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Mount Laurel Student Among 2021 International Young Eco-Hero Award Winners

Local Student Receives Top Honor for Contributions to Solving Environmental Problems

San Francisco – Tanya Das, a 16 year-old from Mount Laurel, New Jersey, 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.

Tanya won 2nd Place in the 15-16 year-old category for her project, Motion for the Ocean.

Tanya Das founded the global non-profit, Motion for the Ocean, Inc., to raise awareness about marine debris and to empower and inspire underserved youth by teaching them underwater robotics that they could apply to pollution removal. In January 2020, Tanya conducted her first international underwater robotics workshop in an Indian village in the state of Odisha. More than 450 people attended the workshop's opening assembly, and 250 students participated in the 10-day workshop which culminated in the students successfully using their remotely operated vehicles to remove debris from the local river. The COVID-19 pandemic has curtailed Tanya's ability to continue in-person robotics workshops, but she continues to provide virtual leadership training and support to more than 30 student ambassadors in 12 countries.

"Kids like Tanya 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."

To read more about Tanya's work, visit [instagram.com/motion4theocean](https://www.instagram.com/motion4theocean).

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