



LEADERS OF THE FUTURE

CELEBRATION

Meet the leaders of tomorrow today.

MAY 13, 2021 | 7 PM

ORDER OF EVENTS

2021 LEADERS OF THE FUTURE CELEBRATION

7:00 | Welcome

Welcoming remarks from Bill Abplanalp, NBGC Deputy Director of Development and Lori Novak, VP- Foreign Exchange & Capital Markets with Presenting Platinum Sponsor, Associated Bank

7:15 | Keynote Address

An inspiring address about courage and opportunity from Reggie Brown, actor, comedian, and Barack Obama impressionist

7:30 | Awards Program for 8th-11th graders

Youth Speakers: Jahayra Gutierrez, Luke McNamara

7:45 | Awards Program for College students

Youth Speakers: Cassidy Rivera, Moises Ferrer

8:00 | Special Awards Presentations

James E. Baumhart Excellence in Leadership Award, presented by Barbara Baumhart, Scholarship Sponsor | *Program Innovation Award*, presented by Maria Gomez, Program Director

8:20 | Closing Remarks

8:30 | Event Concludes

The online auction will close at 8:30 pm.



ABOUT NBGC

The Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club (NBGC) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to youth development through its three pronged model of leadership, athletics, and out-of-school time. Founded in 1931, NBGC recognizes that children are our most valuable resource. In the last 90 years, parents have come to rely on the organization as an extension of their family.

NBGC's mission is to enhance the well-being and develop the potential of it's members, their families, and the community. NBGC provides a safe space for young people to play and lead. By championing the motto that "everyone plays", NBGC encourages teamwork, sportsmanship, self-worth, leadership, and friendship.

At the heart of this organization is our signature leadership program, which encourages dedication, honesty, and initiative. These young leaders learn to guide, mentor and be role models in their communities. Leadership skills gained at NBGC become a foundation that sets our youth leaders up on a path towards success. NBGC stands apart from other out-of-school programs because we encourage and foster growth; our youth have the opportunity to start out as participants and finish as leaders.

THE LEADERS OF THE FUTURE

AWARDING A RECORD-BREAKING AMOUNT OF \$90,000
IN SCHOLARSHIPS DURING OUR 90TH YEAR

The Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club Scholarship Program offers our young leaders the opportunity to earn college tuition funds beginning in 8th grade. Since its inception in 1984, the NBGC Scholarship Program has awarded more than \$1,300,000 in scholarship money.

This year is our biggest year yet, with an increase in scholarship money awarded of 46% and an increase in number of recipients of 19% from last year. Our scholars have earned a record high amount of \$90,000 in scholarship dollars this year.

Scholarship applicants must be in the NBGC Leader Program, submit an application, essay, grades, letters of recommendation and undergo a performance review of their NBGC leadership skills and accomplishments. Scholars are also interviewed by a committee of past recipients and community members prior to selection. Returning scholars must complete 40 hours of service towards NBGC initiatives to be considered for the Leader of the Future Scholarship.



8TH & 9TH GRADE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Jose Blaz

2nd year leader

Hello, my name is Jose Blaz. I graduated from Bateman Elementary School and currently go to Rickover Naval Academy as a Freshmen. I like to play video games and play soccer as my hobby and like to hang out with my friends and watch anime. I was introduced to the Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club (NBGC) in September 2019 as a volunteer. At first I thought to myself that I was going to be alone because I was going to meet new people and it was going to be hard working with kids. After a few months, I got used to it working with kids and got along with my coworkers very well. As a kid I always wanted to become a soccer player, I know I have to work hard to achieve this goal. I will work to finish High School and College to be successful and make my dream come true. When I'm around people I'm friendly, chill, and fun to hang out with.

Jose's Scholarship is Sponsored By: Family & Friends of Rolando Argumedo Jr. - Rolando Argumedo Jr. Memorial Scholarship



Juan Bonilla

2nd year leader

Hello my name is Juan Pablo or just call me Juan. I am a student from Rickover Naval Academy where I am a freshman. I am 15 years old and I started at the Neighborhood Boys and Girls Club in September of 2019. My favorite hobby is to workout and that's what you'll find me doing most of the time. If not working out, I play games or go on a bike ride with my friends in my free time. I'm an explorer. It's always great to explore on my bike that I got from doing a leader outing where the bikes were donated to us. I have multiple goals in life that I have to accomplish and right now I'm just getting started. I'm studying to be a lawyer in the future. I give it my all if it comes to hard work. For example, I've been working at the Neighborhood Boys and Girls Club for a year and a half now and have been taking a strong initiative. I have worked multiple sports and try to use more of my leadership skills every day.

