

# Basketball Hall of Famer James Worthy addresses Boys & Girls Club members at event in Redlands

Redlands Daily Facts



Members of Boys & Girls Clubs from around Southern California listen to James Worthy's keynote address at the Ford tween leadership summit on the grounds of the Burrage Mansion in Redlands. (Photo by Joy Juedes, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Redlands-Riverside)

By **STAFF REPORT** |

PUBLISHED: August 21, 2019

Retired Los Angeles Lakers legend James Worthy was keynote speaker at the Ford Fund's first tween leadership summit for middle school students, held Aug. 2 on the grounds of the Burrage Mansion in Redlands.

More than 100 Boys & Girls Club members from around Southern California attended the summit, which included sessions presented by professionals from Ford, ADP, iHerb and T-Mobile. Topics included leading in the workplace, social media and interpersonal skills, according to a press release from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Redlands-Riverside, which hosted the summit.

Worthy, who grew up participating in activities at what was then the Boys' Club in North Carolina, talked about the importance of doing well in school, saying no and talking to someone who cares.

“You’ll be graduating high school before you know it. So start pointing to your direction, where you want to go – you know what you like,” he said, according to the press release.

“And talk to your counselors at school, talk to your counselors at the Boys & Girls Club. Don’t be afraid to ask for help. That was one of my biggest problems. I internalized everything and all I had to do was go ask somebody. Don’t be ashamed to ask questions,” Worthy told the attendees.

He also answered kids’ questions and had a photo taken with them.

Worthy, who played for the Lakers from 1982 to 1994, won three championships with the team and was MVP of the 1988 NBA Finals. He entered the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2003 and is also in Boys & Girls Clubs of America’s Hall of Fame.

Johnson King, general manager of Tuttle-Click Ford in Irvine, welcomed the group and encouraged them to focus on hard work, having a positive attitude and being nice to others as they consider college or trade school and a direction for their careers, according to the press release.

Employees of Redlands Ford grilled burgers and hot dogs for lunch.

Others participating in the event included Jill Hamilton of T-Mobile; Monica Encinas, a talent acquisition recruiter with iHerb; and Malcolm Griffin of ADP.

In addition to hearing presentations on professional skills, attendees had time to play games and socialize, and each received a swag bag from Redlands Ford.

The Rochford Foundation donated use of the Burrage Mansion, which was restored by Redlands native Tim Rochford to serve youth in need.

In addition to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Redlands–Riverside, those at the summit came from the Boys & Girls Club of the Antelope Valley, Boys & Girls Clubs of Brea-Placentia-Yorba Linda, Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley, Boys & Girls Club of Fullerton, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor, Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach, Boys & Girls Club of Palm Springs, Boys & Girls Club of Simi Valley, Boys & Girls Club of the South Coast Area and Boys & Girls Clubs of Capistrano Valley.

The Ford Fund works with Ford dealers and nonprofit partners and invests in programs that support education, promote safe driving, enrich community life and encourage employee volunteering, according to the press release. For information, go to [www.fordfund.org](http://www.fordfund.org).

For information about Boys & Girls Clubs, go to [www.bgca.org](http://www.bgca.org)