

Official Nomination Form

Youth of the Year Program



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF AMERICA

For Office Use Only

Received _____
Region _____
State _____
D.E. _____

Nomination Form Instructions

The following pages (1-9) provide an opportunity to give specific examples of the nominee's eligibility for State, Regional and National Youth of the Year. Please attach no more than two supporting letters for each category to the appropriate page. You may substitute one newspaper article for one letter.

This form must be completed in full.

2-24-10 _____

Date Male Female

Grayson _____ Allyssa _____ M. _____
Last Name of Nominee First Name Middle Initial

xx-xx-xx _____ xxx-xx-xxxx _____ 10 years _____
Date of Birth Social Security Number Length of Club Membership

Bloomington High School _____ 2010 _____
Name of High School Projected Graduation Date (Month/Year)

Eastern Illinois University _____
Education or Choreographer

Tentative College Choice _____
Tentative Career Choice

xxxxxxxxx _____ 195 _____
Home Address No. of Volunteer Hours (in last 12 months)

Bloomington _____ Illinois _____ 61701 _____
City State Zip Code

309-xxx-xxxx _____
Telephone Number with Area Code

I (we) hereby consent to print and online publication and use of photographs and information contained in this application form by Boys & Girls Clubs of America or its agents. I (we) hereby attest that all information contained in this application form and attached supporting materials is to the best of my (our) knowledge truthful, accurate and complete, and that nominee meets all eligibility requirements of the Youth of the Year program.

Signature of Nominee

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal _____
Name of Boys & Girls Club Organization

1615 W. Illinois Street _____ boys.andgirlsclub@verizon.net _____
Address E-mail Address

Bloomington _____ Illinois _____ 61701 _____
City State Zip Code

309-829-3034 _____ 309-828-7108 _____
Telephone Number with Area Code Fax Number with Area Code

Evelyn R. Young _____
Name of Chief Professional Officer Signature of Chief Professional Officer

Signature of Unit Director, if applicable

Note: Each organization, including individual units of each organization, is encouraged to submit a candidate for competition in the Youth of the Year Program. Use a separate form for each nomination. Applications and materials will not be returned.

Home and Family

Give examples of how the nominee has demonstrated leadership and service in the home and family. Be specific. You may attach **no more than two supporting letters** for this category. You may substitute one newspaper article for one letter. **Please note:** Letters or articles may be submitted as additional documentation but *may not be substituted for the **required** written narrative.*

Allyssa is the second oldest of four children to Tracy Moore and Willie Grayson. Her family moved to Bloomington, Illinois more than ten years ago to be closer to other family. After unforeseen situations in the home, Tracy had been raising the children alone for more than 8 years. Undoubtedly, they have faced their share of challenges, but she has been strong and courageous to help her children adjust over the years. The family has minimal contact with dad, but he is not altogether a forgotten entity in their lives.

Allyssa has been a strong support to her mother and is most often the least likely to create any additional tension. Allyssa shows a concerned level of responsibility. Although their mother has worked hard to prevent her children from assuming too many of the adult roles, Allyssa takes on her designated share of work to ensure a productive and balanced home life is maintained.

In the time when they are home together, Allyssa assists in the completion of tasks including, but not limited to, cleaning the house, keeping her room straight, helping the younger brothers with homework, and some light cooking. They share a mutual respect of one another and further share a strong family bond and they work diligently to keep the chaos at a minimum.

Allyssa truly has a mild and supportive nature and she is often the peacemaker. She helps to demonstrate fairness, and works to encourage the others to do the same. She says that “she tries to make sure they help her do what needs to be done around the house.” Because her mother works outside of the home, Allyssa often shares a role to encourage the younger brothers follow directions and to be responsible and come in when they are asked to do so. They find time to have fun together and they play games together, prepare and eat meals together.

Her older sister also works outside of the home, and thus Allyssa helps to ensure that the younger boys are following directions and staying home or going Center as needed. Since the Club is just down the street from their home, it is not difficult for them to be involved, although they manage to stay engaged in other activities as well.

Allyssa willingly utilizes her earnings from the Boys & Girls Club to support her school needs. She fully finances her materials and uniforms toward her position on the POMS Squad and in the marching band. She does not allow her family’s financial position to keep her back from advancing her goal to be a part of these school programs. Although she knows her family does not have the necessary resources for many luxuries, she works diligently to be a part of the mix. She shares her resources when otherwise necessary, but overall, she has a thrifty nature and does not squander her earnings on frivolous things. She purchased her first car this year and does a great job to manage the responsibility of insurance, and maintenance on her vehicle.