Juan's Scholarship is Sponsored By: Robert Kartheiser

8TH & 9TH GRADE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Luis Jara

2nd year leader

Hello, my name is Luis Jara and I am 15 years old. I was born in Manhattan, New York and have now lived in 4 different states. I have three sisters and am the second oldest child. I have been a member of the Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club since the Fall of 2019. I joined NBGC because I was excited to learn responsibility, work with others, improve my social skills and be a good role model for younger children. I am currently a freshman at Von Steuben High School, where I am enrolled in the scholar's program and am currently ranked first in my class. I like to challenge myself and hope to maintain my class rank until I graduate. I am also challenging myself to learn more about my dream career as a computer science engineer by taking an advanced placement engineering class. In my free time, I like to play basketball, soccer and video games or listen to music.

Luis's Scholarship is Sponsored By: Family & Friends of Jerry Ottesen - Jerry Ottesen Memorial Scholarship



Edgar Jimenez

2nd year leader

My name is Edgar Jimenez and I am 15 years old. I have been a leader at the NBGC since the Fall of 2019. I joined the NBGC to learn responsibility, to work with others as a team, improve my social skills, and be a role model for younger kids. Currently, I am a freshman at Von Steuben High School, where I am in the Scholars Program. So far favorite part about high school is meeting all the new kinds of people and making new friends. My favorite subjects in school have always been math and science because in those two subjects I would always learn new interesting lessons every day. I hope to use these two subjects in my future career as a doctor or a computer science engineer. My interests outside of school include hanging out with friends, exploring new places while biking, playing basketball, and playing video games with my friends. I'm more of an outdoor person which is why I like summer or hot weather because I can go outside more and meet up with friends. As I grow up, I hope to help more people and be responsible with the decisions I make in my life.

Edgar's Scholarship is Sponsored By: The Scholarship Club

8TH & 9TH GRADE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Kade Kielnik

2nd year leader

Hello, my name is Kade Kielnik and I am a 9th grader at Lakeview High School. I have been involved with NBGC since I was 5 years old. Growing up, I admired the leaders and made it a goal to become one myself. I saw my sister and cousins go through the program and looked forward to joining them one day. I've now been a leader for 2 years and I love it- the club truly feels like home. My favorite things to do are to play video games, talk with my friends, or fish. I also love animals and have 2 dogs, a frog, 5 fish, and 16 chickens and a turtle. I love my teachers at Lakeview High School and always find myself learning new and interesting things from them. My goal is to continue my education after graduating. I am currently excited about the possibility of becoming a real estate agent, but I know I have more time to make a decision.

Kade's Scholarship is Sponsored By: 3800 Block of Claremont Friends of Mike Martinez - Mike Martinez Memorial Scholarship



Peyton Marrero

3rd year leader

My name is Peyton Marrero and I am currently a freshman at Lane Tech. I have participated in the club's programs since 2011 and began working as a Leader in the Spring of 2019. NBGC has always been a big part of my life. Without NBGC I would not have the satisfaction of being a leader/mentor to younger children. While growing up at the club, I have learned how to manage my time and how to work as a team. I have also had the opportunity to learn from veteran leaders and staff what it means to be a leader and mentor. I feel honored that I get to learn from the people that I aspired to be when I was younger. Now that I work at NBGC I get the chance to be a leader to the children and inspire them to follow in our footsteps. NBGC allows me to see the impact that I have made on the youth by setting an example for them and pushing them to be a better version of themselves.

Peyton's Scholarship is Sponsored By: LakeView Kiwanis Club & Ravenswood Kiwanis Club

8TH & 9TH GRADE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Iliana Perez

3rd year leader

My name is Iliana Perez and I am currently a 14 year old freshman at Lane Tech College Prep High School. Lane Tech has been my dream school since I was young because my mom went there and had fond memories. I am currently taking all honors classes. During my sophomore year I will be taking two to three AP classes which will help to give me college credits. My goal is to attend college and be pre-med so I can reach my dream of becoming a pediatric anesthesiologist. I found this dream after undergoing two surgeries myself. In my surgeries, the anesthesiologist someone that I thought had an interesting job. When I did further research, it seemed like the perfect fit for me as well. The Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club is a big help to my future because they've taught me how to adapt to different mindsets of both my coworkers and the children I work with but also how to take initiative and be a leader.

