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NEWS RELEASE

Credit Union of Colorado Foundation Celebrates Impact of Youth of the Year Partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs in Colorado

Scholarships and Leadership Support Empower Colorado Youth Across the State

DENVER – July 2026 – Credit Union of Colorado Foundation is celebrating the impact of its partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs in Colorado following the successful 2026 Colorado Youth of the Year event, which recognized and supported outstanding young leaders from communities across the state.

As the title sponsor of the 2026 Colorado State Youth of the Year program, Credit Union of Colorado Foundation provided \$50,000 in scholarship funding for 14 exceptional members of Boys & Girls Clubs representing rural, urban, frontier and military-connected communities throughout Colorado.

The Youth of the Year program is Boys & Girls Clubs' premier leadership recognition initiative, honoring young people for academic achievement, leadership, service and dedication to healthy lifestyles while helping prepare them for postsecondary education and future careers.

"We are incredibly proud of these students and honored to support their educational journeys," says Phil Smith, board chair of Credit Union of Colorado Foundation and President and CEO of Credit Union of Colorado. "The Youth of the Year program showcases the extraordinary resilience, leadership and potential of young people across Colorado. Through this partnership, we are helping remove financial barriers while investing in the next generation of community leaders and changemakers."

Scholarship recipients included two Colorado Youth of the Year winners, who will now represent Colorado at the regional Youth of the Year competition this summer, along with 12 state finalists who each received scholarship support.

2026 scholarship recipients include:

- Jesse G. - Youth of the Year Winner (Traditional Clubs) / Boys & Girls Clubs of Weld County
- Jasmine T. - Youth of the Year Winner (Military Clubs) / Peterson Space Force Base Youth Center
- Alison O. - USAFA Falcon Trail Youth Center
- Daizey R. - Boys & Girls Clubs of Pueblo County
- Emma B. - Boys & Girls Clubs of the High Rockies
- Hadley M. - Buckley Space Force Base Youth Center
- Jalonna-Marie G. - Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver
- Jessiah C. - Fort Carson Army Youth Center
- Jose G. - Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County
- Joslyn M. - Boys & Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley
- Karson F. - Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Colorado
- Mariela F. - Boys & Girls Clubs of La Plata County
- Nicholas B. - Boys & Girls Clubs of The Pikes Peak Region
- Stella Z. - Boys & Girls Clubs of Chaffee County

“This partnership has created meaningful opportunities for youth across Colorado,” said Stuart Jenkins, executive director of Boys & Girls Clubs in Colorado. “Credit Union of Colorado Foundation’s investment goes beyond scholarships. It elevates youth voices, celebrates leadership, and helps young people build confidence in their futures.”

In addition to scholarship support, Credit Union of Colorado team members participated directly in the event through financial literacy activities and engagement opportunities with students and families. More than 240 attendees participated in the statewide celebration, including youth, families, Boys & Girls Clubs staff, board members, and community partners.

Throughout the event, Youth of the Year finalists shared personal reflections about the impact Boys & Girls Clubs have had on their lives - from building confidence and leadership skills to finding belonging, mentorship and purpose.

Credit Union of Colorado Foundation announced a landmark three-year, \$225,000 investment in Boys & Girls Clubs in Colorado earlier this year, deepening a partnership focused on expanding educational opportunity, leadership development, and long-term success for youth across Colorado.

About Boys & Girls Clubs in Colorado | Colorado Alliance (coloradoboysandgirlsclubs.org)

Boys & Girls Clubs in Colorado is a nonprofit organization formed to maximize the impact of 17 regional Boys & Girls Club organizations managing 80-plus locations across Colorado and serving 45,000 youth each year. The organization drives partnerships with state government, foundations, and state-wide partner agencies. Boys & Girls Clubs exist across Colorado—in rural, urban, tribal, and military communities—to give young people access to life-changing out-of-school experiences. As a statewide organization, Boys & Girls Clubs in Colorado facilitates collaboration and opportunities for large-scale initiatives to increase the financial stability of all Colorado Club organizations.

About Credit Union of Colorado Foundation

Founded in 2012, Credit Union of Colorado Foundation supports education through college scholarships and educator grants reflecting the credit union’s long history of philanthropic commitment to its members and their communities, dating back to the credit union’s beginnings in 1934.

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