

# 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.

2-26-09 Date		<input type="checkbox"/> Male x Female
Farris Last Name of Nominee	Tiara First Name	L. Middle Initial
10-22-01 Date of Birth	_____ Social Security Number	3 years Length of Club Membership
Normal Community West High School Name of High School	June 2010 Projected Graduation Date (Month/Year)	
Illinois State University Tentative College Choice	Fashion Design Anticipated Career Choice	
_____ Home Address	185 No. of Volunteer Hours (in last 12 months)	
Normal City	Illinois State	61761 Zip Code
_____ 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

1615 W. Illinois Street  
Address

boys.andgirlsclub@verizon.net  
E-mail Address

Bloomington  
City

Illinois  
State

61701  
ZIP Code

309-829-3034  
Telephone Number with Area Code

309-828-7108  
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.*

Tiara is the daughter of Keith and Julie Farris. She is the eldest of four children. Her younger siblings are all male and thus she faces a greater challenge as she often has the responsibility to care for them. Both parents are employed and Tiara is often left to make dinner as well as help them with their homework and chores when they are not at the Club. She fondly states, “They do drive me a little crazy.”

In her father’s words, “Tiara has matured a lot since being involved at the Boys & Girls Club. She loves the Club and has become more responsible and is very respectful of adults. She is determined to do things right.” Tiara has established her own bank account and saves her money in order to buy a car. She also uses the monies earned in the Junior Staff Career Development Program to support her personal needs and school projects.

Even though she would love to be at the Club everyday, she is often asked to stay home and care for the younger siblings when they are out of the Club due to suspensions or modified schedules. The challenge of both parents working makes it more necessary for her to fill in the gaps as needed. Tiara truly does demonstrate a positive attitude toward her family life. She respectfully accepts the rules of her parents even when it means she cannot get her way. She has sacrificed personal time with friends and even prolonged getting her license at the urging of her father as he felt she needed to be more prepared.

Tiara has a very close bond with both of her parents, but it is evident that she and her father share a special father-daughter relationship. An open line of communication supports their ability to talk openly about any situation. This is helpful as they work together and often call on her to be there when they cannot.

It is rare that many of our youth have two parents in the home, but Tiara is fortunate to live in a family structured as such. But times do arise when great minds do not follow the same track. She is not one to be confrontational and it is honorable that both of her parents speak favorably of her commitment to step up and be mature and responsible in making their family more unified.

It is evident that her parents keep a strong rule of thumb and discipline with expectations for Tiara and her brothers to grow up and be productive. Their family may not have everything, but they make the best of living accommodations sharing a three bedroom apartment, and working diligently to help the children be comfortable.

# 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.*

Tiara and her family attend church at Alpha and Omega Church of God in Christ. They have actively attended this church for more than 13 years. She is involved in the youth and mass choirs and she is also active in the Youth Group. Annually she shares a role in the Black History programs and this past year, Tiara was the emcee for this annual event. She also shares a responsibility of planning activities through the Sunday School department including but not limited to drama presentations.

Tiara states that she is glad to have been raised in a church, because it helps her learn to love and help other people. She has been a part of the Mission Program, and has a pen pal in AFRICA. They also collect toys, books, food and clothing for families in need. Tiara is also a member of the Youth Usher Board.

Tiara truly has a generous demeanor and she is very sensitive to the needs of others. Even as she shared information regarding her work in the church, it is evident that she gains a great deal of excitement from being involved. Her deeds and actions are truly indicative of her involvement in the church and that she has a sense of value and integrity. She is a humble individual and she takes the time to be courteous to others.

Tiara has an extended family in the community including grandparents and they share time together in the community and in church functions. Her grandmother has served as a volunteer for the Club many years past and would bring her with her even before Tiara was old enough to come to the Club. She definitely has a good role model in her parents and grandparents as they too demonstrate a loving attitude toward others in the family and on the outside as well.

# 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.*

Tiara's work in the community stems most definitely through her engagement in Club and church activities. Due to the fact that she works at the Boys & Girls Club as a Junior Staff Member, and is involved in the Vocational Program at her school, her free time is generally spent on school work and often times with her family. But she is never opposed to an opportunity to get involved. Her family also supports the efforts to get involved and lend a helping hand to paint, clean and offer support where needed.

Tiara was named the 2008 Soroptimist Violet Richardson Award recipient. This award is presented to a young lady between the ages of 14-17, who engages in community service. Over the past year, she has probably dedicated approximately 185 hours to the Club. In this time she willingly serves the youth by playing games with them, serving snacks, helping with homework and running special activities.

