



BGCA.NET NEWS

Welcome to Washington!

On Monday, President Obama welcomed 2014-15 National Youth of the Year Maryah Sullivan, her five 2014-15 co-finalists, BGCA President and CEO Jim Clark, and BGCA's Senior Vice President of Government Relations, Kevin McCartney, to the Oval Office.

The first all-female NYOY finalist group continued the longtime tradition of meeting with the President. They created another YOY first when they presented President Obama with his very own honorary Boys & Girls Club membership card.

The amazing Oval Office meeting got even better when our six YOYs were invited to shoot the introduction for [West Wing Week](#), a weekly video update of "everything happening at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue." Their visit was also documented as [White House Photo of the Day](#) for March 16.



From left: Tae, Sparkle, Maryah, Cecilia, Jasmnika and Natalia share what spurred their great futures during a visit to Lafayette Square, a short walk from the White House.



President Obama and Jim Clark chat as the 2014-15 NYOY finalists explore the Oval Office.



Sparkle Prevard with the honorary Boys & Girls Club membership card that was presented to President Obama.

Later that day, [Assistant Attorney General Karol Mason](#) welcomed the YOYs to the Department of Justice. They spoke with Assistant Attorney General Mason about their backgrounds and shared their thoughts on areas of opportunity for Clubs, such as attracting more teen members and engaging more mentors.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America is so grateful to President Obama and Assistant Attorney General Mason for making time in their very full schedules. They provided Cecilia Garza, Natalia Lynch, Tae McKenzie, Jasmnika Newbern, Sparkle Prevard and Maryah Sullivan with a day they'll never forget.

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