



ACTION FOR NATURE

*We encourage young people to take personal action
to protect the environment on which all life depends*

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Tampa Student Among 2020 International Young Eco-Hero Award Winners

Local Teen Receives Top Honor for Contributions to Solving Environmental Problems

San Francisco – Demetri Sedita, a 16 year-old from Tampa, Florida, is one of seventeen young environmental activists from across the globe honored by Action for Nature (AFN) as a 2020 International Young Eco-Hero, an award that recognizes eco-conscious youth aged 8 to 16 for their creative initiatives aimed at tackling critical environmental challenges.

Awarded annually, these outstanding young people from across the globe are selected by a panel of independent judges, including experts in environmental science, biology, and education. For the past 17 years, the International Young Eco-Hero Awards have honored global youth in two categories – 8 to 12 years old and 13 to 16 years old – who are taking important steps to solve tough environmental problems. Since 2003, Action for Nature has recognized more than 275 young people from over 30 countries and 25 U.S. states.

Demetri received an honorable mention in the 13-16 year-old age category for his project, Green Gasparilla.

Demetri Sedita every year watched a local event – the Gasparilla Pirate Festival – during which boaters celebrate local history by throwing Mardi Gras beads from boat to boat and to onlookers on the shore. After witnessing thousands of strands of plastic beads - many of which are filled with toxins - falling into the water, and realizing that this practice had occurred for decades, Demetri decided to do something about it. Working with the city and community members, Demetri has raised awareness about the issue by exposing underwater drone footage, resulting in three large-scale diver clean-ups and the creation of a city-sponsored Bead Free Bay campaign.

“Kids like Demetri have shown that the next generation is refusing to simply stand on the sidelines but instead is turning its passion for helping the planet into projects that have tangible, positive impacts on the environment now,” said Beryl Kay, president of Action for Nature, an international non-profit organization that encourages young people to nurture a love and respect



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for Earth's natural resources and to take personal action to better their environments. "Young activists like Demetri are shaping the world around them and inspiring other young people to take action to protect our Earth."

"I plan to continue to grow Green Gasparilla and work to make all of the Gasparilla events more sustainable," said Demetri Sedita.

To read more about Demetri's work, visit

actionfornature.org/eco-hero-awards/2020-awards/#demetri or check out the project website at greengasparilla.org.

To learn more about this year's International Young Eco-Hero Award winners, visit

actionfornature.org/eco-hero-awards/2020-awards.

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Action for Nature (AFN) is an international non-profit organization based in San Francisco, California, that encourages young people to nurture a love and respect for Earth's natural resources and to take personal action to better their environments.