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San Mateo Teen Among 2023 International Young Eco-Hero Award Winners

Local Student Receives Top Honor for Contributions to Solving Environmental Problems

San Francisco – Ethan Hua, a 14 year-old from San Mateo, CA, United States is one of seventeen young environmental activists from across the globe to receive a 2023 International Young Eco-Hero Award, announced Action For Nature today. This award honors eco-conscious youth ages 8 to 16 who are taking crucial steps to solve tough environmental problems. Ethan won Third Place in this year's competition.

Winners of the International Young Eco-Hero Award are selected by a panel of independent judges, including experts in environmental science, biology, and education. For the past 20 years, Action For Nature has recognized 339 Eco-Heroes from 27 countries and 32 U.S. states.

Ethan launched the H.O.P.E. (Help Our Planet Earth) Uniforms Program to address the issue of textile waste and to provide a solution for students in need. By collecting gently-used school uniforms and redistributing them to students, H.O.P.E. creates an eco-friendly cycle, reducing landfill waste and greenhouse gas emissions. So far, Ethan has implemented H.O.P.E. in several schools, has collected 4,700 donated clothing articles and has provided free uniforms to more than 550 families.

"Ethan and all of this year's young climate champions are proving one thing loud and clear: the next generation of leaders has arrived, and they're unleashing their power on a global scale to tackle the climate crisis head-on," said Beryl Kay, president of Action for Nature. "The incredible accomplishments of Ethan and our other winners are more than just isolated projects – they're changing lives and transforming communities for the better."

"I have learned that I could solve global problems by acting locally," said Ethan Hua.

To learn more about Ethan's work, visit www.hopeuniformsprogram.com.

For high-resolution photos of Ethan and to learn more about all of this year's International Young Eco-Hero Award winners, visit <https://actionfornature.org/eco-hero-awards/2023-winners>.

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Action For Nature (AFN) is an international non-profit organization based in San Francisco, California, that encourages young people to nurture a love and respect for Earth's natural resources and to take personal action to protect the environment.