



ACTION FOR NATURE

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

For immediate release
September 1, 2020

Contact:
Holly Shulman, holly.shulman@gmail.com

Tampa Student Among 2020 International Young Eco-Hero Award Winners

Local Child Receives Top Honor for Contributions to Solving Environmental Problems

San Francisco – Zach Hartman, a 11 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.

Zach received an honorable mention in the 8-12 year-old age category for his project, Zach's Planet: Helping the Planet and Its People!

Zach Hartman was alarmed to learn that 300 million books are discarded into landfills each year, and that a lot of parents throw away stuffed animals that their kids have outgrown because many resale shops don't accept them. At age eight he launched "Zach's Planet," a community service project aimed at reducing waste in his community. Since its founding, Zach has performed more than 250 hours of community service, has kept over 40,000 pounds of used items out of landfills, and has saved more than 2,400 trees by promoting reuse of books.

"Kids like Zach 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 for Earth's natural resources and to take personal action to better their environments. "Young activists like



ACTION FOR NATURE

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

Zach are shaping the world around them and inspiring other young people to take action to protect our Earth.”

To read more about Zach’s work, visit
actionfornature.org/eco-hero-awards/2020-awards/#zach.

To learn more about this year’s International Young Eco-Hero Award winners, visit
actionfornature.org/eco-hero-awards/2020-awards.

###

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.