

## Sky Islands High School

**Tanner Gonzaga:** “Tucson and Phoenix get both roughly 200 sunny days making Arizona’s prime cities eligible for major solar campaigning. Steps have been taken and research has been done to ensure the seed of solar energy has been planted firmly for Arizona, but now is the time to sprout the seed and grow our communities. Arizona should not only be on almost full solar energy, but should also be a poster-child for the solar industry for the rest of the nation and even possibly the world. I ask you to please consider and look into any motions that involve the development and/or implementation of solar energy.”

**Morgan Lang:** “A lot of water runs through storm drains, picking up waste that eventually goes into the ocean. Instead of letting all this water pollute and go to waste, we should make more curb cuts on the sides of roads for water to drain into. Having basins beside these roads would catch the runoff and water surrounding plants. This would be a good step towards water conservation, especially during the monsoons.”

**James Alter:** “There are people moving into Arizona at a rapid rate, many of whom will need years to set-up their lives here and learn about the state and the region in general. There are also still a good amount of impoverished and homeless people in the state. A total of over 36,000 homeless and around 17% of the state’s population is impoverished. How do you get people to respect the natural environment for all its importance when they may be unfamiliar with the importance of water conservation in the desert or feel like they have more pressing survival needs if they’re impoverished?”

**Travis Strickland Jr.:** “I believe that every Arizonan should get some sort of solar panel to generate electricity so that we wouldn’t have to rely as much on fossil fuels for electricity, which means cleaner air and environment for all to enjoy.”

**Camori Fountain:** “I would like to see the state of Arizona implement a program that reduces the amount of greenhouse gases pumped into our atmosphere. These gases are contributing to global warming and are having a negative effect on our world.”

**Mallory Grove:** “Climate change is affecting our soil. We need to find ways to prepare for changes to our soil caused by climate change. As the earth warms, our soil changes, and that affects our food supply. Please consider looking into this issue.”

**Ashley Roberts:** “Solar power needs to be prominent in Arizona due to the availability of sunlight across this state and all the empty space (covered parking, office buildings, etc.) that is unused and potential energy wasted.”

## Westwood High School

**Anna Rose Mohr-Almeida:** “I am participating in Environmental Day so that the anthropogenic issues that have emerged over the years can be heard and taken care of. I want my kids and grandkids to be able to breathe clean air, drink clean water, and physically develop at a normal rate. Everyone should be able to do that!

To me, this year’s theme “Protecting the Arizona We Love and Share” means that people in Arizona need to be protecting public lands and places like the Grand Canyon.

I think the atmosphere should be placed into Public Trust. The air we breathe is something that has never been owned by anyone so let’s stop polluters from poisoning our air.

Clean air is a human right and something we need to survive. We all live on this earth together, so let’s protect it!”

**Lenika Rivas:** “Our environment is everything. And it’s so important to protect it, which is why I am participating in Environmental Day. Currently in Arizona we are facing the risks associated with uranium mining near the Grand Canyon National Park. This would put our natural water resources at risk of contamination. The issue is bigger than it seems. Not only would we be invading sacred Native American land, as we have unjustly done for centuries, but we would pollute our precious land, water and air. We must have not let greedy corporations invade and threaten the invaluable resources that make Arizona, Arizona.”

“En este momento nuestros recursos de agua están siendo amenazados por la minería de uranio en el norte del Parque Nacional de Gran Canyon. Como pueblos nativos de nuestra tierra no debemos elevar nuestras voces, sino hablar con determinación a nuestros senadores y representantes. La gente necesita ser escuchada y también nuestra agua, tierra y aire. Cada respiración merece ser una respiración limpia. Arizona necesita nuestra voz. Y nuestra voz debe ser escuchada.”

