

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Zoey Hinojosa of Boys & Girls Club of Benton County Wins Arkansas State Youth of the Year

Benton County, AR, April 17, 2025 – The Boys & Girls Club of Benton County is proud to announce that Zoey Hinojosa, a 16-year-old junior at Pea Ridge High School and member of the Pea Ridge Club, has been named the 2025 Arkansas Youth of the Year. Zoey is the first state winner to come from the Pea Ridge Club, and her win marks the second consecutive state title for the Boys & Girls Club of Benton County.

Zoey competed against ten other outstanding youth from across the state and emerged as the top honoree, receiving a \$2,500 scholarship and the opportunity to meet and capture a photo with Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders. With her combined local and state wins this year, Zoey has already earned \$7,500 in scholarships to support her educational future.

Selected for her leadership, service, academic excellence, and inspiring personal story, Zoey's journey is one of resilience and quiet determination. Raised in a home shadowed by instability, Zoey stepped into a caregiving role at a young age. Her strength and compassion have shaped her into a natural leader, both in and out of the Club.

"The impact I will make as Youth of the Year is helping youth who have also been affected by child abuse feel heard and noticed," Zoey shares. Her platform focuses on nontraditional therapy through livestock care, drawing from her personal experience finding stability while tending to animals on her aunt and uncle's farm.

Shawn Sawyer, Unit Director at the Pea Ridge Club, has witnessed Zoey's transformation firsthand. "In the years that I have personally known Zoey, she has done everything within her power to be a leader among her peers. She shows up, commits fully, and leads by example, and is always looking for ways to support others."



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
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Next, Zoey will represent Arkansas in the Southwest Regional Youth of the Year competition in Frisco, Texas, May 14–17, where she will compete with other state winners from across the region. Winners from this stage move on to the national level, representing more than 3.6 million Boys & Girls Club members across the country.

Zoey's win is a powerful reminder of the potential within every young person and the vital role the Boys & Girls Clubs of Benton County play in nurturing that potential.



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