



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE GULF COAST

MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michelle Wilson, Director of Development
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast
228-896-3770 or 228-348-3204
mwilson@bgcgulfcoast.org

OUTSTANDING TEENS TO COMPETE FOR MISSISSIPPI BOYS & GIRLS CLUB YOUTH OF THE YEAR HONOR

****** YOUR COVERAGE IS INVITED ******

Gulfport, MS - Teens from Boys & Girls Clubs across Mississippi are competing for the Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year title.

Being selected Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Club member can receive. The title recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community and Boys & Girls Club, as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome. In addition to winning this prestigious title, the winner will also receive a \$1,000 scholarship from the Reader's Digest Foundation. Every year, Boys & Girls Clubs of America recognizes hundreds of Youth of the Year winners across the country for their sound character, leadership skills and willingness to give back to the community.

This year's competition and judging will take place during the BGC MS Annual Conference located at the Courtyard Marriott, East Beach Blvd, Gulfport on Thursday, April 22 and Friday, April 23. The panel of judges include: Shelly Scarborough- Mississippi Power Company, Elaine Stevens- IP Casino Resort and Spa, Diana Gonzalez- The Peoples Bank, Kimberly Nastasi- MS Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Marcus Jones- United Way of South MS, Jim Pitts- Consultant, Dr. Scherrine Davenport- Ocean Springs School District, Cindy Minton- Lynn Meadows Discovery Center, and Tee McCovey- MS Dept. of Employment Security.

The 2010 Youth of the Year Finalist are: Essence Keith- BGC of Northeast MS; Shaquetha Lewis- BGCs of Southwest MS; Jeramey Anderson - BGCs of Jackson County; Audrey Boles- BGC of North MS; Mia Butler - BGCs of the Miss-Lou; LaChardonay Johnson - CAFB Youth Center; Joseph Pope - BGC of Northwest MS; DeMarkus Johnson - BGC of East MS; Cameron Lilly - BGC of MS Band of Choctaw Indians; Donovan Washington - BGCs of Central MS; Melanie Newell - BGC of Kosciusko / Attala County; Tevin Patterson - Keesler Youth Center; Emily Hinkel - Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast.

For additional information about the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast please contact Michelle Wilson at 228-896-3770 or visit our website at www.bgcgulfcoast.org.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Youth of the Year Program:

Sponsored by the Reader's Digest Foundation since 1947, the Youth of the Year Program is designed to promote and recognize service to Club and community, academic performance and contributions to family and spiritual life. Competition begins with each club selecting a Youth of the Year who receives a certificate and medallion then enters state competition. State winners receive a plaque and \$1,000 scholarship then enter the regional competition. Each of the five regional winners receives a \$10,000 scholarship and enters the national competition held in Washington, DC. The National Youth of the Year receives an additional \$15,000 scholarship, totaling \$26,000 in scholarships, and is installed by the President of the United States.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast:

In 2009, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast had approximately 2500 registered members and served 1400 youth through the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast New Hope Program, which is a school based therapeutic behavioral facilitation program. Our mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

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