
[NeighborhoodServices] New 2016 STAR Award submission from City of Champaign 2016 STAR Nomination Form

1 message

Nominees Information

nipun bhatia

Nominees Address

413 Dropseed DR
Savoy, Illinois 61874
United States
[Map It](#)

Nominees Phone

(217) 356-2787

Nominees Email

ajayneen@yahoo.com

I would like to nominate the above nominee for the following award (NOTE: only one category per nomination form):

Rising Star

Narrative

I am a third grade teacher at Stratton Elementary School in Champaign. In the past 3 years I've created a Coral Reef Project that builds and maintains real coral reef ecosystems in classroom around my school. My coral reef aquariums create a platform for inquiry based science instruction and creates opportunities for students to connect with nature and work with peers on a complex and fun project.

Caring for the coral reefs is a complex and time consuming job. Students must be both informed in marine biology and aquarium care and make careful decisions to keep the ecosystem healthy based on ongoing observations of the water chemistry, equipment, fish, and invertebrates.

Because the job is so big, students must do a large part without direct supervision. Student leaders take extra time to learn complex science, complete extra practice on aquarium care and learn the interpersonal skills necessary to teach and supervise classmates on how to be stewards of our coral reefs.

Nipun Bhatia is my project's student manager and exemplifies the qualities that we look for in adult leaders. Nipun is dedicated, spending hours after school learning from me and other adults who support the Coral Reef Project. He completes extra homework and does research on aquarium care and water chemistry to better support the living things under his care. Nipun has grown from a shy student to a manager who is both a patient and friendly teacher and a stern supervisor that encourages even older students to be safe and diligent as they complete their aquarium care duties.

As a result of the support that Nipun provides the Coral Reef Project, we have been able to expand to reach more classroom and students. More students are exposed to ocean life and have a modality to practice important science skills such as observation, investigation and research. Nipun also acts as a role model for students of a variety of ages. I've noticed that many refer to him with respect and pass along his instructions and teachings to their classmates. Nipun can be a very fun person to be around but also maintains a sense of respect for the responsibilities inherent in our project that makes other students under his supervision try their best.

I would be unable to complete this important and enriching project at my school without Nipun and he is a model for many other students.



Stratton Elementary School

Academy of the Arts;
Leadership & MicroSociety
902 North Randolph,
Champaign, Illinois 61820

Monty Rose

Third Grade Teacher
rosemo@champaignschools.org
(217) 373-7330

To Whom It May Concern:

