

PROGRAM FACT SHEET



Youth of the Year is our signature effort to foster a new generation of leaders, fully prepared to live and lead in a diverse, global and integrated world economy.

The History -

Since 1947, the Youth of the Year program has honored and celebrated the nation's most inspiring youth and their incredible stories. Youth of the Year has evolved into a comprehensive leadership development program, which includes:

- Youth of the Month – Leadership Recognition Program
- Junior Youth of the Year – Leadership Readiness Program, and
- Youth of the Year – Leadership Development Program

The Youth of the Year is a prestigious honor bestowed upon an exemplary teen in recognition of their leadership, service, academic excellence, and dedication to living a healthy lifestyle. Now, in its 75th year, the Youth of the Year program honors America's most awe-inspiring young people on their path to a great future.

Throughout the Youth of the Year journey, Boys and Girls Clubs recognize these outstanding young people at local, state, and regional levels before providing an opportunity for six of these teens to strive for the title of National Youth of the Year.



The Journey -

Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester (BGCNW) had its inaugural Youth of the Year Ceremony in 1995. Each year, Club staff nominates youth who exemplify the qualities of a leader. Candidates complete an application portfolio consisting of a candidate bio, resume and cover letter, three (3) essays (My Club Experience, What Matters to Me, Personal Growth), two (2) letters of recommendation (Club, community), and supporting documents. They must also prepare a three (3) minute speech and interview with a panel of judges. Participants are matched with a mentor to help guide them and support them throughout the process.

While there can be only one winner, all candidates and finalists are celebrated for the achievement of having embarked upon and completed the journey. The titled BGCNW Youth of the Year advances to a state-level event. They are tasked with participating in events, public speaking, and serving as a thought leader and advocate for their Club and community. They receive the benefit of a generous college scholarship, mentorship, and networking opportunities.

One other finalist receives the Chris Cutri Memorial Scholarship Award in recognition of their commitment to leadership, responsibility, and perseverance. They also serve as the "runner up"; attending events and speaking as a Club ambassador and advocate.

Past BGCNW Youth of the Year and Chris Cutri Memorial Scholars have

- Received mentoring from program supporters
- Received internship opportunities
- Met government leaders
- Met celebrity Club alumni