

**For Immediate Release**

## **Eco Hero Kids Launches Young Filmmaker Series, backed by Chockstone Pictures**

*Young creative activists save the planet through performance, media and peer mentorship.*



**Malibu, California, July 16, 2021:** Gen Zers are facing a climate crisis, and 87 percent of them are worried about it, according to the [2019 Porter Novelli/Cone Gen Z Purpose Study](#). The good news is, these young citizens, raised on Instagram and TikTok, recognize their influence—they are creative, comfortable with activism and leadership, and eager to drive social change.

**Eco Hero Kids Foundation**, Malibu’s premier arts and environmental activism program for children and teens, today announced the launch of the **EHK Young Filmmakers Series**, supported by a generous grant from [Chockstone Pictures](#), founded by Malibuites Paula Mae and Steve Schwartz, producers on films such as “The Road,” “The Counselor” and “Killing Them Softly.”

Under the technical direction of Malia Jakus, head of the Film Production and Mass Media program at Palisades Charter School, the EHK Young Filmmakers crew, ages 16 to 18, will produce seven scripted short films highlighting pressing environmental issues. The series provides an immersive, hands-on filmmaking experience for this select group of promising high school arts and media students, who will collaborate with young actors from Eco Hero Kids Foundation performance programs.



“We are so blessed to partner with Malia,” says Eco Hero Kids Foundation Founder Julia Holland, “pairing her talented team of student filmmakers with our young artist-activists. This production process is aligned with our mission to foster impactful peer mentorships—kids teaching kids that they can take action on environmental issues and make a difference through their creativity. We’re deeply grateful to Chockstone Pictures for their generosity and commitment to helping us bring this vision to life.”

“We are proud to support the EHK filmmaking program,” said Chockstone’s Paula Mae Schwartz. “These young people realize the damaged world is the one they will inherit unless they can start the recovery. And the power of film can help do that.”

The films, which began production July 9th and are being shot on location in Malibu through July 23rd, include:

- Bees, Bees, Bees
- Air Pollution—Every Breath We Take
- The World of Waste—Where Does It All Go?
- Composting—Let’s Break It Down
- Become an Advocate for the Earth
- Climate Change—What Does That Mean?

Drawing a diverse cast of young actors from Malibu and the greater Los Angeles area, each episode features one mentor (age 16 to 20) and two students (ages 8 to 12).

“This project and partnership with Eco Hero Kids Foundation is an invaluable opportunity to take our classroom outside, allow our students to function as a collaborative artistic team, and elevate the skills and professionalism of these impressive young filmmakers to the next level,” says Jakus. “The entire team gains real-world filmmaking experience while promoting an urgent cause.”

**Eco Hero Kids Foundation** is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization established in 2010 by Julia Holland, a community activist and arts educator in Malibu, California. The foundation provides children with hands-on learning tools to become guardians for a better planet, inspiring them to think creatively and strategically and to mentor their peers to have an impact. The foundation’s performing company, **Eco Hero Kids**, educates and inspires children through music, dance and theater. The troupe has enjoyed worldwide reach, presenting at festivals and conventions including an Academy Award event honoring “The Cove,” a documentary about the abuse of Dolphins near Taiji, Japan.

Building on more than a decade of success in live performance and instruction, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Eco Hero Kids Foundation developed an engaging online program to educate children about the environment and our social responsibility to protect, nourish and cherish the planet's beauty and resources. The platform offers a holistic, age-appropriate curriculum in ten creative, interactive modules that empower kids to become advocates, innovators and mentors within their local neighborhoods and communities. The short films in the EHK Young Filmmaker’s Series are designed to complement the Eco Hero Kids Online Platform modules.

Upon completion of the series (September 2021), Eco Hero Kids Foundation will host an outdoor screening of all seven films at a private estate in Malibu.

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