

 bgc **YOUTH**^{OF}_{THE} **YEAR**

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**YOUTH
APPLICATION
PACKAGE
2024**

Overview

Youth of the Year is a national initiative celebrating youth leadership and achievement at BGC Clubs across Canada. Youth of the Year aims to foster strong BGC ambassadors and build capacity for Clubs to support more youth leaders in their communities.

In recognizing the need to create equitable spaces for Indigenous Peoples, BGC Canada has incorporated an **Indigenous Youth of the Year** along with the **Youth of the Year**.

Youth of the Year is a national initiative that provides Club youth with an opportunity to showcase their leadership capabilities, gain additional recognition and earn scholarship funds. Each year, seven youth candidates are selected from across Canada and provided with leadership and public speaking training, as well as other opportunities to help them fulfill their role in national fundraising activities and educating Canadians on the power of the BGC Club experience and issues facing youth in Canada.

How will it work?

Club youth ages 15-21 are encouraged to apply for Youth of the Year by submitting written responses and a video showcasing their achievements, service, and leadership to their Club, school, and community. From the first round of evaluation, seven youth are selected as **Youth of the Year** and **Indigenous Youth of the Year**. All seven youth will receive media, leadership, and public speaking training. A second and final round of evaluation will take place to determine one candidate to receive special recognition as BGC Canada's **National Youth of the Year**.

The National Youth of the Year award recipient will be revealed at the final celebration event and all seven youth will be awarded their respective prizes, including scholarship funds for postsecondary education. The home Clubs of each Youth of the Year award recipient will also receive a grant to further support their youth engagement work.

Youth of the Year award recipients will make a **1.5-year commitment** to serve as BGC ambassadors on a local and national level, which includes digital and in-person participation in speaking engagements, media interviews, and networking opportunities.

Youth of the Year Commitment

Youth who are selected as YOY, Indigenous YOY, and National YOY will make a 1.5-year commitment to serve as a BGC Canada Ambassador. As an ambassador you will partake in activities such as:

- Meet the BGC Canada Executive Team, Board Members, and Foundation Board Trustees
- Attend National Events (Ex. Partner Summit, BGC Club Day, etc.)
- Help in national fundraising and corporate engagement events
- Attend local Club events
- Take part in virtual events such as Instagram or Facebook Live Q&A sessions
- Attend YOY Workshops and speaker series
- Address media opportunities (Ex. Interviews)
- Participate in speaking engagements

What incentives are there for youth?

YOY provides youth with a valuable opportunity to enrich their skills through leadership training and professional development at networking and speaking events. Youth are also able to highlight their achievements and YOY experience on their résumé.

Five Youth of the Year and one Indigenous Youth of the Year will each receive a:

- \$2,000 CAD scholarship
- Personal laptop

One National Youth of the Year Award Recipient will receive a:

- \$10,000 CAD scholarship
- Personal laptop

The seven Clubs with a Youth of the Year each receive a:

- \$5,000 CAD grant towards youth leadership programming at the Club

Scholarship funds awarded to all YOY may be applied for post-secondary education or career development programs and are eligible to be applied to expenses such as: tuition fees, book costs, on-campus living expenses, and more, pending approval from BGC Canada. Funds will be transferred directly to the institution on behalf of the youth. Funds can also be deferred upon request and will be held in trust.

How are the award recipients selected?

YOY from across Canada are selected based on the following criteria:

- Active Club member
 - Current Club staff and/or volunteers who have previously spent time as a Club member are eligible to apply as well
- Aged 15 - 21 years old (as of January 1, 2024)
- Demonstrated leadership qualities such as:
 - Embodiment of [BGC values](#)
 - Positive impact on those around them
 - Volunteerism (within Club or community)
 - Personal growth/demonstrated improvement
- Willingness to travel to various BGC Canada events
- Ability to participate in virtual and/or in-person leadership training and YOY Celebration Event
- Willingness to commit to the 1.5-year role (from April 2023 – October 2024) as a youth ambassador and spokesperson for the BGC movement on a local, regional, and national level
- Completed application submission with all required sections and supporting documentation

NOTE: Selection criteria are subject to change without notice.

