

## AIS YOUTH FALL 2016

Currently we have 365 youth members, an increase of 12 since my report at the AIS Convention. The majority of youth members are enrolled in a Classroom Iris Program. There are 4 CIPs in Region 14 and 4 CIPs in Region 18, an increase of one since last spring.

Four young ladies in one of Region 18's CIPs - The American Heritage Girls of Missouri have completed the requirements for the AIS Youth Patch, thanks to the efforts of Jean Morris and their leader. Their final requirement, entry into the AIS Coloring Contest, was done this month. The patches will be presented to them around Thanksgiving.

Speaking of the annual AIS Coloring Contest, entries are being received as of the date of this report. The deadline is October 31, 2016, and the judging will be completed before Thanksgiving. All entrants receive a cash prize and the overall winner's entry will be published in a future issue of The Bulletin.

It is time to start nominating Youth members for the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement. Deadline is January 31, 2017.

Irises were sent to all AIS Youth members from the personal garden of George Hildenbrant, one of the gardens on the 2016 AIS Convention. Thank you to the Hildenbrant family for taking on this huge task. In this way the Youth members receive a newer introduction for their personal gardens and experience the joy of growing different types of irises.

I have received inquiries about starting 2, possibly 3 new CIPs. There are some clubs that are 'mentoring' youth without joining AIS and this is a terrific way to get them started growing irises. If you would like any information about starting a CIP, or need information and materials for a program relating to young people, check out the youth website at [www.AISYouth.com](http://www.AISYouth.com) or contact me for some coloring pages and word search puzzles at [region15kids@hotmail.com](mailto:region15kids@hotmail.com). Consider giving a gift of AIS Youth membership to a young person - at \$8 per year it is the best bargain out there. Let's all infect a young person with the "iris virus". They are the future of AIS.