

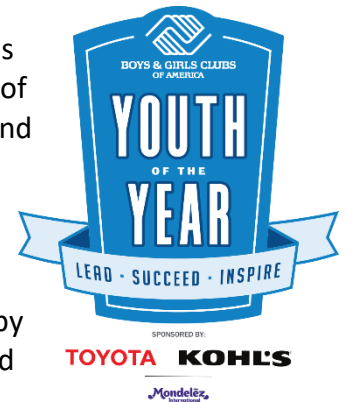


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Thomas Sutton Named Boys & Girls Club of Troy Youth of the Year

TROY, MI – Troy Athens High School senior Thomas “Tommy” Sutton was selected as the 2024 Boys & Girls Club of Troy (BGCT) Youth of the Year. This is his first time winning this award. Tommy will now compete against members of other Boys & Girls Clubs in the state for the Michigan Youth of the Year title and a \$5,000 college scholarship courtesy of program sponsors which include Toyota, Kohl’s and Mondelez International.



As the 2024 Youth of the Year honoree for the Boys & Girls Club of Troy, the 17-year old is among hundreds of teens across the country being recognized by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) for sound character, leadership skills and willingness to give back to the community.

BGCA's premier youth recognition program, Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Club member can receive. The program encourages Club members to reach their full potential by achieving academic success, leading healthy lifestyles and contributing to their communities.



"Over Tommy's time at the Boys & Girls Club of Troy, he has been a shining example of hard work, discipline, and dedication to BGCT for all of our members. From being a leader among our Leaders In Training and as a Junior Staff, Tommy has become an outstanding young leader. We have witnessed him grow over his five years at the Club and has become a positive role model for all of our youth here. I'm amazed by not only by how far Tommy has come both academically and personally, but that he continues to give back to the club that has given him so much," said Boys & Girls Club of Troy CEO Jeff Evans. "His talent, personality and work ethic make him a well-deserved representative of the Boys & Girls Club of Troy and the local community."

"It is an honor to represent the Boys & Girls Club of Troy as the 2024 Youth of the Year," said Tommy. "I thank the Boys & Girls Club of Troy for helping to grow me into the person that I am today. Thank you for providing me with a platform to share my story, to grow my voice, and to



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show pride and respect for my Club. I will also make sure that everyone knows how amazing it is to be a part of a great environment, the Boys & Girls Club of Troy."

Tommy has been a member of the Boys & Girls Club for five years. He has volunteered in a number of roles throughout the Club, most notably in leadership roles through the Leaders In Training and Junior Staff programs. He is also a member of the National Honor Society at Troy Athens High School. Tommy says that his favorite memory at the Club has been working with members to help them get through tough times and watching them thrive in the Club's programs. He plans to follow his interests in Business at Central Michigan University.

Each year, thousands of Club teens participate in local, state and regional Youth of the Year events. Six teens, including five regional winners and a national military youth winner, advance to Washington, D.C., for the National Youth of the Year Gala & Celebration Dinner, where one outstanding young person is named Boys & Girls Clubs of America's national teen spokesperson. The National Youth of the Year is a role model, leader and advocate for the nearly four million youth served by Boys & Girls Clubs each year, and all of America's young people.

ABOUT THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF TROY

The Boys & Girls Club of Troy, located at 3670 John R Road, is a non-profit youth development organization that provides educational and recreational activities, in addition to mentoring programs, to more than 1,200 children, aged six to 18, in the tri-county area of metropolitan Detroit. For more than four decades, the Club's positive environment has enabled members to become responsible, self-reliant, and caring adults. Visit www.bgctroy.org for more information.

ABOUT BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA

For more than 100 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America (GreatFutures.org) has enabled young people most in need to achieve great futures as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Today, some 4,000 Boys & Girls Clubs serve nearly 4 million children and teens through Club membership and community outreach.