

# Meet Our Awardees : Matthew Cappucci



**M**atthew Cappucci, a Plymouth resident and junior at Sturgis Charter Public School in Hyannis, MA, received The Kurt Giessler Foundation's first Ambition Grant during a February 2014 Board of Director's meeting. Cappucci will use the grant of \$2,100 to buy advanced photography equipment to study how waterspouts can help predict dangerous weather on an extremely local level.

An impressively knowledgeable weather enthusiast and aspiring meteorologist, Matthew is the youngest person ever to address the American Meteorological Society. Last year Cappucci spoke on the topic of "Outflow Boundary Related Waterspouts: Advanced Prediction, Timely Warnings and the Impact on Public Safety" at the Society's national conference in Tennessee.

"When he came to get his award, all everyone in the Foundation could say was 'Boy, does he remind me of Kurt,'" said Kurt's father Ken Giessler. "He engaged everyone in that room on the same level and he's in high school. It was so comfortable for him to sit and talk to us and that was something Kurt could do. He could engage anyone at any level at any time." Matthew's check and a framed certificate were presented to him on a snowy February afternoon immediately following a surprise Sunday morning squall. Board members, friends, and family were lucky enough to receive his expert analysis of how the storm crept up on the South Shore and took everyone off guard.

"He certainly set the bar high," said Dr. James Partridge, Kurt's longtime friend and classmate and the chairman of the Foundation's Award Selection Committee. Cappucci's passion, self-motivation, focus and drive are exactly what Kurt hoped to reward and inspire through his Foundation.

KURT GIESSLER  
FOUNDATION   
For Youth Achievement

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## Meet Our Awardees : Harrison Patten



**T**he Kurt Giessler Foundation for Youth Achievement is proud to announce Harrison Patten as the first award recipient of the Prize for Achievement. The Foundation's Prize for Achievement is awarded to those who demonstrate leadership, self-motivation, or the ability to drive others outside of an academic environment to a specific goal, which in many cases will provide a benefit to the community at large.

Harrison (Harry) demonstrated personal growth and leadership in his project to add picnic equipment at Luddam's Ford Park in Hanover, MA. A member of the Boy Scouts of America, Harry and his fellow scouts assembled and installed a new grill station and picnic table set, but their actions didn't stop there. Harry led the group to also provide graffiti removal around areas of the park which enhanced its beauty making the park more inviting to visitors. Harry used his park improvement project as the final task required to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. The efforts conducted in this project will benefit the community for years to come.

Harry was nominated by his high school teacher, Megan Halloran. Harry received a Prize for Achievement award of \$250 for his demonstration of community awareness and leadership. We look forward to seeing how Harry will continue to improve and maintain the site going forward.

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