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**GREAT FUTURES START HERE: EXCEPTIONAL TEEN NAMED NEVADA  
YOUTH OF THE YEAR BY BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA**

*Natalie Grady set to receive college scholarship and vie for regional title this summer*

**RENO, Nev. (March 15, 2018)** –Selected among five outstanding youth, Natalie Grady, [Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows](#), has been named the Nevada Youth of the Year by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) for her impressive dedication to her academics, outstanding altruism and leadership skills. The winner was announced on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 during a luncheon at Switch Inneventions, Las Vegas. The 2018 Nevada Youth of the Year Judges included: State Senator Yvanna Cancela; Assistant City Manager for the City of North Las Vegas, Ryann Juden; Chief Financial Officer for Toyota Financial Savings Bank, Paul Katauskas; VP of Slots for Luxor, Saul Wesley; and State Senator and Attorney for Kolesar & Leatham, Michael Roberson.

As the new teen representative for all Boys & Girls Clubs in Nevada, Grady will receive a \$5,000 college scholarship. Her Boys & Girls Club story began a decade ago when her mom found Club to be the safe and affordable afterschool care she was seeking. At the Club, Natalie discovered the mentors and positive environment she needed to build new friendships, succeed academically and foster her passion for leadership. Natalie has participated in nearly every program the Club offers. She was a standout Leader in Training and Junior Staff and now works at the Club as a regular staff member. With a 4.6 GPA, Natalie will graduate from Reed High School with all honors this spring and plans to attend the University of Nevada, Reno this coming fall to major in international business.

As BGCA's premier youth recognition program, Youth of the Year celebrates outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community and Boys & Girls Club, as well as overcoming personal challenges and obstacles. The recognition program encourages Club members to reach their full potential by achieving academic success, leading healthy lifestyles and contributing to their communities. These extraordinary young leaders are shining examples and living proof that great futures start at Boys & Girls Clubs.

This summer, Grady will compete against other Boys & Girls Club members within the Pacific Region. If named regional winner, she will be awarded an additional \$10,000 college scholarship, renewable for four years up to \$40,000. Five regional winners will advance to Washington, D.C., in September 2018, to compete for the title of BGCA's National Youth of the Year. The National Youth of the Year will receive an additional scholarship of up to \$25,000 renewable each year up to \$100,000.

For more information about the Youth of the Year program, visit <http://www.youthoftheyear.org>

*The Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows is the leading non-profit youth services agency in northern Nevada. Its mission is to enhance the quality of life for children, ages 0 to 18, in the Truckee Meadows through afterschool, summer and school break programming and services. The Club is committed to creating healthy children, in body and mind, with a sense of competence, usefulness, responsibility, belonging and influence, through diverse programs and community involvement. Founded in 1976, the Club now serves more than 13,000 children at 22 sites throughout the Truckee Meadows. At all of its sites, the Boys & Girls Club strives to provide kids with positive and productive outlets for their energy with programs such as afterschool tutoring, character and leadership development, healthy lifestyles, athletics and art. And while the Club invests more than \$2,500 annually into each of its members, memberships cost just \$20 per year, providing equal opportunity to all children in the community. Connect with the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/PositivePlace](http://www.facebook.com/PositivePlace), Twitter, [www.twitter.com/PositivePlace](http://www.twitter.com/PositivePlace) and Instagram, [www.Instagram.com/ThePositivePlace](http://www.Instagram.com/ThePositivePlace).*

### **About Boys & Girls Clubs of America**

For more than 100 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America ([GreatFutures.org](http://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. Clubs are located in cities, towns, public housing and on Native American lands throughout the country, and serve military families in BGCA-affiliated Youth Centers on U.S. military installations worldwide. Clubs provide a safe place, caring adult mentors, fun and friendship, and high-impact youth development programs on a daily basis during critical non-school hours. Priority programs emphasize academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. In a Harris Survey of alumni, 57 percent said the Club saved their lives. National headquarters are located in Atlanta. Learn more at [bgca.org/facebook](http://bgca.org/facebook) and [bgca.org/twitter](http://bgca.org/twitter).

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