

OFFICIAL NOMINATION FORM YOUTH OF THE YEAR PROGRAM



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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.

3-2-2011

Date

Male

Female

Valdez
Last Name of Nominee

Jamie
First Name

L.
Middle Initial

07-24-95
Date of Birth

xxx-xx-xxxx
Social Security Number

1.5 years
Length of Club Membership

Normal Community High School
Name of High School

June 2014
Projected Graduation Date (Month/Year)

Undecided at this time
Tentative College Choice

Veterinary Medicine
Anticipated Career Choice

102 W. Shelbourne Drive Apt. 2
Home Address

150
No. of Volunteer Hours (in last 12 months)

Normal
City

IL
State

61761
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 – and photos and video taken during the entire Youth of the Year process from local to national – 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

16 15 W. Illinois Street
Address

bous.andgirlsclub@frontier.com
E-mail Address

Bloomington
City

IL
State

61701
ZIP Code

309-829-3034
Telephone Number with Area Code

3090828-7108
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

2

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.*

Jamie has had a pretty interesting childhood. She has gone from being the youngest in her family to now having the responsibility of being the oldest in the household at the age of 10, Jamie and one older sister resided with their mother in California. Despite the fact that mom, was expecting another baby, she continued to abuse illegal substances. The children were sadly innocent victims of abuse and neglect, and the children were eventually all removed from the home and placed in foster care for a period of time. Jamie was introduced to the pangs of family separation. Mom has since gone through rehabilitation and the other children are back home.

During the transition, Jamie's father requested and was granted full custody of Jamie, and she has lived with her father for the past six years. This too would prove to be a life altering experience. She was now the eldest of three siblings; two sisters and one brother. She has now learned to assume a portion of the responsibility in being the oldest child. While she has the typical responsibilities to assist with chores she also shares a sense of duty with household needs as meal preparation and laundry. She finds it easy to take care of her room that she shares with her twelve year old sister, and says that she tries to keep the peace.

Jamie further helps her step mom, as her father's job often takes him on the road. Thus, she shares a concern to take on some additional tasks that help them get through the tough times. Her family like many others has been greatly affected by the declining economy, and Jamie, has now considered the possibility to have a job of her own. She is presently serving as a volunteer at the Club in preparation for hire on the Junior Staff Career Development Program. Her overall goal is that this job will help her have her own money and she can help out more.

Learning to adjust to new surroundings and to establish a bonding relationship often proves to be a challenge for Jamie as she engages to be respectful, kind and interactive with a preteen sister with whom she shares a bedroom. Definitely the two girls have vast differences of opinions on most matters, therefore, Jamie finds herself coping to make the best of this situation.

She has learned to embrace her own sense of purpose and most often that is by finding something helpful to do around the house. She is no stranger to hard work, and she states that she is glad to make things easier for her mom.

Jamie does demonstrate a cooperative spirit as we observe her interactions with her family, and they strive to be a loving and bonded group. Jamie does a great job to be a contributing member of her family and despite the past, she works to make life better and not harbor bitter frustrations that will only make things negative. She demonstrates a maturity beyond her years and most often she is the one who helps other see the big picture.

MORAL CHARACTER

3

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.*

Jamie and her family worship together at Eastview Christian Church. Here they fellowship with other families to engage in organized ministries and outreach into the community. She is an active member of the Youth Group, Teen Bible Study and Sunday School. Through her church activities, Jamie engages in food drives, clothing collection and distribution and learns the joy of serving others through these projects.

Eastview Christian Church shares a strong commitment to serving family needs and their programs are very strongly geared to keep families strong. Together they worship and engage in special programs offered at the church and outside as they share in local outreach.

Jamie states that she likes the diversity of her congregation and loves that they learn so much about helping others. The youth works to collect food, clothing and toys for families during the holidays. Her favorite part is seeing the little kids' excitement when they get new toys and clothes.

Jamie says that she has found church to be important in her life, but did not go to church before she came to live with her father. They share a sense of family time as they worship together and attend the various events at church. She hopes to be able to travel with the youth group sometime as they travel out of town to do ministry in other communities.

Jamie has a mature attitude about her life and she knows that good things come by working for them. She does not seem to harbor anger or resentment, but wants to use her time being positive and trying to have good relationships with others for the sake of balance and growth.

COMMUNITY

4

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.*

Jamie has committed to a strong sense of giving back since joining the Boys & Girls Club. In conjunction with the local Soroptimist Club, Jamie facilitates Book Club with our Club members. She was recognized this past year for her work with this group. She received the Violet Richardson Community Service Award, given to a teen girl ages 14-17 who volunteers in her local community.

This award further recognizes the commitment of these young ladies to impact change. Jamie demonstrates this through her involvement in the “Words and Hands” program that allows her to nurture younger girls toward positive self esteem building. Ladies from the local Soroptimist Club share a weekly meeting with 12-15 girls, allowing them to share time and learn how to respect each other through mutual interaction.

