

Nathalie Hersch

Goleta, CA

Created facebook group: “become green, or at least greener”

My name is Nathalie Hersch. I am originally from San Francisco. When my parents divorced, I moved with my mother to Austria, where she was born. We lived there for nine years in a small village. I moved back to the U.S. during my sophomore year of high school, this time to Houston, Texas. I am currently a sophomore at Santa Barbara City College. I plan to transfer to a four-year college and enter into a nursing program to receive a BSN degree.

Growing up in beautiful places gave me a real appreciation for nature and the environment. I have taken a few steps in my life that I feel promote conservation and awareness of our environment.

While living in Houston, I got my family started in a recycling program. I encouraged them to separate and recycle their cardboard, newspaper, and plastic products. I have made efforts to reduce the amount of paper that I use by taking digital notes in my classes, rather than buying notebooks. Currently I am a Resident Assistant at my dorm, and have further promoted recycling by encouraging my residents to participate. I have placed flyers and posters around the dorms to raise awareness of the environment. I am happy to see that many of our residents have closets full of water bottles and other recyclables. I own my own car, but I ride the bus to and from school in an effort to reduce pollution (and save some gas money). I ride my bicycle around close to home. I also started a Facebook group, “Become Green, or at least Greener...” to promote my thoughts on creating a better environment. Through this forum I can voice my opinions and receive feedback from others with similar ideas. My intention is to help people make better decisions and promote lifestyle change through discussion and education. I feel that the internet is a valuable resource, because it allows me to reach a broader audience beyond my immediate surroundings.

I live my life like most college students. But I focus my attention on the things I can do as a person to be environmentally friendly. I have been using available resources and knowledge to help others. I actively use my position as an RA to set a good example and to encourage others to think about their individual impact on the environment. I believe with a little help from everyone, we can make small steps towards success. I want the world to be a beautiful place for my children to grow up. There is no place like home, there is nothing like earth.