



HOUSTON
VIRTUAL
CREW 21





SCA's mission is to build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of our environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land.

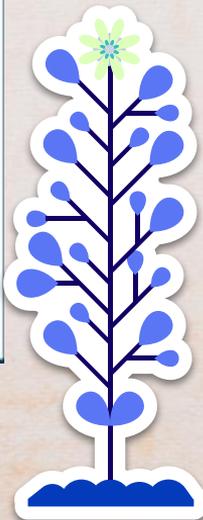


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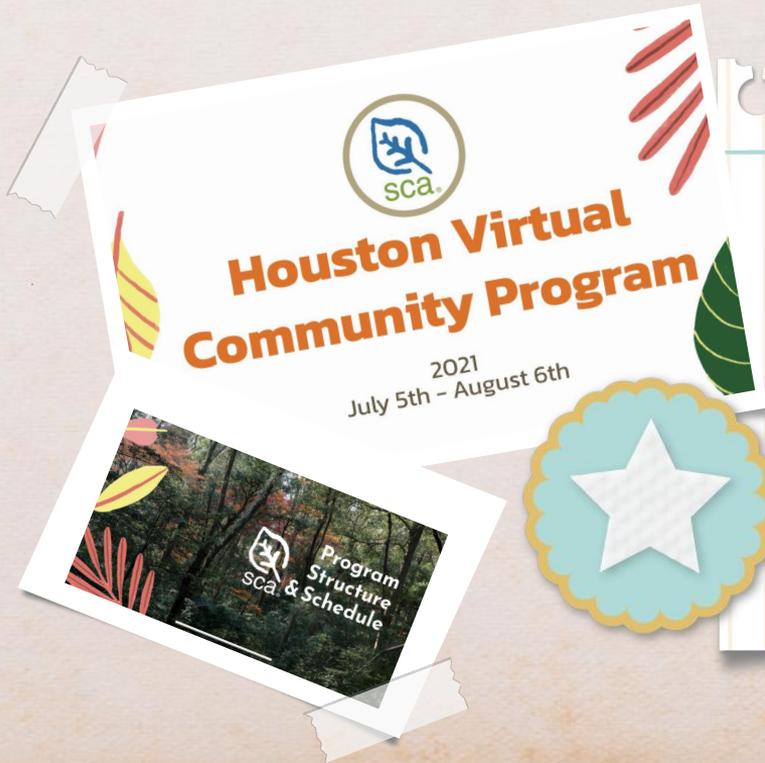
Here's what you'll find in
our yearbook...

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***Enjoy this yearbook of
memories and moments
documenting the past
five weeks of our virtual
crew!***



PROGRAM SUMMARY



- In the course of 5 weeks, each member met twice per week for 3 hours to cover environmental conservation-based curriculum
- We covered Teambuilding, Environmental Literacy, Environmental Justice, Financial Literacy & Career Exploration, and Advocacy & Action.
- 3 hour virtual sessions & 1.5-2 hours per week of independent coursework that supplemented the conservation principles that were covered during daily sessions.
- Finally, members worked together in groups to accomplish a final capstone project to advocate and put into action a solution for a conservation related issue in their community.



CONSERVATION IMPACT!

Goal

- Educate & inform our members about various conservation topics
- Provide the tools to become the conservation stewards & leaders of the future

Environmental intersectionality

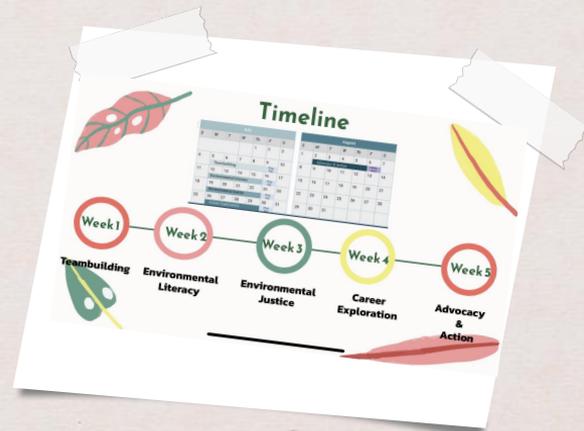
- All our curriculum ties together!
- Environmental literacy, environmental racism, financial literacy, professional development, & team building (JEDI)

Activities & lessons

capstone Projects

- **QR code** accessing a brochure debunking common renewable energy myths
- **Infographics** informing about holding big corporations accountable
- **Website & blog** containing food waste infographics & related posts!