Moral Character

Adherence to high moral standards should be described. Examples include positive peer-to-peer interaction, community service, involvement in extracurricular activities or involvement in a faith community. You may attach no more than two supporting letters for this category. You may substitute one newspaper article for one letter. Please note: Letters or articles may be submitted as additional documentation but *may not be substituted for the required written narrative*.

Although Allyssa's family does not worship weekly in an organized facility, she and her siblings have attended a special Sunday school service at the Boys & Girls Club facility on a regular basis as a part of a community service held in conjunction with the Apostolic Christian Church. She is beyond the age limit to participate, but can be counted on to assist when asked to do so.

It is apparent that Allyssa believes in God and she puts forth a great effort to live a morally stable life. She indicates that she wants to follow God and she prays asking for things to be better in her family and in the world. Allyssa shares a faithful belief that God has helped her to set and obtain her goals, as well as gives her special talents to that she can use them to the fullest extent.

Allyssa truly has a calm spirit as she engages in activities with others and she demonstrates an attitude of good character and works to be in control of her emotions to strive to avoid conflict. There have been many times that she could have easily gone with the crowd and been a part of trouble, but we have witnessed her ability to remain strong and avoid the aggressive actions that her peers have typically demonstrated over the years.

Allyssa demonstrates a trustworthy nature and has been selected consistently as the Good Citizen and Youth of the Month at the Club as a result of her fairness, loyalty and dependability in her interactions with others. She consistently shares her talents to make others happy around her. She has no problem walking away from trouble and asserting her desire for others to be at peace and in harmony.

Community

Give examples of how the nominee has demonstrated leadership and service in planning and implementing community activities. You may attach no more than two supporting letters for this category. You may substitute one newspaper article for one letter. Please note: Letters or articles may be submitted as additional documentation but *may not be substituted for the required written narrative.*

Allyssa has been engaged in many community activities as a direct result of her interaction in the Boys & Girls Club over the years, but she does participate in other events as they come available. She has been a member of the Ace of Spades dance troupe, a group of local girls living in the Public Housing site who practice various routines and compete in local events and festivities. She takes an active role to guide and lead these groups, sharing a sense of teamwork and patient endurance. Most often they participate in the Cultural Festival Weekend events at our local parks.

She has also been a member of the Delta Academy and Delta Gems, a program for girls ages 9-14, sponsored by the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Bi-monthly the girls meet to engage in leadership development programs. The program is similar to SMART Girls, and is conducted in our Club facility by the volunteers. She has also been a member of the local Girl Scout troop and a participant in Expanding Your Horizons at Illinois State University.

Allyssa was selected on four different occasions to represent our Club and community on the McLean county Diversity Project. Through this program she was able to travel with a team to various states and explore race relations, diversity and inclusion. Her two trips took her to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Vicksburg, Mississippi, Tahlequah, Oklahoma and Chicago, Illinois. Allyssa has served as a peer leader on the third and fourth leg of the trips as she was able to demonstrate a positive level of responsibility.

As a member of the Boys & Girls Club, Allyssa has shared a strong commitment in the community to assist with the Sunnyside Clean-up project, and working with other public housing youth to keep their neighborhood safer and cleaner. She has been engaged in a number of leadership projects and field trips over the years demonstrating a consistent level of support.

School

Give examples of how the nominee has demonstrated school leadership and service. Activities engaged in and their diversity, scholastic achievement and contributions made to school, faculty and peers should be highlighted. Attach official school record indicating course of study, grades, class standing and achievement. You may attach **no more than two supporting letters** for this category. You may substitute one newspaper article for one letter. **Please note:** Letters or articles may be submitted as additional documentation but *may not be substituted for the required written narrative.*

Allyssa is a senior at Bloomington High School, where she maintains a 3.6 GPA and is in the top 32% of her class. She has had exemplary attendance for the last year and she has made high honor roll consistently. She has been selected as a member of Technical Honor Society, as a result of her grades, attitude, responsibility and participation. She works hard to remain active in extra curricular activities while keeping her grades up. She is a member of the marching band and the POMS squad. The POMS squad has advanced on several occasions to the regional levels of competition. This group also provides a meaningful level of community service as a part of their commitment to give back. They have participated in the celebratory Rainbow Parade sponsored at Sheridan Elementary School. Over the holiday season they have collected toys for the Toys for Tots Project in conjunction with Salvation Army.

Allyssa has served as a peer mediator for her school and through this process, she serves to assist other youth toward resolving conflict sensibly. She has a natural capacity toward kindness and builds good relationships with her peers. She has earned a strong sense of respect from the faculty and staff, and Allyssa is often classified as a great student and will do what needs to be done to make others feel good about themselves. She does not take on more than she can handle, but will not turn down an opportunity to be a part of something fun.

