

CHANGING LIVES

2013 Youth of the Year Fact Sheet

WHAT: The Washington State Youth of the Year (YOY) is designed to promote and recognize service to Club and community, academic performance, and contributions to family. Youth from across Washington are selected to represent their local organization and join their counterparts from across the state in sharing their life changing stories at a Gala Dinner event attended by 250 board, staff, and community leaders. The YOY program is multi-day, and includes trainings for participants, interviewing and judging competition, a breakfast reception held at the Governor's mansion in Olympia, and fun for the teens.

The young people who earn recognition as Youth of the Year are living proof that Boys & Girls Clubs are effective. Indeed, there is no stronger testimony that Clubs are truly the *positive place* for kids. Once selected as Youth of the Year, the winner begins a one-year term as the teen spokesperson for all Boys & Girls Club members by taking part in community events and activities. All youth of the year participants receive college scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,500.

WHEN: March 27th & 28th 2013

WHERE: Governor's Mansion in Olympia & Bell Harbor Conference Center in Seattle

ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND:

Mission: The Boys & Girls of Washington exist to inspire & enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.

Five Core Program Areas: Character & Leadership Development, Education & Career Development, Health & Life Skills, the Arts and Sports/Fitness/Recreation

Who We Serve and Where We Serve Them:

- Clubs offer programs at a total of **147 separate locations**, including Clubhouses, native lands, public housing, schools, and community centers.
- We currently **serve 79,119 Washington state youth in grades K-12** through annual membership, and over 63,000 youth through community outreach.

What We Provide:

- We provide a positive place where every child can participate, regardless of race, religion or financial situation, while feeling safe and welcome.
- Full-time highly trained youth development staff that serve as positive role models.
- No child is turned away, regardless of ability to pay for services.
- The cost of providing programs in a Boys & Girls Club is roughly \$500 per child; compared to the average annual cost of incarcerating a youth in a Washington State youth detention facility (upwards of \$45,000 a year).



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
WASHINGTON STATE ASSOCIATION