Iliana's Scholarship is Sponsored By: Todd & Jenna Beeson



Jocelyn Santana

2nd year leader

My name is Jocelyn Santana and I am 13 years old. I am the oldest of 3 children, I have a sister Jazmin and a brother Joaquin. I like to spend time with family, walking in the park or riding our bikes. I am pretty close to my family, but here and there a bit of peace and quiet is good. I love to watch shows and movies, am very crafty, and like organization. One of my life long dreams is to travel the world with friends, see and learn new things and of course have good memories. I have been at NBGC since I was 6 and in Kindergarten. It was and still is like my second family. I've played sports there, made new friends, and learned many life skills. I started the youth leader program at NBGC in 2019 and have enjoyed every part of it. I have learned many things and hope that it only continues. A few things that I have learned so far that have really helped me become who I am is communicating with different people, helping people, and loving what I do.

Jocelyn's Scholarship is Sponsored By: Weichert, Realtors - All Pro (Bill Abplanalp) & Richard Rush

10TH & 11TH GRADE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Alexia Camey

2nd year leader

My name is Alexia Camey. I was born and raised in Chicago, IL and I'm 16 years old. I am currently a sophomore at CICS NorthTown Academy. I'm Mexican and Guatemalan. I am very shy but once I get comfortable with people I am very goofy and loud. I live with my mom Rosa and sister Myreliz and my dog named Luna. My favorite color is pink. My favorite subject in school is history, I love learning about the past. I like to draw , watch movies, play volleyball and watch Tik Toks. One thing I learned during this pandemic is to not take things for granted and to live in the moment. My dream job is to become a immigration lawyer. I've always liked to help people, so I would like to continue doing that as a career. I truly believe I will make a good impact one day that will help many people, especially immigrant families. I also feel passionate about immigrant rights and justice.

Alexia's Scholarship is Sponsored By: Eddie Feuling - Janice Feuling Memorial Scholarship



Jahayra Gutierrez

3rd year leader

My name is Jahayra Gutierrez and I am 17 years old. I am currently a Junior at Lake View High School and the oldest of three children. I am in my third year of being a leader at the NBGC. Growing up, I learned a lot about being self-sufficient and independent. I use these skills as a leader at the club and am grateful to have a team of leaders and staff that I can rely on. I've played on a few teams for soccer, basketball, and volleyball. Even though as a child I always wanted to be a veterinarian, I am currently planning to study Electrical Engineering in college. No matter what career I choose, my goal is to go onto college and get a degree in something I will love doing.

Jahayra's Scholarship is Sponsored By: Community Savings Bank

10TH & 11TH GRADE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Laila Hollis

3rd year leader

Hello there, my name is Laila Hollis and I am a sophomore at City Baptist School! I have been involved in the NBGC leadership program for three years and I can't imagine myself in a more positive and growth-promoting environment. NBGC allows me to harness my skills as well as learn new ones. Working with younger children has given me patience and the eagerness to help others. It brings me great joy to work with the Kindergarten group each summer, where I can learn from them, appreciate their curiosity, and watch them flourish into their own unique selves. Each day at NBGC brings new hopes in my heart, thus being the reason I hope to become an educator advisor. It is my deepest desire to build Christian schools in low income countries to ensure the education of many children without hope. I am so appreciative of the staff and members of NBGC for dedicating their time for my hopeful future. I can't wait for the new adventures that await me at NBGC.

Laila's Scholarship is Sponsored By: Jim Kartheiser & Kathy Kennedy-Kartheiser



Adalyce Hollis

4th year leader

Hey everyone! My name is Adalyce or Addy for short and I'm currently a Junior at Lane Tech. I enjoy reading, cooking and sharing delicious, easy, and affordable vegan meals, growing plants, and supporting and making cruelty-free and environmentally friendly products. I am also the founder of the plant-based empowerment club at my school which aims to curate a safe and welcoming community of teens in hopes of empowering and educating them on the benefits of incorporating more plant foods, not only for their health, but for the environment, worldwide poverty, in addition to the increased benevolence towards non-human animals. I consider myself to be a diligent, generous, and compassionate individual towards all sentient beings whether it be towards family and friends, leaders, LIT's, kids, staff, and their families at the clubhouse, all people regardless of their background and the lives of non-human animals themselves. I aspire to work in the health sciences either as a dietician or in medicine as a veterinarian. I hope to give back to my community and others in any way possible and inspire others to challenge their own beliefs and ideologies in the choices they make each day.

