

# Scholarship Background and Essay Questions

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The Brendan M. Kutler Scholarship was established in 2011 by AmSafe Industries, Inc. and was first announced at the Team America Rocketry Challenge (TARC) Finals in May of that year.

AmSafe Industries, a company headquartered in Phoenix, AZ, designs and manufactures a variety of products for the aviation industry. AmSafe is a member of the Aerospace Industries Association, which sponsors the TARC competition. More can be learned about AmSafe at [www.amsafe.com](http://www.amsafe.com).



Brendan Monroe Kutler was only 17, a High School senior, when he died suddenly and unexpectedly in his sleep on December 29, 2009. His insatiable thirst for knowledge led him to achievements well beyond his years. In the academic world, Brendan defined the notion of intellectual curiosity. Japanese, computer science, cinema, scientific research, music and photography were his passions, which he pursued with dogged determination.

Beyond his intellectual gifts, however, Brendan was an extraordinary human being who found ways to connect with people all over the globe. With grace and humility, Brendan used his talents to support others and to make the world a better place.

Brendan's level of curiosity drove him to always probe beyond the simple answer. In his world, the answer wasn't necessarily the point, because for Brendan, life was truly more about the journey than the destination.

His experiences and accomplishments were substantial, especially given his age. At Stanford University, he was one of 25 US high school students selected for intensive study of Japan-US relations; as part of the High School Diplomats (HSD) at Princeton University, he was one of 40 American high school students selected for a cultural exchange program with peers in Japan. He participated in the Summer Science Program in Socorro, New Mexico; a program affiliated with MIT, in which students performed hands-on astronomical research projects. He worked as a research intern at the Center for Embedded Networked Sensing at UCLA, successfully developing computer programs to analyze cell phone photo images for a United Nations project. Brendan co-authored "A System for Determining Indoor Air Quality by Automatic Analysis of Images of an Air Filter Captured on Mobile Phones," presented at ImageSense 2008.

For someone so gifted in the areas of math and computer science, Brendan also had a capability to express a depth of emotion through the written word; a talent that is especially rare in one so young. Writing recently about a trip he took to Japan, Brendan demonstrated his understanding of the importance of appreciating the time we have: "After my travels, I focus on living instead of existing - and life has blossomed." One of Brendan's great joys was introducing new music to his friends and family. He channeled this into a Senior Editor position for The 8th Circuit ([www.8th-circuit.com](http://www.8th-circuit.com)), an online magazine for which he wrote a weekly world music review column, technology reviews and developed monthly podcasts. His creative talents also extended to the visual arts. Brendan had an appreciation for the natural world and he created a body of photographic artwork, much of which represented the beauty he saw in nature. As he was able to travel extensively, he sought out destinations that were off-the-beaten-path, but renowned for their beauty. Brendan displayed and sold his artwork on the Internet ([www.l111i3.deviantart.com](http://www.l111i3.deviantart.com)).

In High School, he made a lasting impression on many - friends, peers and teachers included. On one occasion when the administration refused to allow him to take eight classes, demanding that he have at least one free period, Brendan spent his free period every day attending the Cinema Studies class "unofficially". He made a point of completing the assignments for the class. Beyond academics, Brendan made his mark as a four-year varsity player on his High School's competitive tennis team, was an editor for Foreign Outlook, the school's international journal, a founding member of the Stocks Club and a member of Model UN, Robotics Club, and Computer Science Club. Brendan also was a member of the school's rocketry club, and in 2008 he and a team of his classmates participated in TARC, reaching the finals and placing 13<sup>th</sup> overall. Despite his extraordinary gifts, Brendan did not seek accolades. He instead sought to support and promote the achievement of others. Brendan lived his life by the saying, "None of us are as smart as all of us." It was in recognition of his desire to use his gifts to help others that the Brendan M. Kutler scholarship was established.

In an era where more often than not we hear about what is wrong with our upcoming generation, Brendan was a shining example of what is good in so many of today's young people. In choosing among applicants for this annual scholarship, the board of directors of the Kutler Family Foundation hopes to identify young people with traits, values and aspirations in common with Brendan's, and to help them, through their education, to make a positive contribution as the leaders of tomorrow.

As it is in his honor and memory that this scholarship has been established, applicants are encouraged to learn more about Brendan, and can do so by visiting [www.bkutler.com](http://www.bkutler.com).

The \$5,000 annual, four-year scholarship is available to high school students who, in their Junior or Senior year participated in TARC as members of a team which submitted a qualifying score. For the 2012-13 academic year, a student in his or her freshman year of college and otherwise meeting eligibility requirements may apply.

The board of directors is interested in understanding more about you as prospective grant recipient, and has formulated several questions to help in this endeavor. Please give due thought to each of these questions and understand that there are no "correct" answers; there are only answers which best reflect your life and your perspective.

## Essay Questions

- 1.) Describe your background and family life, and how this scholarship will make a difference to you.
- 2.) Discuss your interests—academic, intellectual, recreational and other.
- 3.) Tell us about what you hope to study in college, and how you see these studies preparing you for adult life.
- 4.) What commitment are you willing to make, perhaps to be fulfilled in future years, to ensure that the benefit of this scholarship accrues to others as well as to yourself?
- 5.) What does "None of us are as smart as all of us" mean to you in your daily life?

## General Instructions

- Fill out the application
- Have a HS official (Principal, Assistant Principal, Counselor, etc.) complete the lower portion of the application
- Include at least one letter of recommendation from a teacher, past or present
- Answer, succinctly but completely, the essay questions
- Submit all required materials no later than **March 1, 2012** to the following address:

Kutler Family Foundation  
c/o AmSafe Industries, Inc.  
1043 N. 47<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85043  
Attention: Corporate Office

# Application

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To Be Completed by the Student Applicant

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

High School(s) Attended: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To Be Completed By High School Official

High School Graduation Date: (Month / Year) \_\_\_\_\_

High School(s) Attended: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Grade-point Average \_\_\_\_ on a \_\_\_\_ Point Scale

Official Completing This Form:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_