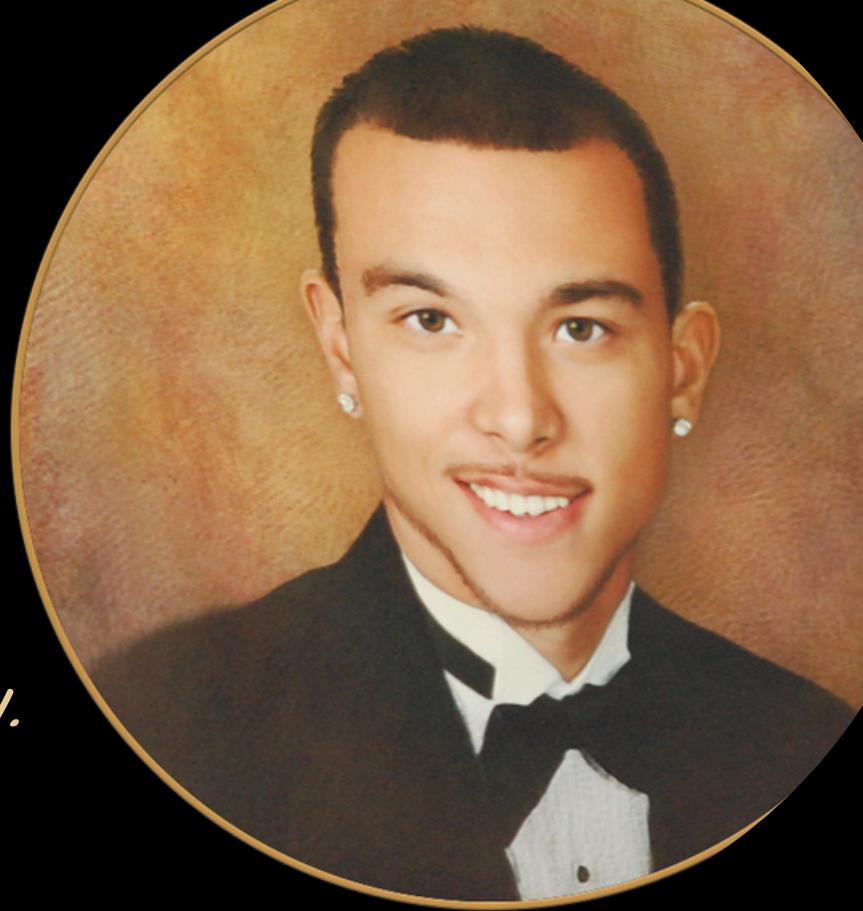


LEADERSHIP AWARDS

*Will
Smith, Jr.*



This award, established in 2009, serves to recognize 8th grade participants in the St. Mary's County Recreation and Parks Youth Basketball 7th – 8th Grade League that demonstrate consistent positive sportsmanship on and off the court.

The award is named after William (Will) Smith who lost his life on September 21, 2008. He was attending Becker College in Worcester, Massachusetts when this tragedy occurred. Will Smith was a participant in the Recreation and Parks Youth Basketball League for six years. He displayed a love for the game of basketball and everyone involved.

Will believed the game was more than wins and losses and demonstrated teamwork, sportsmanship and respect for those around him. He went on to play high school basketball at Great Mills High School but continued to volunteer his time to the Recreation & Parks basketball program whenever he had a chance. His family also plays a major role in the success of the program. His father, William, participated over 30 years as a referee, instructor and gym supervisor. His mother, Jeanne, served as a volunteer to the program for the benefit of the youth.

WILL SMITH LEADERSHIP AWARD



Criteria for Nomination

- Nominee must currently participate as an 8th grader in either the Select or Recreational Youth Basketball League.
- Player must have also participated as both a 6th and 7th grader in either league or a combination of both.
- Nominee must exhibit the following characteristics.
 - Consistent attendance in practice and games.
 - Demonstrate a positive temperament during all practices and games.
 - Readily accept instruction from all his/her team coaches.
 - Truly respect and care about others, such as players, either teammates or opponents, coaches, referees, and parents.
 - Have a passion for the "game of basketball"

Nomination Process

- Player must be nominated by the Head Coach. (Maximum of 2 per team.)
- The nomination must be verified by the Recreation & Parks Gym Supervisor.
- All nominations along with letters of support must be submitted and approved by Recreation & Parks staff.
- R&P staff will select the annual recipients.

Awards Ceremony

The awards ceremony will be held each year during the regular basketball season during the Select Middle School league games held at Great Mills High School.



**2026 Award
Recipients**



**Video: 2026 Award
Ceremony**