



YOUTH OF THE YEAR

Presented by **KeyBank** 

Two Students win top awards from Boys & Girls Clubs of Washington State

Brianna Mitchell is Youth of the Year,

Nyah Hall is Military Youth of the Year

Seattle, Wash. - March 24, 2017 – Selected from among 13 outstanding youth at a Gala dinner in Seattle, senior Brianna Mitchell has been named the Washington State Youth of the Year, and sophomore Nyah Hall has been selected as Washington State Military Youth of the Year. These awards are the highest honors Boys & Girls Club members can receive. As the new teen representatives for all Boys & Girls Clubs in Washington, Mitchell and Hall have both received \$5,000 in college scholarships. The Gala dinner, attended by local Youth of the Year winners from across the state, is the culmination of months of hard work, community service, and speech and essay preparation by Washington State's youth. The announcement was made by KeyBank's Logan Green, who participated on the selection panel and is a member of the Management Associates at KeyBank.

Mitchell is a 10-year member of the Lakewood branch of the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound and a senior at Lakes High School. She is active in Boys & Girls Club programs, especially performing arts. At Lakes High School, Mitchell is the Associated Student Body vice president and a member of the girls' varsity basketball and volleyball teams. When asked how the club has impacted her life, she stated, "The club has made me a stronger person, impacting not just me but also my mom."

Hall has been a member of B&G Clubs starting at a nursery in Japan, where her family was stationed at the time. She has been a member of the Club at the Joint Base Lewis-McChord Youth Center for five years. At Clover Park High School, Nyah is an honor roll student and a javelin thrower on the track and field team. During the Youth of the Year process, Nyah talked about the impact of the Youth Center at JBLM and the source of encouragement it provides youth from military families stating, "The sky is the limit. You just have to surround yourself with people who believe in you. I did by becoming a member of the Boys & Girls Club youth center."

Each year a "Youth of the Year" and a "Military Youth of the Year" are chosen to represent Washington in the Pacific Region Youth of the Year competition. This year's regional competition will be held in Los Angeles in June. Winners are chosen first at a Club level, then state, regional and national levels.

"Youth of the Year is a really great program because it provides character-building opportunities for teenagers, and stresses the importance of education and community service," said Matt Watrous, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Clubs Washington State Association. "It helps them become responsible, caring adults and provides them with tools to build a successful future. Brianna and Nyah are great examples, and I am proud to have them represent all of us in Washington."

Youth of the Year is the Boys & Girls Club of America's premier recognition program for Club members. Since 1947, the [Boys & Girls Club of America](#) have selected the Youth of the Year to recognize dedication

to service, community and family activities, strong moral character and life goals. Youth of the Year promotes leadership skills, confidence and character definition among members ages 14 through 18.

KeyBank thinks of the program as an investment in young people. "It had a lifelong effect on me," attests KeyBank's Mike Lettig, who won the Youth of the Year title for his Flagstaff, Arizona Club when he was 15 years old. Lettig, who is now KeyBank's national executive for Native American and commercial banking, draws upon his club experiences in business every day. KeyBank has contributed tens of thousands of dollars to the Boys & Girls Clubs in Washington, has many executives serving on local Club boards, and matches branch staff with individual Clubs to provide mentors and experts in financial matters.

About Boys & Girls Clubs in Washington

The [Boys & Girls Clubs of Washington](#) exist to inspire & enable all young people to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. It focuses on five core program areas: character and leadership development, education and career development, health and life skills, the arts and sports/fitness/recreation. Currently, 78,660 Washington state youth in grades K-12 are served through annual membership and over 63,000 youth through community outreach. There are programs currently offered at 151 separate locations, including Clubhouses, native lands, public housing, schools and community centers.

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Contact:

Matt Watrous

206-818-5802

mwatrous@positiveplace.org