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GreenTown Los Altos Goes for the Gold

by Anabel Pelham
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So what does a hero for the environment look like? Meet Meera Patel, a fifteen year resident of Los Altos, a junior at Homestead High School, and a young woman on a mission. Ms. Patel is working on her Girl Scout Gold Award Project (equivalent to the Eagle Scout designation) and she has chosen “Going Green” as her project to reach out to the community to get other people involved in a worth-while undertaking. Community involvement is the main goal of the Gold Award and Meera has formed an educational partnership with GreenTown Los Altos. Meera has been working with advisor Jenny Hood and GreenTown’s Karen Janowski to organize a series of lectures and panels hosted by the Los Altos Library.



Meera Patel

Leadership is all in a day’s work for Meera who has served three times on Homestead’s Leadership Team since she was a freshman. Meera has organized four very successful lectures and panels including: “Using Building Science to Make Your Home More Energy Efficient”, “What This Generation Is Doing to Help Our Planet”, “Edible Landscaping” with Rosalind Creasy and one more on “How to Be Water Wise At Home” is on the way November 3.

The lectures are being videotaped, edited and uploaded to [YouTube](#) by Nathan Becker, a sophomore at Los Altos High School. Next, the whole series will go on a web site Meera creates. During the September 25th lecture, panelists Andrew Carp from Los Altos High School and Carl Gutekunst from Homestead High School joined Meera for a positive and hopeful look into what the local high schools are doing to educate the community and support the environment. Meera explains that Homestead enjoys the participation of The



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Wilderness Club (they sell metal water bottles to get the plastic ones off the Earth) and the Advance Placement class on Environmental Science. Working together, they plan week-long projects like “bike to school.”

Meera Patel is 16 and she loves to travel. She is the only child of proud parents and Meera looks forward to a college career in California studying a combination of Psychiatry and Environmentalism. She understands that nature can be a great healer, and perhaps that can be the connection between her two main interests. Her biggest concern is that many young people don't know or don't care about the environment, and that is the reason for her Girl Scout Go Green Project. Meera thanks Green Town Los Altos for all its guidance and help with her project as she hopes to become a leader for the environment someday. We think she is a leader now! Meera Patel will receive her Girl Scouts Gold Award sometime in May during a very special ceremony. In Meera Patel's story, the Going Green Project is Gold.