

**SPRING 2007 YOUTH REPORT**  
**Submitted by Cheryl Deaton, AIS Youth Chair**

**At the Fall Board Meeting we had 254 youth members.**

**Currently, we have 299 youth members.**

**We lost 43 youth members when we lost the Southview School CIP.**

**8 were dropped due to age.**

**There are four active Classroom Iris Projects.**

**We have gained 69 youth members with the Robles Elementary School CIP.**

**There are 9 youth members in the Oswego 4-H CIP.**

**There are 22 youth members in the Bluegrass Baptist School CIP.**

**There are 12 youth members in the Marquette High School CIP.**

**Region 15 has the most youth members with 74 youth members, followed by Region 18 with 48 youth members.**

**20 new youth members not associated with a CIP have joined since the Fall Board meeting.**

**I will be distributing the new Youth Guidelines to the RVPs at this convention, with instructions on its implementation.**

**I am extremely pleased with the response to the General Youth Fund, and hopefully will be able to develop a new ITJ for youth with some of the funds. The pamphlet will be similar to the AIS ITJ.**

**Nancy Price, the youth webmistress, and I are busy tweaking the youth website to make it more explanatory and user friendly. We are the #2 site 'Googled' for youth/irises. Some ideas are to have a "Youth Iris Project" section for clubs such as Boy Scouts, 4-H, and other youth groups that would not be a "Classroom Iris Project" which incorporates scholastic lessons as well as crafts, etc. In this area we will concentrate on community based projects, such as iris gardens in parks, senior centers and other community areas, as well as exhibitions of irises and/or displays at events such as Home & Garden Shows, county fairs, and others. Biographies of Clarke Cosgrove and other important irisarians will be added to the website. We are trying to include the latest issue of the youth newsletter, THE IRIS FAN, on the website, as well as the current coloring contest picture, the topic of the Ackerman Essay contest and as much up to date information as possible. Expansion and meaningful content are the key words for the website in 2007. Please visit us at [www.youth-iris.com](http://www.youth-iris.com).**

**I am pleased to announce the results of the 2006 Clarke Cosgrove Award for Youth Achievement. Winner is Grace Farley, age 17, Region 21, Lincoln Iris Society. Grace was also the winner of the 2006 Ackerman Essay Contest, and the 2006 Coloring Contest. First runner-up is Sarah M. Green, age 10, Region 21, Lincoln Iris Society. Second runner-up is Geoffrey Hewett, Region 18, age 18, Jeffco Iris Society. Their awards will be presented at the Awards banquet on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. I wish to thank the judges, Adam Cordes of Region 6, Bruce**

**Filardi of Region 13, and Bob Keup of Region 2 for their hard work in choosing the winners. I know it is a very difficult but rewarding experience.**

**I am pleased and thankful for the wonderful support and encouragement I have been given by the AIS Board of Directors, and other members of the AIS family. The only recommendation I have is that we continue to encourage the youth members of AIS in any way we can. They are the future of our organization, and worthy of our 'cultivation'. Happy Irising!**

**Cheryl**