Adalyce's Scholarship is Sponsored By: Howard & Carla Beeson

10TH & 11TH GRADE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Ava Kovacevich 3rd year leader

My name is Ava Kovacevich and I am 16 years old. I started summer camp at NBGC in 2015 and became a leader in 2018. I go to Lake View High school where I am a sophomore. I am originally from Elkhart, Indiana until 2018 where I started my 8th-grade year at Bell Elementary school. I now live with my dad, stepmom, and 3-year-old sister. The transition with moving was hard but I became a leader around the same time so it helped me meet new people and become familiar with Chicago. It introduced me to a different environment than a small town filled with the same kind of people. NBGC helped me make friends that didn't go to the same school and meet people from other cultures. NBGC also helped me pick what high school I wanted to go to because my parents and I were used to everyone attending the neighborhood schools without other options. Applying to Chicago high schools is challenging and confusing all by itself, but to be introduced to it in 8th grade is scary! At NBGC I had teens from different schools that I could talk to and staff who helped me set up the applications.

Ava's Scholarship is Sponsored By: Swedish Hospital



Alana Finch 4th year leader

Hello, my name is Alana Finch and I am currently a Sophomore at Amundsen High School. I have been a member at the Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club since 2015. I enjoyed being at the clubhouse so much that, in 2018, I decided to become a Leader. Working for NBGC has been one of the best opportunities I have had in my life. I have learned important life skills that will help me continue to grow in my future. Since being at NBGC I have worked with the Cheer program, Cubbies program, After-School programs, Sports program, and various camps. I love working with the youth and being someone they look up to. In my free time I love to dance, so during my freshman year I decided to join the dance team at Amundsen High School. Last year I had the opportunity to be in a city-wide competition and perform at all the Football games. This year has been a little different due to the pandemic. We will still be competing in a city-wide competition, but it will be virtual. Being a part of the dance team brings me joy while allowing me to express myself in a positive way.

Alana's Scholarship is Sponsored By: Family & Friends of Meghan Dunne - Meghan Dunne Memorial Scholarship

10TH & 11TH GRADE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Luke McNamara

4th year leader

My name is Luke McNamara. I am a senior leader and have been serving at NBGC for 4 years now. I am currently a junior at Depaul College Prep, and an alum of LaSalle 2, Class of 2018. This year, I have joined the International Baccalaureate Program at DePaul College Prep. Though it is a challenging course, I feel that I am more prepared for college. At DePaul Prep, I am the sports producer on Cup of Joe, as well as involved in Student Government, Pack Chats Sports, Mandarin Club, National Chinese Honors Society, as well as Depaul Prep Ambassadors. I currently play varsity soccer, and plan on playing volleyball in the summer. I plan on being an aeronautical engineer or a sports broadcaster when I grow up. Cup of Joe has inspired me to pursue sports broadcasting. Learning what it is all about behind the scenes of a game is fascinating. As a senior leader, my responsibilities have allowed me to grow as a leader at NBGC, but also in my community, helping everyone everyday.

Luke's Scholarship is Sponsored By: Baumhart Family & Friends - Baumhart Family Scholarship



Star Perez

4th year leader

Hi, my name is Star Perez and I am a Junior at Lane Tech. I have worked at Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club since the summer before eighth grade. I appreciate my time at Lane; the atmosphere has helped me open up to more people keeping me academically competitive. As of now, I have completed two advanced placement courses, with an additional three this year that includes AP Chemistry. AP Chemistry is by far my favorite AP course I have taken, with AP English Language and Composition as a close second. I am anxiously awaiting college application season, hoping to attend either Vanderbilt or UC Berkeley, where I plan to major in chemistry while minoring in biology so that I can improve my chances of becoming a biochemist. Throughout my NBGC career, I evolved into a well-rounded person who connects with a multitude of individuals. My interpersonal skills are continuing to develop, enhancing my ability to communicate well with peers.

