

Barron Prize Announces 2024 Winners

Boulder, CO, September 17, 2024 – The **Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes**, an award that celebrates inspiring, public-spirited young people, is thrilled to announce its 2024 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 difference to people and the environment. Fifteen top winners each receive \$10,000 to support their service work or higher education.

Over the past two decades, the Barron Prize has honored 600 young heroes from across the U.S. and Canada. They have helped the hungry and the homeless, invented life-saving technologies, protected our oceans and endangered species, and addressed climate change, among myriad other initiatives. They have raised more than \$31 million for their causes and have inspired countless people by their example.

The 2024 winners are:

Adeline Smith, age 17, of Idaho, who co-founded Growing the STEM, a nonprofit that creates math and science programs for students in 14 underserved Idaho schools.

Artash Nath, age 18, of Canada, who created MonitorMyOcean.com to investigate, analyze, and display changes in human-caused ocean noise, which disrupts whales' communication.

Arya Gurumukhi, age 15, of Texas, who invented a novel catalyst to improve upon the Bionic Leaf technology, a solar-powered device that mimics photosynthesis to create a highly efficient, alcohol-based fuel from just water, sunlight, and bacteria.

Cash Daniels, age 14, of Tennessee, who has removed more than 35,000 pounds of trash from the Tennessee River and has placed 150 fishing line collection bins across his state.

Charlotte Rosario, age 17, of California, whose Community Photobooth has organized young photographers to hold more than 550 donation-based photoshoots to raise over \$40,000 for global causes that are often overlooked.

Clelia Poujade, age 17, of Illinois, who founded Hands Together to Feed Chicago and with her team of volunteers, has prepared and served over 8,000 meals and desserts from scratch for those in need.

Ekansh Mittal, age 17, of Oregon, who has developed a way to identify genes responsible for resistance to cancer-fighting drugs and has created a novel 3D model to validate the effectiveness of targeting these genes.

Elizabeth Djajalie, age 18, of Alaska, who helps protect Pacific salmon through her research on environmental DNA metabarcoding and leads the student arm of the Alaska Science and Engineering Fair, supporting STEM education for youth.

Esther Bonney, age 17, of Maryland, who founded Nurture Natives to protect biodiversity through education and native plant giveaways, where she has distributed more than 47,000 native seedlings.

Genshu Price, age 16, of Hawaii, who created Bottles4College, a nonprofit that helps protect the environment by recycling cans and bottles and uses the proceeds to provide college scholarships for Hawaii students.

Heman Bekele, age 15, of Virginia, who has developed an inexpensive bar of soap that helps treat skin cancer, providing an affordable alternative to traditional skin cancer treatments.

Nirbhuy Arun and Alexis Nicholson, ages 9 and 10, of Washington, who co-founded Kids for Urban Trees, which has helped plant more than 300 trees at schools, parks, and low-income housing complexes in Eastern Washington.

Sebastian Tan, age 16, of Pennsylvania, who founded OutsideConnection, an online hiring platform that has matched more than 10,000 previously imprisoned individuals with jobs that fit their skills and aspirations.

Varin Sikka, age 16, of California, who invented AirCat, a Direct Air Capture system that removes carbon dioxide from the air on a large scale and holds the potential to significantly mitigate climate change.

William Cabaniss, age 18, of Tennessee, who makes and sells pure vanilla extract through his nonprofit, Vanilla Feeds Tomorrow, and has donated more than \$210,000 in profits to his community's regional food bank.

www.barronprize.org