



YOUTH OF THE YEAR



The Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence County is delighted to announce that Kalandra Sears is our 2024 Youth of the Year. The Youth of the Year title is given to an exemplary young person in recognition of leadership, service, academic excellence, and dedication to live a healthy lifestyle.

Kalandra grew up in Lawrence County and is currently a senior at Bedford North Lawrence High School. She is involved in the Bedford North Lawrence FFA chapter and is an active member at East Oolitic Community Church. After high school, Kalandra plans to pursue a career in cosmetology. She chose cosmetology because she wants to make someone's day by providing them with an experience where they can enjoy getting pampered and walk out with a smile on their face. Kalandra says, "My passion has always been to show someone the kindness and respect they deserve".

Kalandra has attended the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence County After School program since she was in kindergarten. She now works for the Club as a Youth Development Professional at the Limestone Unit After School program. Kalandra describes the Club as a safe place where she has grown and thrived over the past nine years. "Being able to say I am a Club kid is a great feeling because it reminds me every day how lucky I am to experience the sort of loving community the Club is all about", says Kalandra. She goes on to share that the Club has taught her there is always a light in the darkness and has truly become her home away from home.



Cathy Craig, the Director of Impact at the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence County, has known Kalandra since she was in elementary school. She shares, "I want to express how proud I am of Kalandra and the incredible young lady she has become. I am in awe of her compassion towards others, even in tough times. She has always demonstrated an incredible ability to be the calm in the storm. Her dedication, enthusiasm, and willingness to learn has truly made a difference in the lives of so many at the Club." Cathy goes on to say "As she continues to grow and explore her life path, I want her to know that her contributions here won't be forgotten. Her future is bright, and I have no doubt that she will achieve great things. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors and hope she gets everything in life she deserves. Keep shining, girl!".



Kalandra will now represent Lawrence County at the Indiana Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year competition. On April 11th & 12th, she will join Youth of the Year winners from all 31 Clubs across Indiana to compete for the state title and a \$2,500 college scholarship from Boys & Girls Clubs of America. The nominees have submitted written essays and will engage in group activities, interviews, and give a speech during their two days in Indianapolis. Indiana's Youth of the Year will progress to regional and possibly national events that culminate in a weeklong celebration in Washington DC, where one individual is named the National Youth of the Year and receives a \$50,000 scholarship, a brand-new Toyota Corolla and a \$5,000 Kohl's gift card.

Please join the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence County in congratulating Kalandra on being the Club's 2024 Youth of the Year recipient and wishing her the best as she competes to be the Indiana Youth of the Year.

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