



Press Release

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Aiden Dowling, Cedar Shoals High School, Athens, Georgia

Recognized for Youth Energy Leadership

For Immediate Release – May 2, 2023

Manassas, Virginia – The NEED Project is pleased to announce that Aiden Dowling of Cedar Shoals High School in Athens, Georgia is a 2023 recipient of the Youth Energy Leadership Award.

The Youth Energy Leadership Award was created by NEED's Board of Directors to recognize students who go above and beyond in their pursuit of energy knowledge and the teaching of others. This prestigious award is designed to honor students demonstrating effective leadership skills and energy knowledge throughout their association with NEED.

NEED congratulates Aiden on receiving the 2023 Youth Energy Leadership Award. This award includes a \$1,500 scholarship to be used for post-high school educational plans. The award will be given at the 43rd Annual NEED Youth Energy Conference and Awards on June 27, 2023. This fall, Aiden plans to attend the University of Georgia to major in Computer Science.

Aiden has been involved with the NEED Project for the past six years. He is the co-founder and leader of the Cedar Shoals Energy Education Team. In 2022, Aiden and fellow school peers won National School of the Year at the Senior Level and Exemplary Community Education Project on their submission to NEED's Youth Awards Program for Energy Achievement. Aiden says of the project, "On top of continuing to expand my knowledge on energy conservation and renewal, I was given the opportunity to educate the middle school team members on the things I had learned throughout my years in this community. I knew then and there, I wanted a future educating the youth on the things I cared so deeply about."

A nomination from his teacher, Brittany Blumenstock, highlights how Aiden exhibits leadership qualities. Brittany stated, "With confidence and clarity, Aiden commands the room when he speaks. I see this on a regular basis when he leads meetings of our school's science and energy education team. I'm impressed at his ability to communicate difficult concepts so that they are easy to understand. In times of confusion and indecision, he is able to quickly point out main concerns, give the team a few clear options, and be decisive when necessary. Aiden collaborates with our local middle schools to act as a student leader for the middle-aged students. He and a small group of high school students create fun and engaging hands-on experiences to guide kids through learning about science and energy."

Earlier this year Aiden was named a 2023 Georgia Scholar by the Georgia Department of Education. Aiden possesses the outstanding leadership skills and a commitment to academics that the Youth Energy Leadership Award encompasses. We are thrilled to select Aiden Dowling for this award!

For more information about the NEED Project and the Youth Energy Leadership Award, please contact Mary E. Spruill at (703) 257-1117 or mspruill@need.org.

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