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Irvine Student Among 2021 International Young Eco-Hero Award Winners

Local Student Receives Top Honor for Contributions to Solving Environmental Problems

San Francisco – Nithin Parthasarathy, a 16 year-old from Irvine, California, 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.

Nithin received an Honorable Mention in the 15-16 year-old category for his project, Zero Waste Initiative.

Nithin Parthasarathy founded the nonprofit Zero Waste Initiative with the dual goal of serving people in need while helping the environment. His organization is focused on rescuing as much food as possible from being sent to landfills and distributing it to those in need, as well as raising awareness about food waste's negative environmental impacts. In 2020, Zero Waste Initiative rescued \$95,000 in food waste and arranged for it to be distributed to veterans, seniors, survivors of domestic violence, people experiencing homelessness, and families in need.

"Kids like Nithin 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."

"Food waste is an economical and environmental catastrophe," said Nithin Parthasarathy. "Through my work, I learned to appreciate what I have in life and how important it is to share with the less fortunate."

To read more about Nithin's work, visit 0wasteinitiative.org.

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.