

From: The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes Official Website: www.barronprize.org

Saving orangutans nets prize for local Girl Scouts

The Detroit News by Jocelynn Brown
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Rhiannon Tomtishen, 15, and Madison Vorva, 16, both of Ann Arbor, have been named one of 10 national winners of the Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes, an award founded in 2001 by author T. A. Barron, and named in honor of his mother, to honor young people making a difference in the world.

At age 11, after discovering the habitat for orangutan was being destroyed by the production of palm oil, Tomtishen and Vorva set out on a mission to start a crusade. Project ORANGS (Orangutans Really Appreciate and Need Girl Scouts) became the name of their crusade after they learned that palm oil is used as an ingredient in almost all Girl Scout cookies. They immediately began lobbying for the oil to be removed from the popular cookies. Their crusade also became a way for each to earn her Girl Scout Bronze Award.

After much research and fundraising to save the orangutans, the girls succeeded in their efforts. One of the Girl Scouts' two cookie bakers agreed to purchase GreenPalm certificates to offset their use of palm oil. As winners of the Barron Prize, the young activists will receive \$2,500 toward either their higher education or service project.

More information is available at www.barronprize.org.