When will it start?

Here is the annual timeline for YOY (*dates are subject to change):

Jan 26- March 4, 2024:	Youth application open through Scholarship portal
March 4-14, 2024	BGC Staff to submit youth nomination/reference letters
March 15-22, 2024:	BGC Canada Internal review of YOY applications
April 2-7, 2024:	Indigenous YOY Evaluation
April 9-15, 2024:	Round 1 Evaluation
April 22, 2024:	Award Recipients are notified
April 29, 2024 – July 31, 2024:	Filming of videos for each award recipient

Nov 23-27, 2024	YOY visit Toronto
Nov 25, 2024	Round 2 / final selection process
Nov 26, 2024	YOY Celebration event and announcement of National YOY Award Recipient

What's next?

Club staff help you apply through the [Scholarship portal \(https://bgccan.my.site.com/login\)](https://bgccan.my.site.com/login). To make sure you are ready to submit we have attached the questions that will appear on the portal along with a portfolio template for you to use (see attached).

If you have any questions about Youth of the Year, please contact:

Heather Steeves

National Programs Manager, BGC Canada

hsteeves@bgccan.com

Chloe Tam

Manager, Project & Events, BGC Canada

ctam@bgccan.com

If you have any questions about Indigenous Youth of the Year, please contact:

Jacqueline Parrish

Manager, Indigenous Relations, BGC Canada

jparrish@bgccan.com

YOY Application Questions

Applicant Information

Your Name :

Gender :

City:

Province or Territory :

Postal Code:

Phone Number :

Email :

Date of Birth:

Are you First Nations, Métis or Inuk (Inuit)?

Yes/ No

by selecting “Yes”, you will be considered for both Indigenous and Regional Youth of the Year through the same application submission

What are your educational plans for 2024-2025?

Club Information

Which Club are you affiliated with?

Club Site?

How many years have you been involved with the BGC Club?

(Applicant must be a current or former Club member for a minimum of one year).

How have you been involved with your BGC Club? (program participant, volunteer, staff)

Please upload your Club Portfolio here (sample in Appendix A)

Essay Questions

Essay 1: Club Experience & Impact

- Describe some of the skills you learned at the Club that will help you take steps to achieve your goals (communication, leadership, conflict resolution, mental and physical well-being etc)
- Describe how because of the Club you are more comfortable leading and please share some of your leadership experiences at the Club.
- Describe how because of the Club you feel that you matter and feel more comfortable being yourself.
- Describe how because of the Club you were able to try new things and give some examples of how you actively participated at your Club (community events, Pink Shirt Day, BGC Club Day, youth council, sports teams, community/Club projects etc).

Essay 2: Why do you want to be a YOY?

- What sparks your interest or passion?
- What is an issue that is important to you?
- Describe an interest or passion that you have put into action or plan to in the future?
- Describe how comfortable you are with public speaking and if you have any experience speaking in front of others.

Video Submission

Video Question: Tell us about the journey of how you found the Club and your Club experience. Highlight the positive impact that your Club has had on you. Choose 1 experience or example to share with us.

Please record a video response to the question above. Your response should be between 3-5 minutes and should show us your public speaking abilities. Remember to record in a quiet space and speak loudly. Your video will be evaluated for content, presentation skills, and your ability to engage the viewer. Your video will not be evaluated based on creativity, so you can approach the video whichever way you choose, so long as you answer the question. Be yourself!

Please note that a video cannot be uploaded. You can share a Google Drive or Dropbox link or create a Vimeo or Youtube account to upload your video. When you post your video on YouTube, click the Edit button and set your privacy settings to "Unlisted" and save your changes.

An unlisted YouTube video is a public video that can only be accessed by people who have the URL or link to the video. Unlisted YouTube videos are not discoverable by searching on the platform.

Club Nomination

Part of your application requires your Club to submit a nomination form on your behalf, and should be completed by a club staff who knows you well. If the staff member who will complete the nomination form is not found in the Search window, you can enter their information manually. Please provide the correct email address for a staff member at your Club who knows you well and can complete the nomination form. An email will be sent to them automatically once you have completed your part of the application and clicked "Submit". Please note: Your application will not be complete until the Nomination Form is completed by your Club staff member. Please ask them to submit the Nomination Form before the scholarship deadline.