Allyssa is a participant in the Area Vocational Program and the Employment Prep Program. She was recently recognized as the Student of the month for her demonstrated sportsmanship, dependability, work ethic, and positive peer interaction. This program reinforces, job readiness and skill development, and personal growth habits. Allyssa demonstrates an exceptional level of responsibility in each of these areas.

Her ultimate goal is to graduate from high school and attend college and earn a degree in Elementary Education or dance choreographer. Allyssa demonstrates a strong level of respect for her peers and dance team members and is the current captain of the school POMS squad. She consistently models good character and has an established relationship with her coaches. She is very congenial with her peers in the troupe and in school at large.

Service to Club

Give examples of how the nominee has demonstrated leadership and service within your Club. The length of membership, activities engaged in, responsibilities assumed, influence on peers and assistance to staff should be reported. You may attach **no more than two supporting letters** for this category. You may substitute one newspaper article for one letter. **Please note:** Letters or articles may be submitted as additional documentation but *may not be substituted for the required written narrative*.

Allyssa has been a member of the Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal for ten years. Over these years, she has been very connected. As we have watched her grow during these years, it is with pride that we can attest for her character in this selection as our Youth of the Year. It is evident that she has embraced the opportunities afforded her through Club experiences and now she is a major part of the overall level of programming and support to our youth.

Allyssa has always been a quiet person, but she has also had to learn to defend herself. Small in stature, she has often been the target of jokes and teasing, but never to the point of eruption that would get her into trouble. She has a great relationship with her peers and has an ability to walk away from trouble. Her two younger brothers rarely attend the Club, but she was often trying to keep them out of trouble at the Club. She has remained positive and a person influence, respect and obedience.

The Club has not necessarily been a second home for Allyssa, but she has spent enough time in the facility to know what affect the activities can have in her life. Allyssa has been known to get angry when prompted, but she demonstrates an ability to control negative emotions for the most part, always looking for ways to be supportive and to be fair. It is not easy to just walk away from kids who want to provoke trouble, but she consistently shows concern and loyalty.

Allyssa has been involved in Club activities in every core area. She truly epitomizes the participation that breeds good outcomes. As a member of the Junior Staff, she is a true role model for her peers and the younger members. The other youth look up to her for guidance, and although there may be a level of envy in some cases, she does not allow this to hinder her progress for successful outcomes.

Allyssa is a cheerful young lady and she has the ability to draw others in to be a part of something good. She has maintained a committed and active involvement over the years. She has been a part of most every aspect of Club programming, demonstrates a positive level of interaction, and is a good sport and a humble loser at all times. Her choices of programs over the years have included: SMART Girls, Book Club, Diversity Club, Girl Scouts, Torch Club, Teen CLUB and Keystone Club.

As a member of the Club, she has taken every opportunity to grow and teach others. Allyssa is a great friend to her peers and a positive leader for the younger members. Her Club service has not been taken in vain, as she has encourages others to join and stay active. Allyssa has often times been the oldest youth to remain firm in special activities, and she is often called upon to represent the Club in leadership events because she will follow through.

Her time as a Junior Staff member is utilized wisely, and she can always be found nurturing the younger members and assisting the staff to keep things moving smoothly. It is always a pleasant feeling to see our older youth stay committed to the Club and to have them openly share their experiences for good.

Allyssa has served as the secretary of the Keystone Club and although she is not new to hard work, she has a great task ahead of her, as several of the other officers are fairly new to the Club as well. We are certain that she will use her influence to help them see the long term value of being a part of the Boys & Girls Club, and she will continue to be a positive role model. It is evident that Allyssa is here because she wants to be here, not because she is forced to be here.

Life Goals

Give examples of how the nominee has demonstrated initiative and leadership potential in setting and achieving short- and long-term goals. Highlight instances in which the nominee has demonstrated perseverance and the ability to make sound decisions that support his or her goals. Describe the nominee's long-term life and career aspirations. You may attach **no more than two supporting letters** for this category. You may substitute one newspaper article for one letter. **Please note:** Letters or articles may be submitted as additional documentation but *may not be substituted for the required written narrative.*

Allyssa Grayson has put forth a great effort to be responsible. She demonstrates a strong posture to have good study habits in order to do well in school. She has learned to balance work, and school and social activities in order to study enough to get good grades on tests and quizzes. She has made the honor roll and is in the top 32% of her class.

She further makes a concentrated effort to surround myself with good people who are not afraid to be consider, "good people." Allyssa consistently sets her goals high and believe in herself. Proof of this is her ability to have made the POMS Squad after being turned down in her first try out. She went back and has a focus to be a part of the team. Allyssa's family has a limited income and she has not allowed this to deter her ability to be a part of the program. She works hard to support the costs from her earnings at the Club.

