



Barron Prize Announces 2015 National Winners

Boulder, CO, September 21, 2015 – The **Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes**, an award that celebrates inspiring, public-spirited young people from diverse backgrounds all across North America, announces its 2015 winners. Established in 2001 by author T.A. Barron, the Barron Prize annually honors 25 outstanding young leaders ages 8 to 18 who have made a significant positive impact on people, their communities, and the environment. The top fifteen winners each receive \$5,000 to support their service work or higher education. The 2015 winners are:

Mary-Pat, age 17, of Georgia, who created Think Twice, a national billboard campaign featuring graphic ads that encourage teens to think twice before picking up a gun.

Grace, age 18, of California, who founded Ears for Years and has traveled to countries such as Haiti, Sri Lanka, and Honduras to fit over 350 children with solar-powered hearing aids.

Harper and Maggie, ages 11 and 9, of Texas, who founded Books and a Blanket and have gifted a mini-library of fifteen books along with a blanket to over 1,200 children from low-income families.

Josh, age 17, of New Jersey, who founded Elephant Highway to raise awareness of the plight of African elephants killed for their tusks. He has raised \$15,000 for elephant conservation groups by selling custom-designed t-shirts and African-made crafts.

Pearce, age 18, of Delaware, who created the Pearce Q. Foundation following her treatment for a brain tumor at age 10 and has raised nearly \$200,000 to support more than 140 families whose children are battling cancer.

Sonali, age 14, of California, who created Recycling4Smiles and has raised over \$40,000 to fund 44 cleft lip surgeries by redeeming more than a half-million recyclable cans and bottles.

Meagan, age 18, of Arizona, who works passionately to protect endangered species and has conducted extensive research to help the ocelot, an endangered species new to her home state.

James, age 18, of Virginia, who co-founded Project Green Teens, a group of nearly 70 teens working to restore the Chesapeake Bay. In the past year, the group has removed nearly 5,000 pounds of debris from waterways and marshes.

Deepika, age 17, of New Hampshire, who has invented a low cost, solar-powered water purification device that destroys bacteria within fifteen minutes and can easily be used in developing countries.

Ryan, age 8, of Florida, who is passionate about protecting our oceans and has raised \$3,500 for The Ocean Conservancy by making and selling sea-themed magnets, ornaments, and key chains.

Emma and Julia, ages 16 and 17, of Ontario, who created Books with No Bounds and have shipped 90,000 new and gently-used books to First Nations children in Northern Canada as well as to orphanages and schools in Africa, India, and Pakistan.

Robbie, age 17, of Maryland, who created All Kids Should Play, a non-profit that has collected, recycled, and redistributed nearly 15,000 pieces of sports equipment to groups serving low-income children in the Baltimore Metropolitan area.

Lynnea, age 18, of California, who created the Junior Refuge Ranger program at the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge and is working to expand her program to all 560 National Wildlife Refuges in the U.S.

Molly, age 17, of North Carolina, who founded Raleigh Aquatic Turtle Adoption to re-home unwanted pet turtles and has raised over \$15,000 through the sale of her handmade turtle soap to support native turtles and conservation education.

Evan, age 17, of Georgia, who creates Braille nature trails to improve access to the outdoors for adults and children who are visually impaired. He also trains youth as volunteer Braille trail guides through his Trails for All program.