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Melville Student Among 2021 International Young Eco-Hero Award Winners

Local Student Receives Top Honor for Contributions to Solving Environmental Problems

San Francisco – Dylan D'Agate, a 16 year-old from Melville, New York, is one of 25 young environmental activists from across the globe honored by Action For Nature (AFN) as a 2021 International Young Eco-Hero, an award that recognizes eco-conscious youth ages 8 to 16 who are taking crucial steps to solve tough environmental problems.

Winners of the International Young Eco-Hero Award are selected by a panel of independent judges, including experts in environmental science, biology, and education. Since 2003, Action For Nature has recognized more than 300 Eco-Heroes from over 30 countries and 25 U.S. states.

Dylan received an Honorable Mention in the 15-16 year-old category for his project, *Monster in the Water: Fighting Back Against Harmful Algal Blooms*.

Growing up in Long Island, Dylan D'Agate was all too familiar with toxic algal blooms that are becoming more and more common around the world. Dylan decided to write a children's book – *Monster in the Water: Fighting Back Against Harmful Algal Blooms* – to raise awareness about the problem and to motivate young people to act to address algal blooms and other environmental problems in their communities. A portion of the book's proceeds will be donated to organizations that work on water security issues.

"Kids like Dylan have shown that the next generation of leaders is here, and they are refusing to wait to solve the world's most pressing environmental challenges," said Beryl Kay, president of Action For Nature, an international non-profit organization that encourages young people to nurture a love and respect for the Earth and to take personal action to improve the environment. "The projects that these young people created will not only have real, positive impacts on their communities, they will also help solve global climate challenges and inspire others – no matter what age – to consider what they can do to help."

"As a young environmentalist, I always felt I had to wait until I was older to make a difference, which I now realize is not true," said Dylan D'Agate. "Age is not a barrier to making an impact in our world. The only barriers are those we place on ourselves. I would urge young people to just get started, in whatever way they feel is important, to advocate for the environment."

To read more about Dylan's work, visit beatthebloom.com.

To learn more about this year's International Young Eco-Hero Award winners, visit actionfornature.org/eco-hero-awards/2021-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.