!