



EXCEPTIONAL NEW JERSEY TEEN RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS HONOR; NAMED 2024 NEW JERSEY “MILITARY YOUTH OF THE YEAR”

Sade Olowe Receives \$6,000 College Scholarship from Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey and Boys & Girls Clubs of America – To Vie for Regional Title in June

Clifton, NJ, May 14, 2024 – Sade from the Dix Youth Programs has been named the 2024 New Jersey Military Youth of the Year by Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey and Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

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 living a healthy lifestyle. Now in its 77th year, the program honors our nation’s most awe-inspiring young people on their path to great futures. As the 2024 New Jersey Military Youth of the Year, Sade will serve as an ambassador and will receive a \$6,000 college scholarship from Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey and Boys & Girls Clubs of America. She will go on to vie for the regional Youth of the Year, the National Military Youth of the Year, and ultimately the national title.

Olowe has been an outstanding Club member of the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Dix Youth Programs for one year, where she has participated in several Club programs, including Keystone Club, Smart Girls, Art Club, and Cooking Club. As a member of Keystone Club, a teen program that supports leadership and community service, Olowe has participated in a variety of projects throughout the year. These projects have been assisting with pre-teen recreational events like dances and parties and include installation-based events, such as Purple Up Month of the Military Child Extravaganza which provided a day of fun and entertainment for over 300 youth and their families. In addition, she advocated for Read Across America as she read to more than 40 children at the Child Development Centers on base. These opportunities have inspired Olowe to develop an interest in advocating for teens and children, so they are supported, respected, and safe. Olowe’s new initiatives are promoting the Joint Base Youth Programs, increasing teen recruitment, and developing partnerships with other community organizations. The Club program that has impacted her the most is Keystone Club, as she was able to engage, learn, make connections, and develop friendships with other military teens.

Olowe is currently a senior and is homeschooled at Uzoma Free School, where she maintains a 3.9 GPA. Her aspirations are to be an author – and to fulfill this, she will be

attending Underwood International College (Yonsei University) in Seoul, South Korea, where she will be studying comparative literature and culture. Her interests include writing, baking, reading, Korean study, outreach, and theology.

“We are incredibly proud of Sade and all the Youth of the Year nominees,” said Susan Haspel, State Director of Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey. “Being named Youth of the Year is a lifelong honor. As the New Jersey Military Youth of the Year, Sade will serve as a spokesperson for kids and teens across the state who face the many unique challenges associated with military life.”

Founded 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 program is supported by Toyota and Kohl’s. As the signature Sponsors of Youth of the Year, Toyota and Kohl’s are committed to partnering with Boys & Girls Clubs of America to ensure local Clubs provide life-enhancing opportunities for kids and teens to explore, develop, and apply the essential skills they need to be successful in life and work. Youth of the Year representatives are the workforce leaders, innovators, and problem-solvers of tomorrow.

On June 20, 2024. Sade will vie for the title of Northeast Military Youth of the Year and an additional \$20,000 college scholarship. Each region’s military Youth of the Year will advance to the National Military Youth of the Year event for an additional \$20,000 scholarship. The National Military Youth of the Year will then advance to the final stage of the journey, National Youth of the Year, which presents the opportunity to receive an additional scholarship of \$50,000 and a brand-new Toyota Corolla.

For more information about the Youth of the Year program, visit bgca.org/yoy.

About Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey

Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey is an alliance of 22 Boys & Girls Club organizations serving more than 55,000 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 about Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey at [BGCNJ.org](https://bgcnj.org).

About Boys & Girls Clubs of America

For more than 160 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America ([BGCA.org](https://bgca.org)) has provided a safe place for kids and teens to learn and grow. Clubs offer caring adult mentors, fun and friendship, and high-impact youth development programs on a daily basis during critical non-school hours. Boys & Girls Clubs programming promotes academic success, good character and leadership, and healthy lifestyles. More than 5,200 Clubs serve 3.3 million young people 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. National headquarters are located in Atlanta. Learn more about Boys & Girls Clubs of America on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/bgca) and [X](https://twitter.com/bgca).

MEDIA CONTACT: Susan Haspel, shaspel@bgcnj.org