

GREENER

40 POINTS

THINK

Eco-heroes in our communities and across the globe are stepping up every day, every hour, every minute to effect change. That is how it has always been and will always be; a source of hope for our future!

CHALLENGE

Whether in a local, national, or global context, who is a person that *you* would name an eco-hero? Identify a person you admire, get to know their story, and introduce them to us. Approach this challenge as if you were writing a story for a campus newspaper, major press outlet, or favorite blog.

- Share the name and a photo of your eco-hero.

The eco-hero that I chose is Winona Laduke



- Tell us their story in 500 words: Where are they from, what they have accomplished, speak about the challenges and obstacles they faced, and why you were drawn to them?

Winona Laduke is an American environmentalist as well as an author and economist. Her father is from the Ojibwe White Earth Reservation in Minnesota, but she was born in California and raised in Los Angeles, California and Ashland, Oregon. As she was growing up, her father worked as an actor, playing parts in old Hollywood westerns. When it came time for her to attend college, she went to

Harvard University and Antioch University as her post high school education, which is where she became a member of Indigenous activist groups. Due to her father's heritage at White Earth reservation, she was enrolled there as a member, but did not live on the reservation until later in life when she accepted a job as the principal of the reservation's high school when she was completing college. It was during this period of her life that she found her voice in environmental activism, and LaDuke has been a prominent member of the community ever since. Winona Laduke has had countless achievements throughout her lifetime. She spoke at the UN at the age of just 18, was the first Native woman to receive a VP vote from the electoral college, nominated by TIME magazine for one of the most promising leaders under 40, the Ann Barcroft Women's Leader Fellowship, the Reebok Award for Human Rights, she was a keynote speaker for Evergreen State College, given the Thomas Merten Award, the BIHA Community Service Award, is a member of the National Women's Hall of Fame, and holds countless other accomplishments.

I was drawn to her because she is a female leader, and I later found out through research about her that she lived in Minnesota which is where our team is from; that was especially interesting to learn, I also chose her because she is an indigenous person, and it is important to listen to indigenous people when it comes to environmental matters since they depend on the land so much and they have a history of respecting and taking care of the earth for decades and centuries in the past.

- What resonated with you from their experience?

I was particularly impressed by the dedication she has. Beginning when she was 18 years old, she became involved in a lawsuit to recover land promised to the Anishinaabeg people by an 1867 federal treaty. When the case was not successful, she did not give up, but rather took that energy and founded an organization called WELRP to help be the change. I think that determination, resilience, and dedication are all qualities we should strive to obtain, especially when advocating for the earth because it will not be easy, but with time and work we can save our planet.

If you were to meet this person, what would you share about *how* they have impacted you? See if you can find an email, social media handle or mailing address for your hero to tell them how they have inspired you. We all need and deserve recognition and support in our journeys!

After researching her, I absolutely adore Winona Laduke. She has inspired me to become a more active member of the environmental activism community. She has taught me the importance of considering Native American views on environmentalism and how valuable they really are.

Post a photo of that person in action with a brief caption on Instagram about why this eco-hero inspires you, tagging @TurningGreenOrg, the person, and #PGC2020.



DELIVERABLES

Upload a PDF document with your responses and a screenshot of your social media post. Please include your name (or team name), username, email address, and school.

Submission Guidelines

- Submit all entries as PDFs; no Word or Pages documents
- Be sure to include all content for your submission in one document
- Save filenames using the following format:
firstname_lastname_challengeday_challengelevel_year.pdf (ex:
kasie_shils_day1_greener_2020.pdf)
- Do not include # or spaces in filenames
- Do not upload a file larger than 5 MB
- You will see a confirmation in green that your submission uploaded correctly; if you do not see this confirmation, please try again
- If your total points do not change, your submission did not load correctly, please try again
- Send any questions to info@turninggreen.org

- Don't forget to post about the challenge and your learnings/doings on social media and tag us on Facebook @TurningGreen, on Twitter @TurningGreenOrg, and on Instagram @TurningGreenOrg and use #PGC2020