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Austin Teen Among 2023 International Young Eco-Hero Award Winners

Local Student Receives Top Honor for Contributions to Solving Environmental Problems

San Francisco – Anushka Godambe, a 16 year-old from Austin, TX, United States is one of seventeen young environmental activists from across the globe to receive a 2023 International Young Eco-Hero Award, announced Action For Nature today. This award honors eco-conscious youth ages 8 to 16 who are taking crucial steps to solve tough environmental problems. Anushka won an Honorable Mention in this year's competition.

Winners of the International Young Eco-Hero Award are selected by a panel of independent judges, including experts in environmental science, biology, and education. For the past 20 years, Action For Nature has recognized 339 Eco-Heroes from 27 countries and 32 U.S. states.

Anushka founded Plants in Classrooms to foster a love of gardening in K-12 students by teaching them to care for a classroom plant through practice, patience, and teamwork, as they grow a love for horticulture. The 1,000 plants spread across Austin's Eanes Independent School District are in traditional classrooms, administration and counseling offices, cafeterias, and school libraries. Anushka aims to extend Plants in Classrooms to other neighboring school districts in the coming year.

"Anushka and all of this year's young climate champions are proving one thing loud and clear: the next generation of leaders has arrived, and they're unleashing their power on a global scale to tackle the climate crisis head-on," said Beryl Kay, president of Action for Nature. "The incredible accomplishments of Anushka and our other winners are more than just isolated projects – they're changing lives and transforming communities for the better."

"Classroom plants teach patience through the time needed for a plant to successfully grow," said Anushka Godambe. "It teaches teamwork as students work together to ensure the plant thrives by taking turns watering it, and it teaches how plants grow, how to care for them, and the benefits of plants for the environment."

To learn more about Anushka's work, visit
<https://sites.google.com/view/plants-in-classrooms-anushkag/home>.

For high-resolution photos of Anushka and to learn more about all of this year's

International Young Eco-Hero Award winners, visit
<https://actionfornature.org/eco-hero-awards/2023-winners>.

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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 protect the environment.