

## 2013 FALL YOUTH REPORT

By Cheryl Deaton, AIS Youth Chair

Currently there are 246 youth members enrolled in the program. I sent out 37 individual youth packets since April, and sent the Youth Handbook to the CIP leaders to copy for their groups. There are 4 active Classroom Iris Projects – one in Region 14 with 14 members, and three in Region 18 with 61 members. 5 regions have no youth members at this time. A breakdown by region is as follows:

Region 1 has 10 youth members

Region 13 has 5 youth members

Region 2 has 2 youth members

Region 14 has 75 youth members

Region 3 has 0 youth members

Region 15 has 4 youth members

Region 4 has 10 youth members

Region 17 has 17 youth members

Region 5 has 0 youth members

Region 18 has 78 youth members

Region 6 has 6 youth members

Region 20 has 6 youth members

Region 7 has 8 youth members

Region 21 has 5 youth members

Region 8 has 2 youth members

Region 23 has 0 youth members

Region 9 has 9 youth members

Region 24 has 3 youth members

Region 10 has 0 youth members

Kudos to Lorraine Nicholson of Region 14

Region 11 has 1 youth member

and Jean Morris of Region 18 for their success

Region 12 has 0 youth members

in recruiting young people for this program!

The Prescott Area Iris Society of Region 15 has presented programs to 111 elementary school students and hopes to enroll one of the three (if not all three) classrooms as a CIP. They have been asked to present a program this fall to the local community college as well.

The Youth Website has a new webmaster, Nancy Price. She has re-vamped the site and it looks great, but for some reason it is not interfacing with the AIS website, so the old youth website is still there. You can look it over at [www.AISYouth.com](http://www.AISYouth.com).

The youth newsletter, The Iris Fan, went out in late summer with lots of news and the current Coloring Contest picture, which was sent in by youth member, Sarah Green of Region 21. Deadline for entries

was October 15<sup>th</sup> so the winners will be determined soon and announced in the winter issue of the newsletter in addition to a future issue of IRISES. The Ackerman Essay Contest topic was announced and the new Youth Patch program was unveiled (see Youth Patch list). We wanted to make sure that the patch program has value for those interested in obtaining a Youth patch, so the requirements may seem a bit daunting at first, but most of the mandatory requirements will be completed by the participants during the period of February to July, with the 'non-blooming' season available for some of the creative options. I hope to 'publish' some of the youth entries in the Summer issue of The Iris Fan to help those who do not have access to a club or regional newsletter achieve that requirement. Very young members may dictate their articles to an adult, just like many of them do for the Ackerman Essay Contest. It involves quite a bit of record keeping, but that will encourage them in practicing useful habits that can be applied to other things such as keeping good garden records. We are very excited about this new program.

As always, I encourage all of you to enroll young people in the Youth Program. They are the future of AIS. Without 'new increases', our organization will wither and die, just like a neglected rhizome. At \$5 for membership without Bulletin, and \$9 with Bulletin, it is one of the best bargains around. I have been recommending the "e-membership" as well for those youth members who are interested in hybridizing and getting their issue of IRISES online.

Due to printing cost increases and the future postal increase of 3 cents for first class mail, I would like to increase the yearly youth budget to \$1500. I still have over 400 Forever stamps that I bought prior to the last postal increase, and I will buy more before the next one as well, but the printing is getting more expensive and it costs nearly \$3 now to mail each youth packets to new members. There is money available in the General Youth Fund that could cover the cost of this increase, but I would prefer to keep that fund available for other expenses.