



Barron Prize Announces 2012 National Winners

Boulder, CO, September 17, 2012 – **The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes**, an award that celebrates inspiring, public-spirited, highly diverse young people from all across America, announces its 2012 national winners. Each year, the Barron Prize honors twenty-five outstanding young leaders ages 8 to 18 who have made a significant positive difference to people and our planet. The top ten winners each receive a \$2,500 cash award to support their service work or higher education. The 2012 winners are:

Avalon, age 11, of Florida, who founded Conserve it Forward in order to share her passion for protecting frogs, raise money for conservation causes, and inspire other kids to take care of the natural world.

Victor, age 18, of New York, who created EcoRyders, a program for teens that promotes environmental justice and community activism through workshops, discussions, and skateboard design.

Jackson, age 14, of Hawaii, who founded Dream of a Better World, a non-profit group that has raised over \$105,000 to build a permanent home on four fertile acres for 57 children living with HIV at an orphanage in Uganda.

Brooklyn, age 9, of Georgia, who acts as Earth Saver Girl in teaching thousands of elementary students about ways they can help save the planet. She has written a book, created an Earth Saver Girl skit and costume, and developed a website to support kids who want to protect the Earth.

Ben, age 18, of New York, who founded the Lit! Project, which has provided safe, cost-effective, and environmentally-friendly solar lanterns to improve the lives of 11,300 people living without electricity in the developing world.

Wyatt, age 9, of California, who has combined his love of the ocean with his passion for creating art to raise more than \$5,000 for ocean conservation causes. His claymation film and picture book titled *Save the Sea from the Trash Monster!* were created from 70 clay sculptures of sea creatures that he made and then sold to raise the funds.

Max, age 16, of Massachusetts, who founded PuzzlesToRemember, a non-profit organization that has distributed over 14,600 new jigsaw puzzles free of charge to facilities that care for Alzheimer's and dementia patients.

Devin, age 14, of New Hampshire, whose Take Back the Tap Campaign has greatly reduced the amount of bottled water used at events in his community. Devin has also replaced all of the water fountains in his town's schools with hydration stations, which allow teachers and students to fill reusable water bottles.

Clay, age 18, of Ohio, who founded WET, the Wetlands Education Team, which has received over \$200,000 in grants and donated materials to educate more than 10,000 students in Ohio about the importance of wetlands and how they can protect them.

Sophia, age 17, of California, who created the Seedling Project, a gardening initiative at her school that provides produce for the cafeteria and an outdoor classroom for students. She has also developed an eco-literacy program that teaches children across Los Angeles about gardening, sustainability, and healthy eating.

Zachary, age 16, of New Jersey, who co-founded SNAP, Special Needs Athletic and Awareness Programs, which gives over 150 special needs kids the chance to play sports each week. Zach has trained nearly 3,000 students, as well as local police and emergency responders, in better understanding and accepting people with special needs.

The Barron Prize was founded by author T.A. Barron and named for his mother, Gloria Barron.