Jamie was honored with a cash Award and a matched gift to the Boys & Girls Club as a result of her interaction with this organization. The “Hands” and Words” project came about as a result of her reading the book, “*Call Me Hope*”. The overall goal of this project is to engage girls ages 5-12 in a self esteem process. Jamie provides weekly support as the girls participate in hands on activities that nurture a mindset of acceptance and appreciation of diversity by using our hands and words for good not hurting others.

Again through her church involvement, Jamie is able to share a sense of giving back. Although she did not go door to door to distribute, she was able to assist with the holidays share programs through her church youth group activities and support of the projects by donating.

SCHOOL

5

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.*

Jamie is a sophomore at Normal Community High School. She has a 4.4 GPA and works hard to maintain a favorable interaction in the school environment. She is a member of "Club 27," a special group of students who engage with each other to find ways to make school a more positive place. They address various issues including but not limited to friendship, lunchroom rules, sports, activities, rules, and technology and school improvements. Initially a student is recommended for the group, but can also make a request to join. The Principal is the facilitator for the group and offers a chance for the student to share feedback.

Although Jamie does attend some school events, she says she wishes she could do more things, but she is most active in the Boys & Girls Club and leaves directly after school to ride the Club van. She has a good rapport with schoolmates and the faculty finds her to be a delightful young lady. She demonstrates a positive attitude and does not hesitate to share a kind word with others.

Jamie admits that she has not always made the best choices, but has learned from those mistakes. Her past has come full circle and she states that she regrets being held back in third grade. Again, this was a part of her painful past as she was absent more than half of the school year, thus having to repeat that grade. She states that she wishes that this had never happened, but is confident that will prevent it from ever happening again. She is determined to put forth her greatest efforts to be a good student. This is evident as her grades reflect a strong will to succeed.

Her admission to hanging with the wrong crowd only proved to bring about problems and it is hard to change that broken past. She states that she had to learn a hard lesson from her past and will work hard to stay on track. Some of the people she hung out with made very poor choices and following the crowd left her picking up the pieces.

Jamie's favorite subject in school is biology. Stating that she loves learning why things exist and how things work. Jamie takes the time to help many younger members with their work at the Club and for this she says she is grateful, and hopes that she can help them enjoy school better and stay on track.

SERVICE TO CLUB

6

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.*

Jamie has been a member of the Boys & Girls Club for 1 ½ years. And during this time, she has truly embraced the essence of what it means to be a Club teen. She attends the Club daily, but spends the majority of her time in the Computer Lab and POWER Hour. She says she finds joy in helping the other kids feel good about themselves.

Jamie and her three siblings, who attend the Club, have a very regimented schedule and are typically gone by 7:00 p.m. But they use their time productively to participate in the programs that are most meaningful for them. Since joining the Club, Jamie has gained a stronger sense of self worth, and this is evident as she facilitates a weekly program entitled; “Hands and Words,” a self esteem program prompted from her completion of a book entitled, *Call Me Hope.* The book focused on a preteen who suffered from low esteem, primarily as a result of the harsh words directed from her mother. Jamie decided to engage a supportive program after the book was read.

Jamie is very active in all core areas of the Club and has hopes to join Keystone Club, but due to the fact that she does have opportunity to stay for Teen CLUB, she is not currently engaged. Nonetheless, she still finds time to volunteer; daily. She serves in the POWER Hour from start to finish, and once her work is complete, she makes sure that other members have help to complete their school assignments as well. She also works the check in desk, serves snacks and helps clean up after snack.

Jamie engages in organized programs and actively works to balance her time to have some fun. She has been in the Guitar program and recently joined the Club choir. Although her homework load generally keeps her rooted in the POWER Hour, in the down time, she steps out to other areas to play, games, and enjoy some spontaneous interaction.

Jamie is very creative, and enjoys the Fine Arts program at the Club. Her work has been selected for the local exhibits and in the regional exhibit as well. She enjoys knitting as well as guitar lessons and attends these programs faithfully, learning new skills each step of the way.

Jamie has a positive attitude at the Club and although she was very shy and withdrawn when she first joined, she has since asserted herself to be a very dedicated and visible Club teen. She does not have a forceful or an extremely quiet posture, but balances her individuality with a mild and calm approach to engage others. She has a good rapport with her peers and the staff describes her as a “good citizen.” Jamie has been nominated and recognized as the Citizen of the Month regularly and is very determined to maintain this positive posture in the Club.

She is working toward placement in Junior Staff Career Development Program. Jamie demonstrates a consistent level of integrity as she serves the Club in as many ways as she can during her time in the facility each day. Jamie is very much focused and is not led astray by others who make haphazard choices and she is not afraid to speak up for what is right. Jamie Valdez truly exemplifies the caliber of a young lady who puts her best effort to Be GREAT.

