

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

Risley student named youth of the month

14-year-old Cameron Davis has found his voice through club

THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Cameron Davis is the club's January's Boys and Girls Clubs of Pueblo County Youth of the Month.

Cameron is a 14-year-old eighth-grader at Risley International Academy of Innovation and has been a member of the East Side clubhouse for two years.

Recently, Cameron traveled with his parents and his younger sibling to the East Coast, but said he likes the great outdoors and the laid-back attitude of Coloradans.

When Cameron first became a member of the Boys and Girls Club, he was reluctant to socialize with others and struggled with his confidence. The club staff and his peers never gave up on him and they continually invited him to partake in club activities, especially teen nights.

Over time, Cameron has gained confidence and now he actively participates in many club programs and activities. He particularly enjoys the sports, fitness and recreation programs at the club. Cameron is also on his school's cross-country team and looks forward to being on East High School's track team.

Cameron is a Teen Leader and enjoys assisting staff with club programs and activities.

Cameron is the kind of person who likes to help others and is often one of the first club members to offer his assistance to others in need. One day, Cameron witnessed an older school custodial employee struggling with a trash bin and immediately offered his assistance. He now makes it a point to help her, and other members help her when Cameron is absent.

He enjoys participating in community service projects with the club, but there is a program that is near and dear to his family's heart. They

**Cameron Davis**

often help out with the Pack for People project, where they distribute backpacks with food, clothing, necessities and sleeping bags to the homeless.

Cameron is a voracious reader and has received several reading awards throughout his time in school. He is participating in the Multicultural Youth Leadership Initiative for Excellence Project through Pueblo Community College and the Advancement Via Individual Determination college readiness system through Risley International Academy of Innovation. Cameron has set his sights on attending college in Colorado and has narrowed his career options to archaeology, business and construction management.

"Before becoming a member of Boys and Girls Club, I was very reserved," he said. "The club has helped me branch out and be more social. I truly enjoy participating in many of the club activities and hanging out with my friends."

As a Youth of the Month honoree, Cameron is eligible to compete in Boys and Girls Clubs of Pueblo County's 2017 Youth of the Year competition, which provides several scholarships and leadership opportunities.

Notes of congratulations can be sent to Cameron at club@bgcpueblo.org.

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