Avalon Jade Theisen was 7 years old when she first dreamed she could help make the world a better place for all living things. Her efforts resulted in the creation of a non-profit organization, Conserve It Forward. Encouraging the use of kindness and compassion to confront world issues, Avalon's goal is to raise awareness and inspire action that benefits both the natural world and people. Some of Avalon's project focuses have been amphibian conservation, art cards for in-care residents, edutainment, animal advocacy, sustainable eating, and peacemaking. Recently, she created and taught an 8-week course on peacemaking, and in the future, will combine her service experience and education to create more classes about peacemaking, environment, and related topics.

Now age 17, Avalon has traveled the world to share her message, and work alongside others, while inspiring people to believe in themselves, and to achieve their own dreams. She feels her greatest achievement has been connecting with youth to inspire them to take small acts towards change, helping them realize we can all make a positive difference no matter our age. Avalon currently serves in many capacities, including as a Peace First Fellow, a Youth Council member for BALANCE Edutainment/Pacha's Pajamas, an Ambassador for the National Society of High School Scholars, and a Farm Sanctuary Youth Leadership Council member. She enjoys yoga and aerial arts, and is the current USA Yoga National Youth Champion.

Avalon has been a panelist at the Ashoka Future Forum in Washington, DC, a Student Roundtable participant/presenter at a White House Champions of Change event, and was invited to take part in COP21 events (United Nations Climate Change Conference) in Paris, France, where she also presented.

A junior at the University of South Florida, Avalon is a member of the Honors College and a Provost's Scholar, pursuing studies in Religious Studies, Environmental Policy, and Food Studies, with goals of continuing to work for the betterment of society and planet.

"My goal is that everyone should feel interconnected with other living things and the world, so that we are inspired to become positive changemakers."