



Junior Youth of the Year Application Kit

Since 1947, Youth of the Year has been Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier recognition program, celebrating the extraordinary achievements of Club youth. Each year, one exceptional Club member is selected to be the National Youth of the Year. The National Youth of the Year serves as both an ambassador for Boys & Girls Club youth and as a strong voice for all of our nation's young people.

Now Club/Youth Center members ages 10-13 have the chance to be named Junior Youth of the Year. To achieve the title of Junior Youth of the Year, youth must embody the values of leadership and service, academic excellence, healthy lifestyles and life and workforce readiness. They also should exemplify the critical impact that Boys & Girls Clubs have on the lives of young people.

Junior Youth of the Year Program Overview

Junior Youth of the Year gives youth ages 10-13 the training and practice to develop skills in self-leadership, leadership with others and leadership in the community. All Club youth have the chance to be considered for Junior Youth of the Year at the local (Club and organizational) level. Through this program, candidates will become strong junior leaders, building the skills for academic excellence and postsecondary success. At this time, Boys & Girls Clubs of America does not support a Junior Youth of the Year selection process at the state, regional and national levels.

Club Level

A Junior Youth of the Year is selected in the local Club/Youth Center from a pool of youth who have participated in an ongoing recognition program. The local Junior Youth of the Year serves as a role model for other young people in the Club and as a Club ambassador to the community.

Organization Level

In multi-unit organizations, candidates will go through the selection process at the organization level, and one candidate will be selected as Junior Youth of the Year to represent the entire organization.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Eligibility Requirements

Age: To participate in the selection process, candidates must be no younger than 10 and no older than 13 years of age as of Jan. 31 in the year of the event.

Application Content

The application is an opportunity for candidates to showcase their leadership qualifications. By gathering examples of their work and documenting their contributions, each candidate creates a multi-dimensional picture of their leadership experiences, achievements, interests, passions, strengths and abilities all in one place and in a format they may be able to use in future school or job applications.

Candidates will compile all the application materials (see “Application Checklist” for details about what to include in the application) and then prepare for a speech and a conversation with the judging panel.

Application Process

When is the application due? The Club/organization will establish a due date and other submission guidelines for the application. The application materials may not be altered once submitted, and they will not be returned after the process. Candidates should try to make a good first impression on the judges by making sure the application materials are professional and well assembled.

Who completes the Candidate Nomination Form? A professional Club staff member or mentor will be assigned to assist each candidate in completing and submitting the Candidate Nomination Form.

What happens after submission? After the deadline, all complete and approved application materials will be forwarded to the judges to be considered as one of the selection criteria (in addition to a speech, conversation and overall application quality).

Junior Youth of the Year Elements of the Judging Process

These are the elements candidates will be judged on at the Club and organizational levels.

Category	Description	Weight
Application Essay	<p>Each candidate writes a one-page essay answering the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is something that makes you happy? What are you good at doing? What have you learned at the Club? What do you like about the Club? <p>In addition to the essay, the candidate may include any of the following supporting materials to enhance their application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photos Artwork School projects Creative writing pieces (a poem or spoken-word piece) Vision boards Video clips <p>Judges will assess the application essay based on content, clarity and completeness of presentation, as well as creativity and quality of supplemental materials.</p>	25 percent
Conversation	<p>The candidate should prepare for a 10-minute personal conversation with judges. The conversation may be conducted by one judge and/or a panel of several judges. During the conversation, judges will ask informal questions about the content of the candidate's essay. All candidates will be asked the same questions, but judges may ask them different follow-up questions depending on the conversation.</p>	25 percent
Public Speaking	<p>The candidate should prepare to deliver a speech based on the content of their essay. Speeches may be no longer than three minutes. Candidates may use notes or supporting materials for speeches. Speeches will be judged on content, as well as delivery, stage presence and poise.</p>	25 percent
Overall Application Quality	<p>Judges will evaluate the overall quality of the candidate's application: the application essay and supporting materials, the conversation and the speech. Each application will be judged on clarity, professionalism, completion of each section and quality of supplemental materials.</p>	25 percent

Junior Youth of the Year Application Checklist

Check off each item on this page to make sure the application is complete. Once application materials are submitted, they cannot be changed.

Candidate Nomination Form

Included in this application kit is a form that must be completed, signed and submitted as part of the application process. A staff member or mentor will help each candidate complete the form. Please note that the form must be signed by the candidate, their parent or legal guardian and the chief executive officer of the Club.

Candidate Nomination Form

Application Essay

The application essay should be typed and no longer than one page.

Application Essay

Supporting Materials

Candidates can choose to include materials to enhance their application (e.g., photos, artwork, school projects, creative writing pieces, vision boards or video clips). Candidates may use this space to make a note about each item so they don't forget to include them.

Candidate Photo

Each application should include a good-quality photograph of the candidate. A staff member, mentor or parent/caregiver can help candidates make sure the photograph is the right quality (i.e., a professional headshot submitted as a high-resolution jpeg file, 300 dpi).

