



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF WISCONSIN

Antigo
Appleton
Baraboo
Bayfield
Beloit
Berlin
Black River Falls
Chippewa Falls
Cumberland
Delavan
Eau Claire
Fitchburg
Fond Du Lac
Fort Atkinson
Fort McCoy
Green Bay
Hartford
Hayward
Jackson
Janesville
Kenosha
La Crosse
Little Chute
Madison
Menasha
Milwaukee
Nekoosa
Neopit
Odanah
Oshkosh
Plover
Red Cliff
Reedsburg
Rice Lake
Sheboygan
Sheboygan Falls
Sparta
Stevens Point
Sturgeon Bay
Superior
Tomah
Waukesha
Wausau
West Bend
West Salem
Weston
Wisconsin Rapids

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State Finalists Compete for Boys & Girls Clubs Youth of the Year *Winners Receive \$25,000 in Scholarships, Tuition to UW Madison or Marquette*

Madison – This Monday, eighteen top youth finalists will compete for the Boys & Girls Clubs Youth of the Year, the highest honor they give to club members. FOX Sports Wisconsin -- in conjunction with the Packers, Admirals, Brewers and Bucks -- will award winners \$25,000 in scholarships. The University of Wisconsin-Madison agreed last week to give full tuition to the finalist, conditional upon admission. Marquette University also announced on Friday that each year, one Wisconsin Youth of the Year winner who is admitted to will be offered a full-tuition scholarship in the Urban Scholars program.

As background, Wisconsin clubs work with 144,810 youth, and local competitions recently narrowed the field down to the top 18 individuals for this award. Spanning across 159 sites in 57 cities, Wisconsin clubs serve more youth than any other organization outside of the public school system. They also serve two million free meals and snacks a year in the state, noting it's hard to learn and grow when you're hungry.

State finalists will be judged on speeches and interviews, culminating in an awards presentation at the Concourse Hotel in Madison on Monday evening. Boys & Girls Clubs National President Jim Clark will keynote the ceremony, and First Lady Kathleen Evers will present the awards. The winners are selected by an esteemed panel of nine judges:

- Mark Tauscher, Founder of Trifecta Foundation, former Badger & Packer Offensive Lineman
- Caleb Frostman, Secretary of Department of Workforce Development
- Emilie Amendson, Secretary of Department of Children and Families
- JoAnne Anton, Director of Kohl Philanthropies
- Lisa Peyton-Caire, President of Foundation for Black Women's Wellness
- Lea Culver, Director of the Culver Foundation
- Arvind Gopalratnam, Executive Director of Milwaukee Bucks Foundation
- Alexandria N. Shade, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility CUNA Mutual Group
- Mark Bakken, Founder and Managing Partner at HealthX Venture

The winning finalists will also speak from the rostrum of the Senate Chambers in the State Capitol on Tuesday, March 12th, at 9:30 am after meeting with legislators. These three-minute inspiring stories will be covered on Wisconsin Eye. For more information, visit www.bgcwisconsin.org/youth-of-the-year-award

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Youth of the Year is a signature effort to foster a new generation of leaders, fully prepared to live and lead in a diverse, global and integrated world economy. To interview a youth finalist at the Concourse Hotel after 5:00 pm Monday, or the Senate Chambers after 9:30 am Tuesday, contact Andy Gussert at 608-213-8585.

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