## Changemaker High School

**Joshua Preston:** “We have problems protecting our natural resources not only in Arizona, but all over the world. In Arizona, we should not only protect our resources but also innovate and learn more about our natural resources and use that to our advantage. Water not only quenches our thirst, but water can produce energy and help an area flourish with life. Water is not only special to tribes in the desert, but also special to the human race worldwide. We cannot drink contaminated water of any kind, nor can wildlife. We cannot just think of ourselves because we are not the only lifeforms on this planet. We walk alongside creatures that cannot speak for themselves or protect themselves from the rapid growth of human civilizations. Those creatures also require water because they need to live; the same goes for plants and the land. We need to stop focusing on wealth and start focusing on health.”

**Nimsi Mejia:** “If we were invited to your home, we would keep it clean. Please do the same for us. Do you want my generation to grow up and live in a dirty home? Keep our state clean!”

**Joseph Sandoval:** “We need clean air in communities at risk for pollution. This will lower asthma rates.”

**Anissa Alvarez:** “Burning coal is an issue that causes many people to have asthma.”

### **Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy Students attending Environmental Day at the Capitol**

**Eléa Ziegelbaum:** “We simply cannot go on continuing to ignore the plethora of environmental issues that Arizona faces. Soaring cancer rates on the reservation as a result of uranium mining and coal production, destruction of delicate and vital ecosystems, overuse and contamination of our precious water sources, desecration of sacred sites, and air pollution are all issues that cannot be overlooked or dismissed. If we hope to have a just, bountiful and promising future for this state's youth and for generations to come, these matters must be addressed as the threat that they are. I urge my representatives, as individuals who are deciding my future, to take serious action on these issues.”

**Jesse Buck:** “Truthfully, the challenges that face our earth at the moment are too large to be ignored. The effects of our own ignorance as human beings have already begun to show, and without immediate action, these repercussions will increase dramatically in both number and severity. I urge you to take serious action.”

**Dominique Garcia:** “It is important to raise awareness about the impact the environment has on our future. The problems concerning the environment cannot be ignored and it is time to address these problems.”

**Diego De Toledo:** “Since I was three years old, my family and I have been going to Beaver Creek in Sedona. We stopped going after my sister was born. Two years ago, we took her for the first time. However, the water was polluted and disgusting, and the forest around was full of trash. Johanna Weiss: Dear Legislators, our earth and environment have a very large impact on everyone, and we need to work together and educate people about how serious environmental issues are and how they will affect our future. We must protect the Earth.”

**Hannah Staudinger:** “I care about the protection of our environment because of the impact that the neglect or acceptance of important issues such as climate change will have on the future. That future is my future; it's all of ours, and that's why we need our voices to be heard.”

**Liliah Boatman:** “I am concerned about the well-being of the environment because the pollution occurring right now will very negatively affect the future population of the world, and increase health issues of people.”

**Sean Collins:** “We need to raise awareness about climate change, educating the youth so they understand how much of a problem it is.”

**Isaac Godwin:** “One of the biggest problems Arizonans currently face is the uranium mining that could potentially hurt many people. Legislators should be concerned about all the people under their jurisdiction, and try to ensure the safety of the people over the greed from getting resources.”

**Chloe Wall:** “Legislators, climate change is a big problem for everyone, now and for generations to come. This is why we need to act now to protect our environment.”

**Dmitri Rudakewich:** “I feel that the government needs to do a better job insuring the survival of our public lands and their beauty for future generations.”

**Francesca Bliss:** “The state of Arizona reservations is belittling to all families residing there. The unstable and disgraceful environment we have "given" them is a health hazard and an insult. Please begin addressing and attempting to fix all damage we've given Native Americans in the state of Arizona.”

**Abigail Stetson:** “I am young woman born and cultivated by the beautiful state of Arizona. I am using every right and tool I have to fight for not only the future of my home but - my future and the future of this planet. If you do not take action on climate change, you are violating and exploiting Arizona's future - my future, the future of this planet, and generations to come. Arizona is blessed with an abundance of natural resources and beauty that are the envy and a destination for so many. But there is a difference between enjoying these natural assets and exploiting them at the cost of people and our planet. We have been charged as the stewards of our state and world. As you next vote on uranium, coal, and copper mining, water usage and more - I'm asking you to use every right and tool you have to uphold our duty to protect our future.”

