



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF WEST CENTRAL MISSOURI**

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**OUTSTANDING MEMBERS COMPETE FOR BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF
AMERICA'S STATE YOUTH OF THE YEAR HONOR**

Sedalia, MO- January 29, 2010 – The Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri hosted its annual Youth of the Year competition on January 28, at 7 p.m. at the Fox Theater in Sedalia, MO.

Being named Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Club member can receive. The title recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community and Boys & Girls Club, as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome. This program was founded over 60 years ago through the generosity of the Reader's Digest Foundation.

After calculating the judges' results at the Youth of the Year event, Alexis Roark, from Green Ridge High School won the teen competition, Stephanie Trevino from La Monte High School took second place and Leslie Nease from Cole Camp High School took third.

Alexis Roark is a true example of an extraordinary young woman. At age 14, she has just been selected to compete against other Boys & Girls Club members for the Missouri Youth of the Year title and a \$1,000 scholarship from the Reader's Digest Foundation. As the Youth of the Year for the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri, Roark is among hundreds of local youth across the country recognized by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) for her sound character, leadership skills and willingness to give back to the community.

As the winner of the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's Youth of the Year, Roark is

able to apply for a full-ride, four year scholarship to Marquette University. If Roark wins at the state competition, she will compete for the title of Midwest Region Youth of the Year and an additional \$10,000 scholarship. The five regional winners will advance to Washington, D.C., in September 2009, to compete for the title of BGCA's National Youth of the Year. The National Youth of the Year receives an additional \$15,000 college scholarship and is installed by the President in an Oval Office ceremony.

Although elementary Youth of the Year winners aren't old enough to compete at the state level, the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri believes it is important to encourage and honor all youth for their achievements.

Alex Esquivel from Skyline Elementary won the elementary competition, Erika Tackett from Horace Mann Elementary took second and Hunter Gilliam from Washington Elementary took third.

For more information about the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri or the Youth of the Year program call 660-826-8331 or log onto www.bgckids.com

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