

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

Orangutans Really Appreciate and Need Girl Scouts

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In 2006, Rhiannon Tomtishen, age 15, and Madison Vorva, age 16, of Ann Arbor, started Project ORANGS for a Girl Scout award to raise awareness about the endangered orangutan. In the process, they discovered that the production of palm oil was resulting in rainforest destruction and threatening the orangutan's survival. They then began a crusade to remove palm oil from Girl Scout cookies. They generated 70,000 emails to the Girl Scouts headquarters calling for a new recipe.



This year they were honored with the Barron Prize for Young Heroes, which goes to young leaders ages 8 to 18, who have planned and executed significant projects to make a difference in the lives of others and/or the environment. They will receive a cash prize of \$2,500.

"I've always believed that our country's youth has the power to change the world," says T. A. Barron, "and year after year they prove me right. I am incredibly impressed by the range and scope of their accomplishments. I also feel that the best way to show young people that they can make a difference is by sharing examples of what others have done."

The girls respond this way on their website. "We would like to extend a huge thank you to T. A. Barron and the Prize for their recognition of our work, as well as for providing us with the opportunity to spread awareness about our project and the importance of youth advocacy."

More information is available at www.barronprize.org.