## City of Lakewood SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS



## 2018 DEFENDER OF THE PLANET YOUTH AWARD Lakewood Wildlife Project Green Mountain Area Homeschoolers





How can we encourage safe coexistence between wildlife and the people in our community? The Green Mountain Area Homeschoolers decided to take on this challenge through research, creativity and education. The students began by interviewing staff from Jeffco Open Space and City of Lakewood Parks, as well as elected officials. Once they had a strong understanding of the issues, the students took action.

The students focused their efforts on the younger generation, with hopes of having a more lasting impact. Interactive art displays were set up at the Lakewood Earth Day Celebration and the Belmar Library; the students also led small group presentations at a number youth programs and designed more than 200 masks of local wildlife. All of the materials were produced in English and Spanish to reach an even wider audience. These youth are a model of how to communicate complex systems in a way that leads to a more vibrant community.

Achievement Areas

✓ Natural Systems



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