



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

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## **Local Teen Named 2014-15 National Youth of the Year**

**Orlando, Fla. (September 17, 2014)** - Maryah Sullivan, a member of Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida's Joe R. Lee Branch in Eatonville, has been named the National Youth of the Year by Boys & Girls Clubs of America. The award was announced at a Congressional Breakfast in Washington, D.C. this morning.

The Youth of the Year recognition is the highest honor a Club member can achieve as it celebrates youth who have overcome enormous odds and demonstrated exceptional character accomplishments. The judging criteria includes service to Club and community, academic performance and family contributions.

"We couldn't be more proud of Maryah for this tremendous accomplishment and recognition," says Gary Cain, president & CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida. "She is the perfect example of how our organization helps youth accomplish success in school and life. This is a wonderful opportunity for Maryah to build upon for a great future in any endeavor she chooses."

Maryah's journey to becoming the National Youth of the Year began locally with the 2014 Kiwanis Club of Orlando Foundation Youth of the Year process. A panel of respected judges selected the Central Florida Youth of the Year from a group of seven finalists. She was selected as 2014 State of Florida Youth of the Year from a group of more than 20 youth from Boys & Girls Clubs across the state and was named the Southeast Region's Youth of the Year this summer.

"I am so honored to be named National Youth of the Year. I look forward to serving as an ambassador for young people in our Clubs across the country and around the world," said Maryah Sullivan, 2014-15 National Youth of the Year, Boys & Girls Clubs of America. "I know there are many young people in the 4,100 Boys & Girls Clubs across the country and overseas who have stories like mine. I am proud to represent them and the impact Clubs have on our lives."

Maryah, a freshman at the University of South Florida, will receive \$60,000 in academic scholarships from Tupperware Brands and the Rick and Susan Goings Foundation, as well as a new car from Toyota, a BGCA national partner.

**MEDIA AVAILABILITY: Maryah will be at the Joe R. Lee Branch on Thursday at 4:30 p.m. for a celebration of her accomplishments. Please RSVP your attendance.**

### **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 and 18, with a safe place to learn and grow. Our membership totals nearly 13,000 young people at 30 Clubs and middle school sites in Brevard, Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties. 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. Learn more at 407.841.6855, [www.bgccf.org](http://www.bgccf.org), [facebook.com/bgccf](https://facebook.com/bgccf), or [twitter.com/bgccf](https://twitter.com/bgccf).

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