Advocacy & Action





CREW MEMBERS



The Poppin Peaches 🍑

VIANCA RAMIREZ

"My name is Vianca and I am 16 years old, from Houston, TX. I am a rising high school junior. I spend a lot of time working in internships, studying to prepare for the next school year. While I work I usually listen to music to keep it engaging. On my free time I watch TV while painting or doing some other type of craft.

During the summer I have been trying to improve my sketching and painting skills. I am also a big reader, I like all things fiction especially fantasy, dystopian and historical fiction. I recommend "Between the shades of grey by Ruta Sepetys" (historical fiction) and "The Darkest Minds by Alexandra Bracken" (dystopian). I also spend time with my dog playing fetch and hanging out with her. Working with the SCA has really helped me become more intuitive with helping the environment which is my passion."





DEVANSHI KAURA



"My name is Devanshi Kaura and I am 16 years old, from Houston, Texas. I am a rising senior. I love spending time outside or with my dog Murphy. I love listening to music or creating music on my piano or working with my hands in the garden. I also love sports like badminton and swimming and I enjoy doing that in my free time. Ever since I was little I have had a strong love for the outdoors and conserving all that it contains. I want to study either materials science and engineering or biological and agricultural engineering. Through my work I want to create an impact on material or food waste around me and through this save more water and money. When I'm not planning for my future or working I'm probably reading or rewatching some of my favorite shows like The Office or New Girl."

PICTURES DON'T DO ME JUSTICE." -DEVANSHI KAURA

VALERIA SANCHEZ

“Hi my name is Valeria “Vale” Sanchez(they/them), 17 years old, and was born and raised in Houston! I attend Chinquapin Preparatory School which I call my little Hogwarts since it is a boarding school. I am interested in the STEM field but more specifically Engineering for Humanity. I am passionate about my Latinx community and advocacy of low-income communities that need a new generation of young leaders to help bring change.”



“QUERÍAN GUERRA PUES GUERRA VAN A TENER” - TERESA MENDOZA

KASSIDY DIAZ

"My name is Kassidy Diaz and I am 15 years old, from Houston, Texas. I am a rising sophomore in high school. I love to spend my extra time playing soccer with my teammates. I also enjoy drawing and reading for school. My passion for the outdoors is only growing stronger and my time working with SCA truly helped to intensify this. When I'm not playing soccer or reading I love to play on my Playstation with my school friends."



"EVERYBODY'S A CRITIC.- SPLINTER, TMNT

THEODORE NEMETH

"My name is Theodore Nemeth. I am 16 years old from Houston, TX. I am a rising junior in highschool. I love to spend my spare time outdoors with my friends. I currently play tennis as my main sport, although I enjoy playing all sports. When I am not working or doing homework, I like to spend time with my friends and family making fun memories together."



TRACY MIRANDA

“Hi there! My name is Tracy Miranda. I’m 17 years old from Katy, Texas. I love spending time with the people I love. traveling and exploring new places. I enjoy gardening and am an obsessed plant mom. As someone who has always loved creating, I’m continually finding new things to learn and do. I like painting, trying to sew my own closet, and embroidering. Utilizing my skills as a creator, I want to further my environmental education to make positive impacts on my community!”



VAISHNAVI RAO



IF WE LET THE ICE CAPS MELT, WHERE WILL THE SNOW QUEEN
FROM SHARK BOY AND LAVA GIRL LIVE? - VAISHNAVI RAO

“My name is Vaishnavi Rao and I am a rising sophomore at the University of Texas at Dallas. I love to rollerblade, make jewelry, bake and train In Bharathanatyam, Indian classical dance. My love for the environment and conservation drew me to SCA. Through SCA I have been able to foster meaningful connections with other like minded individuals and learn so much more about the industry as well as conservation. I hope to continue my environmental journey and apply the technical skills that I will acquire in university.”

CAITLIN NGUYEN



My name is Caitlin Nguyen and I am 16 years old, from Houston, TX. I love spending my free time either reading a good book or going on jogs. I enjoy trying new activities, and I'm always up for a challenge. Being a part of SCA has allowed me to explore and increase my love for the outdoors!

