

Letter of Recommendation
JCI USA 2025 Most Outstanding Senator Award
Zachary Bourn, Senate # 83578
Stark Community Jaycees (Ohio)

Dear Members of the National Recognition Awards Selection Committee,

I am writing to nominate Zachary Bourn for the 2025 JCI USA Most Outstanding Senator Award. Zachary joined the North Canton Jaycees (now Stark Community Jaycees) in 2018. He received his Senatorship in December of 2024. Although Zachary aged out from being an active member in 2019, he has continued to be a pillar of support and an exemplary leader in our local chapter.

2026 will be Zachary's third year in a row as our Property Manager. During 2025, Zachary played an active role in each of our chapter's community events and fundraisers. He regularly attends Board and Chapter meetings. Zachary participates in most of our social events and fosters connections with our newer members to support their growth within the organization.

January- April 2025: Attended Board and Chapter Meetings; Attended and promoted the chapter's social events such as Dave & Buster's networking event and game night (Feb), and our St. Patrick's Day "Meet & Greet" event (March). I had an opportunity to chair our 2nd annual Spring Eggstravaganza Fundraiser (April) in partnership with The Junior League of Stark County, and Zachary was a key player for this event. He also acted as liaison between our chapter and The Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities to coordinate fundraiser supplies that their volunteers helped put together for our event. As a fun fact, Zachary also did such a wonderful job building the relationship between the Stark Community Jaycees and The Junior League of Stark County, that they awarded him an honorary title and certificate of appreciation as "Mr. Junior League."

May-August 2025: Attended Board and Chapter Meetings; Planning Committee Member & participated in 4th of July Parade that our chapter hosts each year for the City of North Canton; Volunteered for Safety Town (July) Police, Fire & EMT Safety Education for children entering Kindergarten; Attended multiple fundraiser planning meetings; participated in a key relationship-building meeting between our chapter & The City of North Canton Administration (July); Promoted and attended our Guest Bartending Fundraiser (Aug); Organized a cleanup of chapter event supplies in our storage garage, a.k.a our Jaycee Barn.

September-December 2025: Arranged for the sale of \$3,000 worth of chapter event supplies to increase chapter revenue; Attended Board and Chapter Meetings; Attended fundraiser planning meetings, attended Soctoberfest clothing drive planning meetings; Assisted with promotion of clothing drive and collection of donations (Oct); Assisted with Skelebration- Halloween community event with the North Canton YMCA (Oct); Hosted combined Soctoberfest donation sorting meeting along with "Friendsgiving" chapter social for Thanksgiving; Assisted with planning and carrying out our chapter's new primary fundraiser- Jackpots and Jingle Bells (Nov); Generously sponsored our Jackpots and Jingle Bells fundraiser with his wife, Shelley.

The fundraiser consisted of multiple casino games and fair games, as a nod to our past Jaycee Fair. Zachary took the time to build and test multiple fair games for our fundraiser, including a ring toss, fish bowl game, and duck pond game. As the event chair for that fundraiser, I appreciated having Zachary's involvement for that event, as he was one of the primary planners, assisted with marketing, physical set up/tear down, and other event logistics. He also assisted in December with North Canton's Winterfest community event.

I can not emphasize enough the involvement and dedication that Zachary has put into our chapter and the impact he has made not only within our organization, but also our local community. Zachary helps set up and tear down for every event. He often helps transport supplies as well as chapter members. Zachary also helps the State team and other Senators when he can, and often helps transport attendees to and from airports and other event excursions— for example, when the national JCI convention was held in Ohio, Zachary assisted with transporting event supplies and also providing transportation for members visiting from out of State. That was not in 2025, but I believe it shows how far his commitment to helping others extends across the organization as a whole. Zachary also helps keep newer members informed of upcoming state and national events, training, and resources. At the beginning of 2025, Zachary helped introduce me to the other Senators and chapter members from other chapters when I attended my first year-end State meeting. I am grateful for the connections he helped me make, as they have aided me tremendously in learning more about the various networks and resources available to the Jaycees throughout the different organization levels.

When our chapter lost our main fundraiser, the Jaycee Fair, Zachary was one of the main members who stepped up to help our chapter make a plan to prioritize our current chapter needs, take stock of all of our event supplies, and help our chapter to usher in new energy and ideas for multiple new fundraising events, to ensure the successful continuity of our chapter's operation.

Zachary's dedication to serving others has helped nurture partnerships between our chapter and other groups within our community, as well as provide a sense of brotherhood within our local group as we all work together to carry out various activities. His personality and unique perspectives continuously prove to be an asset to our organization, and we appreciate the care and hard work that he has put in to carry our chapter forward. It is my sincere honor to nominate Zachary Bourn for the JCI USA 2025 Most Outstanding Senator Award. If any further information is required, I am happy to provide additional information.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sara Gidley
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