

Katie Ryan, 1st place (tied)

Bluffton High School
Bluffton, SC

Katie started a mentoring program called “Whatever It Takes” hoping to give high school students the opportunity to serve the community, help elementary school students learn, and give the elementary school students a proper and consistent role model.

Taylor Gardiner, 1st place (tied)

Broome High School
Spartanburg, SC

Taylor implemented a reading mentor partnership between his high school and all Spartanburg District 3 elementary schools in the hopes of influencing children to have a more productive life geared more toward athletics and focusing on academics.

“Centurion Mentors” had close to 40 students fill 70 mentor roles; approximately 1360 students were read to by student-athletes from Broome High School.

Aryana Derakhshan, 2nd place

Wilson High School
Wilson, SC

Hoping to raise awareness of the impact of hunger in her community, Aryana instituted a “Peanut Butter and Jelly Drive” at her school to benefit the Harvest Hope Food Bank and Five Loaves Ministry. She exceeded her goals by collecting over 6,073 nonperishable food items, weighing over 7,000 pounds.

Austin Ambrose, 3rd place

Aynor High School
Aynor, SC

Austin project created an effective and lasting recycling program at his school. His project “Horry County Recycles” educated young people about the importance of recycling and environmental sustainability. Austin create awareness on various social media sites and even educated several locate businesses on potential ways to encourage recycling.

Krystle Ballatore, Honorable Mention

St. James High School
Myrtle Beach, SC

Krystle’s project “Got Clean Hands?” endeavored to educate restaurants in her community about ways to prevent the spread of germs. Krystle met with several restaurants in her community and encouraged them to place hand sanitizers in strategic locations within their restaurants.

Other EPL Participants:

Hollis Carrouth

Cardinal Newman High School
Columbia, SC

Hollis worked with community leaders to create a packet on gardening and eco-friendly behavior to be presented at a local middle school's Earth Day fair.

Nina Contis

Christ Church Episcopal School
Greenville, SC

Nina created a nonprofit organization called "Teens for Tomorrow" to collect money for Greenville County Schools. She worked with a local artist to create a calendar containing public and private school holidays and football schedules. Through the calendar sales, private donations, and a fundraising event, Nina raised over \$4,000 for the school district.

Ana Gibson

Riverside High School
Greer, SC

Ana's project, "IDK: Turing 'I Don't Know!' into Inspiration, Knowledge, Dedication," addressed the issue of youth education, awareness, and participation in volunteer organizations and community service projects in the Greenville area. She held an informational "fair" in the hope of establishing, at an early age, not only an awareness of local charities and the services they provide, but also a life-long commitment to community service.

Xzavier Killings

Dorman High School
Spartanburg, SC

Xzavier established a program to help minority and under-represented students get free instruction and preparation for standardized tests such as the SAT. Xzavier solicited support from the community and his school to create his program, "Palmetto STEP (Scholastic Testing and Education Preparation).