

THE PROJECT GREEN CHALLENGE 2017

ECO HERO GREENEST

*Combining passions and taking
leadership for a better world*

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SCHOOL: JERICO HIGH SCHOOL

DAY **26**

Benjamin Wong | Rohan Reddy
Benjamin Yao | Robert Yu

Reflections

Finding the **EcoHeros** among us... they are everywhere and within us.

. . .

We strive to be them, yet are becoming them.

. . .

The #PGC2017 Day 26 challenged us to find an EcoHero that has been an extraordinary role model in terms of bettering the environment.

. . .

While we did this, we created goals for else and envisioned *ourselves* becoming true Eco-Heros.

BENJAMIN WONG

Our world is filled with synthetic chemicals, ones that we as humans have created without knowing their true impacts on our healths as well as the harms on global wildlife and our Earth's other inhabitants. We aren't the only ones living on this Earth, and we should not be producing compounds and toxins that will hurt us in the long run.

Therefore, a global problem that I will always fight against and raise awareness about is the production of

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those ingredients in your conventional shampoos that no one can pronounce correctly. We need to move towards all-natural products, products without chemical and molecular make-ups that are harmful, toxic and can not be easily removed from our water and the many waterways of this world. I will push for cleaning products that have ingredients that we all can say aloud and know are not detrimental to our health as well as our Earth's. I will inspire others to make DIY cleaner products and personal body products and continue my pursuits to change the way we deal with water pollution through prospective environmental efforts. With my endeavors, I hope to become a leader of my specific interests in saving and healing our planet, our world, and our home.

BENJAMIN YAO

One thing that has truly shocked me and continued to incite passion in me is the high amount of food waste. What interests me most is the commonly unknown negative impacts of letting organic food scraps be trapped in a landfill where it is starved of air. This increases methane release into our environment, one of the strongest greenhouse gases. Plus, while this problem is so large, it is easy to solve.

If everyone created composts to reduce the organic waste that is received at landfills, they could collectively have huge impacts on the environment.



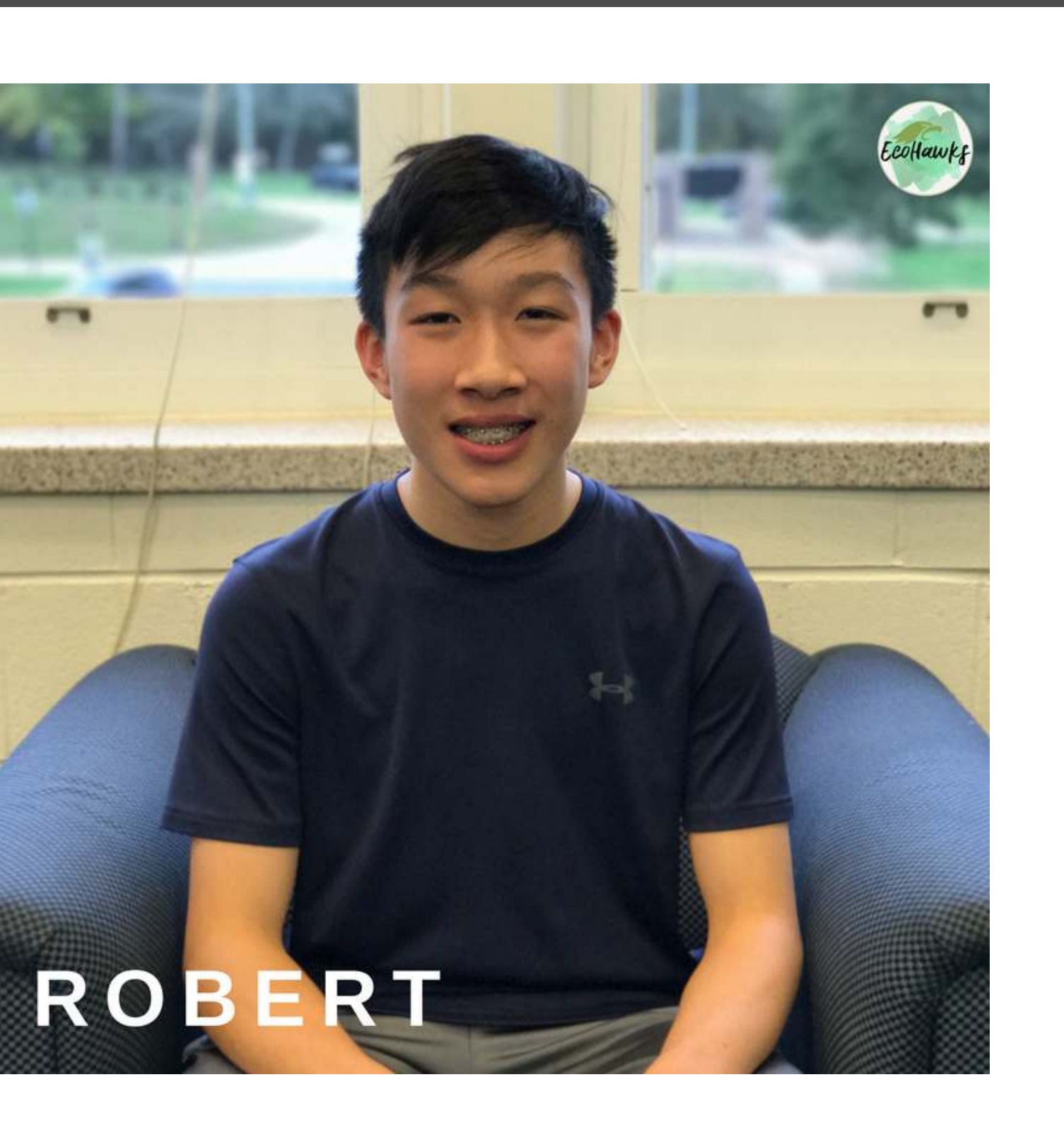
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Creating composts also aren't a burden, they provide key nutrients to one's garden; they are a viable alternative to synthetic fertilizers, which release enormous amounts of nutrients into groundwater and cause devastating algae blooms. These can cause eutrophication in water bodies and decrease biodiversity. Composting food waste can easily reduce greenhouse gas emissions (and thus climate change) and reduce nutrient-contamination of water bodies. In my efforts of tomorrow, I will fight against food waste, raise mass-awareness of its effects, and become a leader in the advocacy of composting.

