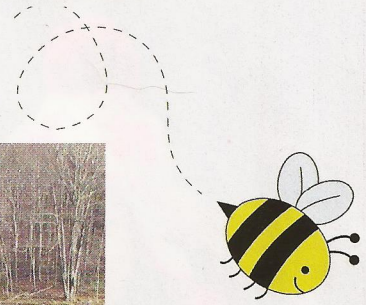


# SHOW & TELL

## Bee All You Can Bee



*Elizabeth teaches a group about bees, while dressed in a beekeeper suit*

Elizabeth Klosky, an 18-year-old homeschool graduate from Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York, has been named one of the 25 national winners of the 2017 Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes, for her work with bees.

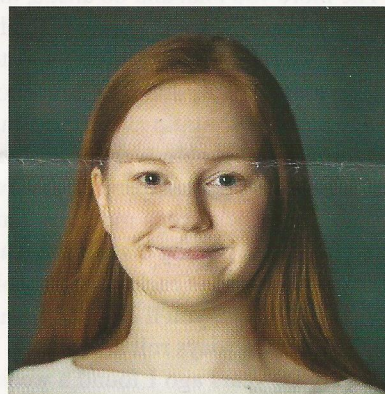
Each year, the Barron Prize celebrates “inspiring, public-spirited young people” from across North America who have “made a significant positive difference to people and the environment.” Up to 20 top winners each receive a \$5,000 cash award to support their service work or higher education.

Elizabeth’s special project was all about the bees. She founded “NY is a Great Place to Bee!” to educate the public about bees and their plight, to pass bee-supportive legislation, and to help ensure healthy bee populations.

With her team of a dozen Worker Bee volunteers leading hands-on activities, Elizabeth has taught over 14,000 people about bees’ importance and easy ways to protect them. She has installed a dozen native bee houses at nature preserves and has taught hundreds of people to build their own, as well as how to plant native forage, such as wildflower oases.

Through grassroots advocacy—including a Change.org petition, phone calls, and meetings—Elizabeth has been a driving force behind bee-friendly legislation and state funding to support bees.

Elizabeth’s bee passion grew out of her homeschool years spent largely outside. When she began keeping bees on



*Elizabeth Klosky*

her family’s microfarm several years ago, she learned how threatened they are and decided to help them as a way to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award. Since then, grants from The Pollination Project and Jane Goodall’s Roots & Shoots have helped fund her work. Her most memo-

rable outreach event took place at Bethel Woods, site of the 1969 Woodstock Festival, where the drummer for a famous band borrowed her bee costume to wear as he performed on stage.

As Elizabeth says, “One small act can snowball into something huge.”

The Barron Prize was founded in 2001 by author T.A. Barron and was named for his mother, Gloria Barron. Each year’s 25 Barron Prize winners reflect the great diversity of America. They are female and male, urban and rural, and from various backgrounds—including homeschoolers!

“Nothing is more inspiring than stories about heroic people who have truly made a difference to the world,” says Barron. “And we need our heroes today more than ever. Not celebrities, but heroes—people whose character can inspire us all. That is the purpose of the Gloria Barron Prize: to shine the spotlight on these amazing young people so that their stories will inspire others.”

Congratulations to Elizabeth, and we hope you find her story inspiring!

To learn more, visit @BarronPrize and @NYisaGreatPlacetoBee on Facebook.

