

2009 Saskatchewan Youth Award Recipients

Katie Bacon

Katie Bacon from Ogema has shown outstanding accomplishments in leadership, volunteerism and academic excellence. She was part of the Saskatchewan Safety Council's Power Pac Program which allowed her to share her knowledge about farm safety by presenting to elementary schools in the surrounding area, and has volunteered at Vacation Bible School and Sunday School Christmas pageants. Katie also volunteers her time at the Regional Park, where she is the head life guard, by painting and cleaning the park and pools and working in the kitchen. She was a member of the Ogema Dance Club where she helped a visually-impaired child discover the joy of dance. Katie was the recipient of the Governor General's award and in high school was awarded "Best All Round Student" in 2008. Also in 2008, Katie was chosen to participate in the Lieutenant Governor's Leadership forum. She was a recipient of the Badlands Recreation Association Volunteer Award and has won awards for jazz, ballet, and tap dancing. She has her first aid and CPR "C" Course, Bronze Cross, Swimming Pool Operator's Course and Water Safety Instructor designation. Katie has just completed her first year at the University of Regina in Pre-Medicine.

Miranda Mark

Miranda Mark of Saskatoon is an accomplished musician, athlete and community volunteer. She holds her Grade 10 piano and is working towards her certification as an Associate of the Royal Conservatory of Music (ARCT). Playing piano since the age of five, she has been an active participant in Remembrance Day services, school dances, choir and pep rallies and has won numerous music scholarships. Miranda is a certified lifeguard for the city of Saskatoon and has played on the high school volleyball, badminton, curling and track and field teams. She is also the recipient of a Bronze Medal Award for Saskatoon's city championship's Senior Mixed Doubles Badminton. Miranda has been a student at the Chinese Multilingual Heritage School for many years learning both Mandarin and Cantonese. She has also taken part in Chinese dance and Wushu martial arts. Miranda is a high academic achiever, the recipient of a University of Saskatchewan Greystone Scholarship, the Saskatchewan General Proficiency Award and Joint Board Scholarship, and the Canadian Light Source Poster Session Award where Miranda studied nanoparticles with other students at the Canadian Light Source. Miranda has just completed her first year of Arts and Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan and is contemplating entry into the health sciences.

Anna Morsky

Anna Morsky from Saskatoon demonstrates compassion, work ethic and unfailing determination as she endeavors to make the lives of others better. As a volunteer, Anna has worked with Operation Christmas Child preparing “shoe boxes” for six years. She has volunteered at the local Friendship Inn, Saskatoon Crisis Nursery and Interval House, a shelter for battered women. She also helps collect, wash and sort clothes that are donated to orphanages in Ukraine. She helped collect over 2,000 pounds of food for the Halloween for Hunger program and, with the Free the Children immersion group, traveled to Kenya to help build a classroom. Upon her return to Canada, Anna initiated the formation of Youth in Action at her high school and raised over ten thousand dollars in order to build a school in Kenya. As a member of the Me to We (Mob)ilizers group, Anna mentors peers in the importance of social responsibility. Anna was awarded a millennium scholarship in 2009/2010. But, Anna is also an accomplished athlete, a member of the Canada Games soccer team, and has certification in Levels I and II for soccer coaching. Anna is currently attending Carleton University in Ottawa pursuing a degree in Public Affairs and Policy Management.

Dane Sanderson

Dane Sanderson of the James Smith Cree Nation is athlete and leader with a strong sense of community and family. He has served as Captain and Provincial Spokesperson at two North American Indigenous Games, represented Prince Albert and area at the Academic Leadership Conference, and was selected to represent his high school at the National Biology Competition. He plays volleyball, beach volleyball and in fact has played elite volleyball as a member of Team Saskatchewan at the North American Indigenous Games in Victoria, B.C. Dane takes part in community awareness programs such as Crystal Meth Awareness and Gang Exit Programs. He is a youth mentor for the West Flat Community Centre’s Leaving a Legacy Youth Project, and works with Elders and at-risk youth. Some of Dane’s awards recognition includes the Saskatchewan Volleyball Association under 14 Male Athlete of the Year Award, the St. Mary High School Highest Academic Average Medal, the Sasktel Aboriginal Achievement Award of Excellence, a nomination for Prince Albert Youth Citizen of the Year and selection for Mount Royal Volleyball All-Star Team two consecutive years. After graduation, Dane will pursue post-secondary education in the field of sports medicine.

Leejay Schmidt

Leejay Schmidt of Melfort is active and engaged in a diverse group of organizations and activities. He was the editor of his high school yearbook, founder of his high school's Amnesty Club, Communications Chair of his Student Council, senior member of the Tech Team, manager of light and sound for the Junior and Senior Drama and a participant in cross country, track and field, curling, junior basketball and junior volleyball. Leejay received first place honours at several YBEX Awards, Academic Proficiency Awards for an average above 95 per cent, the Literary Excellence Award, the Amy Milne Memorial Award, and the Athletic Award. Plus, he has seen awards in piano, vocal, and band at the Melfort Music Festival, and was recognized with a 2009 Saskatchewan Junior Citizen of the Year Award. Leejay is a volunteer councillor at the University of Saskatchewan College of Engineering Sci-Fi Camp CIT, where he mentors young scientists as a full-time instructor. He is currently Minister of Public Relations & Communications for Saskatchewan Youth Parliament, as well as Member of Student Council on the Saskatoon Engineering Students Society, representing the engineering students on the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union. Leejay has just completed his first year of Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan.

Brooklyn Simes

Brooklyn Simes of Saskatoon exhibits compassion, commitment and courage in her film work, volunteer duties and a myriad of other meaningful activities. Brooklyn founded her own photography and videography company and is the co-director of the award winning film, *Run*. She teaches video editing as a summer job and is a member of two theatre groups. Brooklyn is the founder and leader of the Interschool Christian Fellowship Club at her high school and a youth leader at her church. She tutors young children and sponsors and supports a child overseas through the organization Compassion. She has initiated and organized fundraising campaigns to rebuild and modernize Galmi Hospital in Niger, West Africa where she volunteered in 2006. At home, Brooklyn is the media representative on Student Representative Council and she volunteers at the St. Volodymyr Senior's complex, The Bridge, an inner city soup kitchen and drop-in centre, Ranger Lake Bible Camp and a movie-making camp in Nanaimo, B.C. Brooklyn is on the honour roll at her high school and is the recipient of several awards and scholarships, including the University of Saskatchewan Greystone Scholarship and the University of Regina Film School Scholarship.