

Teen Advocacy Day 2015

THANK YOU our fabulous teen climate leaders who brought incredible insight and enthusiasm to our legislators in Olympia!!

A morning briefing on Audubon's 2015 legislative priorities was followed by a day of constituent meetings, gallery viewings, flyer dropping, AND a surprise visit with Governor Jay Inslee who designated one teen climate leader as "Washingtonian of the Day"!

"I learned that I have more power to change things than I had previously thought. I now know that I can approach my representatives and they do care and will listen!" Liz A., Washingtonian of the Day for April 14, 2015

"The most important thing I can do to reduce the threat of climate change is inform my family and friends about it. If I know 10 people and each know 10 others, that would already be 100 people. And that's exactly what we want." Sahayra B.

Check out the photos on social media: [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), and an online story about our [Audubon Climate Heroes](#).

- Thirty students representing 8 legislative districts started their day at the Seward Park Audubon Center where they learned how the legislative process works and the issues Audubon Washington cares about in the 2015 legislative session. In addition to students from our own programs, we also included 6 students from the Seattle Aquarium's Youth Ocean Advocates program who served as our experts about forage fish during the course of the day.
- Three vans and one support vehicle later, we arrived Olympia where our first stop was the Governor's Office. First to talk with the students was Ecology Director Maia Bellon who thanked the students for taking time to be involved in big issues that define our future, like climate change. As head of the agency responsible for dealing with the effects of climate change, she was excited to see young people leading the way.
- Governor Jay Inslee took a few minutes to share his love of birds with students and even selected one of them to be Washingtonian of the Day! He spoke about his own passion for nature and the importance of doing something now about climate change.
- Both the House and the Senate were in continual floor or caucus session, so we had to pull legislators out into the halls for our meetings. First up was Senator Pramila Jayapal, a strong youth social justice advocate who shared her experiences as a community organizer with the students and encouraged them to stay involved in decision-making. She told them to apply to be pages or for jobs with the legislature!
- A chance meeting with Senator Christine Rolfes provided an opportunity to personally thank her for her leadership on forage fish. The students from the Seattle Aquarium were excited to meet a champion of the little fishes and spent most of their lunch break talking with the senator.
- Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos told the students how she helped get funding in the capital budget way back in 2006 to help make the Seward Park Audubon Center a reality. She

was thrilled to see 30 diverse students in Olympia wearing "YOU ARE WHAT HOPE LOOKS LIKE TO A BIRD" buttons.

- Representative Eileen Cody took a few minutes to let the students know that she came from humble beginnings and encouraged them to make their voices heard.
- Representative Joe Fitzgibbon, chair of the House Environment Committee, provided a chance to be inspired by a young climate leader. As we were leaving our meeting with him, the students wanted to know Rep. Fitzgibbon's age. When they found out he was 24 when first elected in 2010, they realized that it is possible to be a young person and make a difference!

