*An excerpt from* “Participation Trophies Aren't What's Wrong With Kids These Days” by Bob Cook

Forbes/[Sports & Leisure](http://www.forbes.com/sports-leisure)

**AUG 18, 2015 @ 12:22 AM 2,107 VIEWS**

**“From sports mom and softball coach**[**Stacie Mahoe**](http://staciemahoe.com/about/%20)**regarding the worthlessness of getting worked up over participation trophies:**

‘People, seriously…  
Whether your kids get a trophy for participation or not does not determine their attitude toward hard work or earning their way. YOUR attitude toward those things is a far bigger influence than any piece of wood and plastic. …

All of my kids that have played any kind of sport have all gotten trophies (yes more than one) just for participation and we enjoyed the experience of the season, including our kids’ delight to have something with their name on it that belonged to THEM and no one else in our home. Something to represent and remember the fun and learning took place during that period of their life.

To date, I have a child who was offered a full ride athletic scholarship to college. That same child also set various world records in her current sport and holds various state and American records too. I have two other children who hold state and American records in that same sport. …  
Those things don’t happen for kids who just whine and cry until someone gives them what they want. A trophy given as a gift doesn’t cause or prevent that as some people seem to think/imply.  
It’s nice to have something as simple as a participation trophy to blame for less than desirable attitudes of “kids these days,” but the real issues aren’t magically fixed simply by removing a trophy from the picture.

I’m not sure what times were like when you were growing up, but even \*I\* got a ton of trophies and certificates and medals for “participation.” That doesn’t mean I expect everything to be handed to me on a silver platter. Because the trophy is not the problem, nor removal of it the all-encompassing “answer.”

YOUR thoughts, attitudes, values, and beliefs show in your life and your kids learn a lot through what they live with you. A trophy doesn’t have any of that. …’”