

Eureka teen celebrated as 'Youth of the Year'

The Times-Standard

Eureka teen Leah Selcer was honored Thursday by the Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods as the 2015-2016 Youth of the Year at the organization's annual recognition dinner.

"Leah is a compassionate, critical thinker, who brings a fantastic perspective to our youth driven program. It's an honor to celebrate her achievement."

— Teen Court Director Sacha Marini

According to the club, Selcer was chosen as this year's recipient of the award having stood out as a youth leader in the Club's Teen Court program for the last two years.

"Leah is a compassionate, critical thinker, who brings a fantastic perspective to our youth driven program," Teen Court Director Sacha Marini said in the release. "It's an honor to celebrate her achievement."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Eureka teen Leah Selcer giving her Youth of the Year speech on Thursday.

As part of the award ceremony, Leah was presented with a laptop computer courtesy of Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods Executive Director Liz

Smith and recognition certificates courtesy of Sen. Mike McGuire and Assemblyman Jim Wood's offices. Selcer, who has aspirations of

working in the legal field, will also have the opportunity to be mentored by attorney Elan Firpo, a former prosecutor and

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Selcer

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current partner with Zwerdling, Bragg, Mainzer, & Firpo, LLP.

"Youth of the Year is a powerful program that helps promote our members who are exemplifying good character and citizenship within the Club and greater community," Smith said in the release. "I am thrilled to see how this program has grown in the last 20 years and that we now have an off-site recognition dinner where donors, families and leadership staff and Board Members are able to celebrate each other. I look forward to seeing continued growth and the development of a local scholarship. Leah Selcer is such a joy to behold. At such a young age, she has a gracefully commanding presence and is

able to articulate her personal mission statement and how the mission of the Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods has helped to shape that."

According to the release, Youth of the Year has been Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier recognition program, celebrating the extraordinary achievements of club members, since 1947.

"This is the fourth year the Eureka Club has run the program. If a youth's application is strong enough, they have the opportunity to advance to the State, Regional and National competitions, concluding in an award ceremony in Washington, D.C., and a special meeting at the White House. The National Youth of the Year represents over 4 million youth members in the U.S. and on military installations around the world," the release states.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This is the fourth year the Boys and Girls Club of the Redwoods has run the Youth of the Year program.