Star's Scholarship is Sponsored By: Betty Bauer-Crescenzi & Frank Crescenzi

10TH & 11TH GRADE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Liam Sommers

4th year leader

Hello, my name is Liam Sommers and I have been a leader at the Neighborhood Boys and Girls Club for three years. I am currently a Junior at Jones College Prep High School. I graduated from Lasalle II in 2018. This year I have been involved in clubs like the drumming club and the National Honors Society. I also take a drum class outside of school. I have been playing the drums for the past seven years. I also have continued being an active member of the Honeycomb leadership program. I have been involved in the HoneyComb program for the past seven years. Due to COVID I have volunteered with HoneyComb less frequently, but I still enjoy my role in the program and hope to start volunteering more in the spring. The last volunteer project I did with the HoneyComb organization was working at a free store and food pantry. At the free store other volunteers and I handed out free necessities for low income families. The food pantry was a place where volunteers like myself, gave away a variety of foods to families with food stamps. This summer and spring I plan on working at the Club more. I am excited to work at the NBGC summer camp again this summer.

Liam's Scholarship is Sponsored By: Family & Friends of Paul Goerner Sr. - Paul Goerner Sr. Memorial Scholarship



10,000

NBC & NBGC
alumni and
counting



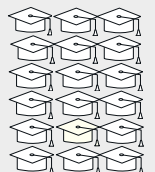
**\$1.2
million**

awarded in
scholarships
since 1984



100%

of graduating
NBGC leaders
went on to
college in 2020





Yasmina Chammas

6th year leader

My name is Yasmina Chammas, and I am a senior at Lane Tech, where I am in the National Honor Society and am recognized as a Lane Scholar. I have been a member at NBGC since the age of 5, and my mother is an NBGC alumna. I also have two sisters, three stepsisters, and two Pitbulls. My favorite subject in school is chemistry and I am also interested in forensics and biochemistry. In my free time, I enjoy reading about true crime and cold cases, as well as watching documentaries about criminal investigations. I also enjoy playing video games with my friends. In college, I plan to study forensic science so that I can work in a crime lab when I graduate.

Yasmina's Scholarship is Sponsored By: Morici, Longo & Associates



Zoe Reshoft

3rd year leader

My name is Zoe Reshoft and I am a current Senior at Lane Tech. I'm also a former Lane Tech academic center student. I have two younger brothers, Ray and James, and a dog named Buddy. At school, I enjoy science and English classes. I am currently a reporter for my school's newspaper, the Lane Tech Champion. Outside of school, I enjoy hanging out with friends, being active by going on bike rides and runs, and reading. I also love exploring my creative side through printmaking and music. I taught myself how to play the ukulele in eighth grade and I am currently teaching myself how to play guitar. I became involved with NBGC my freshman year. NBGC has taught me so much, including the importance of responsibility; it has also increased my confidence in my leadership abilities. In college, I want to study kinesiology and biology so I can eventually obtain a doctorate in physical therapy.

Zoe's Scholarship is Sponsored By: Family & Friends of Richard & Maryann Brandon - The Richard & Maryann Brandon Memorial Scholarship

12TH GRADE

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Myreliz Romero

2nd year leader

My name is Myreliz Romero, and I am a seventeen year old senior who attends Von Stuben High School. This is my first year working in the After School program at NBGC. I have always been interested in working with children and having an impact on their lives. My plan is to pursue a career in teaching, specifically in Early Childhood Education. I will be attending Wright College in the Fall. I have previously worked with children and have enjoyed working with them here at NBGC as well.

Myreliz's Scholarship is Sponsored By: The Hoellen Family Foundation - Richard Valentin Memorial Scholarship



Addison Taylor

6th year leader

My name is Addison Taylor and I am currently a senior at Lake View High School. My passion is cooking and I plan to continue to pursue that passion by opening a restaurant one day. I have been through a lot of struggles and difficult times and I've learned that I am capable of doing amazing things. I believe in always pushing myself and working hard. I have gained responsibility skills and communication skills through NBGC that I know will help me in the future. I've learned how to use my voice and speak loudly with it, a perfect skill for leading a kitchen. I did take a college credit business class my junior year through Wright City College and will be attending community college at Wright in the Fall. After two years, I plan to transfer to my dream school, DePaul University, to graduate with a business degree.

