



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EXCEPTIONAL TEEN NAMED WASHINGTON STATE YOUTH OF THE YEAR BY
BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA**

Alizabeth Ashton set to receive college scholarship and vie for regional title this fall.

Olympia, WA, March 30, 2021 – Selected among 8 outstanding youth, Alizabeth Ashton has been named the Washington State Youth of the Year by 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 live a healthy lifestyle. Now in its 74th year, the Youth of the Year program honors our nation’s most awe-inspiring young people on their path to great futures. As the Washington State Youth of the Year, Alizabeth will serve as an ambassador for all teens in the state, will receive a \$2,500 college scholarship from Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and will go on to contend for the regional Youth of the Year and ultimately the national title.

Alizabeth, a member of the Rochester branch of Boys & Girls Clubs of Thurston County, has been a Club member since third grade and credits support from Club mentors as a powerful impact of her Club experience. She is the ASB student body president at Rochester High School and has been involved in cheer, band, and color guard. She has participated in numerous Club programs, most recently serving as a Jr. Staff member helping assist and mentor younger members. Her plans are to attend Eastern Washington University as a Child Studies major. Alizabeth’s Club is located in an unincorporated rural community of 14,000 in south Thurston County, WA.

“We are incredibly proud of Alizabeth and all the Youth of the Year nominees,” said Katya Miltimore, Executive Director, Boys & Girls Clubs of Washington State Association. “Being named Youth of the Year is a lifelong honor. As the Washington State Youth of the Year, Alizabeth will serve as a spokesperson 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. The Youth of the Year program is supported by Toyota and Mondelez. As the Signature Sponsor of

Youth of the Year, Toyota is 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. As the Lead Sponsor of Youth of the Year, Mondelēz International, will engage with local Clubs year-round to help foster a new generation of leaders prepared to live in and lead a diverse global economy. Youth of the Year representatives are the workforce leaders, innovators and problem-solvers of tomorrow. At the State level, Youth of the Year is sponsored by Columbia Bank.

This Fall, Alizabeth will join other state winners to vie for the pacific regional title. If named the regional winner, she will be awarded an additional \$20,000 college scholarship. Six youth, including five regional winners and a military youth winner, will advance to the virtual National Youth of the Year event in October 2021 to compete for the title of Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Youth of the Year. The National Youth of the Year will receive an additional scholarship of \$50,000 and a brand-new Toyota Corolla.

For more information about the Youth of the Year program, visit www.youthoftheyear.org.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Washington State Association and Alliance

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Washington exist to inspire & enable all young people to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. It focuses on five core program areas: character and leadership development, education and career development, health and life skills, the arts and sports/fitness/recreation. Currently, over 76,000 Washington state youth in grades K-12 are served through annual membership and over 53,000 youth through community outreach. There are programs currently offered at 152 separate locations, including traditional Clubhouses, military installations, native lands, public housing, schools and community centers.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of America

For more than 100 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA.org) has enabled young people most in need to achieve great futures as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Today, more than 4,600 Clubs serve over 4.76 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. They provide a safe place, caring adult mentors, fun and friendship, and high-impact youth development programs on a daily basis during critical non-school hours. Club programs promote 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 about Boys & Girls Clubs of America on Facebook and Twitter.

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