### **Students in the FALA Earth Guardians Club**

**Chiara Rose Skabelund:** “Actions like uranium mining and the Dakota Access Pipeline are destroying the land and natural resources that all humans survive on, like water. But these actions are especially affecting Native Americans. We have to start protecting the resources and the people we have constantly screwed over.”

**Zachary Stephens:** “We have a responsibility to protect the environment- not for the sake of any lofty ideals, not for empathy or altruism. For ourselves, for the future condition of the

human race. I have no doubt we can survive this; the question is only how much will we lose in the process... How will we live in the future?"

**Annelise Hudson:** "Awareness of environmental issues brings light to many problems in our world today, such as global warming. This allows people to take a stance against climate change and benefits humans and the environment alike."

**Tia Stephens:** "This planet is an incredible gift and the sooner people start to realize that the sooner we can change. The first step for this is broadcasting these issues that really matter."

**Martin Brosseau:** "The Grand Canyon is our main source of tourism revenue. I don't think many people would want to visit if it was filled with loud machinery and toxic waste. Legislators: do you want to be known as the ones who saved Arizona, or the ones you destroyed it?"

**Justine Kennedy:** "Every human should have the right to clean water, safe air and the beautiful environment we live in. As teenagers we need to learn how we can protect our world, and specifically our state. We should protect our land, like the Grand Canyon."

**Carter Yuhl:** "I am concerned about the measures of CO2 pollution from companies and factories. I feel it is detrimental to our world and the future generations of humans."

**Nathanael Foster:** "As stewards and inhabitants of the environment it is our duty to conserve the places we call home. Therefore when we take a step backwards from environmental protection, we commit a crime against all generations ahead of us. As such I urge you to stand against the Dakota Access Pipeline and all atrocities of its kind, lest we destroy our home and people."

**Brooke Phillips:** "The Grand Canyon needs your support and protection. You need to work on maintaining the Grand Canyon and supporting the protection of the Grand Canyon and the wildlife within it."

**Katie Giovale:** "As a young Flagstaff resident I grew up outside. The outdoors and environment are so important. Exploring areas of the Grand Canyon, Marble Canyon, North Kaibab, Red Butte and many other needed, beautiful land that need to be protected from uranium mining. I've spent many days enjoying these lands and getting to know the vulnerability and immense value of these public lands. Know it, protect it, love it. Please protect the environment."

**Rowan Snider:** "I feel like enough people realize how important the environment is. It seems like we set environmental problems aside and that is a big mistake. We need to realize that we need the environment to survive. If we continue destroying the world we will run out of everything we need to live. The human race focuses too much on temporary wants and not on long term needs."

**Etienne MacCormack:** “I did a report on uranium mining and the things I discovered were shocking. Water is extremely important and mining in the Grand Canyon has left fifteen different springs undrinkable. It is crucial that uranium mining stops in the Grand Canyon in order to prevent further water contamination!!”

**Willow Snider:** “I recently began to educate myself and read about the water crisis we are now facing, and I am terrified. It is so scary to think that by the time I am fifty, water will be hard to get. It makes me feel selfish and worried to ever have my own kids. Please help protect and defend water, a resource sacred and depended on for life.”

### **Cesar Chavez High School**

**Jennifer Gonzalez:** “I'd like to ask that our legislators please protect natural habitats both directly by preserving their beauty and indirectly by conserving resources. Every species of plant and animal has a role in the environment that allows it to thrive, just as every human has a role in society that allows it to be successful. Please use your role to help both in any way you can. The future depends on it.”

### **Bioscience High School**

**Joshua Knight:** “The Earth is a place where life thrives and grows. The problem is that we also hurt the Earth. Let's work with the Earth and have a symbiotic relationship with Earth instead of being a polluting parasite. We have the technology and the knowledge to create sustainable ways of obtaining clean energy. Love the Earth and Protect the Environment.”