

Bridger Gordon Is State Winner of the 2011 Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award

The South Dakota Association for Gifted Children (SD-AGC) has named Bridger Gordon, presently a sixth grade student at Sturgis Williams Middle School, as the 2011 Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award winner. Bridger will receive a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond and a certificate at the SD-AGC state conference on September 26, 2011, in Pierre, SD. The Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award recognizes excellence in young children. Bridger is the son of Bruce and Kindra Gordon.

The Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award is open to students in third to sixth grades. The award was established in 1994 by Maggie and Reg Green to honor the memory of their 7-year-old son, Nicholas, who was killed in a drive-by shooting while they were visiting Italy. The Greens believe it is important to recognize gifts and talents in children who are the age of Nicholas. Winners from across the nation distinguish themselves in academics, leadership, athletics, and the arts.

Bridger was recognized for his leadership. His positive attitude and collaborative spirit are contagious.

In Destination Imagination, Bridger's team won regional competition in 2009-2011, state competition 1st place in 2010 and 3rd place in 2011. They participated in the Global Finals in 2010. Within eight weeks from winning the state competition and leaving for Global Finals, the team raised \$10,000 for their trip. Bridger tirelessly posted signs, made personal contacts with donors, and obtained permission through his student council for a variety of fundraising activities within the school. The enthusiasm generated from this whirlwind of activity resulted in doubling of the number of local teams participating in the 2011 regional DI tournament.

In the National Junior Angus Association, Bridger has participated in public speaking competitions, essay contests and photography competitions. In 2010 in the public speaking category, he placed 3rd in the National Junior Angus Association Competition.

In student council, Bridger was a fourth grade class representative. In fifth grade, he was the secretary for the student council. As a school leader, he supported the council's activities by participating in the activities and encouraging others to participate.

In Reading Challenge in fourth grade, Bridger was the top K-5 Student Reader. In fifth grade, he placed third for the student readers at his grade level.

In essay and poster contests, Bridger's ability to clearly focus ideas have been recognized. In third grade, he was one of the top 10 finalists in NASA's National Competition to Name the Mars Rover. In fourth grade, he was the Just Say No Poster Contest Winner in his school. In fifth grade, he was the school's 1st place winner for the Earth Day Essay Contest and the county's winner for the Arbor Day Essay Contest. In 2009 and 2010, in the SD State Conservation Contest, Bridger had winning photography in the beginner category.

In the Crow Peak Valley Rangers 4-H Club, Bridger has held offices for two years. He has participated in public speaking contests, community service, as well as educational camps and workshops. He has participated in judging competitions at both the county and state levels. In 2009, his photography judging earned him 3rd place honors at the state level.

Bridger continues to distinguish himself as a leader in both school and community activities.

The South Dakota Association for Gifted Children is an affiliate of the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC). The Nicholas Green Scholarship award process in South Dakota is underwritten by NAGC. SDAGC congratulates Bridger Gordon on his outstanding accomplishments.