A goal to attend college makes her work hard to maintain good grades and work harder to attain all or more credits for college. Her positive attitude is indicative of the type of lifestyle she is choosing for herself despite her current circumstances. She is always on her best behavior and does not shy away from support offered when correction does have to come for some reason.

Allyssa has a desire to attend college and earn a degree in Mathematics. She daily shows a determined spirit to be a role model for other girls that attend the Boys & Girls Club and often spends her money on little things for other kids. By example she will complete her homework at the Club and makes sure to maintain adequate grade performance.

Down the road, she has indicated a desire to be married before she has children. But for now, she shares that her goal is to enjoy life as a young lady and become independent and have a good lifestyle by being responsible in every part of her interactions in society. She is on a good path to being all that she wants to become. She has a good mind set and a generally good perspective on making the right choices that will undoubtedly affect her life down the road.

Essay One

The applicant is asked to write an essay on what the Club means to him or her, to be written in the words of the nominee. Judges will consider content and grammar. Type essay on this application form and attach original of essay written in the nominee's handwriting.

Allyssa Grayson
Bloomington-Normal

What the Club means to me is a place where kids and teens can go after school, be safe, and have fun. I have been going to the Club for about ten years because I live down the street and I love going there. I always had fun at the Club because I had people to socialize with, play with and doing things with my friends. It is a place for improvement and getting along with others. It's a safe place to be. The students and staff there are incredible, fair and understanding.

The Club is important to me because it is a place where there is opportunity to improve and develop. I have matured as a teen and as a young lady. I know I can improve and get to my future goal.

I went to the Club because I didn't know anybody, because I was new and I think my parents were busy or had something important to do, that's why we came. Then, I started coming more because they had board games, cards, pool games, my friends were there and it was fun. My friends and I would do our homework first, and then go to snack. That was fun because we ate in and then talked about everything.

I enjoy all the staff because they were important and were there when I needed advice. I care for Club when I coming here, then it built on me. It's a place where you go the first time and want to come back. They had programs and the most fun part was when staff or volunteers had a program. One of my favorite programs was the Dance Program with Ms. Simone. I will never forget that the dance group we called "So Flyy" and "Diamond Girls." I love to dance, maybe that's why I came and we would always go on field trips, to parks, or anything once in a while.

I can remember almost everything when I was here; it was almost like a journey everyday that I had here. It was special that they had a place for kids right down the street. I went to the Club every day because it was always something to do. They also had programs that would help with learning and becoming a better person. It would help because I learn from things.

Knowing that people cared about me showed that this was a place and environment that I liked. Kids having fun, learning right from wrong and getting along with each other is what people enjoy. The Club has helped me set many goals for myself and showed me how to improve. Also it showed me how to be fair and smart. This place will never forget me and I will never forget the Boys & Girls Club. I love this place and I will make sure that if I have any, my kids will have some involvement with the Club. It helped me in school and with my emotions because I was always happy when I was there. The kids help me to be happy and don't ever have to worry about it.

Essay Two

The applicant is asked to write an essay on why a post-high school education is important to him or her, to be written in the words of the nominee. Judges will consider content and grammar. Type essay on this application form and attach original of essay written in the nominee's handwriting.

Do you know where I would be if I did not have school? Well, it is kind of hard to say... on the street doing about almost everything. School is important to me because I want to do better than my mom and father. I am not saying they are bad. I love school because it is more than just going for the friends. It is for knowledge also. Having good grades is good because being smart and working hard will pay off in the end. I will be a successful Black woman taking good care of my family and myself.

I think school is important because if I did not have it I would not be able to do anything with my life. I would be asking people for money, would not talk right, and would not be smart. I would not be able to meet people or know about things or people. Without this, I do not think you would be able to make it because technology is getting better everyday. If I or anyone else did not have it, we would be stuck with life. You always want to have some knowledge. Without school you or I would not be able to write, read, or anything. I do not know what I would be doing if I did not like school or did not think it was important.

I feel very smart that I have the knowledge I have now. Having school makes your life goals change as a person. I can build relationships with my friends and teachers. I can encourage others to go to school and tell them what they are missing because I am having a ball. I think this is the best living thing you can do as a kid.

Being active at school is important because you get recognized. If you did not go to school, you would not be recognized and would not have money. At first, they did not have school for black people. So, it is a privilege to go to school and learn. If you do not like some students or a teacher put those people to the side and get things done so you do not have to worry about people calling you bad names. If you have habits that you do everyday you will be successful because you are busy and focused. School is always a positive place and it will make you a positive person. School should always be part of your life no matter what you do because with it you can achieve many goals.