



ACTION FOR NATURE

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For Immediate Release

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Local student wins International Young Eco-Hero Award

Avalon Theisen, age 10, a resident of Wesley Chapel, FL, is a winner of Action For Nature's 2011 International Young Eco-Hero Award. Theisen was honored for advocating for frogs and clean water.

Avalon became a frog enthusiast in the summer of 2010, giving presentations about frogs as an indicator species and helping identify frog calls. She even won two frog call contests! As a way to answer all of the questions she started getting in letters from other kids, she decided to make informative nature videos about frogs and other wildlife, which are available on her website.

Avalon is also interested in making clean water more accessible around the world. "It is important for all life on the planet to share space and have safe homes, water and food." She won a logo design contest for Friendly Water for the World, which makes low-cost biosand water filters which are used in rural Africa and India. Avalon's logo is now on the water filters. She decided to work to raise money for this organization, so she started a micro business by running a booth at festivals to sell her artwork (magnets, key chains and necklaces) to raise money for Friendly Water for the World and other environmental nonprofits.

Using the message "Conserve it Forward," Avalon continues to be an environmental leader by giving presentations and raising money for environmental causes and has spread awareness about conservation issues to thousands of people.

Every year since 2003, Action For Nature (AFN), a U.S.-based non-profit, has recognized young people ages 8-16 who are taking important steps to solve tough environmental problems. Youth from countries around the world send in their stories and explain their work. A panel of judges including experts in environmental science, biology and education determines the year's winners.

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