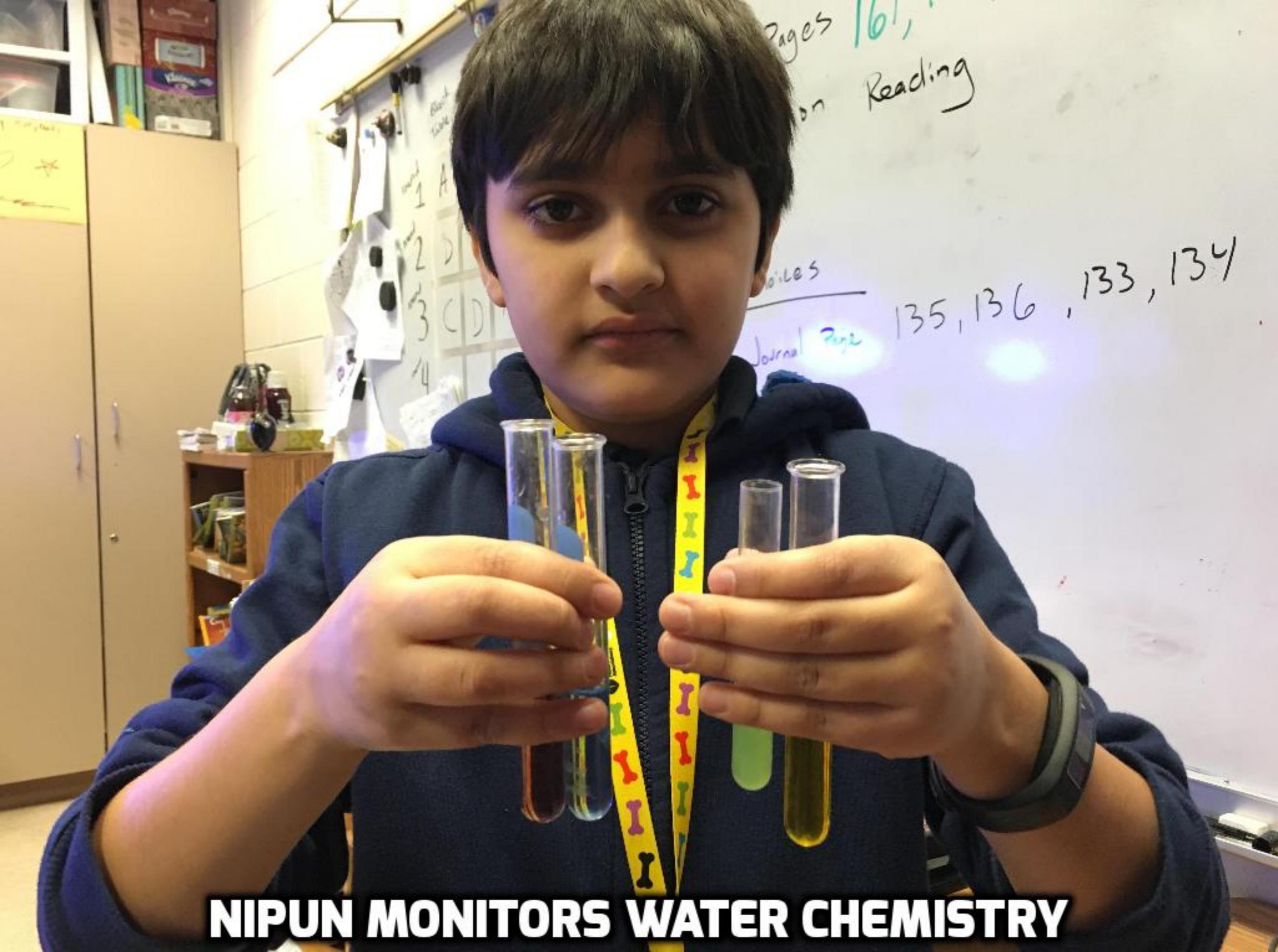
I would like to write a letter of recommendation for Nipun Bhatia, a student in third grade at Stratton Elementary School. I am a third grade teacher at Stratton, and my class participates in the Coral Reef Project at the school. The tank in my room is the first thing my students look at in the morning and the last thing they check before they leave. We've learned so much about both the ocean and science from having the coral reef in our room. Students are so excited about it that they spend free time studying up on coral reef ecosystems. I've also been able to connect some of my science instruction to my classroom aquarium.

My students care for the tank, but we would not be able to do this without the help of Nipun. As the student manager of the Coral Reef Project, Nipun Bhatia comes into my room frequently to check on the health of our ecosystem and to instruct my students on its care. He works very well with my students, who are sometimes reluctant to accept directions from others. His calm nature, self-control, and likeability make him a leader that other students willingly follow. He is always patient, considering that he sometimes has to explain concepts multiple times until my students fully understand them. Nipun takes responsibility for the project and helps shy students feel like they can take chances without feeling like they will be held accountable for mistakes. Nipun is a role model for my students and my class is the better for his support.

If you need any additional information about Nipun or his work with the Coral Reef Project, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Monty Rose



NIPUN MONITORS WATER CHEMISTRY

NIPUN RESEARCHING MARINE BIOLOGY



The table in front of the boy is covered with research materials. It includes several strips of paper with text, some of which are highlighted in green and yellow. There are five pink sticky notes and one yellow sticky note scattered across the papers. Writing instruments are also present: an orange highlighter, a yellow pencil, a pair of blue-handled scissors, a yellow highlighter, and a blue pen. A small piece of white paper is also visible near the yellow highlighter.

NIPUN SHOWING ANOTHER STUDENT HOW TO CUT CORAL



NIPUN PROVIDING FISH WITH ADDITIONAL CARE

