

AARP South Dakota Grandparent of the Year
by Taylor Stratton, Rutland, SD

" Do you have a grandpa? Well I do and he's the best. I think my grandpa should be AARP South Dakota Grandparent of the Year. I love the special memories, the spoiling, and all the fun we have.

To begin with I love the special memories with my grandpa. My grandpa teaches me difficult things. I remember when I was just learning to ride my bike. I just couldn't get the hang of it until he helped me. All he did was gave me a little push and I went. I like it when my grandpa comes to things. The only thing that will stop him is if he's sick. He likes to take pictures too. Another special memory is when we went to Las Vegas. It was so exciting. It took a couple of days but it was fun.

Another reason my grandpa is special is because he spoils me. He picks me up at school. Most of the time we stop at the Rambler Stop for some snacks. If my grandpa ever goes to Madison, he asks me if I want to go. If I do go, sometimes we stop at Dairy Queen because I'm craving for ice cream! I remember one time we went to get a small house dog when I was little. It was a puppy. It looked like a black and white cookie when it was curled up. The dog's name was Patches. I thought it should be Spot. Patches died a few months ago. Then my grandpa picked out a new puppy. I held her the whole way home. My grandpa also takes me to Prairie Village in the summer. We ride around on the golf cart and look around.

Another example of why I think my grandpa should be Grandparent of the Year is that my grandpa loves to have fun. Whenever my sister and I are at my grandparent's house, we always play games. My grandma plays too. We all have fun together. Sometimes we challenge each other with an intelligent game of Jenga. My grandpa's favorite game is Old Maid. Whenever he loses he always says, "Oh, she's so pretty." My grandpa loves to kid around with people. My grandpa likes to say funny stuff, and there are three chants that he likes to say and they are "A bottle of pop, a big banana, we're from southern Indiana, that's a lie, that's a bluff, we're from Rutland that's the stuff." Or , "watermelon, watermelon, rind, rind, rind, look at the scoreboard to see who's behind." He said to only say that when we're winning. My grandpa is a Norwegian and loves to eat lutefisk so he has a cheer, and it is, "lutefisk, lutefisk, lefse, lefse, we'll beat the Wildcats, yea you betch ya."

As you can see, my grandpa is a pretty great guy. He has special memories with me, and he likes to spoil me. He also loves to have fun and kid around. That's why I think my grandpa should be AARP South Dakota Grandparent of the Year.
He's the best."