Through church outreach, she helps write letters to children in Africa, and has helped to gather food, clothing and toys to be distributed through the Good Fellows Program and church distributions. While Tiara has a very calm and quiet posture, she rises to the occasion to assist when asked. She has a calm temperament when working with the younger youth in her home, and in the community programs for which she gives her time.

# 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.*

Tiara is a junior at Normal Community West High School. She has a 3.4 GPA and asserts herself fully to remain in good standing in school. She has been named to the Merit List this past quarter for maintaining good grades.

She is actively involved in the Bloomington Area Career Center Program, and is enrolled in the Cosmetology program at Hairmasters. This program allows her to earn credit while learning a trade as she attends High School. Her ultimate desire is to become a cosmetologist and to study fashion design in college. This program gives her a jump start on this goal. And, students must perform at a certain level to remain active in this program.

Tiara states that math is her favorite subject and Basketball is her favorite sport of choice for viewing. Although she has no interest to be an active participant as an athlete, she is an avid supporter of many school sporting events and she attends Homecoming, Prom and other sponsored events with her friends.

Tiara has a good rapport with her peers and follows a strict regime to be polite, and respectful with her teachers and staff. She is in regular attendance and does not have any negative contacts with school officials or authorities. She demonstrates a favorable level of conduct and does not hang around to connect in any negative activities, but states that she goes to school to learn and get her work done.

Tiara manages her classes well and has a plan for getting her work completed. She is very industrious as she manages her work time, social activities and school engagements. She is trustworthy and dependable to the extent of keeping her supervisor informed of time she needs to be away if she has to work on a school project. She definitely has a serious approach to balance these tasks out in order to remain an above average student.

# 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.*

Tiara has been an active member of the Boys & Girls Club for three years and is very regular in attendance. She has been actively involved in the Teen CLUB. Interestingly enough, she probably does not even remember when she used to help her grandmother supervise the younger members as they waited for the Club van at the school across the street from her grandmother's home.

Tiara's younger brothers had already attended the Club and sometimes she would come in to pick them up to go home, but never really showed an interest to join. But once she became a member, she served for about 6 months as a volunteer in training for the Junior Staff Career Development Program. At the appointed time, she was hired on as a Junior Counselor, assisting in the summer program in the midgets group. She was always a good role model and a great assistant. Demonstrating a committed attitude toward work, she remained active in the program and stayed on during the school year as well. Tiara seriously asserts herself to maintain good grades and favorably possesses good work ethics and a positive attitude toward responsibility.

Tiara has been involved in a variety of programs through the Teen CLUB and actively participates with Community Service. In general through Club programs, she assists with the ongoing efforts to nurture the younger youth and assist on field trips and in the POWER Hour and serves snacks, helps with special activities and check in.

Consistently Tiara has been named a Good Citizen of the Month and a Youth of the Month. She truly possesses the right attitude toward the Club and does not allow negative influences to get her down. She is often selected to represent the Club on traveling teams and for special outings and programs. She demonstrates a success oriented level of commitment toward the Club and often helps to steer the younger members back on to the right path.

It is evident that Tiara has gained a positive sense of identity from being in the Club as she and her parents have helped her stay focus. When her grades were wavering, she asked to cut back on her hours to devote more time to study. When others are engaged in the not so favorable behaviors, she separates herself readily from the environment and tries to encourage others to make better choices.

Tiara demonstrates a favorable posture of interaction with her peers and the staff at the Club and even when there have been times of struggle; she has worked through the proper channels to make the situation better. She is never disrespectful nor argumentative. By nature, Tiara is most often very quiet, but she does have a friendly nature, and does not have a problem making new friends and fitting in. She is a favorite with the younger girls and even though she only has younger brothers at home, she is a kind older sister figure to many of the girls in the Club.

Her parents share that they feel Tiara has truly grown up as a result of working at the Club and they know that she enjoys her job here and wants to make a difference in her life and for others. Her favorite spot typically is in the POWER Hour, helping the other kids, or working on a fashion design of her own.

Tiara and her brothers are members of the Club because they like coming, often due to the fact that her parents work outside of the home each day. This has provided the opportunity for her to learn and grow because she wants to be a part of the Club. It is understood that Tiara and her family have truly benefited from the Club and she has a chance to get a break from being the big sister at home and at the Club. Her major focus goes to other members and not toward caring for her younger brothers when present at the Club. Although they do show respect for her when she is at work, most often, she is just another staff like every one else.

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.*

As stated before, Tiara is positioning herself toward future goals as she engages in the Bloomington Area Career Center Program. Due to the fact that she has a job at the Club, she does not participate in the School Work Experience Program. Although her tasks within the Club do emphasize similar goals and expectations, she does a great job to balance her life accordingly.

