



**OSAN TEEN CENTER**

**MILITARY  
YOUTH OF THE  
YEAR  
COMPETITION**

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## Fact Sheet: Youth of the Year

**WHAT:** Since 1947, Youth of the Year has been BGCA's premier recognition program, celebrating the extraordinary achievements of Club members. Each year, one exceptional young person from a Boys & Girls Club is selected to be the National Youth of the Year. The National Youth of the Year serves as both an exemplary ambassador for Boys & Girls Club youth, and as a strong voice for all of our nation's young people.

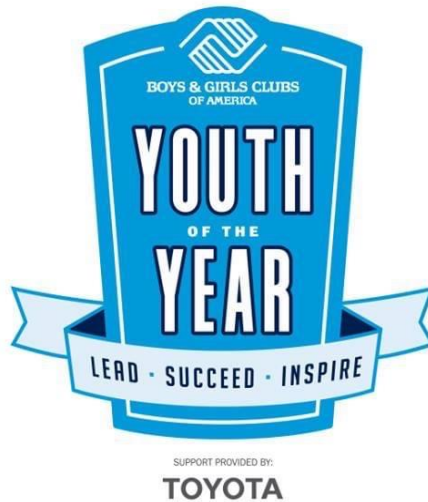
Youth of the Year participants embody the values of leadership, service, academic excellence and healthy lifestyles. They exemplify the critical impact of Boys & Girls Clubs on the lives of young people. Through the Youth of the Year program, young people showcase their talents and achievements, share their hopes and dreams, and work toward a bright and positive future. Candidates emerge through year-round recognition programs in their local Clubs or BGCA-affiliated Youth Centers on U.S. military installations. They progress through state and regional events, culminating in a weeklong celebration in Washington, D.C., where one is named the National Youth of the Year – the highest honor bestowed upon a Club member.

**WHO:** Boys & Girls Club members and members of BGCA-affiliated Youth Centers, ages 14-18, compete on the state, regional and national levels for Youth of the Year titles.

**DETAILS:** Each state-level Youth of the Year, including military, earns a \$2,500 college scholarship. Each regional Youth of the Year, including regional military finalists, receives a \$20,000 college scholarship. The National Youth of the Year receives a \$50,000 scholarship.

**WEBSITE:** <https://www.bgca.net/yoy>

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## Program Overview

Since 1947, Youth of the Year (YOY) has been Boys & Girls Clubs of America's (BGCA) premier recognition program, celebrating the extraordinary achievements of Club members. Each year, one exceptional young person from a Boys & Girls Club rises to the role of National Youth of the Year, becoming an exemplary ambassador who not only speaks as the voice of Club youth everywhere, but also stands up to represent all of our nation's young people.

YOY participants embody the values of leadership, service, academic excellence and healthy lifestyles. They exemplify the critical impact of Boys & Girls Clubs on the lives of young people. Being named National YOY is the highest honor bestowed upon Club members. The National YOY is a role model and a spokesperson for America's youth. He/She uses the title to educate millions of Americans about the power of the Club Experience, as well as to elevate the key issues facing children and teenagers. The National YOY must be savvy, purpose-driven and aware of the challenges facing young people today.

The National YOY will strive to advance BGCA's mission and garner positive recognition for the Movement in the public eye. Under the direction of BGCA staff, the National YOY will attend regional and national events, and serve as a thought leader on key issues, by inspiring young and old with his/her personal story and helping others to replicate the success that he/she has realized in his/her young life.

Serving as a brand ambassador is a key part of this role. The National YOY will engage youth audiences and members of the media, as well as political, corporate and community leaders. He/She may be asked to appear on television, give remarks before public officials, and provide his/her voice at events to make a difference. The YOY will be expected to interact with representatives of the news media in a genuine and professional manner.

Through the Youth of the Year program, young people showcase their talents and achievements, share their hopes and dreams, and work toward a bright and positive future. Youth of the Year honorees at any level – local, state, regional and national – are shining examples and living proof that **GREAT FUTURES START HERE** – at Boys & Girls Clubs.