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**GREAT FUTURES START HERE:
Exceptional Central Florida Teen to Meet President Obama While
Competing for National Youth of the Year Title in Washington, D.C.**

Orlando, FL. (September 12, 2011) – Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida (BGCCF) teen, Ahkeem Hollimon, a six-year member and 2011-12 Southeast Region Youth of the Year for Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA), to meet with President Barack H. Obama in the White House Oval Office next week.



As the Southeast Region Youth of the Year, Hollimon and four other regional winners will have a chance to meet with President Obama while in Washington D.C. for the national Youth of the Year competition from September 16-21. If named the 2011-12 National Youth of the Year, he will be awarded a \$50,000 scholarship from The Rick and Susan Goings Foundation. Hollimon has already received a total of \$11,000 in college scholarships from the Youth of the Year program's sponsor Tupperware Brands Corporation, after being selected from ten candidates within the Southeast region.

BGCA's Youth of the Year recognition is the highest honor a Club member can achieve. The Youth of the Year program, founded in 1947, celebrates youth who have overcome enormous odds and demonstrated exceptional character and accomplishments. These deserving young people are recognized for service to their Club and community, academic performance and contributions to their family.

Hollimon has faced several challenges in his young life. After the tragic and violent death of his older brother, his family life became strained. Throughout these rough times, Hollimon has worked hard to move forward and become a better person. Hollimon has been supported in his efforts to improve his life by the staff at his local Boys & Girls Club in Kissimmee, Florida.

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A true leader, Hollimon serves as a mentor to younger Club members and is active in Keystone Club, a character and leadership development program for teens; Torch Clubs, chartered, small-group leadership and service clubs for youth ages 11 to 13; and Leadership Council. He also serves as youth spokesperson for his Club. Hollimon graduated from Osceola High School with the class of 2011 and is enrolled at Valencia College with a double major in engineering and business management.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida

Since 1944, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida has provided at-risk children from the local community between the ages of 6-18 with a safe place to learn and grow. Our membership totals more than 12,000 youth at 29 Clubs and middle school sites in Brevard, Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties – Great Futures Start at Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida.

The mission of Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. For more information or to find out how you can support the Boys & Girls Clubs movement, contact **407.841.6855** or **www.bgccf.org**.

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