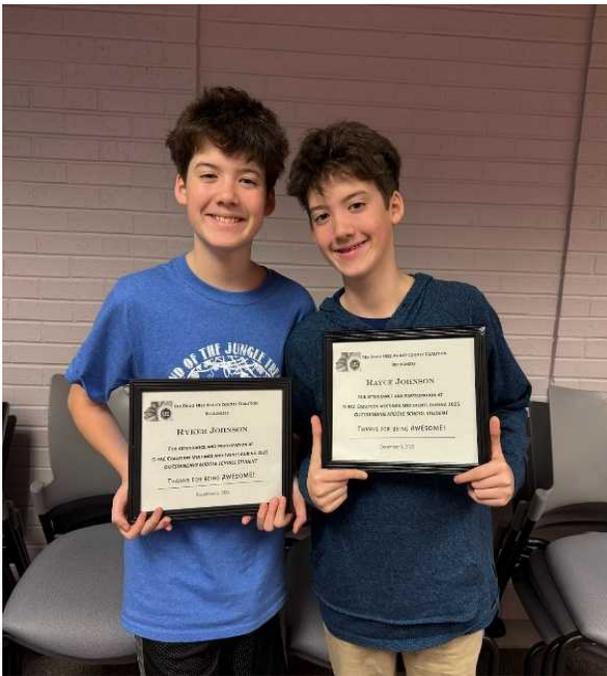


## OUTSTANDING DRUG-FREE ASHLEY COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR 2025 RYKER & RAYCE JOHNSON



At the December 2025 meeting of the Drug-Free Ashley County Coalition (D-FAC), the officers, Drug Free Communities Grant staff, and members honored Ryker and Rayce Johnson for their outstanding attendance at adult D-FAC meetings and participation in D-FAC events in 2025. Ryker and Rayce are the sons of Jennifer and Andy Johnson of Crossett. They are in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Crossett Middle School where both of them are members of the BETA Club, the CMS Basketball Team, and the Brothers and Sisters in Christ (BASIC) Club. Rayce and Ryker attended the Next Gen Youth Summit

Conference in Benton this past summer and had an amazing time and learned so much, according to their mom, Jennifer, who is the Leader of the Parent Sector for the Drug-Free Ashley County Coalition.

When receiving the award, Ryker commented, "My name is Ryker Johnson. I'm proud to be a part of D-FAC Youth. It is important that we educate the youth about drugs and alcohol because while we are young, it is easy for us to start getting addicted to drugs and alcohol. They can mess up your brain, your thinking capabilities, and your physical and mental health. They can stop you from playing sports, and ultimately, they can and will kill you if you continue."

Rayce shared the following comments, "My name is Rayce Johnson and I am thankful to be in D-FAC. I hope we will be able to warn everyone else about drug abuse. Drugs have impacted several of my family members negatively. I hope that they will overcome the addiction in their lives. Don't do drugs! A lot of brain damage comes from drug abuse/overdose."