



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2021 BGCTC Youth of the Year to be Announced Friday, Jan 29

[Olympia, WA] – The 2021 Boys & Girls Clubs of Thurston County (BGCTC) *Youth of the Year* will be announced **Friday, January 29 at 7:00 pm** during a virtual event on YouTube Premier. This celebration honors some of the most inspiring Club teens in Thurston county and culminates with one being named BGCTC's Youth of the Year.

The program features local youth nominees sharing personal stories about how the Club experience shaped their journey of personal growth and helped foster their dreams for the future. The event is open to all; however, registration is suggested to gain access to the online event:

www.facebook.com/events/188761672831061.

This year's nominees include:

- **Cara:** Raj Manhas Activities Center branch; Junior at North Thurston High School and Running Start at South Puget Sound Community College.
- **Alizabeth:** Rochester branch; Senior at Rochester High School and Running Start at Centralia College.
- **Noah:** Lacey branch; Senior at North Thurston High School.
- **Sarah:** Olympia branch; Sophomore at Capital High School.
- **Brianna:** Tenino branch; 8th grader at Tenino Middle School.



2021 Youth of the Year Nominees (L to R): Cara, Alizabeth, Noah, Sarah, and Brianna.

The local Youth of the Year advances to the Washington state *Youth of the Year* and possible regional and national competitions, with scholarships awarded at various levels of advancement. Similarly, an

outstanding young person from our state's military base is name Washington state's *Military Youth of the Year*.

Youth of the Year honorees at any level — local, state, regional and national — are living proof that GREAT FUTURES START HERE, at the Club. Established in 1947, *Youth of the Year* is Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier recognition program for Club members, promoting service to Club, community and family; academic success; strong moral character; life goals; as well as poise and public speaking ability.

Financial support for the *Youth of the Year* program ensures a rich experience for youth. Several community organization and sponsors make the Youth of the Year program a reality for the teens we serve. Premier sponsors for this year's event include Olympia Federal Savings, Team Agtarap, and South Puget Sound Community College.

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About the Boys & Girls Clubs of Thurston County

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Thurston County inspire and enable youth to realize their greatness. Since March 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic, BGCTC's doors have remained open to safely support youth and their families who need us most at our Clubs in Olympia, Tumwater, Lacey, Rochester, Tenino, and Yelm. Low membership fees and scholarships have kept the Club accessible to youth who need us most since 2001. Community support from a range of individuals, businesses, and corporations ensure this happens.

During everyday operations in pre-COVID conditions, we saw a unique cross-section of Thurston County's nearly 3,000 Club members: 71% are under age 12; 41% identify as people of color; 59% identify as white; 50% qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, and 44% live in single-parent households.

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