

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Janet Redwine
303-320-3241
jredwine@yacenter.org

NEWS RELEASE

Young Americans Center names top youth-owned businesses

July 13, Denver – A forerunner in providing entrepreneurship programming and resources for young people, Young Americans Center for Financial Education has named this year’s top youth businesses in Colorado. The announcement was made at a virtual Finalist Announcement Party on Thursday, July 9.

An independent panel of judges evaluated applications of youth, ages 6-21, before selecting this year’s nine finalists:

6-11 years old:

1. Olaf’s Cookies – Julia Doolittle (age 9)
2. Snacks for Dollars – Seth Huntley (8)
3. Tuff’s Chickens – Tuff Glasmann (7)

12-15 years old

1. Evan Hoing Woodworking – Evan Hoing (13)
2. Sewing with Smiles – Maile McManis (13)
3. Simply Denver Soap Co – Hannah Doolittle (12)

16-21 years old

1. Cardbound – Leonard Shearer (17)
2. Mountainside Lifestyle – Colin Patterson (17), Rowan Steger (17), and Carter Galyardt (17)
3. The Teen Entrepreneur – Shouken Lopez (17)

In addition to announcing these YouthBiz Stars finalists, the event recognized the remarkable achievements of all applicants of this year’s business competition. “Owning a business is difficult!” said Rich Martinez, President and CEO of Young Americans Center for Financial Education, at the event. “We are so proud of each and every one of you, and we encourage you to keep selling your products, to keep providing your services, and to incorporate the judges’ recommendations into your business practices!”



Maile McManis, the 13-year-old business owner of Sewing with Smiles, was named a finalist at the 2020 Finalist Announcement Party held by Young Americans Center for Financial Education on July 9. McManis was also a finalist in last year’s Spotlight on YouthBiz Stars business competition, winning a \$250 prize.

Finalists will be honored at the 19th annual Spotlight on YouthBiz Stars awards ceremony, sponsored by CoBank, held virtually on Thursday, October 1. The event will also name a winning business in

each of three age categories that receives a cash award and a pairing with an esteemed business leader as a mentor.

About YouthBiz Stars and Young Americans Center

YouthBiz Stars is a business competition and dinner event fundraiser that benefits the programs of Young Americans Center for Financial Education, a nonprofit charity that reaches nearly 70,000 youth every year through hands-on programs and real-life experiences to develop financial literacy in youth. For sponsorships (\$2,500 and up) contact Betsy Sklar at 303-320-3245 or bsklar@yacenter.org.

Visit www.yacenter.org to learn more about Young Americans Center's resources for young business owners, as well as flagship programs Young AmeriTowne, International Towne, free Money Matters classes and Young Americans Bank in Denver, the only FDIC insured real bank in the world designed specifically for young people (age 21 and under).

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