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New York City Teen Among 2023 International Young Eco-Hero Award Winners

Local Student Receives Top Honor for Contributions to Solving Environmental Problems

San Francisco – Steven Hoffen, a 14-year-old from New York, NY, 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.

Steven won Shimon Schwarzschild Award in this year's competition. This award is named for the founder of Action For Nature and honors a young environmentalist and activist who is a visionary thinker as Shimon was.

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.

Steven founded Growing Peace Inc., a nonprofit organization that delivers modern agricultural technology solutions to underserved and disadvantaged communities. The organization deploys hydroponic growing systems – a way to produce fresh and healthy produce more efficiently – at targeted locations. He has developed, installed, and brought on line three hydroponic systems – one at a food pantry for Eritrean and Sudanese asylum seekers in Tel Aviv and two in New York City.

"Steven 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 Steven and our other winners are more than just isolated projects – they're changing lives and transforming communities for the better."

"I feel that hydroponics is something that can make a real difference in people's lives in an authentic, tangible way," says Steven. "It allows people to have fresh produce, gain financially by selling the surplus food, feel proud, and also profit from their efforts."

To learn more about Steven's work, visit <https://www.growingpeaceinc.org/>.

For high-resolution photos of Steven 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.