



PRESENTING PARTNER:
RAYMOND JAMES

EXCEPTIONAL ATLANTIC CITY CLUB TEEN EARNS 2026 NEW JERSEY YOUTH OF THE YEAR TITLE

Aryiane H. to Receive College Scholarship and Compete for Northeast Regional Title This June

May 14, 2026 – Selected among 15 finalists from Boys & Girls Clubs across New Jersey, Aryiane H. from the Boys & Girls Club of Atlantic City has been named the 2026 New Jersey Youth of the Year by Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey and Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

The Youth of the Year honor is one of the organization's most prestigious recognitions, celebrating an exceptional young person for leadership, service, academic excellence, and commitment to healthy lifestyles. Now in its 79th year, the program highlights inspiring young people on their path to great futures through character, achievement, and service.

As the 2026 New Jersey Youth of the Year, Aryiane will serve as a statewide ambassador for Boys & Girls Club youth and will receive a \$12,500 college scholarship. Aryiane's journey reflects the power of confidence, mentorship, and opportunity. Once a shy reader who struggled to find her voice, she grew into a passionate youth advocate through community involvement, public speaking, and civic engagement. Her development was nurtured over more than 12 years at the Boys & Girls Club of Atlantic City, where she first joined as a summer camp member at age five and found a lasting source of safety, encouragement, and opportunity.

As she grew older, Aryiane became deeply involved in Teen Center programs that strengthened her leadership, creativity, and commitment to service. Through the Club, she participated in the Greater Washington Dr. Sachiko Kuno Center for Transformation, an incubator for teen empowerment engaging youth ages 14–18 in climate advocacy, STEM, DEI, and workforce readiness. She also contributed to Keystone Club, a teen leadership and community service group, and honed her musical talents through the Buzzy Bagum Entertainment Music Program.

These experiences helped shape Aryiane's confidence, expand her voice, and deepen her passion for advocacy and service. She has spoken at community and civic events across New Jersey, participated in civic engagement internships, and engaged with state leaders, including the Governor of New Jersey. Guided by her belief in liberty and justice for all, she hopes to inspire future generations of young leaders while advocating for those who feel overlooked or unheard.

Aryiane is currently a high school senior, where she maintains a 3.82 GPA. Throughout high school, she has served as President of the Future Educators Club and as

Lieutenant Operations Officer in JROTC. This fall, she plans to attend Stockton University, where she intends to major in legal studies with a minor in Africana Studies. Her career aspiration is to become a criminal defense attorney.

“We are incredibly proud of Aryiane and each of this year’s New Jersey Youth of the Year honorees,” said Susan Haspel, State Director of Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey. “These remarkable young leaders embody resilience, compassion, leadership, and a commitment to making a difference in their communities. Being named New Jersey Youth of the Year is an extraordinary achievement and lifelong honor. Aryiane will serve as a powerful voice for Boys & Girls Club youth throughout New Jersey, inspiring others through her leadership and example.”

Founded in 1947 as Boys & Girls Clubs of America’s premier youth recognition program, Youth of the Year celebrates outstanding contributions to family, school, community, and Boys & Girls Club. Raymond James serves as the presenting partner of Youth of the Year, supporting academic success initiatives and helping empower the next generation with the tools, resources, and mentorship they need to thrive.

On June 9, Aryiane will join other state Youth of the Year honorees to compete for the Northeast regional title. If named Regional Youth of the Year, she will receive an additional \$20,000 college scholarship. Regional finalists, along with the National Military Youth of the Year, will advance to the National Youth of the Year event in October 2026 to compete for the national title. The National Youth of the Year receives a \$50,000 scholarship and a brand-new Toyota Corolla.

For more information about the New Jersey Youth of the Year program, visit [BGCNJ's YOY Annual Event – 2026 | Boy and Girls Clubs in New Jersey](#)

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. Together, New Jersey Clubs provide young people with safe spaces, caring mentors, and life-changing opportunities that empower them to reach their full potential. Through advocacy, public awareness, capacity building, and strategic partnerships, Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey helps strengthen and expand the impact of Club programs statewide. Learn more at BGCNJ.org.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of America

For more than 160 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America (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 5,500 Clubs serve more than 4 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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