Please note: You must submit your application before the Nominator can complete the nomination form. They will receive a notification email once you have submitted the application.

Nominator First Name :

Nominator Last Name :

Nominator Email :

Appendix A: YOUTH PORTFOLIO

INSTRUCTIONS:

Use these instructions, and sample portfolio to create a portfolio that shows your qualifications for the role of National Youth of the Year by outlining your Club and Community Experiences.

Upload your portfolio on the scholarship portal as part of your YOY application.

If you use this template, be sure to thoroughly review your content spacing.

INTRODUCTION:

As a Youth of the Year candidate, your goal is to serve as a leader and spokesperson for BGC Canada. Your portfolio should include the characteristics that you believe define you as a leader.

Review the list below, or you can also come up with your own.

Problem Solver: When I notice a problem or challenge, I look for and suggest possible solutions.

Mentor: I provide guidance and support and am a role model for others.

Advocate: I speak up for myself and/or others to support a cause or purpose I believe in

Project Leader: I lead myself and/or others to complete a project.

Evaluator: I take the time to reflect and gather information before and after making a decision.

Collaborator: I work respectfully with peers and adults to share responsibilities and accomplish goals.

Convener: I bring people together who have different ideas and experiences to accomplish a purpose

Creative Thinker: I think of new and innovative ideas.

Effective Speaker: I confidently and clearly express thoughts, feelings, and ideas.

Effective Listener: I listen without judging, assuming or interrupting.

Decision Maker: I can make and express a decision that moves work or ideas forward.

Time Manager: I effectively manage time to accomplish goals.

Community Builder: I help others feel safe, included and connected to each other.

Inspirer: I spark interest, excitement and action in others.

Coordinator: I can responsibly manage resources and organize and plan activities.

Visionary: I have and can share a vision for a brighter future and/or outcome.

After you have selected your three leadership characteristics, incorporate these into the Youth of the Year Portfolio Template.

Club Experience:

When providing Club Experience, think of the programs that you have attended at your Club. Although you may have more than can fit in the page, choose the ones that have had the greatest impact on your experience.

Your examples should demonstrate your learning and experience as a leader. This might include:

- Leadership programs you have participated in (Keystone, Lead Up, Learn On)
- Leadership roles you have held (volunteer mentor, youth council member).

Community Experience:

When providing Community Experience, think of ways that you have engaged in your school community or larger community. Choose the ones that you think reflect your leadership skills.

Your examples might include:

- Community programs you have participated in (sports teams, drama club)
- Community volunteer work you've done (community kitchen, student council)

SAMPLE PORTFOLIO

Jessica Rowe

YOUTH OF THE YEAR PORTFOLIO

The three leadership characteristics that best describe me are:

- Project Leader: I lead myself and/or others to complete a project
- Collaborator: I work respectfully with peers and adults to share responsibilities and accomplish goals.
- Inspirer: I spark interest, excitement and action in others.

CLUB EXPERIENCE

Youth Council Chair

October 2023-current

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- Planned and led Youth Council meetings with support of Club staff.
 - Led the youth council in applying to grants to provide opportunities for Club youth programming.
 - Organized a Club event for BGC Club Day with 50 Club members in attendance.

Learn On Participant

September 2020-2022

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- Attended program twice a week for two hours.
 - Participated in workshops where I was able to create a resume and cover letter for employment.
 - Attended a local careers workshop to hear about different career paths.

COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

Food Bank Volunteer

December 2019-December 2020

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- Supported the Food bank once a week to help organize their food cupboards.
 - Created and distributed flyers to promote the food bank to the community.
 - Took education workshop on community needs.

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- Participate on my school's volleyball team throughout high school.
 - Led games during practice to help the team with skill building.
 - Demonstrated new skills for new team members.

PORTFOLIO

YOUTH OF THE YEAR PORTFOLIO

The three leadership characteristics that best describe me are:

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CLUB EXPERIENCE

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COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

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