"DESERTS BUT BACKWARDS"-CAITLIN NGUYEN

YIXIN TAY

Hi! My name is Yixin Tay and I am 16 years old. I am a rising junior from The Woodlands, Texas. I love going out with my family to try out new restaurants, walk on different trails in our area, and having weekly movie nights. I play 2 instruments; the piano for 10 years and the harp for 7. My favorite things in the world are heavy rain and dark skies, because the vibes during heavy storms are just perfect for napping or reading. I've tried my hand at a few different sports, from swimming to fencing to kickboxing to running. I'm a person who likes to try a bunch of new things but for short periods of time, so my hobbies are always changing. However, one thing that has stayed constant throughout most of my life is my passion for the environment and working to quickly find a solution for climate change and its deadly side effects of animal extinction, decreased human quality of life, and the scary changes in weather and temperature. Working and learning from SCA has helped me to increase my passion for helping the earth as well as expanded my knowledge of the other effects that the changing environment has on different communities.



"SNOWSHOE HARES EAT THEIR POO" -YIXIN TAY



TEAM

LEADERS

THE LADIES BEHIND THE ACTION!

ALEXANDRA GARAY SANDOVAL



"I'm Ale and this is my 4th time leading an SCA Crew, and last year was my first virtual crew! My first leading opportunity was the Balck & Latinx Crew in 2019, where Hannah was one of my members and has been a dear friend since then (and now my co-lead, yay!). I am from the bordertown of Nogales, AZ but have been living in Tucson, AZ since High School. I am a proud Mexican-American Latina and a HUGE Bad Bunny fan. I also LOVE dark chocolate (especially with raspberries) and eating in general. My love for environmental conservation started with my strong curiosity of the ocean and its aquatic animals (I love fish!! They are soo cute!!).

During my college years, my marine science courses allowed me to deepen my understanding of how climate change and other human impacts affect its ecosystems. Additionally, my past hands-on conservation work experience (including SCA) has shed a light to the social, cultural, and systemic issues that go hand-in-hand with environmental justice."

"CON DINERO O SIN DINERO, MI FLOW ES CARO"-BENITO ANTONIO MARTINEZ OCASIO (BAD BUNNY)

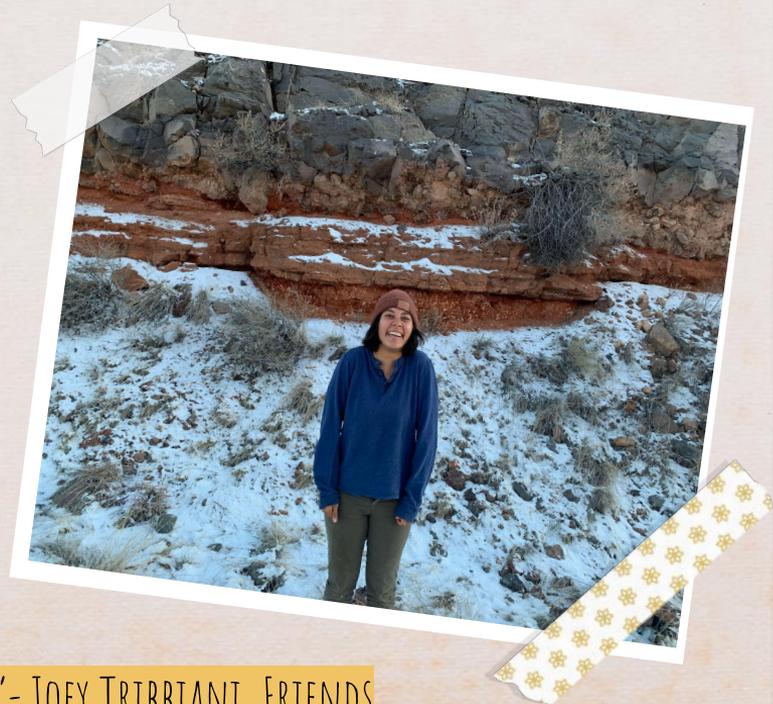


HANNAH THOMPKINS

"Howdy friends! My name is Hannah Thompkins (she/they) and I was born and raised in Houston, however I am currently living in Austin, Texas.

I am so thankful to have gotten the chance to lead such a smart and passionate group of individuals this summer. Conserving our outdoor spaces has taken over the forefront of my mind especially after my first SCA crew in 2019.

During my time as a Black & Latine Crew Member in Big Thicket, I became close friends with Alexandra as my leader and she was a guiding light in my journey to being a leader now! I'm continuing my pursuance of an environmental studies degree in the fall with hopes of putting it towards being a park ranger or working for a non-profit as an environmental educator. Some of my hobbies include hiking with my two crazy dogs, kissing my baby all day, and embracing all that the world has to offer!"



