

Jackrel attends prestigious youth summit

Nineteen-year old college student Sara Jackrel recently returned from a life-changing five-day trip to Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Jackrel was one of 100 youth from six continents and 28 countries brought together by world-renowned primatologist Jane Goodall to attend Jane Goodall's Global Youth Summit.

The first annual event, which took place at Walt Disney World Resort from April 19-25, mobilized the young leaders to address the critical issues facing the planet.

At the summit's end, the attendees headed home with a commitment to make positive change happen and the hope that - together - they can make the world a better place.

Jackrel and her fellow participants were hand-picked by Goodall, the Jane Goodall Institute and partner organizations to take part in the all-expenses-paid, first-of-its-kind event.

All attendees were outstanding young people with a strong history of community service and demonstrated leadership qualities.

Jackrel, for example, serves on the national College Leadership Council for Roots & Shoots. She founded Roots & Shoots groups at Eastern High School and The College of New Jersey, where she currently serves as the club's president. Roots & Shoots is JGI's global humanitarian and environmental youth program.

Over the course of the summit, the young people were able to dialogue with a dynamic panel of experts, share cross-cultural ideas, strengthen their leadership skills and create messages through digital media. Perhaps most unique, they identified key issues and developed self-led workshops and discussions to tackle the topics that concerned them.

They decided what they wanted to focus on whether it be

species conservation, conflict resolution or some other pressing issue.

Working in small groups, the participants broke down transnational boundaries and gained firsthand knowledge about the cross-cultural collaboration needed to solve the world's greatest problems.

Each of these extraordinary young leaders left the summit equipped with a "toolbox for changing the world" and individual action plans for protecting the future.

In the year following the summit, the participants will work to

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implement their plans within their respective communities. Jackrel's action plan entails helping start the Global Youth Council for Wildlife Conservation, a non-profit organization which was initiated during the summit. The goals of this council include selecting projects that address wildlife conservation to support through financial and human resources, communicate with and educate the larger community about the need for wildlife conservation, create a global network through which information and human resources may be shared.