



## LifeSmarts announces OTC Medicine Safety Project scholarship recipients

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Washington, DC—LifeSmarts, a national consumer literacy educational program and scholarship opportunity for students in grades 6-12, has announced this year’s student leaders who have been awarded scholarships for their outstanding participation in the LifeSmarts OTC Medicine Safety Mentoring Project, a program offered throughout the year and highlighted in September when the program focuses on health and safety content.

For five years, LifeSmarts has offered the OTC Medicine Safety Mentoring Project as a community service opportunity to the program’s student participants which is underwritten by a grant from Johnson & Johnson. Through the program, LifeSmarts provides materials and curriculum, bolstered by educational resources produced by Scholastic, that enable high school students to become mentors for middle school students to help them understand the wise use and safe storage of over-the-counter medicines.

“We are so pleased with the success of the OTC Medicine Safety Mentoring Project,” said national LifeSmarts Program Director Lisa Hertzberg. “We know LifeSmarts gives students the skills they need to succeed as adults, and we see students applying what they learn immediately at home and in their communities. We are thrilled to see our students participate in this program and the enthusiasm and creativity they exhibit in serving as student mentors to pre-teens and older community members on these crucial health and safety lessons.”

### 2021 Safety Mentoring Scholarship Winners

More than 500 LifeSmarts students participated in this year’s program, creating infographics about medicine safety, conducting outreach, and writing about their projects in blog posts. Their outreach efforts impacted tens of thousands of middle school students and community members. Scholarship criteria included the impact of their message, the number of community members reached, creativity, and a personal reflective statement. Winners receive a \$1,000 post-secondary education scholarship. This year’s recipients are:

- Tanish Jain: Montgomery High School FBLA Chapter, Skillman, NJ (12<sup>th</sup> grade); Coach Audrey Rosenthal
- Taylor Rash: Pryor High School, Pryor, OK (college freshman); Coach Sharon Rash
- Thomas Read: Duval County 4-H, Jacksonville, FL (11<sup>th</sup> grade); Coach Meri Read
- Jesse Taylor: Iola High School, Iola, KS (11<sup>th</sup> grade); Coach Jean Johns

Besides health and safety, LifeSmarts focuses on four other main content areas: consumer rights and responsibilities, personal finance, technology, and the environment. Students are quizzed on their knowledge of these subject areas during online competition. Top-performing teams then advance to statewide competitions, and state champion teams advance to the national championship held each year in a different American city. The 2022 National LifeSmarts Championship will take place April 21-24 in Washington, DC.

Last year, students answered more than 3.5 million consumer questions about credit reports, recycling, nutrition, data privacy, state lemon laws, and everything in between. About 125,000 students participated in the program in each year. LifeSmarts is active in all states and the District of Columbia, where NCL is headquartered.

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#### **About LifeSmarts**

LifeSmarts is a program of the National Consumers League. State coordinators run the programs on a volunteer basis. For more information, visit: [LifeSmarts.org](http://LifeSmarts.org), email [lifesmarts@nclnet.org](mailto:lifesmarts@nclnet.org), or call the National Consumers League's communications department at 202-835-3323.

The National Consumers League, founded in 1899, is America's pioneer consumer organization. Our mission is to protect and promote social and economic justice for consumers and workers in the United States and abroad. For more information, visit [www.nclnet.org](http://www.nclnet.org).