"HOW YOU DOIN'?" - JOEY TRIBBIANI, FRIENDS



Participant
impact!

sca[®]



VIRTUAL LIFE



crew commitment



JEDI Activities

- Iceberg of Diversity
- Identity Signs



circle-ups & Debriefs

- Word of the Day
- Team playlist
- Group yoga



covered Lessons

- Land Acknowledgement
- What is your water footprint?
- BLM Environmental Intersectionality



FAVORITE MOMENTS

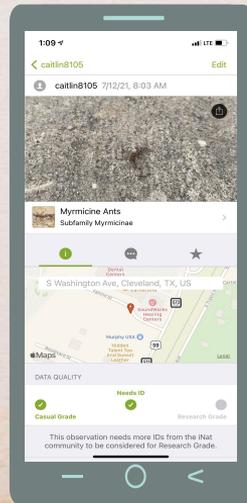
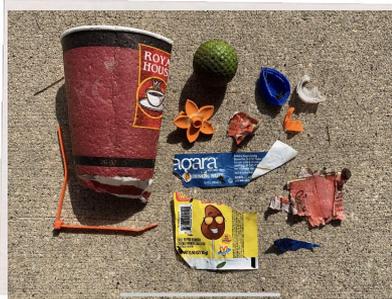


BACKYARD fun!



NATURE WALKS

TRASH PICK-UP



iNATURALIST

HAIKU CIRCLE-UP

WRITE A HAIKU

Basho is a famous accredited Japanese poet, well known for his creation of the haiku. Haiku poem is usually divided into three groups/lines of syllables, the first and last with five syllables, the second with seven.

During the summer of 1684 on his travels around Japan, Basho wrote one of his most famous haikus...

Furuike ya, kawazu tobikomu, mizu no oto.

*Breaking the silence
Of an ancient pond,
A frog jumped into
water—
A deep resonance.*

Japan, Paris, Rome,
Somewhere other
than my home,
Where I need to go
-Theo

LET'S GET ARTSY!



Feel it Out

We enjoyed one another's company and painted whatever came to mind!

ARMADILLO

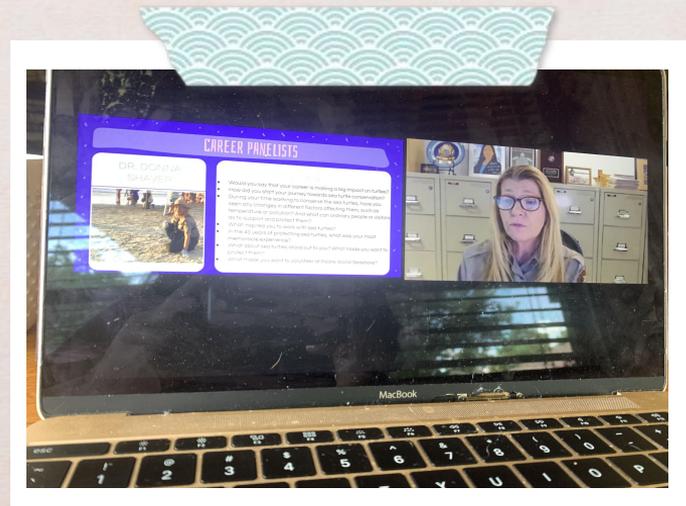
Can you believe those are supposed to be armadillos?





COLLABORATIVE CAREER PANEL

Patricia Malizia, Senior Director of Alumni, helped us to organize a collaborative career panel for both the DC, NYC, and Houston virtual crew. We had the chance to hear from SCA alumni with a variety of conservation careers, who were able to answer questions for members about college, career paths, and their SCA experience!



DR. DONNA SHAVER

One of our speakers, Dr. Donna Shaver; Chief of the Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery at Padre Island shared about her experience and passion for helping to preserve these wonderful marine animals!



CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS



CAPSTONE

PRESENTATIONS

Members grouped up and chose conservation topics that they had a passion for to present their capstone over! They worked diligently over the past 5 weeks to put these projects into action and make a change!

FOOD WASTE



About Our Cause

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, one third of the food world-wide is wasted. Despite the amount of food thrown out, about an eighth of Americans still struggle with food security. Not only does this wasted food fill up landfills, contributing to eleven percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, but it leads to economic repercussions too. Half of the food wasted in the US is reported to come from households. By consciously making small changes to your lifestyle you can help reduce this number. This website was created to bring people together to share their journey and help educate each other about living sustainably.

MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

VALERIA SANCHEZ

- ★ I am 17
- ★ Born and raised in Houston, Texas
- ★ I am most passionate about advocacy within the latinx community

VIANCA RAMIREZ

- ★ I'm 16
- ★ I live in Houston, Texas
- ★ I would want a career that will have an impact in improving the lives of people and the environment

THEODORE NEMETH

- ★ I am 16
- ★ I live in Houston, Texas
- ★ I am passionate about helping fight and stop global warming.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

What is the Problem

Along with corporate misuse of information and narratives being set to deter people from making the switch to Renewable Energy, many citizens personally don't want to switch due to the **price difference** between renewable and nonrenewable energy sources.

On average switching to solar energy, for example, in Texas is

- A starting cost of \$14,800 for a 6-kW system
- \$2.60 per watt of energy

From the initial look of these prices, many citizens are convinced that sticking with non renewables is cheaper. However, this misconception can be fixed with a little bit of myth busting.

CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY

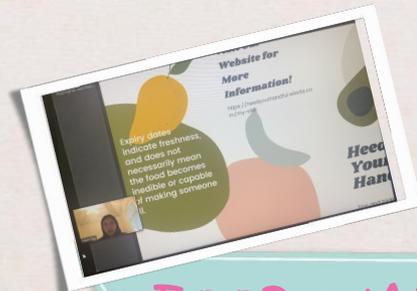
Heed Your Handful

website Link



HEED YOUR HANDFUL

reduce your food waste



FOOD WASTE



By:
Yixin Tay
Caitlin Nguyen
Tracy Miranda

Shareable
Infographic!

corporate Accountability

By:

Vianca Ramirez
Theodore Nemeth
Valeria Sanchez

Corporate abuse

VALERO
"Investing in excellence"
"Human Investing"
Big oil companies have a habit of mis information, doing anything to gain money and endangering communities. People in Manchester are more likely to develop cancer and asthma. They also visit schools to get new employees and ensure a good work experience.

Chevron

L'OREAL
"Because I'm worth it"
L'Oreal is not a complete cruelty free company. As seen with other brands, because they sell products in China which require animal testing

WHY DOES THE PROBLEM EXIST

According to the CAL, "When companies know they can violate rights without consequences, they are more likely to engage in behavior that puts their workers, the local communities, and the environment at risk." This is why these problems exist because these companies feel almost and unreachable.

- ★ There is a lack of corporate accountability because the underdeveloped communities are who are targeted for recruitment of workers, the problem lays within companies mainly targeting communities that are predominantly African American and Latinx.



Renewable Energy

Try me!



Common Misconceptions about Renewable Energy

1) "RENEWABLE ENERGY IS TOO EXPENSIVE" Since 2017, costs for renewables have fallen by

- 14% Bioenergy
- 13% Solar PV & Wind
- 26% Solar Power
- 11% Hydropower

2) "RENEWABLE ENERGY IS NOT RELIABLE" Solar energy can be stored and used during natural disasters when the power grid is usually vulnerable

Renewables Wouldn't have left you during the Ice Storm :(

3) "RENEWABLE SOURCES ARE AN INSIGNIFICANT SOURCE OF POWER" Solar energy has an **11-15% energy efficiency rating**; this means that from the amount of solar energy caught, 11 to 15% is useable.

Compare that to oil or natural gas... Oil is 85% efficient and **Natural Gas** is 43% efficient.

However, new technologies have been developed and are being implemented to make solar energy more efficient. Additionally, many renewable energy sources make back up batteries in them making sure you'll never lose power, unlike petroleum and natural gas plant powered homes.

Renewable generators use free "fuel" resources (the wind and sun) to help create a **more robust system**.



Combating Misinformation; Renewable Energy

By: Cassidy Diaz, Devanshi Kaura, and Vaishnavi Rao

By:
Vaishnavi Rao
Kassidy Diaz
Devanshi Kaura

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

JARED RAMOS

Thank you for helping our members become more job ready!

PATRICIA &
PANELISTS

Thank you to Patricia and panelists for being so dedicated to helping our members grow and be great environmentalists!

VALERIA CASAS

Thank you for your support and giving us such amazing members!

BRIDGET &
ABBY

Thank you for keeping us on track and facilitating such wonderful virtual experiences!



sca®

Thank you to everyone who made this experience as enjoyable as it was! The next generation of conservationists is better because of you!

THANK
YOU!



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