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**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE FOX VALLEY ANNOUNCES
2017-2018 YOUTH OF THE YEAR**

Travis Thor Receives \$4,000 Educational Scholarship

Appleton, WI (November 14, 2017) – The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley today names Travis Thor the 2017-2018 Youth of the Year, the organization’s most prestigious Boys & Girls Club member award. Thor will receive a \$4,000 scholarship for post-secondary education and will represent the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley at the Wisconsin Youth of the Year competition in Green Bay in March, 2018.

Thor has been a Boys & Girls Club member for nine years and has given more than 100 hours of volunteer service this year to members of the Boys & Girls Club of Wilson Middle School. He is 16 years old and a Junior at Renaissance School for the Arts. Thor plans to attend a four-year university to major in performing arts with a minor in mathematics.

“We are very proud of our Youth of the Year competitors,” said Greg Lemke-Rochon, Chief Executive Officer. “Many of the youth we serve face very challenging circumstances and it is inspiring to see how determination and hard work can help these young people succeed in life.”

Other 2017-18 Youth of the Year competitors included: Miles Beach and Alana Hill from the Boys & Girls Club of Menasha’s The CLUB Teen Center, Corey Kuse from the Boys & Girls Club of Appleton’s The CLUB Teen Center, and Jaylee Walker representing the Boys & Girls Club of Kaleidoscope Academy.

About Youth of the Year

Youth of the Year is the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier recognition program, celebrating the extraordinary achievements of Club teens. Club members who earn the Youth of the Year title embody the values of leadership, service, academic excellence, and healthy lifestyles. They exemplify the critical impact that Boys Girls Clubs have on the lives of young people. The program is designed as a year-round tool for fostering young people's character, personal growth, and leadership qualities.

Local Clubs recognize members ages 14 to 18 as Youth of the Month Winners and select a Youth of the Year, who then participates in state competitions. Winners of state and then regional Youth of the Year competitions advance to the National Youth of the Year competition. The National Youth of the Year represents all Boys & Girls Club youth.

About the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley (www.bgclubfoxvalley.org) is a leading provider of youth services, working with more than 12,000 young people each year and an average of more than 1,100 each school day. The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley actively seeks to enrich the lives of young people, especially those most in need, and is dedicated to ensuring that our community's youth have greater access to quality programs and services that will enhance their lives and shape their futures.

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