

# MY GRANDPARENT ESSAY

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My Grandpa, Lynn Peterson, should be the AARP South Dakota Grandparent of the year because he is a caring person that has taught me many things and has touched many peoples' lives. He continues to be a great role model for people of all ages.

Family is important to my grandpa. He lost his dad at a very young age and his mom died when he was a young adult. He also lost a daughter at the age of two. I can tell how much his family means to him just from watching him. He is always encouraging us to do our best and helps any of us in any way he can. He lives about 5 hours from me, but he gets to a lot of my activities because I know I am important to him. He helps me in sports whenever I see him. One thing I will never forget is when I made it to the National Punt, Pass, and Kick competition in New Orleans, Louisiana; he was the first one to get a plane ticket to watch me. When he found out he could not get a game ticket to watch me, he said, "That's okay I still want to be there." When I got my trophy he was the first one I wanted to show it to. We walked right to the hotel where he was staying and I showed him my trophy. I could tell how proud of me he was, and I was happy he came so I did not have to wait to show him. The way he hugged me, I will never forget.

One thing I like about my grandpa is that he has taught and coached a lot of kids. He was an elementary physical education teacher and coached every level of basketball, track, and football. He even set up a volunteer elementary girls' basketball program when there wasn't money to have one in his school. When I am with him in his hometown, a lot of people say, "Hi, Mr. Peterson" to him. I can tell they liked him and I am proud to walk with him.

My Grandpa likes to help people out. Church is important to him. He makes sure that the people in his church have a ride to church on Sundays. If they don't, he will give them a ride. He also volunteers at the YMCA in his hometown. He helps with the afterschool program. He volunteers in the gym. He likes to stay connected to the kids and their sports in his community and this is a great way to do that.

My favorite time with my grandpa is when it is just us all alone. He tells me stories and we laugh a lot. I am so glad he is my grandpa; I could not have chosen a better one. My wish is that every child could have a relationship with an older person like I have with my grandpa. I love him.