



PARTICIPANTS PROFILES

ARCTIC VOYAGE

Program for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

Peace Boat US is a committed campaigner for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and works to build a culture of peace and sustainability around the world by connecting people across borders and creating opportunities for learning, activism and international cooperation. The 2023 Youth for the SDGs program is a unique experiential learning and capacity-building program for young activists and scholars engaged in SDG-related initiatives from around the world, co-sponsored by Sustainable Ocean Alliance and Blue Planet Alliance.

1) Amy Harff | USA



Amy Harff is a 25 year-old environmental educator and artist. In addition to volunteering and interning with several marine organizations such as Save the Bay, YOUTHTOPIA and ORCA Foundation, Amy is currently creating an illustrated book featuring 25 female-identifying SDG changemakers around the world. For this book, she interviewed and drew portraits of many ocean and environmental advocates including: Christiana Figueres, Dr. Kim Cobb, Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner, Lisa Blair, Nana Firman and arctic researcher Claire Wallace, to name a few.

She is also conducting an independent research project to explore the intersection of art and the environment around the world. In the past 9 months, she has spoken with over 85 scientists, artists, community leaders, activists and academics about how art can be a tool for change. When she is not doing research, she can be found hiking or making environmental-related art. Some recent projects that she has led include facilitating community murals, creating costumes from plastic waste and drawing large illustrations about projected climate impacts in her community.



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2) Mitchell Chin | NEW ZEALAND



Mitchell is a rising third-year undergraduate biological sciences student studying at Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University. Prior to his tertiary education, he had lived in multiple different countries around the world including the USA, New Zealand, and Switzerland and has since been settled in Honolulu, Hawaii for the better part of a decade. Although not decided, he plans to pursue further education in the areas of medicine or conservation biology. In his free time, Mitchell enjoys hiking and badminton. His interest in oceans includes participation in beach clean ups with Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii, volunteering with local groups helping to clean the oceans like Rotary, and coral reef restoration. He is PADI certified and recently spent time in Tobago doing coral reef restoration.

3) Winton Teokotai Mata Turua Herman | COOK ISLANDS



Winton is currently a program lead and a research assistant to the local NGO Kōrero o te 'Ōrau, an NGO that focuses on connecting our youth back to their roots, to their culture. As a research assistant and a program lead he focuses on various programs and initiatives that focus on educating the youth and community and to lead various research projects, such as operation Taramaea, a eradication effort to remove the crown-of-thorns starfish that has become invasive from the reefs of both the mainland Rarotonga and other outer islands (Pa enua). His involvement with both the youth of today and the wider community is what makes his contribution to Kōrero o te 'Ōrau invaluable.

As a Cook Islander growing up on an island surrounded by water Winton grew to love the ocean and everything in it, what started as a fascination became admiration, which became a want to study the ocean. Being able to learn about everything within the ocean has its share of challenges but also has many rewards. Winton has also recently joined Blue Planet Alliance as a Global Ambassador, and is joining the Arctic voyage with support from the organization.



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4) Patricia De La Rosa | PANAMA



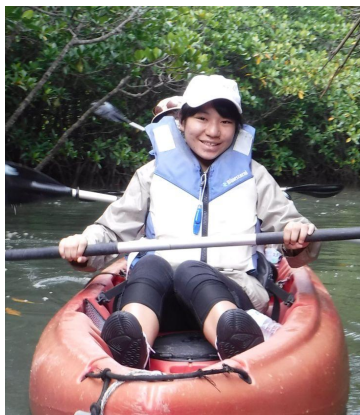
Patricia De La Rosa is currently finishing her thesis project to opt for a Marine Biology degree at the International University of Panama (UMIP). Born in 1998 in Panama City, Panama, her interests include literature, science and languages. From a very young age, she has been involved in different activities to support ocean conservation. From beach cleanups to organizing the *Our Ocean Conference 2023*, Patricia has shown a strong commitment to the protection of our planet and finding solutions for the ecological problems it faces.

5) Nicolás Marín | ARGENTINA



Nico Marín Benítez is 23 years old and from Argentina. He is an Award-winning underwater photographer, diver (divemaster), activist, and member of the prestigious National Geographic Explorer. Some of his adventures include: living in Cozumel for one year reporting coral reefs, studying the behavior of whale sharks; being sent to report on the illegal fishing in Senegal, document MPA in Aruba; follow the hammerhead sharks migrations and manta rays in Isla de Plata and the Galapagos Islands and now documenting in Baja California Sur the behavior of orcas, sperm whales, humpback whales, mobulas and dolphins through photography and hydrophones to understand their language.

6) Yuki Kobayashi | JAPAN



Yuki Kobayashi is in her fourth year of the undergraduate program of the Department of Legal Studies of the Global Environment at Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan, where she is majoring in environmental laws in Japan, international environmental laws, and policies. Her study focuses specifically on plastic pollution. In addition to her academic pursuits, she is an active member of Green Sophia, a club at her university that promotes environmental studies and activities. She is also an active member of the ski club at her university. Yuki is enthusiastic about learning and mobilizing actions around the world to tackle marine plastic pollution for a sustainable ocean.

7) Antoni Soalablai | PALAU



Toni currently works for Friends of the Palau National Marine Sanctuary, a non-profit organization that works to support the Palau National Marine Sanctuary, one of the world's largest protected areas of ocean. As an ocean conservation and protection advocate, Toni believes it is imperative to spread awareness about ocean conservation and to teach Palau's young students how they can do their part in ensuring a healthy, sustainable environment for all marine life.

The effects of climate change can be felt around the world, and from firsthand experience, Toni has seen its impacts from coral bleaching to severe changes in weather patterns on her island of Palau. She has seen the devastation of ocean pollution and what it does to vulnerable marine life. She is keen to make a difference in her country through her work in ocean conservation and awareness. In all, Toni is most excited about learning from fellow youth advocates on the Peace Boat who share the same passions and dreams about Life Below Water.