I have so many plans for action and can't wait to get started. With the help of my classmates, I plan to initiate a composting program at our school district and other local areas. My friends and I have even began to discuss hosting awareness events and beginning collections with local officials. I can't believe that I am starting a movement that is gaining so much momentum! I never thought that I would be this close to becoming an Eco-Hero!

ROBERT YU



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One cause that I am passionate about is knowing your footprint. Throughout our lives, when we hear a plethora of different ways to improve the environment, many of us will ask ourselves, why

better?

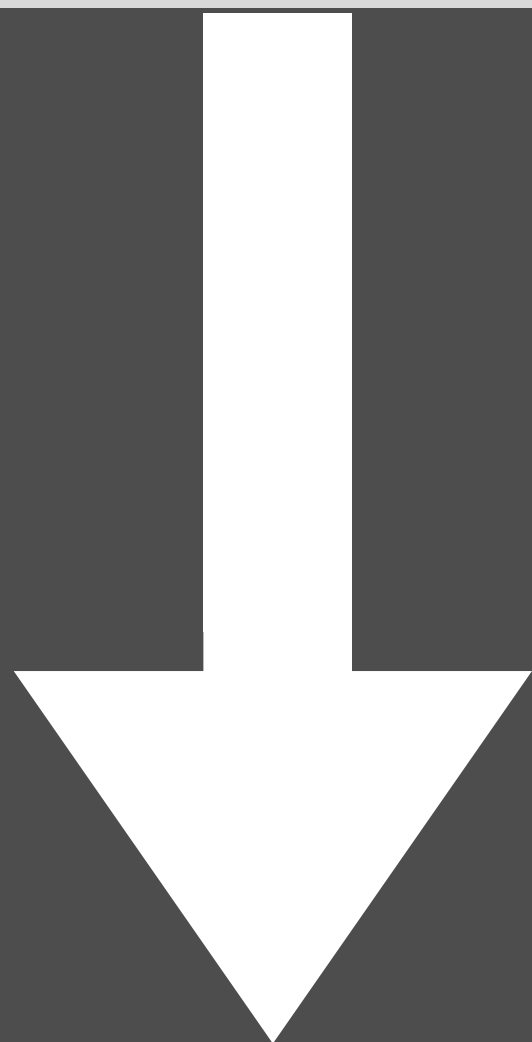
People tend to think in groups, and given a population of 7.5 billion people, many of us believe it to be absurd that only one individual footprint can have such a large impact on the environment.

This was the exact mindset I was in when I first entered the PGC challenge. However, after almost 30 days of learning both shocking and insightful knowledge about our daily habits, I came to learn that not only does my improving my individual lifestyle improve aspects ranging from biodiversity to water usage - one small change in me will affect the habits of those around me. We,...