LIFE GOALS

7

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.*

Jamie has a strong, positive desire to complete high school and attend college. Her goal is to become a veterinarian. She states that she wants her life to be different than many of her family members and she is working to assume the responsibility to manage this track for success.

Jamie has not been a stranger to hard times and she demonstrates willingness and a desire to put forth her best efforts to manage her course in life, which means making better choices and not holding on to the past. Jamie has experienced her share of grief as a young child and she is able to recall the majority of this sadness with great detail. She has the opportunity now to understand how she can take a different path for her life and we believe she will do just that. Her goals are realistic and her determination will assist her to climb the mountains that will challenge her course.

Jamie Valdez is surely on course to be a viable contributor in our community, and she steps out on her faith and her abilities to make a difference in her world. She does not shy away from allowing everyday experiences to guide her future. She is willing to openly discuss the things that could hold her back, and make a positive outcome for herself and others around her.

ESSAY ONE

8

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.

The Boys & Girls Club is that one special place for me. It has more meaning than any other place I have been. The Club is a place for me to interact with kids of all ages. It is also a place where I can get my homework done with help if I need it. The Club is also a place where I can see not only a better life for me but for other kids as well.

First, the Club is a place for me to interact with kids. Interacting with kids of all ages has helped me see that every child acts differently to different situations. Like this one time some kids were playing tag. They all got put in time out. Most of the kids went with no problems, but one was crying and saying that he hated it at the Club and how he can play a game of tag without getting in to trouble. The staff sat that boy down and had a talk with him. After that he understood the rules. There are many different ways to handle different situations, and it may have to be handled in different ways for different kids.

Next, the Club is a place where I can get my homework done with help. This year is my first year in high school, and at time I would have so much homework that I would forget how to do something. Then I would ask for help. There is all ways someone to help. I have never really liked doing homework because I never understood what the homework was asking and I would just want to hang out with my friends. Looking back now, I should have gotten my homework done or else I would have never failed third grade. Now I do everything I can do to get my homework done. I have mostly A's and B's but my lowest grade is a C. With just a little help and support anybody can get anything done.

Last, the Club is a place where I can see a better life being built not only for me but for every other kid that walks in the Club. Who knows where I would be without the Club? Before I started going to the Club every day after school, I would hang out with older kids that did drugs or that have been to Juvenile Detention Center. Most for selling or got caught with drugs on them. I know it was wrong and that sooner or later I was going to be one of those kids but I started going to the Club. I saw that I can get attention from grownups for doing good things and not getting in trouble every time my parents turned their backs. Going to the Club has showed me that doing things for me was the smarter thing to do in life. So just going to the Club can change the Course of a child's life, like it has done for mine.

In conclusion, the Club means so much to me that all the words I say could not express how much I really need the Club and how much the Club has changed my life. With everything all the people have done for me. I am so happy I have been a part of it. The Club may mean nothing to some people, but to me it means the world. The people who work there, I'm so happy that they have shown me what life is all about.

ESSAY TWO

9

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.

Having a post-high school education is so important for so many reasons. One, having a post education will get me a better chance at having a great job. Also, having that education show all the teachers that thought I would be a drop out that I have what it takes. Last, having an education like that shows that I care what happens in my life.

First, having a post -high school education will get help me get a good job. I've never been one of the kids with a lot of money, because both my parents dropped out of high school. My dad went back to get his diploma. So he could get a job that would support his family and kids. That is the most schooling they got. I don't want to live like my parents, not knowing if I will have the money to pay the bills or have food on the table. I want to know I have a job that can support my family. Even if the guy I marry has a good job, we can't only count on his pay checks. I am an independent and I know that I can survive on my own if I have a good job. That is why we need to have a good education.

Next, having that education shows all the teachers that said or thought that I was going to drop out that I have what it takes to make it in life. I love to prove everybody wrong by showing that I can get a good education. Teachers may know a lot but no teacher knows if I can make to college. Because some of the kids that teachers say won't go, end up going. My third grade teacher didn't like me because I never showed effort to get my work done. Now if she were to see me, she would not know I was the same girl in her third grade class. Her holding me back and saying I was going to be a drop out changed my mind about doing well in school. So that education, may be just to prove myself to teachers, but that is what keeps me going.

Further, that kind of education shows that I care what happens in my life after high school. I care that I might not have a good job to support a family. A family has been one of the things I wanted in my life when I grow up. With an education after high school, I can work my way up to have the life I always wanted. I can become a vet, and work with animals. And on my days off I can volunteer at a Boys & Girls Club to watch kids grow up.

In conclusion, a post-high school education is so important to me. It shows I care about my life and that I care what is going to happen to me when I am an adult. I won't have to worry if I'm going to have money for food or the bills. I think that all kids should get that post-high school education.