



# 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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## **Mental Health Advocate is New Boys & Girls Clubs Youth of the Year** *Madison's Savannah Montgomery Aspires To Study Impact Trauma has on the Brain*

**Madison, WI** – Selected among seventeen outstanding finalists from across the state, Savannah Montgomery was crowned Youth of the Year by Boys & Girls Clubs of Wisconsin. Savannah plans to leverage her position to alleviate the stigma of mental health in communities of color, and to connect students with needed resources on trauma informed care as she advocates for more government resources at the local, state, and federal levels. If she wins at the Regional competition, she will compete for the title of National Youth of the Year and an additional \$25,000 college scholarship, renewable for four years up to \$100,000.

“We are honored and proud to have Savannah representing the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dane County as the 2019 State Youth of the Year,” said Michael Johnson, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dane County CEO, “Savannah’s story is one many youth can relate to. Her focus on mental health is important work, and we are excited to see her grow and get even more involved in our community.”

During her junior year of high school, Savannah earned an internship in the NICU at the University of Wisconsin Hospital -- an opportunity she accessed through the Dane County Club’s career exploration and internship programming. This internship sparked her curiosity in researching the potential impacts of psychological trauma. Savannah plans on attending a selective university this fall, followed by medical school. Her overall goal is to become a brain surgeon, studying the impact trauma has on the brain.

Now in its 72nd year, the Youth of the Year program honors our nation’s most awe-inspiring young people on their paths to great futures. Each year Wisconsin clubs from 159 sites in 57 cities select representatives to compete at the local level, with winners advancing to state, regional and national competition. Each competing Club member has to meet academic and community service requirements, write essays, submit letters of endorsement and prepare a three-minute speech. The winners were 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
- Alexzandra N. Shade, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility CUNA Mutual Group
- Mark Bakken, Founder and Managing Partner at HealthX Venture

Boys & Girls Clubs of Wisconsin serve 144,810 youth, and provide over two million meals and snacks for free each year. Every dollar invested in Wisconsin Clubs returns \$12.42 in earnings and cost-savings to local communities. Their mission is to ensure all young people, especially those who need them the most, can reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. For more information about the Youth of the Year program, visit [www.bgcwisconsin.org/youth-of-the-year-award](http://www.bgcwisconsin.org/youth-of-the-year-award)

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