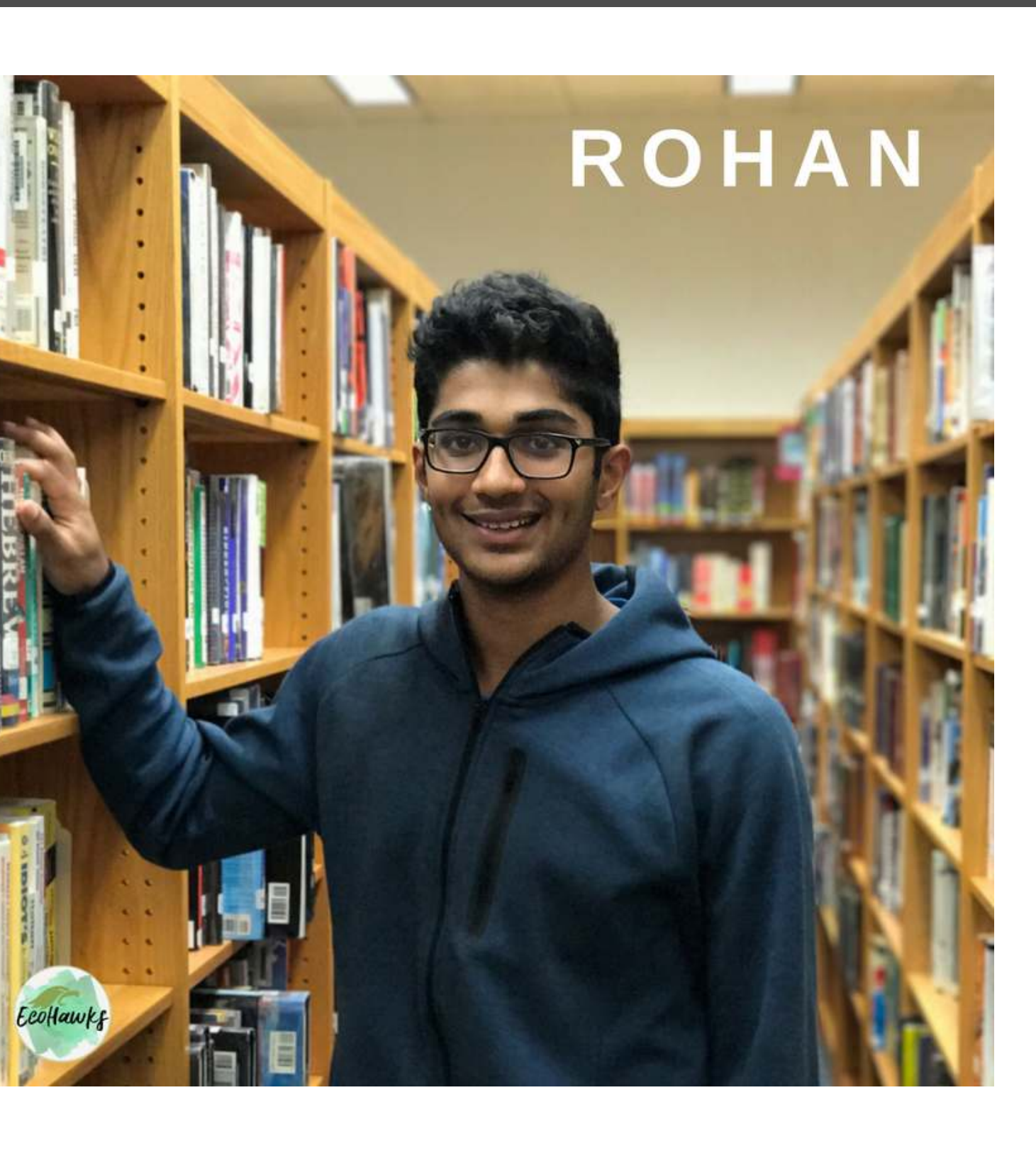
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.....myself included, severely underestimate the power of one. An individual footprint has the potential to both contribute to existing environmental issues or inspire others to change their way of life for the better.

Lastly, here is one helpful tip I learned from Day 2: Think of how the world would be like if all 7.5 billion of us lived the same way you did.



Rohan Reddy



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One thing that really resonated with me this past month was the amount of harmful substances and practices used on the foods that we eat daily. For instance, many of the foods that we eat contain harmful substances such as carcinogens, or were

produced with the help of genetic modification. Not only are foods like these detrimental to our health, but also to the environment. Furthermore, I found it very shocking that some foods deemed organic may still contain carcinogens. In fact, when shopping at Whole Foods, we saw cottage cheese with a carcinogen in the ingredients list even though it said organic on the cover. This is very deceiving because many people including myself choose foods that have the word organic written on it because they trust that it is healthy and safe to consume. After learning this, I will always check the ingredients of the foods that I purchase, and I will encourage others to do so.

Instagram



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🌱 BEN Y. – "One thing that has truly shocked me and continued to incite passion in me is the high amount of food waste. What interests me most is the commonly unknown negative impacts of letting organic food scraps be trapped in a landfill where it is starved of air. This increases methane release into our environment, one of the strongest greenhouse gases. With my efforts of tomorrow, I will fight against food waste, raise mass-awareness of its effects, and become a leader in the advocacy of composting."

