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The annual Fat Bear Week contest is
happening in an Alaska national park **p10**





This week's big news



This year's Gloria Barron Prize winners

Who was Gloria Barron?



Gloria Barron was a teacher who also spent more than 20 years creating a nature museum at the Colorado School for the Blind, where all the exhibits can be touched. Her son, TA Barron, says his mother instilled in her seven children the idea that one person can make a lasting difference in the lives of others.

Winners of young hero prize named

Children and teens from around the US and Canada were named as finalists of the 2022 Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes, a program that recognizes young people who are doing good things for people and the planet. The finalists were announced on September 20.

What happened?

There were 25 finalists between the ages of 9 and 18. From that group, 15 were chosen as top winners. Each received a cash prize of \$10,000 to be used to support their service project or help pay for college. The remaining 10 finalists were named as honorees, and they received recognition for their exceptional efforts.

What is the prize?

The prize was established by TA Barron, Gloria Barron's son and an award-winning author of books for children and young adults. He created it to celebrate what prize officials call "inspiring, public-spirited young people from diverse backgrounds all across North America." Each year, the Barron Prize celebrates 25 people, ages 8 to 18, who are working to make "a significant, positive impact on the world." Since it was created in 2001, 550 winners from Canada and all 50 US states,

along with the District of Columbia, have been awarded more than \$1.45 million in prize money. All together, winners have gone on to raise more than \$26 million for their causes. The Barron Prize is open to young people who are working on an inspiring service project or have done so in the past year. A committee of judges selects finalists "who best demonstrate heroic character qualities like courage, compassion, and perseverance."

Who are some of the winners?

Many of this year's winners focused on creating positive change for their communities and the environment. Ethan (pictured above, top row, second from right), age 11, from Alabama, organizes an annual event to load up care packages and sleeping bags and deliver them to people experiencing homelessness. Jack (middle row, far left), age 12, from New Hampshire, took a series of steps to get orangutans off the endangered species list, including raising money and creating educational YouTube videos. Khloe (middle row, second from right), age 9, from Texas, founded A Book and a Smile, which collected nearly 20,000 new books to give to children who don't have books in their homes. Sri (bottom row, second from right), age 13, from

New Jersey, installed battery recycling bins and ran educational programs, ultimately leading to more than 150,000 batteries being recycled.

Who are some of the finalists?

Among the finalists were Arsh, age 12, from Iowa, who sold his own artwork over the past four years to raise \$15,000 for charities that support kids and elderly people. Isabel, age 13, from Michigan, pursued a ban on single-use plastic bottles—an environmental hazard for the world's oceans—in her school district. Orion, age 11, an honoree from Texas, held a series of events focused on spreading kindness throughout his community and beyond. Steven, age 14, from New York, raised money to build a hydroponics system (a way to grow vegetables and other plants indoors) for a food pantry.

What will happen next?

The winners will receive the cash prize, a personalized plaque, and a recognition certificate. They will also receive a signed copy of TA Barron's book *The Hero's Trail*, which profiles young people doing great things, and a copy of *Dream Big*, a documentary film about several former Barron Prize winners. A full list of current and past honorees and winners, and details about their projects, can be found at barronprize.org.

DID YOU KNOW?
The Gloria Barron Prize has been awarded to 321 young women and 229 young men.