Her parents certainly provide the necessary guidance and have expectations for her to be responsible within school and the Club work environment. They communicate openly with her and with the staff if there is any concern as it relates to her progress. There is no gray area when it comes to school work. This takes top priority and even if it means she does have the opportunity to work, she understands the responsibility she has to make good grades. Her parents have even enforced the fact that she could not get a car until her senior year, because they want her to be focused on school and not hanging out.

At one point last year, Tiara's parents requested that she relinquish all of her hours of working at the Club when her grades were slipping. They had her talk with her supervisor at the Club and maintained an open communication between the staff and school to monitor her progress. She was very eager to work within the guidelines and the expected goals to bring her grades back up, lest she lose her job altogether. She remained active in the Club although her time was cut back immensely. She persevered through this situation and put forth her full effort to meet goals and brought her grades up and was able to return to work. She has not had to be on any additional probationary status as a result of this collaborative effort to support her needs.

Tiara has aspirations to become a Cosmetologist and a Fashion Designer. Her mother currently is a cosmetologist in a local Salon, and Tiara gets enough practice in already as she often does trial processes on her brothers and for her other friends and family members. While we cannot allow any type of chemical processing, she does have opportunity to be creative with other types of hairstyles and braiding with some of our members and her friends.

Eventually, Tiara states that she would like to have her own Beauty Salon. But that will come after she attends classes to earn a degree in Fashion Design. Her immediate plans are to attend Illinois State University and major in this field. She is hopeful that her time spent in the Bloomington Area career Center Program will pay off as it relates to this goal and further her opportunities to have a stable and fulfilling job, and a career that is rewarding.

# 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.**

Being at the Boys & Girls Club has made me a different person. Sometimes you may never think that being in a place can change you. Until I started coming to the Boys & Girls Club, I used to believe that.

When I started to come to the Club, I never thought that I would have the responsibilities that I have to do. I have to keep my grades up. That means I have to do my homework. I never really did my homework because I never had felt like I had time. The Boys & Girls Club has a program called "POWER Hour," which I go to and get my homework done. If I need help I can get it. That was one of my problems. I never tried to get help with my homework.

Not only did I sometimes not do my homework, but I also cared less about how I treated people. Even if I made fun of people and made them cry, I didn't care because it amused me. Now, being at the Boys & Girls Club, I never do that anymore because I have grown to learn that people have feelings like I do. I have grown to get to know people before judging them. I used to talk to a few people at school because I thought things about them in a wrong way. Maybe because they didn't act like me, dress like me and talk like me.

The Boys & Girls Club is filled with different kinds of people. They do not look like me. They act differently than I do. Some kids' personalities are sweet, kind and nice. If I had sat and never talked to anybody, then some of the friendships or relationships that I now have with the children would have never happened. I used to be a shy person but now I can talk to people without being nervous. I have met many new people that have changed my life. Some of them are my best friends. I was also the type of person that always let what people say bother me. I have learned not to listen to what others say because what they are saying are letters put together with a definition that people have assumed to be correct. Now, I don't let words bother me.

I have grown to be smart about my actions. I think before I act. I used to do things I was not supposed to do. I would do things at home such as irritate my brothers because they irritated me. I used to fight them and get into trouble with my parents. By being at the Boys & Girls Club, I have learned just to walk away. I used to just walk up to my cousins and slap them and they would hit me back, but then I learned that I shouldn't put my hands on anyone because not everyone wants to play with you or get hit. I have learned this by being in the Club and watching the youth react with each other. I have become a much wiser and stronger person. I have grown so much since I have been in the Boys & Girls Club.

**Tiara Farris**

**Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal**

# 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.**

College! When you think of college, it's a big step; a bigger school from your high school. You meet more people and make new friends. No more bad school lunches. You can get food off campus. Things change, but college isn't just party time, it's time for you to work.

College is an important place to go to. I believe college is a place for me to grow. College will make me feel more independent. Going to college away from home would be one of the reasons why college will make me feel more independent. I will then have to wake myself up. I also will have to do my homework without my parents asking if I did my homework or not. My parents won't be able to help me. I will have to learn for myself.

Not only is college going to make me feel more independent, it will allow me to have different experiences. I will be taking different classes that will teach me some valuable information. At the time, I won't think that this information is valuable, but it will be useful in the long term from experiences in math classes, science, and etc. These classes will allow me to gain some experiences that I think I may never need. But I probably will not even know that I will need it.

College will also allow me to take classes that will get me to where I want to go in life.

College will also help get a good job. I want to be a fashion designer. The classes will teach me what fabrics go well together, how much a garment may cost, and so much more. I know that college is important for me to get a good job. It's important for me to go to college because I will be the first one to go in my family. College will give me opportunities to go to different places in life.

**Tiara Farris**

**Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal**