

Citizen Science For Life

Can you imagine observing, recording, and reporting the weather every single day? That is what Richard G. Hendrickson did—for 85 years! Beginning when he was 17 years old, Mr. Hendrickson observed and recorded the weather at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. every day. He volunteered for the Cooperative Observer Program, which became the National Weather Service. The National Weather Service is a part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).



Photo courtesy of Dolores Morrison.



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As time passed, other volunteer weather observers started to report the weather using computers. Mr. Hendrickson never did. Instead, he phoned in his weather reports twice a day. When Mr. Hendrickson died at the age of 103, he was the Nation's longest serving volunteer weather watcher.

In 2014, NOAA established the Richard G. Hendrickson Award. This award is presented to volunteers with 80 years of service. Mr. Hendrickson was the award's first recipient. Mr. Hendrickson's commitment to observing and

reporting the weather helped scientists and citizens across the country by providing timely, accurate weather data and helped chart the way for studying weather. You can be like Mr. Hendrickson! After reading this journal, select a topic and become a citizen scientist too!

This information is adapted from a *New York Times* article. To learn more and read the full article, visit <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/18/nyregion/richard-g-hendrickson-who-recorded-the-weather-for-85-years-dies-at-103.html>.

Check out the National Weather Service video about Mr. Hendrickson at <https://youtube/F2-e6WsCI2l>.