Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Colorado

Youth of the Year Program 2026 - 2027

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Colorado (BGCNWC) honors outstanding teens as our **Youth of the Year (YOY) finalists**. This prestigious recognition celebrates young people who embody the Club's values and demonstrate leadership, service, academic success, and strong character. The Youth of the Year is a role model for peers and younger members, an ambassador for the Club, and a positive voice in our community.

Eligibility Requirements

- Active and continuous BGCNWC membership for at least **2 consecutive years** prior to event dates
- **2.5 GPA or higher**
- **16–18 years old** at the time of the event and enrolled as a **high school junior or senior**
- Willingness to prepare and deliver a **3-minute speech**, presented live without note cards

Speech must include:

- Membership and involvement at the Club
- Obstacles overcome
- The Club's impact
- Future goals and aspirations

Special Requirements – Craig Club

- Present a **2-minute speech** at **Cowboy Christmas, December 5th 5pm**
- May use note cards

Key Dates & Deadlines

October 2026

- Oct 5 - Applications Open
- Oct 23 - Completed YOY Application, resume, and Essay 1 submitted to klanders@bgcnwc.org

- Oct 30 - If more than 8 applications are received, a committee will review and select up to 8 to continue as Youth of the Year nominees.

January 2027

- Jan 11 – Press Release Interview in Steamboat with Kelly Landers
- Jan 12 – Press Release Interview in Craig with Kelly Landers
- Jan 16 – Submit headshot photo to Kelly Landers (klanders@bgcnwc.org)
- Jan 25 – Dinner & Speech Event, 6:30 PM in Steamboat

February 2027

- Feb 1 – Additional essays due to Kelly Landers
- Feb 5 – Steamboat YOY Practice Speech with volunteers, Noon – 1pm @ Club
- Feb 22 – Judges Interview & Speech Presentation, 6 PM at BGCNWC Craig
- Feb 24 – **Youth of the Year Celebration**, 6 PM at Albright Auditorium, Colorado Mountain College

March 2027

- Mar 4 – State Application due (includes letters of recommendation)

April 2027

- Apr 4 - 6 - Winner of the Jim Dodd Memorial Youth of the Year Scholarship must attend the Colorado Youth of the Year Competition

June 2027

- Jun 29 – Winner and nominees will speak at the **Be Great Bash** (4–9 PM)

Benefits of Participation

- Public speaking coaching and confidence-building
- Resume and college application enhancement
- Professional development and interview practice

Scholarship Awards

- **$2,500–$5,000** – Awarded to each Youth of the Year finalist who completes the program
- **$5,000–$10,000** – Awarded to the overall winner, named the **Jim Dodd Youth of the Year Memorial Scholarship**
- Scholarships valid for **6 years**
- Funds may be used for tuition, books, campus meals and housing, or educational tools