

For immediate release:
October 4, 2022

Honduran Teen Among 2022 International Young Eco-Hero Award Winners

Local Student Receives Top Honor for Contributions to Solving Environmental Problems

San Francisco – Francisco Marin, a 16 year-old from Tegucigalpa, Honduras, is one of sixteen young environmental activists from across the globe to receive a 2022 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.

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 341 Eco-Heroes from over 31 countries and 26 U.S. states.

Francisco won Second Place in the 13-16 year-old category for his project, "Jum Te Rum."

When he was 12 years old, Francisco started a project he called Jum Te Rum, which means "paper, tree, earth" in the Mayan Chorti language. His aim was to help the environment through reforestation, recycling, and raising awareness among young people about climate change. Francisco raised enough money from gathering and selling one thousand pounds of recycled paper to purchase 150 mahogany tree saplings, which were planted in areas damaged by deforestation. Now, he's launched a campaign in support of a government declaration to change Honduran school curricula to include lessons about climate change.

"Young people like Francisco have shown that the next generation of leaders is here, and they are taking action across the globe now to address the climate crisis and solve local, national, and global 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 young people like Francisco have created are having real and important impacts on their communities, helping to solve global climate challenges, and are inspiring others – including adults – to do what they can to help."

"People have heard about climate change but cannot understand the details of it," said Francisco Marin. "My goal is to reduce the effects of climate change by improving the educational system."

To read more about Francisco's work, visit jumterum.wixsite.com/misitio.

To learn more about this year's International Young Eco-Hero Award winners, visit www.actionfornature.org.

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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.