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### Day 28 Greenest

I really loved the video, it reminded me of my dream and encouraged me once again to persevere at full strength. I was in fifth grade when I learned Steve Irwin had passed away. In that moment I made a choice, I was going to grow up to be a conservationist. Before that moment I never had an answer to the question "so what do you want to be when you grow up" and after that moment I always responded I want to be a conservationist, which from the mouth of a fifth grader caught people off guard, many did not even know what that meant. My dream was to grow up and like Steve Irwin work to protect native plant and animal species, just without a TV show. Since then that has always been my answer, I am still pursuing such with plans of obtaining a PhD in botany or ecology. However, there have been times I have doubted myself as someone with social anxiety how was I to make change and thus came depression. Since then, I am still going strong on this dream.

I plan on accomplishing this dream through scientific research. I will obtain a PhD in botany or ecology and work from there. I enjoy making art, I have always considered it a hobby but now I am starting to incorporate science into my art. I plan to use my art in the future to draw people's attention to issues they may otherwise not know or ignore. I have plans for a coral reef sculpture made out of campus waste. In the meantime however, I am focusing on some of the smaller actions for change which this challenge has helped me with so much. I am going to continue to educate people about why they should not use straws, about food waste, palm oil, biodiversity, pollinators and so much more! I have already gotten five people to stop using single use straws. My friends and family have begun using reusable water bottles because they know it is important to me. I see the world through connections and I believe many of the environmental issues are connected so while I am at school I can work on a wide variety of issues that focus on small personal action and thus help obtain my future goal. For example pollution kills wildlife whether it is litter, in the air, in the ocean or streams and land. Another example is the use of pesticides which kills a wide variety of wildlife including many beneficial. Climate change is also affecting native species, plants such as trees have actually been found to begin migrating because of climate change and those that cannot migrate fast enough will die out if they cannot adapt and compete.