

# KID HEROES FOR THE PLANET

You don't have to be rich or famous to make a difference. All across the country, kids are taking a stand for the environmental issues they care about. TFK spoke with a few kid heroes about the creative projects they have come up with to protect the planet. Now it's your turn to follow their lead!



COURTESY TESTA FAMILY

COURTESY HIRSCH FAMILY (2)

## INSPIRED BY NATURE

**CASEY SOKOLOVIC**, 16, will always remember her first trip to the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center, in North Carolina, nearly 10 years ago. She saw turtles that had been hurt and found her calling as an activist. "I knew that I wanted to be able to help all these turtles and the hospital that

serves them," she told TFK. Casey began by selling homemade turtle-shaped cookies. She coordinates an annual 5K run that raises funds for turtles and other environmental causes, and she founded a free summer camp. It teaches kids about nature appreciation and preservation. "Being a young activist has really taught me to keep my eyes open and expand my horizons in everything that I do," she says.

## SWEET REWARDS

**HANNAH TESTA**, 12, helps elephants, rhinoceroses, and horses. "These beautiful animals don't have a voice of their own, so it's up to us to speak up and help them," she told TFK. Hannah sold elephant-themed items such as cookies at a Georgia store. The money goes to the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, which helps elephants and rhinos. She also runs Pennies for Ponies to provide food and medicine for horses. "Don't ever think you're too young to make a difference, because anything is possible," she says.



## RIVER KEEPERS

When fifth graders **PIA HIRSCH** and **DANIEL HOEFLER** discovered trash in the St. Gabriel River near their homes in Seal Beach, California, they decided to work together.



COURTESY CASEY SOKOLOVIC