



## **EXCEPTIONAL NEW JERSEY TEEN RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS HONOR; NAMED 2025 NEW JERSEY “MILITARY YOUTH OF THE YEAR”**

***Briahnee Coulanges 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 16, 2025 – Briahnee C. from the McGuire Youth Programs has been named the 2025 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 78th year, the program honors our nation’s most awe-inspiring young people on their path to great futures.

As the 2025 New Jersey Military Youth of the Year, Briahnee Coulanges will serve as a statewide ambassador for military youth and will receive a \$6,000 college scholarship from Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey and Boys & Girls Clubs of America. She will advance to compete for the Regional Military Youth of the Year title, followed by the opportunity to vie for National Military Youth of the Year, and potentially, the National Youth of the Year honor.

Coulanges has been an outstanding member of the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Dix Youth Programs for the past two years. She has actively participated in several Club initiatives, including serving as President of the Keystone Club and engaging in Smart Girls, Art Club, and Cooking Club. Through Keystone Club—a premier teen leadership and service program—Briahnee has led and supported numerous projects throughout the year. These include helping organize pre-teen recreational events such as dances and parties and coordinating large-scale activities like the Purple Up: Month of the Military Child Extravaganza, which offered a fun-filled day for more than 300 youth and their families.

Briahnee is also passionate about literacy and advocacy. She participated in Read Across America, reading to over 40 children at the base’s Child Development Centers. These experiences have sparked her desire to advocate for children and teens, ensuring they are supported, respected, and safe.

Looking ahead, Briahnee is focused on promoting the Joint Base Youth Programs, increasing teen engagement, and forging partnerships with other community organizations. She credits the Keystone Club with having the greatest impact on her personal development—providing opportunities to lead, build friendships, and connect with other military teens. One of her upcoming initiatives includes organizing and leading brainstorming sessions for younger youth within the program.

Briahnee is currently a sophomore at Northern Burlington Regional High School, where she maintains an impressive 3.9 GPA. Her long-term goal is to pursue a career in law.

“We are immensely proud of Briahnee and all the New Jersey Youth of the Year finalists” said Susan Haspel, State Director of Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey. “Earning the title of New Jersey Military Youth of the Year is a lifelong honor and achievement. As the state winner, Briahnee will serve as influential voice for Boys & Girls Club kids and teens across the state who need more role models that they can admire and emulate.”

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. Kohl’s is the Signature Sponsor of Youth of the Year, sharing a dedication to America’s youth. Kohl’s is committed to partnering with Boys & Girls Clubs of America to ensure local Clubs and Youth Centers provide staff training and curriculum updates focused on trauma-informed care, building practices kids and teens will need to build great futures.

On June 17, 2025, Briahnee will join other state Youth of the Year to vie for the Northeast regional title. If named the regional Youth of the Year, they will be awarded an additional \$20,000 college scholarship. The five finalists along with the National Military Youth of the Year, will advance to the National Youth of the Year event in September 2025 to vie for the title of Boys & Girls Clubs of America’s National Youth of the Year. The National Youth of the Year receives 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](https://bgca.org/yoy).

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

Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey is a statewide alliance of 21 Boys & Girls Club organizations, serving more than 59,000 youth ages 5-18 across the Garden State. This collaborative network works to strengthen local Clubs, raise public awareness, and secure resources to expand their impact and reach. To learn more, visit [www.bgcnj.org](https://www.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. Over 5,400 Clubs serve more than 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. The national headquarters is located in Atlanta. Learn more about Boys & Girls Clubs of America on [Facebook](#) and [X](#).

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