



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF AMERICA**

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 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.

Generous support from our presenting sponsor, Disney, as well as Toyota, University of Phoenix and Taco Bell Foundation has made possible an enhanced program with expanded leadership development opportunities for more participants and an unprecedented level of scholarship funding for many deserving 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 recognitions 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 National Youth of the Year – the highest honor bestowed upon a Club member. Boys & Girls Club of America has set impactful goals to engage 663,000 Club youth ages 7-18, in the Youth of the Year program by 2019. This will be through the expansion of YOY to include Youth of the Month, Jr. Youth of the Year and Military Youth of the Year. Our Goal is to serve 100,000 youth by 2019.

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: Due to the commitment of our partners, the scholarship awards to Youth of the Year winners was generously increased in 2015. Previously, the winners received a one-time scholarship of \$1,000 for state winners, \$10,000 for regional winners, and the national Youth of the Year received \$50,000. As a result from our partner's generosity each state-level Youth of the Year, including military finalists, earns a \$5,000 college scholarship. Each regional Youth of the Year, including regional military finalists, receive a \$10,000 college scholarship (renewable for up to four years). The National Youth of the Year receives a \$25,000 scholarship (renewable for up to four years).

WEBSITE: <https://www.bgca.net/Programs/Pages/Youth-of-the-Year.aspx>

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