

Update



HELPING PARENTS HELP THEIR KIDS SUCCEED

Smart Kids with Learning Disabilities Announces the 2021 Fred J. Epstein Youth Achievement Award

We are now accepting nominations for the 2021 Fred J. Epstein Youth Achievement Award, a \$1,000 award that 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 either virtually or in person at the annual Smart Kids with Learning Disabilities Benefit at a time and place to be determined. Transportation and hotel accommodations will be provided for the winning student and his/her parents if the Benefit is held in person.

The winner of the 2020 Award is Zachary Rice of Long Valley, NJ. What kept Zach going during his long and painful recovery from a destructive hip infection was relying on his ADHD to make life more bearable for other hospitalized children. He credits his ADHD with allowing him to focus intensely on creating the Action for Distraction 5K event, raising money for the Goryeb Children's Hospital in Morristown, NJ.

Valerie Reown of Baltimore, MD won a Special Recognition Award. Carson Guzman of Wayne, NJ was presented with a Junior Youth Achievement Award, while five Honorable Mentions were also awarded. To view the 2020 award winners, please visit <https://www.smartkidswithld.org/blog/2020-smart-kids-youth-award-honorees/>

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/2021award.html. Please submit the application and documentation by the contest deadline of January 31, 2021.

To upload your application and documentation to the cloud (*preferred method*), please use this dropbox link: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/ejEkhpFRrQW6zQRvFbHn>

Please label each of your supporting materials with the student's full name, i.e., Joe Smith Personal Statement.

Or mail your application to Smart Kids with LD, YAA application, 161 East Ave. Ste. 104, Norwalk, CT 06851.



"Having ADHD means I may have to work harder, but doesn't mean I can't make a huge impact on the world"

— ZACH RICE

"What I say to children with learning disabilities is: We're like anybody else in terms of intelligence. But we're wired differently. If we were in the majority, we'd be trying to figure out how to teach them!"

FRED J. EPSTEIN, MD 1937 – 2006

Internationally renowned pediatric neurosurgeon, pioneering physician, researcher, teacher, administrator

Nominations for the Fred J. Epstein Youth Achievement Award

Smart Kids with LD | 161 East Avenue, Suite 104, Norwalk CT 06851 | 203.226.6831

Nominee

Name _____ Age _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

Nominee 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 high resolution photo of the nominee.

*Please type your description (no more than 2 pages) and attach all pages and documentation. Either upload these materials to the dropbox link at <https://www.dropbox.com/request/ejEkhpFRrQW6zQRvFbHn> (**preferred method**) or mail your application to Smart Kids with LD, YAA application, 161 East Ave. Ste. 104, Norwalk, CT 06851. Please label each of your supporting materials with the student's full name, i.e., Joe Smith Personal Statement.*

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 Fred J. Epstein 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 2021 award, I agree to attend the award ceremony with the child (who will be expected to give a brief, 3 minute acceptance speech, and to submit a 2-3-minute video). Transportation costs and hotel accommodations will be provided by **Smart Kids** for the child and parents.

Signed: _____ Date: _____