

David Dahms

David Dahms was an instrumental leader in the creation of what is now known as the USBC Junior Gold Program. He joined the Young American Bowling Alliance in 1993 to manage the organization's Tenpin University coaching program and recognized the need for coaches to work with teenage bowlers to develop their skills for greater chances of success in collegiate, national team and professional bowling realms.

Dahms envisioned YABA's Junior Olympic Gold program as a training ground and feeder system, with the Junior Gold Championships as the national youth competition that would determine members of Junior Team USA. The Junior Olympic Gold program was launched in the 1997-1998 season, with the first edition of the Junior Gold Championships held later in 1998 at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nevada.

Dahms never got to see the first Junior Gold Championships as he passed away in April 1998 from cancer, but his vision lives on today as the Junior Gold Championships brings together thousands of youth bowlers every year in hopes of winning a national event and being named to Junior Team USA.



Kerm Helmer

Kerm Helmer dedicated his life to the growth and development of youth and collegiate bowling.

Helmer initiated the men's and women's bowling programs at Erie Community College in Buffalo, New York, leading the teams to 37 National Junior College Athletic Association titles (16 for the men's program, 21 for the women's program).

Both the men's and women's programs also were victorious at the Intercollegiate Team Championships, with the men's team claiming the top prize – now known as the Helmer Cup – in 1986 and 1988. The women's program earned the ITC title in 1980 and 1982.

He also was active in the bowling industry, serving on the American Bowling Congress and Young American Bowling Alliance boards and holding the position of president for YABA from 1999-2001.

Helmer was inducted to the United States Bowling Congress Hall of Fame in 2012 in the Meritorious Service category.



ADULT YOUTH LEADERS AWARDS

The recipient for each of the Adult Youth Leader awards receives an expense-paid trip to the awards ceremony held in conjunction with the USBC Convention.

For more information, and to submit a nomination, please visit BOWL.com/AdultYouthAwards.

David Dahms Award

The award annually recognizes a USBC coach who has been actively involved in a USBC Youth program and has demonstrated outstanding commitment to coaching, sportsmanship and knowledge of USBC Youth rules for the last seven or more years. Any person or organization with knowledge of an individual's accomplishments in these areas may nominate that individual.

Kerm Helmer Horizon Award

The annual award recognizes leaders or organizations in the bowling community who have displayed the courage, determination and ability to develop far-reaching programs of national scope that provide fun and exciting opportunities for collegiate and/or youth bowlers.

Youth Volunteer of the Year Award

This annual award recognizes an adult volunteer who has displayed outstanding efforts to foster, organize and promote certified youth bowling programs at the local, state and/or national level for the last seven or more years.

Any person or organization with knowledge of an individual's efforts in these areas may nominate that individual.