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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 16, 2020

Katelyn Claxton Named Boys & Girls Club of Troy Youth of the Year

TROY, MI - Troy Athens High School senior Katelyn Claxton was selected as the 2020 Boys & Girls Club of Troy (BGCT) Youth of the Year. She is the first member at the Boys & Girls Club of Troy to receive this award twice, previously winning in 2017. Katelyn will now compete against members of other Boys & Girls Clubs in the state for the Michigan Youth of the Year title and a \$5,000 college scholarship courtesy of program sponsors which include Disney and Toyota.



As the 2020 Youth of the Year honoree for the Boys & Girls Club of Troy, the 18-year old is among hundreds of teens across the country being recognized by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) for sound character, leadership skills and willingness to give back to the community.

BGCA's premier youth recognition program, Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Club member can receive. The program encourages Club members to reach their full potential by achieving academic success, leading healthy lifestyles and contributing to their communities.



"Katelyn has been one of the most active members at the Boys & Girls Club of Troy. From being a leader in our Keystone Club or helping kids grow as one of our Junior Staff, Katelyn has become an outstanding young leader. We have witnessed her boundless energy and enthusiasm for BGCT serve as an example for all of our youth here. I'm amazed by not only by how far Katelyn has come both academically and personally, but that she continues to give back to the club that has given her so much," said Boys & Girls Club of Troy CEO Jeff Evans. "Her talent, personality and work ethic make her a well-deserved representative of the Boys & Girls Club of Troy and the local community."

"It is an honor to represent the Boys & Girls Club of Troy as the 2020 Youth of the Year," said Katelyn. "I thank the Boys & Girls Club of Troy for providing me with a platform to share my story, to grow my voice, and to show pride and respect for my Club. I will also make sure that everyone knows how amazing it is to be a part of a great environment, the Boys & Girls Club of Troy."

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Katelyn has been a member of the Boys & Girls Club for ten years. She has volunteered in a number of roles throughout the Club, most notably in leadership roles in the Keystone & Torch Clubs. Additionally, Katelyn volunteers throughout our club's program areas. She credits the Club with helping her to find her passion for working with youth. She plans to follow her passion to get a degree in Elementary Education at Central Michigan University.

Each year, thousands of Club teens participate in local, state and regional Youth of the Year events. Six teens, including five regional winners and a national military youth winner, advance to Washington, D.C., for the National Youth of the Year Gala & Celebration Dinner, where one outstanding young person is named Boys & Girls Clubs of America's national teen spokesperson. The National Youth of the Year is a role model, leader and advocate for the nearly four million youth served by Boys & Girls Clubs each year, and all of America's young people.

ABOUT THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF TROY

The Boys & Girls Club of Troy, located at 3670 John R Road, is a non-profit youth development organization that provides educational and recreational activities, in addition to mentoring programs, to more than 1,200 children, aged six to 18, in the tri-county area of metropolitan Detroit. For nearly four decades, the Club's positive environment has enabled members to become responsible, self-reliant, and caring adults. Visit www.bgctroy.org for more information.

ABOUT BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA

For more than 100 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America (GreatFutures.org) has enabled young people most in need to achieve great futures as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Today, some 4,000 Boys & Girls Clubs serve nearly 4 million children and teens through Club membership and community outreach.