

Kevin Fisher received the Boys & Girls Club of the Hi-Desert's highest honor Thursday when he was named Youth of the Year.

Fisher will represent the club for the next year and compete for the regional Youth of the Year title. If he wins that, as the Hi-Desert's 2015 Youth of the Year, Rebecca Arellano, did last year, he will be in the running for the state award.

A sophomore at Yucca Valley High School, Fisher volunteers for the club, and even got a food handler's license so he can run the snack bar. An alumnus of the La Contenta Middle School debate team, he mentors current team members twice a week.

Fisher thanked debate coach Beth Ferris in his speech Thursday night.

"This place has helped me grow so much in my entire time being here, about five years now," Fisher said. "In fact, being able to speak to you confidently like this is thanks to the Boys & Girls Club, and one more person I'd like to thank for all this is my seventh-grade science, math and debate teacher, Miss Ferris."

He also thanked and Boys & Girls Club Executive Director Kristine Perrance.

"It's such a high honor being selected as Youth of the Year for 2016," he said.

Fisher's award ended a night of recognition for the kids of the Boys & Girls Club. San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors Chairman James Ramos administered the oath of office to new club board members and spoke about the club's service.

"The youth sometimes need to know somebody cares for them and their dreams are just as important as anybody else's," he said.

Adam Everhart, the club's director of operations, was also singled out when he was surprised with the Employee of the Year award. "He is a role model to the staff in dealing with the children here," Perrance said.

Other award winners Thursday night were as follows:

Angel Award: Yucca Rental and Desert Pacific Exterminators.

Greenleaf Award: Vickie and Terry Bridenstine.

Volunteer of the Year: Carla Castaneda, Lisa Hull and Amanda Stout.

Basketball awards: Most Improved, Fabian O'Donnell. Defense MVP: Jamal Robinson. Offense MVP: Jalyynn Edmon. MVP: Tommy Geiger. Sportsmanship: Kyle Gruwell.

Teen Program Awards: Makial Lovejoy and Paige Stout.

Club Service Awards: Jeremiah Rivers and Catherine Jones.

Teen Service Awards: Ricky Tutchtenhaggen and Kalee Carpenter.

Club Pride Awards: Chauncey Ferguson and Angel Lomax.

Core Values, Honesty: Nicholas Cruz, Alyssa Abell and Isabel Beaston.

Core Values, Caring: Derek Flaningam, Vivian Castaneda and Corinne Green.

Core Values, Responsibility: Jacob Mayer, Corena Martinez and Brian Watson.

Core Values, Respectfulness: Scotland Skinner, Danielle Lamp and Alexandria Costa.

Core Values, Kindness: Dylan Abell, Kiley Masson and Roxanne Stockman.

Mission Awards: Jesse Chambers, Savannah Canto, Andrew Jones and Kierra Rivers.

Membership Award: Ricky Tutchtenhaggen.

Project Learn Award: Nicholas Winn and Abigail Lamp.

Power Hour Award: Dylan Hull and Amanda Cruz.

Teen Center Leadership Awards: Kyle Hull, Veronica Costa and Hayley Merinar.

Most Improved: Kristian Brown.

Executive Director's Award: Daryiane Thompson.

Junior Youth of the Year: Riley Edwards and Malia Ulery.

Youth of the Year: Kevin Fisher.