



Region 11 Athletic Ministry
Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Board of Athletic Directors
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The 2026 Region 11 Meredith Merlini Catholic Youth Scholarship Program 2026 Scholarship Award Announcement

Summer 2026

The Region 11 CYO Board of Athletic Directors is pleased to announce the award recipients of our 2026 Scholarship Program for graduating 8th graders from member parishes who are continuing their education this Fall at an Archdiocesan or private Catholic high school. In the program this year we received 44 essays for scholarship consideration. We asked the students to write about heroes from the Revolutionary War era who exemplified the values and core principles of the Catholic Youth Organization.

An independent panel of nine former but long-time CYO coaches and administrators who no longer coached CYO nor had children attending elementary school was formed to review the essays anonymously to ensure an unbiased evaluation. The committee initially evaluated all 44 essays and chose 9 essays as finalists. Those 9 finalist essays were then re-evaluated and the judges ultimately chose five students to each be awarded a \$1,000 Region 11 CYO Scholarship.

The 2026 Region 11 CYO Scholarship Award recipients are:

Brynn Brennan – St. Robert Bellarmine parish and St. Joseph / St. Robert school.

Brynn will attend Archbishop Wood High School this Fall.

She wrote about Mary Ludwig Hays and Deborah Sampson.

Isaac Morgan – St. Luke the Evangelist parish.

Isaac will attend La Salle College High School this Fall.

He wrote about Marquis de Lafayette and John Barry.

Hannah Palo – St. Robert Bellarmine parish and St. Joseph / St. Robert school.

Hannah will attend Archbishop Wood High School this Fall.

She wrote about Baron von Steuben and George Washington.

Gavin Riley – St. Hilary of Poitiers parish and school.

Gavin will attend Archbishop Wood High School this Fall.

He wrote about James Armistead Lafayette, Baron von Steuben, and Phillis Wheatley.

Christina Whitesell -- St. Catherine of Siena parish and Our Lady of Mercy school.

Christina will attend Lansdale Catholic High School this Fall.

She wrote about Ebenezer Francis, John Cadwalader, and Nathan Hale.

Congratulations to our 2026 Region 11 CYO Meredith Merlini Scholarship Award Recipients.