🌱 BEN W. – "Our world is filled with synthetic chemicals, ones that we as humans have created without knowing _____"



nazidquadir, nic.kewl, mansivohraa, gandhi_saaj_, brandon.tso and nicolechenn._ like this

17 MINUTES AGO

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🌱 ROBERT – "One cause that I am _____"



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🌱 ROBERT – "One cause that I am passionate about is knowing your footprint. Throughout our lives, when we hear a plethora of different ways to improve the environment, many of us will ask ourselves, why bother? I've come to learn that not only does my improving my individual lifestyle improve aspects ranging from biodiversity to water usage - one small change in me will affect the habits of those around me."

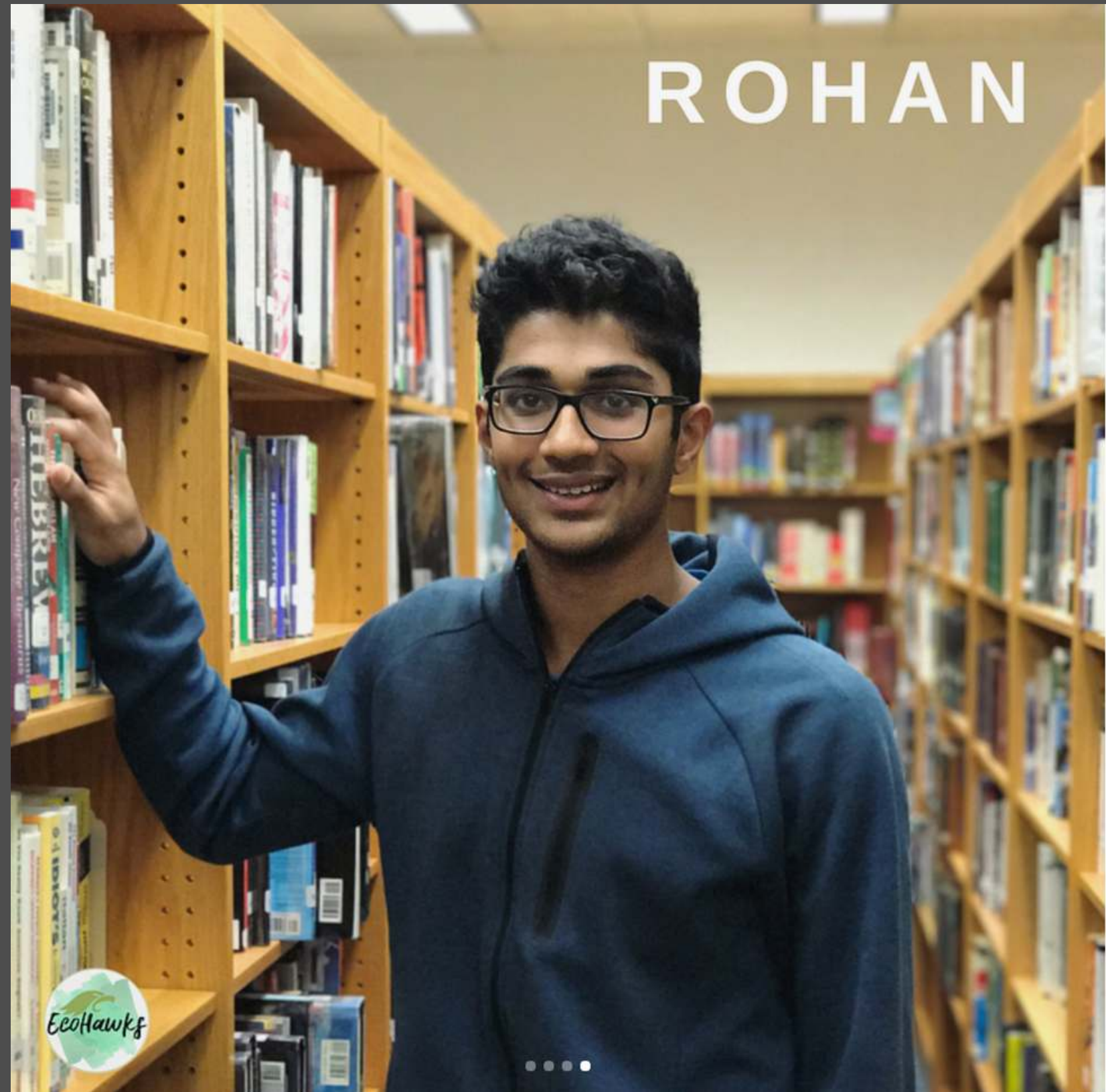
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#PGC2017 #ecohero @TurningGreenOrg



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