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8) Zuzanna Witek | POLAND



Zuzanna comes from Poland and she is studying a double major in Natural Sciences and Arts & Humanities at Minerva University. With a passion for the ocean, education, and design, she started Thriving Corals (thrivingcorals.com @thrivingcorals), an ocean literacy organization aiming to spread ocean awareness to students worldwide. She believes that science + art can change the world.

Zuzanna loves sailing, Scuba diving, and writing in her free time. She spent her gap year researching algae in the Atlantic, climbing mountains in Nepal, and sailing in the Caribbean. She currently writes a weekly newsletter, #e30613, which you can find here: e30613.substack.com. Wherever she goes, she looks for an opportunity to start conversations and learn the stories of people from around the world.

9) Maria Fernanda | PANAMA



Mafe is a finance and compliance officer by profession, with her strong background and skills she is a valuable addition to the Youth for the SDGs Scholarship program. With her keen attention to detail, analytical mindset, and excellent communication skills, she is confident that she can contribute to the program's goals of sustainable development. Her passion for ocean conservation adds a unique and valuable perspective that she is eager to share and learn from the experts in the field.

As a young leader, Mafe recognizes the critical issues that our oceans face today and believes in the importance of addressing them. Her experience at the Our Ocean Youth Leadership Summit 2023 has given her a glimpse of the incredible power of young people as agents of change, and she is excited to be a part of it.

Mafe is ready to collaborate with like-minded individuals and organizations to make a meaningful impact in ocean conservation and contribute to the United Nations' SDGs. For her, this is not just a mere aspiration; it's a deep calling that she feels within her, and she considers herself fortunate to have found her true purpose in life.

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10) Siana Whatarau | COOK ISLANDS



Siana is 23 years old and from the Cook Islands. She is an environmental partnerships coordinator at the National Environment Service (NES), a national agency mandated to protect, conserve and manage the Cook Islands environment. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree, double major in marine biology and environmental science from Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand.

Siana is one of two national ozone officers in the Cook Islands, responsible for coordinating country programmes to comply with the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer. Outside of her employment, she is an active member of Korero o te Orau, an environmental NGO in the Cook Islands that focuses on marine and terrestrial research, youth engagement and education and traditional Cook Islands knowledge. She feels most passionate about SDG 14, Life Below Water, because she recognises the unique connection between Pacific peoples and their moana. Siana has also recently joined Blue Planet Alliance as a Global Ambassador, and is joining the Arctic voyage with support from the organization.

11) Monique Calderon | SAINT LUCIA



Monique is a 27 year old marine biologist, working for the Fisheries Department for the past three years. She received an Associates of Arts in Biology at Miami-Dade College, Florida in 2014, and a Bachelors of Science in Marine Science with a Marine Biology focus at Rutgers University, New Jersey in 2017. Since returning to Saint Lucia, she has been working with many organizations to protect and enhance the marine environment, including the Fisheries Department where she focuses on the coral reef ecosystem and restoration, the lobster fishery, and Marine Managed Areas to name a few. She also serves as a liaison for the Caribbean Cetacean Society, which conducts whale and dolphin research in the Caribbean. Currently, she serves as President of the "Friends of Caribbean WaterWays" where she helps to organize fundraising events such as bake sales, and hands-on educational activities with youth in Saint Lucia through the NGO "Caribbean

WaterWays". She is also the country representative for Sustainable Ocean Alliance Caribbean and is an avid Scuba diver and recently earned the title of PADI Divemaster. Her ultimate goal is to encourage more Saint Lucian youth to champion the cause of environmental sustainability and marine conservation, as she believes that it is imperative to protect marine resources to ensure that future generations will continue to benefit from the beauty, wonder and plethora of services that our marine space has to offer.



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12) Luis Barreto | Filmmaker | COLOMBIA



Since his professional career started, Luis has taken an approach for learning, innovating and taking initiatives while working with diverse subjects around the world that have led him to develop media for several projects internationally in order to spread their message through multimedia. As a film-maker and photographer, he has been involved in projects covering a variety of different issues regarding climate actions, promoting sustainable use of the forest in the Amazon and marine resources such as geo-tagging river dolphins. In September of 2017, Luis filmed and produced an award-winning documentary for Peace Boat entitled “Against the Tide: A Journey for Climate Hope” which premiered at COP23 in Bonn, Germany. The film shares the important stories from the

Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassador program that brings youth leaders from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) on the front line of climate change and marine degradation to travel onboard Peace Boat’s ship, engaging in capacity building and bringing their message to citizens and government representatives.

Peace Boat US Director and Program Coordinator Emilie McGlone | USA



The “Youth for SDGs” program is coordinated by Emilie McGlone, Director of Peace Boat US. In 2004, Emilie began working for Peace Boat in Tokyo, Japan for the International Division and is currently based in New York City, where she works closely with United Nations partners, youth and international NGOs working towards ocean and climate action. In 2015, Peace Boat US launched the “Youth for the SDGs” scholarship program to offer youth an opportunity to share their knowledge about sustainable development with young leaders from around the world. Since 2021, Emilie has collaborated with the United Nations Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (DOALOS) to support the Friends of UN World Oceans Day Working Group, and organize ocean related programs for youth. Emilie hopes to promote and strengthen youth engagement with the UN SDGs campaign, a goal identified as critical to achieving the SDGs. As the Peace Boat sails on its inaugural voyage of the new ship, we are scaling up our

initiatives for Ocean Literacy through educational onboard and study programs in various regions of the world. We look forward to continuing this program for the UN Ocean Decade.