



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF SARASOTA COUNTY  
THE ROBERT AND JOAN LEE CLUB**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****The Robert and Joan Lee Boys & Girls Club in Venice Selects Youth of the Year**

SARASOTA, FL. (April 28, 2011)—Established in 1947 by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the Youth of the Year program develops Club members to be articulate, well-groomed and knowledgeable spokespersons for their Club and community. The program recognizes and celebrates young people's commitment to public service, academic performance, character, long-term goals and personal challenges. Each year, a panel of judges selects a member of the Boys & Girls Club to represent the Club in State and Regional competitions. This year's recipient at the Venice Boys & Girls Club is Tyler Deittrick.

Tyler is actively involved in Club programs including culinary arts, Keystone Club, Junior Staff, fine art (advanced class), and Passport to Manhood. He is a positive role model to other members, especially in the art program, where he excels. Last year, Tyler was featured as a Boys & Girls Club National Digital Arts photo winner which provided him rewards and national recognition. Tyler is a member of Community Youth Development (CYD) and is instrumental in planning and implementing activities for youth in our community.

"The Boys & Girls Club has saved me from taking the wrong path in life and has given me a picture of what life can be. I would like to continue my time with the Boys & Girls Club by mentoring members through my high school years, and working for the Club during my college years," says Tyler. He plans to study animation at Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota.

"The qualities of character, service and leadership that make a Youth of the Year are promoted in the Club every day," says Roscelyn Guenther, Unit Director of the Robert and Joan Lee Club in Venice. "We not only incorporate leadership programs during the school year, we also promote leadership preparation in our summer program, beginning in June." Area Leaders, Junior Staff and teen leadership programs encourage good citizenship and civic responsibility. Adult mentoring and guidance reinforce the disciplines needed for a life of public service. All local Youth of the Year winners are recognized with a medallion and certificate.

Winners have the opportunity to compete regionally and, if selected, compete nationally at a competition held in Washington, DC. The National Youth of the Year receives a total of \$26,000 in scholarships, and is installed by the President of the United States. If you would like more information about Youth of the Year or the summer program at the Venice Boys & Girls Club, contact Roscelyn Guenther at 941-485-7050.

**About the Boys and Girls Clubs of Sarasota County:**

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County have played an integral role in the Sarasota County community for more than 41 years, providing daily programs and services focusing on academic success, healthy lifestyles and leadership development. The Mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County is to enable all young people, especially those that need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens.