



JEFF MATTINGLY FOUNDATION YOUTH OF THE YEAR



Contact: Heath Massey

Boys & Girls Clubs of Saline County
1810 Citizens Drive
Benton, AR 72015
Heath@scbgclub.com

Amount: One scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 for post-secondary education.

Deadline: January 21, 2026

Since 1947, Youth of the Year has been Boys & Girls Clubs of America's 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. 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.

The journey to being named National Youth of the Year begins locally and progresses to the state, regional and national levels. To achieve the title of Youth of the Year on any level, Club members must embody the values of leadership and service, academic excellence and healthy lifestyles. They should exemplify the critical impact Boys & Girls Clubs have on the lives of young people.

To Obtain Application Packet:

Email Heath@scbgclub.com with *Scholarship YOUTH OF THE YEAR* in Subject Line.

No packets will be mailed out.

Hand Deliver Completed Applications To:

Boys & Girls Clubs of Saline County, Attn: Heath Massey
1810 Citizens Drive, Benton, Arkansas 72015

Or Email Completed Applications To:

Heath@scbgclub.com

Applications may be handwritten or typed. Packets must contain all requested information.

OVERVIEW

The Youth of the Year program creates opportunities for Club youth to receive recognition at the local, state, regional and national levels.

Club Level

A Youth of the Year is selected in the local Club from a pool of members. The local Youth of the Year serves as a role model for other young people in the Club and as a representative to the community.

Organizational Level

In multi-unit organizations, only one candidate will be selected from Club-level winners to represent the entire organization and advance to the state and successive levels.

State Level

Each candidate who advances to a state-level event must submit the application materials in this packet, in their entirety, to BGCA National Headquarters via the online application portal at NYOY.org. This is a one-time submission; materials from this packet will be reproduced for consideration at each successive level, should the candidate move on to regional and/or national participation. Judges at the state, regional and national levels will consider candidates based on the scoring framework in this kit. For that reason, these application materials require candidates, and those who write letters of recommendation, to make a case for their qualification as BGCA's National Youth of the Year.

Regional Level

Candidates selected at the state level participate in their region's Youth of the Year event. No new application is required for participation at this level, but candidates are required to submit the results of a background check.

National Level

The five candidates named Regional Youth of the Year, along with the National Military Youth of the Year, will travel to Washington, D.C., to participate in a judging process to determine the National Youth of the Year.

ELIGIBILITY

Age

Candidates must be no younger than 14 and no older than 18 years of age on Jan. 31, 2025, to participate in the judging process at the state level.

Attendance

Candidates must have active and continuing membership in a Boys & Girls Club or affiliated Youth Center for at least two years prior to Jan. 31, 2025. Membership must be consecutive and may include more than one Club or Organization.

Academic Achievement

Youth of the Year representatives must have a strong academic track record, with special emphasis on maintaining excellent grades throughout the year in which they hold the YOY title. State, Regional and National YOYs must maintain a 2.5 GPA in order to maintain their scholarships.

Travel

Participation in state, regional and national YOY events will involve travel. If air travel is not feasible, BGCA will work with local Club staff to arrange alternate travel to BGCA-sponsored events. If no alternate travel arrangements can be safely made, BGCA will arrange for the candidate to participate through video conference.

JOB DESCRIPTION

A Youth of the Year (YOY) candidate embodies Boys & Girls Clubs of America's three priority outcome areas of Academic Success, Good Character and Citizenship, and living a Healthy Lifestyle. Being named Youth of the Year is the highest honor bestowed upon Club members. The National Youth of the Year serves as a role model and spokesperson for America's youth. They will educate millions of Americans about the power of the Club Experience, and elevate the national focus on key issues facing children and teenagers. The National YOY is purposedriven and aware of the challenges facing young people today.

Under the direction of BGCA staff, Youth of the Year representatives will attend state, regional and national events. They will serve as thought leaders on key issues by telling their inspiring personal stories. Potential audiences include youth, alumni, members of the media, and political, corporate and community leaders. Youth of the Year representatives may be asked to appear on television, make remarks before public officials, and speak at events where they can make a difference. State, regional and national YOYs will serve in this role for one year.

COMMITMENTS

The primary commitments include, but are not limited to, the following.

Public Speaking

Youth of the Year representatives deliver speeches – without the use of props, notes or other memory aids – at a variety of events. They will keep speeches updated in an electronic format and submit them to BGCA staff prior to events.

Event Participation

Youth of the Year representatives will attend BGCA-sponsored events. They may be asked to make remarks, answer questions and engage guests in conversation. They must strive to remain responsive, courteous and gracious at all times. Appropriate business attire and punctuality are critical. State Youth of the Year are expected to participate in the Regional Youth of the Year event during the year they are named State Youth of the Year. Regional Youth of the Year are expected to participate in the National Youth of the Year event during the year they are named Regional Youth of the Year. Failure to participate in the successive events will result in the loss of the Youth of the Year title and scholarship awarded from the previous level of Youth of the Year.

Leadership

Youth of the Year representatives demonstrate leadership skills as individuals in their interactions with others and in their communities. They create meaningful change and motivate and inspire others. Youth of the Year representatives demonstrate self-awareness and understand personal values; set goals and take action aligned with personal values; make choices that positively impact their lives; and inspire others.

Youth Advocacy

Youth of the Year representatives should be able to speak up and/or take action for themselves and/or others to support a cause or purpose they believe in.

Knowledge of Boys & Girls Club Movement Priorities

Youth of the Year representatives should have at least basic knowledge about current BGCA programming and events. They should be able to speak clearly about their Club Experience and the vital role the Club plays in supporting youth in their communities. They should be committed to leveraging the coaching and support of BGCA staff to become stronger in this area.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Applicant must have at least a 2.5 GPA.
- Candidates must have active and continuing membership in a Boys & Girls Club or affiliated Youth Center for at least two years prior to Jan. 31, 2025. Membership must be consecutive and may include more than one Club or Organization.
- Applicant must personally complete the Jeff Mattingly Foundation Youth of the Year application with signature, and provide all the necessary documentation. All requested information must be sent in the application packet – individual pieces of information will not be accepted.
- Applicant must submit a recent photograph with application.
- Applicant must submit a 5,000 character limit essay, including spaces. (This is roughly the equivalent of a two-page document typed in 11-point Times New Roman font with 1.5 line spacing.) This essay needs to cover your Club experience and why you want to be the Youth of the year.

Application

Nominee's Full Name (First, Middle, Last): _____

Date of Birth: _____ Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

High School Name: _____

Tentative College Choice: _____

Anticipated Career Choice: _____

Length of Club Membership: _____

Number of Volunteer Hours (in the last 12 months): _____

What are your defining characteristics (in two words): _____

Personal Quote

Note: This should be in your own words. Please do not use an inspirational quote from another source. Use this opportunity to briefly say something about what your Club has meant to you, or another topic that is close to your heart.

Tell us what the Club means to you and how has it helped you in your life.

What issue or topic are you passionate about and why?

How would someone describe you if they only knew you outside of the Club or from social media?

Name three leadership characteristics that will help prepare you to make an impact as the Youth of the Year.
