



## **EXCEPTIONAL TEEN RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS HONOR; NAMED *NEW JERSEY* MILITARY YOUTH OF THE YEAR BY BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA**

***Tamiya Richardson set to receive college scholarship and vie for regional title this month***

Clifton, New Jersey, June 6, 2019 – Tamiya Richardson from McGuire Youth Center has been named the New Jersey Military Youth of the Year by [Boys & Girls Clubs of America](https://www.bgs.org/) for her leadership, service, academic excellence and dedication to live a healthy lifestyle. The Youth of the Year title is a prestigious honor bestowed upon an exemplary young person in recognition of leadership, service, academic excellence and dedication to live a healthy lifestyle. Now in its 72<sup>nd</sup> year, the program honors our nation’s most awe-inspiring young people on their path to great futures and encourages all kids to lead, succeed and inspire. As the new teen representative and one of three military youth finalists competing for the honor, Tamiya will represent all members of Boys & Girls Clubs-affiliated Youth Centers in New Jersey. She will receive an \$8,500 college scholarship -- \$5,000 from Boys & Girls Clubs in America and \$3,500 from Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey.

“We are incredibly proud of Tamiya and all of the Youth of the Year nominees,” said Jim Clark, president and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of America. “Being named Youth of the Year is a lifelong honor. As the New Jersey Military Youth of the Year, Tamiya will serve as a spokesperson for kids across the state who face the many unique challenges associated with military life.”

Tamiya is a 10<sup>th</sup> grader at Northern Burlington High School where she maintains a 3.7 GPA. She is a member of the Junior ROTC program. At the McGuire Youth Center, where she has been a member for three years, Tamiya is the Keystone Club Secretary. Her community service projects include leading the McGuire Youth Center book donation drive and volunteering at McGuire's Airman's Attic. Tamiya's career aspirations are to become a teacher and inspire other youth.

Founded more than seventy years ago in 1947 as Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier youth recognition program, Youth of the Year recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community and Boys & Girls Club. The Youth of the Year recognition program is presented by The Walt Disney Company, who has supported Boys & Girls Clubs of America for more than 50 years, empowering young people to reach their full potential and providing youth with access to the tools they need to build the great futures they imagine. Toyota is the Signature Sponsor of the National Youth of the Year program.

This month, Tamiya will join other state military winners to vie for the Northeast Military Youth of the Year and an additional \$10,000 college scholarship, renewable for four years up to \$40,000. Five regional winners will advance to Washington, D.C. in September 2019 to compete for the title of National Military Youth of the Year. The final stage of the journey, National Youth of the Year, presents the opportunity to receive an additional scholarship of \$25,000, renewable each year up to \$100,000.

For more information about the Youth of the Year program, visit [www.youthoftheyear.org](http://www.youthoftheyear.org).

#### **About Boys & Girls Clubs of America**

For more than 150 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America (<http://www.bgca.org>) has enabled young people most in need to achieve great futures as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Today 4,600 Clubs serve 4.7 million young people annually through Club membership and community outreach. Clubs are located in cities, towns, public housing and on Native lands throughout the country, and serve military families in BGCA-affiliated Youth Centers on U.S. military installations worldwide. They provide a safe place, caring adult mentors, fun, friendship, and high-impact youth development programs on a daily basis during critical non-school hours. Priority programs emphasize academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. In a Harris Survey of alumni, 54 percent said the Club saved their lives. National headquarters are located in Atlanta. Learn more at [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

#### **About Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey**

Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey is an alliance of 22 Boys & Girls Club organizations serving nearly 70,000 youth ages 5-18 throughout the Garden State. Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey is a collaborative effort representing all 22 Clubs with the purpose of building local Club capacity; raising public awareness; and securing resources and financial support to increase the impact and reach of NJ Clubs. Learn more at [www.bgcnj.org](http://www.bgcnj.org)

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