

ARIZONA STATE



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All of our 2020 Youth of the Year candidates have worked extremely hard to get to this day, and we congratulate them on their success. Being able to represent their clubs at the state level is a huge accomplishment. Their stories and aspirations show us that the future of Arizona is in great hands.

To family, friends and staff members who have supported us through this journey, we hope you enjoy this time celebrating your candidates. The impact of our Clubs is evident and on full display.

Boys & Girls Clubs and the Youth of the Year program teach our teens the skills to be successful and how to turn dreams into realities. It also provides a wonderful opportunity to advocate for passions. The future looks bright. These are the leaders of the future!

Congratulations and best wishes!



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF AMERICA**



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
ARIZONA ALLIANCE**

The 2020 Youth of the Year Candidates

Carly Mertz

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Scottsdale



“To me, the Club means acceptance. A place that will always welcome me back with open arms and allow me to just be me!”

Carly is 17 years old and a senior at Pinnacle High School. She has been a member of the Thunderbirds Branch of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Scottsdale for 12 years.

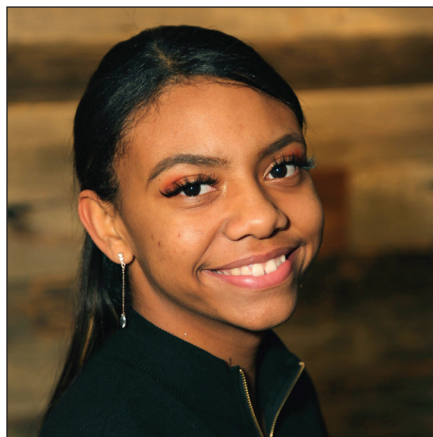
Carly has held leadership roles in Torch Club, Leaders in Training, and is currently her Club’s Keystone President. She is also a valued part-time Club staff member.

With plans to attend Arizona State University after graduation, Carly hopes to have a career as a non-profit event planner.

Carly credits her Club with helping her discover her passions and achieve her goals, teaching her to never give up.

Jasimiair Roebuck

Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson



“Four years of high school is over and the journey of life begins!”

Jasimiair Roebuck is 18 years old and a senior at Tucson High School. She has been a member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson – Steve Daru Branch for over 8 years.

Her ambition, style, and grace have led her to be a vital part of the Steve Daru family. She is the Keystone President of her Club and has learned valuable life skills for herself while also teaching others.

Jasimiair has spent over 250 hours volunteering and completed an internship at her Club, through a partnership with Goodwill.

Upon graduating from high school, she will be continuing her education at the University of Arizona. She plans to pursue a degree in Criminal Justice and hopes to make a difference in her community.

The 2020 Youth of the Year Candidates

Samia Ruiz

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Phoenix



“Home is not a specific place. Home is the people you surround yourself with.”

Samia is 17 years old and senior at Cesar Chavez High School. She has been a member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Phoenix – I.G. Homes Branch for 11 years.

Samia became involved in programs like Smart Girls and Money Matters to help her build confidence and skills. She then grew into a leader and served her community through Torch Club and Keystone.

At school, Samia is a member of Link Crew, the National Honor Society, track team, and is the head manager of the Varsity football team. She holds a 4.1 GPA and hopes to attend Tennessee State University to study Athletic Training.

Samia makes those around her feel valued and comfortable. She is also an ambassador at Cesar Chavez High and helps freshman with their transition into high school.

Jacob Thompson

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Colorado River



“Always live life to the fullest and make sure to always do the right thing.”

Jacob is 18 years old and a senior at Mohave High School in Bullhead City, Arizona. He has been a member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Colorado River for 11 years.

Jacob credits the Boys & Girls Club for his progress and determination, which led to his increased GPA and ultimately multiple college offers.

At school, Jacob is an honors student, four-year member of the marching band, section leader of the drumline and the secretary of the Crown of Thorns Christian Club.

After graduating high school, Jacob plans on attending Northern Arizona University where he will major in Business Management.

Cesar Villasenor

Boys & Girls Clubs of the East Valley



“My only wish is that I would have known about my Club sooner.”

Cesar is a senior at Betty H. Fairfax High School and participates in the dual enrollment program. He has been a member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the East Valley: Gila River - Komatke Branch for 6 years.

Cesar was a Leader in Training and then transitioned to a Group Leader through his dedication to the Club and the youth he serves. He now works at the Club year round and takes pride in providing a safe and welcoming environment for all who attend.

The Club taught Cesar to keep an open mind, show respect to everyone, and have a healthy, positive mindset.

Because of the Club’s impact on Cesar, he has now aligned his goals to pursue a career in Youth Development at Arizona State University in the Fall.

Dylan Voy

Luke AFB Youth Program



“Your will, your passion, and your intuition are what keeps you moving. The club and AFJROTC are mine, and I am going strong.”

Dylan is a junior at Agua Fria High School and has been a member of the Luke Air Force Base Youth Program for 7 years.

As a Luke Air Force Base Club member, Dylan brought back the Keystone program and served as president for the 2018-19 school year. He’s happy to say that the program is still going strong.

Dylan has spent numerous hours volunteering in the community and many of these opportunities came from serving as the Orienteering Commander in his high school AFJROTC program.

At school, Dylan is taking honors and AP classes all while maintaining a 3.6 GPA. His goal after graduation is to go to either Duke University or the US Air Force Academy to pursue a degree in Aerospace Engineering. He then wants to join the US Air Force as an officer.

Judges

Liesl White

Davis-Monthan AFB Youth Program



"To brave the sea of trepidation, you must first brave the storm within yourself."

Liesl is 18 years old and a senior at Catalina Foothills High School. She has been a member of the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base Youth Program for 4 years.

She is very involved at her Club participating in programs such as Junior Staff, Keystone, Teen Council, Teen Ambassador and Teen Mentor. She is also the Keystone President and is thankful for the opportunities the Club has provided her to lead and grow as a youth.

Liesl is also very involved in the community by volunteering over 150 hours through canned food drives, tutoring, and various community events. She received the Volunteer Service Award with Keystone.

After graduation, Liesl plans to attend the University of Arizona where she will study Zoology and Animal Studies.

Chelsea Collins

Customer Service Manager, Toyota/
Lexus Financial Services

Emily Holden

Director of Game & Event Operations,
Fiesta Bowl

Mark Gretter

Director of Youth Basketball Programs,
Phoenix Suns

2019 Arizona Youth of the Year

Iyana Jameson

2019 Arizona Youth of the Year





BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS ARIZONA ALLIANCE

Boys & Girls Clubs have proudly served Arizona youth with quality programs and services for more than 70 years. The Arizona Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs was formed in 2000 to increase the club's visibility in communities and to advocate for Arizona's most vulnerable youth.

BOARD MEMBERS

Andy Reese, President

Boys & Girls Clubs of the East Valley

James Bryce

Boys & Girls Club of the Gila Valley

Cheyenne Walsh

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Phoenix

Robyn Julien

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Scottsdale

Mark Cox

Boys & Girls Clubs of Flagstaff

Matthew Lemberg

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Casa Grande Valley

Marcia Mintz

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Phoenix

Mannie Bowler

Boys & Girls Clubs of Round Valley

Mick Ruiz

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gila Valley

Nicole Kennedy

Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Arizona

Debbie Wagner

Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson

Tara Wagner

Davis-Monthan AFB Youth Program

Sundeigh Walker

Boys & Girls Clubs of White Mountain Apache

ARIZONA ALLIANCE MEMBERS

Autumn Boyl-Robinson

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Colorado River

Karen Cabanillas

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Aha Macav

Mark Cobb

Luke AFB Youth Program

Annette Flores

Boys & Girls Clubs of Bisbee

Jay Hamwright

Boys & Girls Clubs of Sierra Vista



 **Fiesta Bowl.**

MORE THAN JUST A GAME

ANOTHER RECORD-BREAKING YEAR ON AND OFF THE FIELD.

