



## **MEDIA ALERT**

**April 22, 2014**

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### **EXCEPTIONAL TEENS TO COMPETE FOR ALABAMA BOYS & GIRLS CLUB YOUTH OF THE YEAR HONOR**

***\*\*\* YOUR COVERAGE IS INVITED \*\*\****

#### **CO-HOSTED BY**

Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Alabama and A. G. Gaston Boys & Girls Club

#### **WHEN:**

April 23 – 25, 2014

#### **WHERE:**

Sheraton Birmingham Hotel  
2101 Richard Arrington Jr Blvd North  
Birmingham, AL 35203

#### **WHAT:**

10 teens from Alabama are competing for Boys & Girls Club of America's State Youth of the Year title and three teens are competing for BGCA Military State Youth of the Year title.

Being named Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Club member can receive. As Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier youth recognition program, the Youth of the Year title recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community and Boys & Girls Club, as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome. As the national program sponsor, Tupperware Brands awards each state winner a \$1,000 college scholarship, a \$10,000 scholarship from the Beverly Burton Trust and each regional winner a \$10,000 scholarship. The national winner receives an additional scholarship up to \$50,000 from The Rick and Susan Goings Foundation.

On Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> the candidates will present three-minute speeches to judges, who will also review two prepared essays about what the BGC and what post-secondary education means to him/her.

Our esteemed judges are:

Judge Houston Brown – Jefferson County Circuit Court  
Richard Busby – Wells Fargo  
Carol Butler – Mike & Gillian Goodrich Foundation  
Courtney Orazine – United Way of Central Alabama  
Marjorie Perlman – Tacala, LLC  
Jay Roberson – Birmingham City Council

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#### **WHO:**

The 2014 Alabama Youth of the Year finalists –  
Exavier Ayers – Boys & Girls Clubs of North Alabama  
Faith Cummings – Boys & Girls Clubs of SW Alabama

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Exavier Ayers – Boys & Girls Clubs of North Alabama  
Faith Cummings – Boys & Girls Clubs of SW Alabama  
Anitra Hayes – Boys & Girls Club of the Lake Martin Area  
Kelsie Kelley – Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama  
Rebekah Keon – Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Alabama  
Katilyn McClung – Redstone Arsenal Youth Center  
Sierra Metcalf – Boys & Girls Clubs of the Wiregrass  
Kameron Moore – Maxwell AFB Gunter Annex Youth Programs  
Kylah Robinson – Fort Rucker Youth Services  
Alex Ross – Porch Creek Indians  
Justin Strother – A. G. Gaston – Boys & Girls Club  
Fantasia White – Boys & Girls Club of East Central Alabama  
Kanita Wright – Boys & Girls Clubs of the River Region

### **PHOTO/INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:**

On Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> a Breakfast honoring the finalist who inspire us with their leadership, resilience and service to others will be held at the Sheraton from 9 – 10 am. Mayor William A. Bell, Sr. will be on hand to give encouragement to participants and the winners will be announced.

### **About Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Alabama**

(BGCCA) exists to provide boys and girls ages six to 18 with a place to learn, grow, and succeed. The oldest Boys & Girls Club in the Southeast, BGCCA has been serving the children in the Birmingham and surrounding communities for 113 years. The Club currently has 9 clubs in 4 counties providing a safe, positive environment promoting Education, Character and Leadership Training, and Healthy Lifestyle Habits. We provide a safe place, caring adult mentors, fun, friendship, and high-impact youth development programs on a daily basis during critical non-school hours. Priority programs emphasize academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. [www.BeGreatBirmingham.org](http://www.BeGreatBirmingham.org)

### **About A. G. Gaston Boys & Girls Club**

[A. G. Gaston Boys & Girls Club](#), opened by Gaston in 1966, serves boys and girls ages 6-18. The club -- at the South Park Unit in West End and another location in Bessemer at the Southside Homes -- provides a safe, nurturing environment where members can learn new skills, receive help with homework, develop socially, express themselves through music and visual art, and take part in sports. [www.aggbgc.org](http://www.aggbgc.org)

### **About Boys & Girls Clubs of America**

For more than 100 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America ([GreatFutures.org](http://GreatFutures.org)) has enabled young people most in need to achieve great futures as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Today, more than 4,000 Clubs serve nearly 4 million young people annually through Club membership and community outreach. Clubs are located in cities, towns, public housing and on Native American lands throughout the country, and serve military families in BGCA-affiliated Youth Centers on U.S. military installations worldwide. In a Harris Survey of alumni, 57 percent said the Club saved their lives. National headquarters are located in Atlanta. Learn more at <http://www.bgca.org/facebook> and <http://bgca.org/twitter>.