***Junior Youth of the Year Program***

What: Youth of the Year is the Boys & Girls Club premier recognition program for Club members, promoting service to the Club, community and family, academic success, strong moral character, life goals, and poise and public speaking ability.

Who: Current Pre-teen members of the Boys & Girls Club of Springfield

When: See schedule below for more information

Where: The Boys & Girls Club of Springfield

Why: To better prepare our youth for Youth of the Year and to expose potential candidates to the expectations and work required of the Youth of the Year program.

What do you Get: To represent your Club, to share with others about your Club experience, a certificate/award, a wonderful prize, a free summer membership, valuable experience, and more!

What to do Now: Complete the Junior Youth of the Year Application and turn it in to ***ENTER PERSON*** before ***ENTER DATE.*** Be prepared to use all the knowledge you gained during your Junior Youth of Year program.

**Candidate Expectations**

Each Candidate:

1. Is expected to be present each day that we are conducting interviews, writing essays, and giving speeches.
2. Is expected to act in a manner that best represents the Boys & Girls Club Mission and Values.
3. Is expected to dress professionally.
4. Must complete each stage in the Junior Youth of the Year process to be eligible for the title which includes turning in a parent permission form, two reference letters, an essay telling us why they want to and deserve to be Jr. Youth of the Year, and present an interview and speech.
5. Will receive one on one coaching with Ms. Brandy and receive help from various staff members.
6. Must complete the following forms to compete:
   1. Letter of Intent, Parent Permission, Eligibility
7. Other expectations as required

**Junior Youth of the Year Winner Expectations**

The Junior Youth of the Year is expected to:

1. Represent your Unit and the Boys & Girls Club of Springfield in a manner that represents the Boys & Girls Club Mission and Values.
2. Be a leader and mentor to Boys & Girls Club members.
3. Speak to your Boys & Girls Club regularly regarding the State of the Club.
4. Compete for the Springfield Youth of the Year if candidate meets the requirements and eligibility.
5. Other duties as assigned.

***Schedule of Events***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Event | Location | Time | Description |
|  | Workshop, Speech Writing, and Essays |  |  | Candidates will work on their essays, practice their speeches (topic: “Why am I competing for Junior Youth of the Year?”), learn about civic engagement, and get help from staff members. |
|  | Photo Shoot, Essay Due, Interview Practice, Speech Practice |  |  | Each candidate will get their photos taken and will complete and turn in their one page, typed essay answering the question: “What does the Boys & Girls Club mean to me?” Each candidate will go through interview practice and practice delivering their speeches. |
|  | Interviews and Speech |  |  | Each candidate will deliver his or her speech in front of a panel of judges.  Each candidate will participate in a 5 minute interview about his or her experiences with the BGC, moral character, life goals, and values. |
|  | Awards Ceremony |  |  | Each candidate will deliver their memorized speech about the Club, their desire to be YOY, and more. Awards will be given and a winner will be announced. |

***Junior Youth of the Year Application***

**Candidate Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Candidate Full Name |  |
| Candidate Gender |  |
| Years in Boys & Girls Club |  |

By signing below, you agree to represent your Unit by upholding the Boys & Girls Club Mission and Values. You also agree that you will, to the best of your abilities, be present for all stages of the competition. If for some reason, you are not able to fulfill your duties or expectations, you understand that you will no longer be eligible to compete.

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Candidate Signature Date

**Parent Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Parent(s) Name |  |
| Parent E-mail Address |  |
| Parent Phone Number |  |

By signing below, you agree to the terms and expectations of your Unit and the Junior Youth of the Year program. You give your child permission to compete and ensure your child, to the best of his or her abilities, will be present for all stages of the competition. If for some reason, your child is not able to fulfill his/her duties or expectations, you understand that he/she will no longer be eligible to compete.

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Parent Signature Date

***Junior Youth of the Year Essay***

The applicant is asked to write an essay on what the Club means to him or her, to be written in the words of the nominee. Judges will consider content and grammar. Essay must be typed, 12 point font, and at least one page. You may use this space to begin your draft.

***Youth of the Year Speech***

Each candidate must prepare a 30 second memorized speech. This speech will be given in front of a panel of judges and at the Awards Ceremony. You may use the space below for a first draft. Your speech must answer the following questions.

1. Name
2. Age
3. Years in Boys & Girls Club
4. Why you are competing for Junior Youth of the Year?
5. Why is the Club important to you?!

***References: Reference 1***

Each candidate must provide two letters of recommendation. Some reference examples include: a teacher, a family member, coaches, a group leader, community members, etc. One reference letter must be an adult that is not a family member. Please ask your references to complete the form below.

Junior Youth of the Year Candidate Reference Form

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Full Name: |  |
| Relationship to Candidate: |  |
| Years Known the Candidate: |  |

Please use the space provided below or attach a sheet to answer **one** of the following questions about the candidate.

* Give examples of how the nominee has demonstrated leadership and service in the home and family.
* Give examples of how the nominee adheres to high moral standards. Examples include positive peer-to-peer interaction, community service, involvement in extracurricular activities or involvement in a faith community
* Give examples of how the nominee has demonstrated leadership and service in planning and implementing community activities.
* Give examples of how the nominee has demonstrated school leadership and service. Activities engaged in and their diversity, scholastic achievement and contributions made to school, faculty and peers should be highlighted.
* Give examples of how the nominee has demonstrated leadership and service within their Boys & Club.

***References: Reference 2***

Each candidate must provide two letters of recommendation. Some reference examples include: a teacher, a family member, coaches, a group leader, community members, etc. One reference letter must be an adult that is not a family member. Please ask your references to complete the form below.

Junior Youth of the Year Candidate Reference Form

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Full Name: |  |
| Relationship to Candidate: |  |
| Years Known the Candidate: |  |

Please use the space provided below or attach a sheet to answer **one** of the following questions about the candidate.

* Give examples of how the nominee has demonstrated leadership and service in the home and family.
* Give examples of how the nominee adheres to high moral standards. Examples include positive peer-to-peer interaction, community service, involvement in extracurricular activities or involvement in a faith community
* Give examples of how the nominee has demonstrated leadership and service in planning and implementing community activities.
* Give examples of how the nominee has demonstrated school leadership and service. Activities engaged in and their diversity, scholastic achievement and contributions made to school, faculty and peers should be highlighted.
* Give examples of how the nominee has demonstrated leadership and service within their Boys & Club.

***Helpful Hints for Candidates***

**Boys & Girls Club Mission Statement**

To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

**Boys & Girls Club of Springfield Club Code**

I believe in God and the right to worship according to my own faith and religion.

I believe in America and the American way of life, in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

I believe in fair play, honesty, and sportsmanship.

I believe in my Boys & girls Club which stands for these things.

**Possible Interview Questions**

What does the Boys & Girls Club mean to you?

How has the Boys & Girls Club allowed you to succeed?

What person has had a positive influence on you and why?

Why is the Boys & Girls Club important?

What is your favorite subject in school and why?

How will you use the Junior Youth of the Year experience to help you in the future?

Which Club staff is your favorite and why?

What does it mean to you to be respectful?

What does it mean to you to be compassionate?

What is your definition of a positive role model?

What does it mean to have integrity?

What does diversity mean to you?

What does it mean to be a good leader?

Give us an example of when you have been a good leader.

In which extracurricular activities are you involved?

Why is it important to give back to the community?

What do you want to do when you get older?