

April 9, 2026--

The California Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs—and our event sponsors Raymond James, the Giving Pump, and Prologis--are proud to announce that our 2026 California Youth of the Year is Nianti of Boys & Girls Clubs of Monterey County!

Nianti impressed our judges during a two-day competition in Sacramento, and yesterday she was announced at the State Capitol as California Youth of the Year! Next, Nianti will represent California at the Pacific Region Youth of the Year competition.

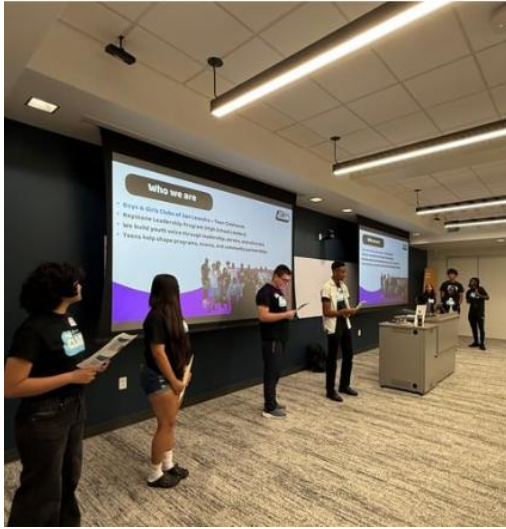


We are very proud of Nianti and our eight finalists for Youth of the Year, including Carlos (BGC of Coachella Valley), Leah (BGC of Northwest San Diego County), Rosa (BGC of of Camarillo), Vivian (BGC of Metro Los Angeles), Fernanda (BGC of Whittier), Ariel (BGC of Central Orange Coast), Berenice (BGC of Tracy), and Mateo (BGC of Silicon Valley).

We're also grateful to our event sponsors, who provide each of our nine Youth of the Year finalists with a scholarship and a two-day experience in the state Capitol.

We congratulate Nianti, her Club (BGC of Monterey County), and each of our state finalists on their extraordinary achievements!

Two-Day Event Overview



Empowering Youth Advocacy Workshop

On April 7, 2026, over 70 teens from Boys & Girls Clubs throughout the state—including the nine Youth of the Year finalists—gathered for an inspiring advocacy workshop designed to equip young individuals with the skills needed to advocate for themselves and their communities.

Engaging Discussions and Learning

During the event, teens came together to discuss issues and challenges affecting their peers and communities. They shared their experiences in advocacy efforts and participated in interactive sessions, including Advocacy 101, where they learned about the three levels of advocacy. Additionally, they practiced their elevator pitches to highlight the positive impact of their Club in preparation for advocacy meetings at the Capitol on April 8, 2026.



Career Insights

The workshop concluded with a career panel featuring professionals from the non-profit sector and politics. Teens had the opportunity to learn about the speakers' educational backgrounds and career paths.

Capitol Tour and Celebration

The visiting teens received a Capitol tour from Assemblymember Phil Chen. Beyond these sessions, participants also enjoyed a teen night to celebrate and network with peers.



Youth of the Year Announcement Luncheon in the Capitol Cactus Garden

150 individuals gathered, along with special guest speakers Assemblymember Mark Gonzalez, Deputy Attorney General Eleanor Blume, and California Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative Director Sohil Sud, to hear each Youth of the Year finalist' speech and hear Nianti announced as the 2026 Youth of the Year!