Addison's Scholarship is Sponsored By: Sulzer Family Foundation - James D. McNulty Memorial Scholarship



Laura Arroyo

NBGC staff member

My name is Laura Arroyo and I am 19 years old. I am a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Madison majoring in biology and a certificate in gender and women's studies. I graduated from Lake View High School last June via drive-thru and was named class salutatorian. After college, I hope to go to medical school in Chicago and become a doctor (if college chemistry does not make me change my mind). Being away from home has made me truly enjoy any visit I can make to the NBGC. The reality is that I have been going to NBGC every day after school since 7th grade and now everything is different, good different! I love being able to stop by and visit when I can on weekends or during school breaks. This past year I have become a phenomenal rollerblader, baker, and plant mom amongst other things. I am grateful to everyone at the NBGC who has pushed and encouraged me to do great things and I hope to be able to give back everything they have given me.

Laura's Scholarship is Sponsored By: Associated Bank



Sergio Arroyo

NBGC staff member

My name is Sergio Arroyo, and I have been at NBGC for 10 years. Both of my sisters are also scholarship recipients and staff members. While at NBGC, you can find me working on the website, making edits and updating info, or outside on the fields getting them lined up for the seasons. Outside of NBGC I am a goalkeeper in soccer! I have been playing with the Chicago Fire Rec teams for about 5 years. I also enjoy BBQing and cooking. I am looking forward to the Revere Park Chili Contest, I came in 3rd my first year that I participated. I made changes to the recipe and I know that it is a winner this year!

Sergio's Scholarship is Sponsored By: Family & Friends of John Barrett- John Barrett Memorial Scholarship



Moises Ferrer

NBGC staff member

Hello, my name is Moises Ferrer. I'm a full-time student in my sophomore year attending the University of Illinois at Chicago, majoring in Business Marketing. I love being creative in finding new forms to promote a business and get an organization the exposure it needs or deserves to thrive and succeed. I am the youngest of two, and I genuinely love being the baby of the family because I feel that I'm always given extra love and attention. These are the values I've prioritized since I began working for NBGC. I have dedicated my efforts and time into helping NBGC for over two years, one of which I have been a staff member. NBGC has helped mold me into the man I am today. Outside of work, I enjoy time with family and friends. I love being active, participating in sports and fun forms of expressing creativity. "Sweat the stress out," is how I cope with hard times and relieve my stress. I enjoy a competitive or friendly game of basketball, football, or any sport. I can say I've learned a lot by looking up to the right people, which has motivated me and got me to where I am today.

Moises's Scholarship is Sponsored By: Ed & Elinor Bass



Karlie Kielnik

NBGC staff member

For those of you who don't recognize me as a familiar face, I'm Karlie Kielnik. I currently attend Wilbur Wright College and graduated from Lake View High School in 2018. I am the oldest child, and have one younger brother. I have been an active member at NBGC since 2012, but have always been around because of my older family members. I am the Daisy League Director, which means I'm always with the brightest group of little ones who want to learn and play sports with us through our Athletic Programs year-round. I love working with the youth in my age group because they are the funniest, most creative bunch of kids. My role is extremely important to me because I am one of the first faces they see when they walk into the building and I get to be one of many role models for them, especially for the girls who are so eager to get their first step into athletics! As I continue to work and further my education, I'm not entirely sure what path I will be taking but I am excited to see where it leads and what my future holds!

Karlie's Scholarship is Sponsored By: The Krier Family - Peter J Krier Memorial Scholarship



Alison McLeod

5th year leader

Roy T. Bennett once said that “Great leaders create more leaders, not followers.” My name is Alison McLeod, and I am 19 years old and a freshman at Georgetown University. I am majoring in Government with minors in Computer Science and Environmental Studies, and I hope to be an Environmental Lawyer one day. I have been a Leader at NBGC since June 2016 and a Senior Leader since Fall of 2018. Since my first months of being a Leader, I have grown as a person so much. Working here has greatly increased my confidence levels; I am always eager to learn new skills as well as take on additional tasks. I’ve enjoyed learning from those around me as well as finding role models that give me guidance and show me the type of person I want to grow up to be. I now hope that I am able to be a role-model to younger leaders who I work with just as others did for me. The experiences I have had at NBGC aided me in becoming a more well-rounded person and I will always credit an abundance of any future success to my time spent and lessons learned at the NBGC.

