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Lima Student Among 2021 International Young Eco-Hero Award Winners

Local Student Receives Top Honor for Contributions to Solving Environmental Problems

San Francisco – John Abad, a 16 year-old from Lima, Peru, is one of 25 young environmental activists from across the globe honored by Action For Nature (AFN) as a 2021 International Young Eco-Hero, an award that recognizes eco-conscious youth ages 8 to 16 who are taking crucial steps to solve tough environmental problems.

Winners of the International Young Eco-Hero Award are selected by a panel of independent judges, including experts in environmental science, biology, and education. Since 2003, Action For Nature has recognized more than 300 Eco-Heroes from over 30 countries and 25 U.S. states.

John won 2nd Place in the 15-16 year-old category for his project, Save Our Planet.

John Abad lives in Lima, a city on Peru's coastline, and is deeply concerned about plastic pollution in the ocean. Hearing that none of the candidates for mayor of Lima presented any proposals for ocean protection, he decided to act. In 2019, he began his campaign "No Plastic on my Beach," and founded the nonprofit Save Our Planet. Working with other nonprofits, such as the Ocean Heroes Network and the Oceanic Conservancy, John recruited 2,300 volunteers from businesses, schools, churches, and other community organizations to participate in large beach cleanups.

"Kids like John have shown that the next generation of leaders is here, and they are refusing to wait to solve the world's most pressing environmental challenges," said Beryl Kay, president of Action For Nature, an international non-profit organization that encourages young people to nurture a love and respect for the Earth and to take personal action to improve the environment. "The projects that these young people created will not only have real, positive impacts on their communities, they will also help solve global climate challenges and inspire others – no matter what age – to consider what they can do to help."

"Planet Earth is our only home," said John Abad. I believe we can make it a better world, and nobody is too young to make a positive impact."

To read more about John's work, visit saveourplanetperu.com.

To learn more about this year's International Young Eco-Hero Award winners, visit actionfornature.org/eco-hero-awards/2021-awards.

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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 better their environments.