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## **Bergen County Student Among 2021 International Young Eco-Hero Award Winners**

### ***Local Student Receives Top Honor for Contributions to Solving Environmental Problems***

San Francisco – Jacklyn Vandermel, a 16 year-old from Closter, New Jersey, 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.

Jacklyn received a Notable Mention in the 15-16 year-old category for her project, The Natural Journal.

Jacklyn Vandermel founded an international literary and arts magazine, *The Natural Journal*, which appreciates and highlights the environment. She publishes three issues per year, and each issue consists of creative pieces by her and other young people. Jacklyn is also an advocate for conservation and is working with schools and technology companies to reduce paper waste.

“Kids like Jacklyn 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.”

To read more about Jacklyn’s work visit [www.thenaturaljournal.org](http://www.thenaturaljournal.org).

To learn more about this year’s International Young Eco-Hero Award winners, visit [actionfornature.org/eco-hero-awards/2021-awards](http://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.*