



**Region 11 Athletic Ministry**  
Archdiocese of Philadelphia

**Board of Athletic Directors**  
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## The 2019 Region 11 Meredith Merlini Catholic Youth Scholarship Program

The Region 11 CYO Board of Athletic Directors is pleased to continue our Scholarship Program for graduating 8th graders from its member parishes who are continuing their education next Fall at an Archdiocesan or private Catholic high school. The Scholarship is named in honor of Meredith Merlini, the long-time Region 11 coach, athletic director, commissioner, and Chair of our CYO Board.

In the program last year we received 59 essays for scholarship consideration. We asked the students to write about a professional athlete whose qualities and behaviors would make him or her an ideal CYO role model. The essays were evaluated anonymously by a panel of nine long-serving former CYO administrators and five scholarships for \$750 each were awarded to:

Samantha McDonald – St. Albert the Great parish, attending Nazareth Academy High School  
Edward McGrath – St. Luke the Evangelist parish, attending Bishop McDevitt High School  
Sophia Romano – St. Hilary of Poitiers parish, attending Saint Basil Academy  
Olivia Tingley-Kelley – St. Hilary of Poitiers parish, attending Merion Mercy Academy  
Juliana Tulio – St. Robert of Bellarmine parish, attending Villa Joseph Marie High School

This year we will award five scholarships of \$1,000 each. The eligibility criteria have not changed. The graduating 8th grader must have been a CYO participant during grade school and must be continuing his or her education at an Archdiocesan or private Catholic high school.

Interested 8th graders are invited to submit a one-page essay in **word .doc or .pdf format only** – no “Google Docs” – on the topic below by Monday, May 13, 2019 to be considered for one of the \$1,000 scholarships. **Because the essays will be evaluated anonymously, students should not identify their specific parishes in the essay itself. Include the following information only in the email:**

NAME – PARISH - CYO ACTIVITIES - HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDING FALL OF 2019:  
Please return to: [2019scholarship@region11cyo.org](mailto:2019scholarship@region11cyo.org) by **Monday, May 13, 2019**  
(You will receive an email confirming receipt – if you don’t receive one, contact the Coordinator.)

2019 CYO Scholarship Question:

**We are never reminded enough of what our CYO ideals of good sportsmanship are all about. A recent example involved college softball. Sara Tucholsky of Western Oregon had just hit her first-ever home run when she tore a knee ligament rounding 1st base and collapsed. The umpires said she would be declared out if her teammates or coaches assisted her, so two players from the opposing team, Central Washington, offered to and carried her around the bases to home plate. Write about two other examples from the world of college sports – plus a personal experience – that similarly exemplify our CYO ideals of good sportsmanship.**