

2024 YOUTH OF THE YEAR - ZYRESE

"Start with a whisper, end with a bang"
- Zyrese

Boys & Girls Clubs of Oakland (BGCO) is honored to introduce Zyrese, our 2024 Youth of the Year! As a 3-year member at our Ossian E. Carr Branch in East Oakland, Zyrese is an active participant of our youth development programs and an aspiring leader to his younger peers.



Zyrese is a sophomore at Castro Valley Highschool where he carries 3.84 GPA and outstanding school attendance rate. Personifying the mission of BGCO, Zyrese represented his Club and community at the Northern California level of Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Youth of the Year competition. He recently received awards for excellence in Mathematics, Academic Success, Academic Excellence for Students with a GPA of 3.5 and higher, and Athletic Excellence. His highest achievement includes a Certificate of Recognition by the State Senate & California State Assembly. As a born leader, Zyrese aspires to give back to his community from his knowledge gained during his time at the Club. He shares, "My experience being at the club has allowed me to reach a place in my growth to take on a leadership role at the Boys and Girls Clubs. This summer I plan to work with the ages 6-9, where I believe I can make a real difference." The Club gave him a safe space to learn from his mistakes, "to have empathy, self-awareness, and most of all to be a lifelong learner."

Zyrese is described as kind, passionate, dedicated, and hardworking among his community and a great role model to his younger peers. Mirroring BGCO's mission, Zyrese will no doubt excel as a positive contributor to society.