Candidate Photo

Junior Youth of the Year Nomination Form

Nominee's Full Name
(First MI Last)

Race/Ethnicity:

Date of Birth:

Gender: Boy Girl Transgender Non-binary Non-conforming Two-Spirit

E-mail Address:

Street Address
City, State,
Zip Code:

Telephone Number:

Parents Cell Number:

School Name:

Length of Club Membership:

Name of Boys & Girls Club Organization:

Unit/Extension:

Street Address
City, State,
Zip Code:

Name of Chief Executive Officer:

Telephone Number:

Email Address:

Name of Designated
Contact for this Form:

Telephone Number:

Email Address:

Candidate Signature:

Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s) Signature:

Date:

Acknowledgment

By signing this form, candidates and their parent(s)/guardian(s) acknowledge they have completed the application in full, including supporting documents. They also acknowledge that they have been truthful and honest when completing all forms. Parent/guardian signature indicates that they have agreed to the below on behalf of themselves and the candidate.

Candidate understands that character and integrity are critical to the Junior YOY program and that failure to meet the requirements could harm the program. Candidate recognizes BGCA is the sole determiner of whether the candidate has failed to meet those requirements, and in such case, candidate agrees to forfeit all rights and privileges associated with participation in the Junior YOY program.

General Waiver

Please give this form to your parent or guardian to review and sign.
Then, return it to the Chief Executive Officer to complete the bottom portion.

It is expressly understood and agreed that Boys & Girls Clubs of America and its affiliates, member organizations, sponsors, staff, volunteers, legal representatives, successors and assigns shall not be responsible or legally liable for any losses, including those of personal property, or for any bodily injuries or the results thereof, incurred and suffered by the candidate in connection with the candidate's participation in the Junior Youth of Year program, including travel in connection therewith.

COVID-19 Acknowledgment and Waiver: It is agreed and understood that candidate shall comply with any COVID-19 safety and prevention measures implemented by their local Boys & Girls Club, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, or any venue relating to the Junior Youth of the Year program. It is understood and agreed that COVID-19 is extremely contagious, and I (we) voluntarily choose to accept the risk of contracting COVID-19 through the candidate's attendance at events associated with the Junior Youth of the Year program. As a condition of participating in the Junior Youth of the Year program, I (we) release, covenant not to sue, discharge and hold harmless Boys & Girls Clubs of America and its affiliates, member organizations, sponsors, staff, volunteers, legal representatives, successors and assigns from all claims, expense and liability of any kind relating to COVID-19.

Candidate Signature:

Date:

Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s) Signature:

Date:

Candidate Acknowledgement: I hereby consent to print and online publication and use of photographs and information contained in this application – and photos and videos taken of me – by Boys & Girls Clubs of America, local affiliates, donors or its agents, and I agree that I will not receive any compensation for same. I hereby attest that all information contained in this application and attached supporting materials is, to the best of my knowledge, truthful, accurate and complete, and that I meet all eligibility requirements of the Junior Youth of the Year program. I attest that the essays contained in this application are my original work and represent, to the best of my ability, my own thoughts on the questions put forth.

Candidate Signature:

Date:

I (we) have received a copy of the application form being submitted on behalf of _____ (candidate) as a nominee for Junior Youth of the Year. I (we) have reviewed this application in its entirety for accuracy and completeness, and I (we) certify all information contained in the nomination form is accurate to the best of my (our) knowledge. I (we) affirm that I (we) have been given an opportunity by the Club to correct any misinformation to ensure the accuracy of the application. I (we) consent to allow any information in this application to be made public through any media as determined by _____ (local Club organization) or by Boys & Girls Clubs of America. I (we) hereby consent to print and online publication and use of photographs and information contained in this application form – and photos and video taken of the candidate – by Boys & Girls Clubs of America, local affiliates, donors or its agents, and that neither the candidate nor I (we) will receive compensation for such publication. By signing this application, I (we) hereby waive any claims associated with this program against Boys & Girls Clubs of America and its member organizations.

Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s) Signature:

Date:

BOTTOM PORTION TO BE COMPLETED BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

I hereby attest all information contained in this application form and attached supporting materials is, to the best of my knowledge, truthful, accurate and complete, and that the candidate meets all eligibility requirements of the Junior Youth of the Year program. I certify a copy of this application was given to the parents/guardians of the candidate, and they have been given an opportunity to make any corrections/additions to the application to ensure its accuracy.

Chief Executive Officer Signature:

Date:

Junior Youth of the Year Application Essay Instructions

Candidates should respond to each of the following questions with as much thought and clarity as possible. A staff member or mentor at the Club can help candidates develop the essay, but it must include only the candidate's ideas and their writing.

1. What is something that makes you happy?

2. What are you good at doing?

3. What have you learned at the Club?

4. What do you like about the Club?

Candidates may want to begin by making some notes on this sheet and then work with their mentor to help organize their thoughts into one essay.

Application essays should be typed and no longer than one page. Essays will be judged based on content, writing style, clarity and grammar – so candidates should make sure they check over their drafts and correct any errors before printing the final copy.