Alison's Scholarship is Sponsored By: Gene & Rosemary Schulter Foundation



David Medina

NBGC staff member

My name is David Medina and I am twenty years old. I am my mother's oldest child and am the second oldest grandchild in my family. I graduated from Von Steuben High School and I am currently attending Wilbur Wright College. Throughout high school, I was never in any extracurricular activities due to having to pick up my younger siblings from school. At the end of my junior year, I applied to the Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club, but this wasn't the first job I've had. Before COVID-19, I would work for my uncle's construction company, I was a caretaker to my aunt's grandfather, and I would babysit from time to time. NBGC has given me the motivation to go to school and has given me the opportunity to take classes towards a college degree.

David's Scholarship is Sponsored By: Comcast



Hailey Mercado

7th year leader

My name is Hailey Mercado and I am a college freshman at Marquette University. I graduated from Saint Ignatius College Prep high school and was part of the National Honors Society. This was recognition for my hard work in my academics and involvement in my school community. At Marquette, I am a civil engineering major and want to pursue a career as a Chicago Firefighter. This year, I am focused on school, as the transition from high school to college during this pandemic has been extremely difficult. I have continued to pursue a music career on the side, collaborating with local artists and composing our own music. This passion was sparked during my private lessons and I have taken that with me to college. I learn from my teachers, both in and outside of the classroom. I am continuing a rigorous schedule at Marquette and am extremely passionate about my engineering career. I have learned the value of hard work and continue to take pride in the work I do at the Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club and beyond.

Hailey's Scholarship is Sponsored By: ALBANK



Tatyana Pacheco

5th year leader

My name is Tatyana Pacheco and I'm eighteen years old. I'm the oldest amongst my two siblings. I graduated from Grover Cleveland Elementary school and Von Steuben Metropolitan Science Center. I'm currently enrolled at Bradley University and my major is Computer Science. Since I started in the fall I have been an in-person learner which has been different from the college experience I have imagined. I decided to get out of my comfort zone and join a sorority to make friends as well as be a part of something I believe in. I'm a member of Alpha Chi Omega and our philanthropy is to aid survivors who are affected by domestic violence. Even during these times we have still been able to raise money for our philanthropy. I have already met some amazing women and I can't wait to continue on growing with these Real Strong Women as well as becoming one myself. Something else I have decided to take part in is The National Society of Leadership and Success. I have only completed orientation and leader training so far, but I'm excited to meet with some other members and grow together in order to make us all better leaders.

Tatyana's Scholarship is Sponsored By: Wintrust Bank, North Center



Cassidy Rivera

NBGC staff member

My name is Cassidy Rivera, I'm twenty years old, and the second person in my immediate family to attend college. I am a student at Wilbur Wright College. I attended Von Steuben all four years of high school. During my time there I was a part of our school's Advanced Chorus class. I have a huge love for music, and this was without a doubt my favorite class I took in high school. I also expressed my love for dance by being in Caribbean Club and Mediterranean Club. Performing on stage has always been a passion of mine, and my love for music and dance will never diminish. I was a leader before being a staff member at the NBGC and love working with kids.

Cassidy's Scholarship is Sponsored By: The Estate of Helen Collins - Helen Collins Memorial Scholarship



Natalia Rueda-Marshall

NBGC staff member

Hello everyone, my name is Natalia Rueda-Marshall and I am twenty-one years old and a junior at DePauw University. I am majoring in psychology with a minor in sociology after discovering those fields most interested me. At DePauw, I am a member of the Gamma Chapter of Alpha Phi, a member of the Sustainability Leadership Program, and the Vice President of Programming for DePauw's chapter of College Mentors. I am currently completing this year remotely from home and am able to work at NBGC as an afterschool staff. My family has a history of involvement with the Club with both my brothers and sisters participating in the athletic and leadership programs. I personally have been a member of the NBGC family since I first joined cheerleading and soccer while in the pebble league. I am now approximately eight years into being a leader/staff member, and I look forward to the time I have left.

Natalia's Scholarship is Sponsored By: The Hoellen Family Foundation - John J. Hoellen Memorial Scholarship

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