



Media Advisory

**Madelaine Thompson, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH
recognized as runner-up for the Youth Energy Leadership Award.**

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Manassas, Virginia – The NEED Project is pleased to announce the 2020 runner-up recipient of the Youth Energy Leadership Award to Madelaine Thompson of the University of Cincinnati in Cincinnati, Ohio.

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 Madelaine Thompson of the University of Cincinnati on being selected as runner-up for the 2020 Youth Energy Leadership Award which includes a \$500 scholarship to be used for educational plans. Madelaine is currently pursuing a degree in social work at the University of Cincinnati.

Madelaine began her involvement with NEED in the sixth grade when she joined her school's Energy Club. She not only learned about energy efficiency and conservation, but took that knowledge to share with friends, family and community members by having them sign up to receive free energy saving kits for their homes. Former teacher, Jennifer Davis, describes Madelaine as an active leader who early on showed a real interest in learning more about energy. She even took the initiative to stay involved in energy education when her new school did not have a program.

She has participated in NEED's annual Youth Energy Conference & Awards for a number of years, both as a student attendee and more recently as a Youth Staff member. In 2019, Madelaine combined her passion for learning and love of helping others as she became a STEM Mentor at both the Washington, D.C. & Maryland and Philadelphia Exelon STEM Innovation & Leadership Academies. Madelaine, herself, explains, "As I get older, I always find ways to incorporate what I have learned into my everyday life. I have found ways to advocate for a greener way of life and take initiative in my community. NEED made energy education fun for me and it's something I'm able to teach all the children I work with."

Congratulations to this bright young lady!

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.

<http://www.need.org>
<https://www.need.org/need-students/student-leadership/>

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