

Update



HELPING PARENTS HELP THEIR KIDS SUCCEED

Smart Kids with Learning Disabilities Announces the 2012 Smart Kids with LD Youth Achievement Award

Nominations are now open for the ninth annual Smart Kids with Learning Disabilities Youth Achievement Award. This \$1,000 award recognizes the strengths and accomplishments of young people with learning disabilities and ADHD. It will be given to a student 19 or younger who has demonstrated initiative, talent and determination resulting in a notable accomplishment in any field—including art, music, science, math, athletics or community service. Honorable Mentions will also be awarded.

The award will be presented at the organization's annual benefit on the evening of Friday, June 8, 2012 at the Stepping Stones Museum in Norwalk, Connecticut. Transportation and hotel accommodations will be provided for the winning student and his/her parents.

The winner of the 2011 Youth Achievement Award was Ryan Haggerty of Stamford, CT. Ryan decided early on that he would not let his severe language and reading disabilities get in the way of his achievement—including his determination to excel at hockey. Buoyed by his gifts as an athlete and ability to think "outside the box," he took a leading role in student life at Villa Maria School for children with learning disabilities in Stamford, and was recruited as a high school junior by the U.S. National Developmental Hockey Team. Ryan played a key role in the team's Gold Medal-winning seasons in 2010 and 2011, and is currently a freshman at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY.

Special Recognition Awards were presented to Jacklyn Sullivan of Levittown, LI and August Hunt of Paris, TX. Honorable Mentions were awarded to students from Providence, UT, New York, NY, Kettering, OH, and Winston Salem, NC.

The application on the reverse side of this announcement may be submitted by parents, teachers, coaches, mentors or

students themselves; or an application may be downloaded from the Smart Kids website at: www.SmartKidswithLD.org/award.html. Please submit the application and documentation by the contest deadline of February 28, 2012 to Smart Kids with LD, 38 Kings Highway North, Westport, CT 06880. For information, contact us via email at Info@SmartKidswithLD.org.



As the keynote speaker at the Villa Maria School's 2010 graduation, Ryan advised students not to give up on their struggle to learn and their determination to succeed.

"There are so many children with learning challenges who really feel 'less than,' who are so afraid they're never going to accomplish their dream. Smart Kids is there to say, You can. You will. Eventually you can be who it is you dream of being."

HENRY WINKLER
*Actor, author, director
Honorary Chairman
Smart Kids with Learning Disabilities*

Nominations for Smart Kids with Learning Disabilities Youth Achievement Award

Smart Kids with LD 38 Kings Highway North, Westport, CT 06880 Phone 203.226.6831

Nominee

Name: _____ Age: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number & Email: _____

Documented Learning Disability or ADHD _____

School Currently Attending & Address: _____ Grade: _____

Nominator

Name: _____

Relationship to Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number & Email: _____

Attachments

1. The nominator's written description of the nominee's learning disability or ADHD and achievement (including the impact the achievement has had on the nominee and others).
2. A personal statement from the nominee describing how he/she has dealt with the challenges associated with the learning disability or ADHD.
3. Supporting materials that confirm or demonstrate the nominee's achievement.
4. Documented proof of the candidate's LD or ADHD (a few pages from an IEP, e.g.).
5. A recent photo of the nominee.

Please type your description (no more than 2 pages) and attach all pages and documentation before mailing to the address at the top of this form. Applications must be postmarked by February 28, 2012.

Consent by Parent/Guardian (required)

I hereby authorize Smart Kids with Learning Disabilities (SKLD) to use and release information contained in the application for the SKLD Youth Achievement Award that I am submitting on behalf of _____ (state name of child), who is my _____ (state legal relationship with child). I understand that SKLD may release information including the Nominee's name, likeness, and narrative information (but not including details of the diagnosis, IEP plan or other supporting documentation) in its newsletter(s), promotional and other written and visual material, presentations and outreach efforts. (Please note that SKLD *will not release* telephone numbers, email and street addresses or fax numbers without seeking your prior permission.) Additionally, if the child nominated above wins the 2012 award, I agree to attend the award ceremony on June 8, 2012 with the child (who will be expected to give a brief, 3- to 4-minute acceptance speech). Transportation costs and hotel accommodations will be provided by Smart Kids for the child and parents.

Signed: _____ Date: _____