PalmettoPride
Litter Trashes Everyone

Meet the 2026–27 Youth Ambassadors!

Natalie Abshire is a junior at Liberty High School. She is captain of the marching and concert band, supply and logistics officer in JROTC, vice president of her school's Thespian troupe, and a member of the archery team and the Rotary-sponsored Interact Club. In her community, Natalie has tended flower beds at the local Meals on Wheels center, helped clean up at her church, photographed her town's annual Waffle Festival, and organized service projects at her school. She believes being eco-friendly means picking up after others, not just yourself. Fun fact: she has been to the Amazon Rainforest.

Grace Brusky is a senior at the Cyber Academy of South Carolina from Lancaster. She is returning for her second year as a PalmettoPride Youth Ambassador. During her first year, she helped host a countywide SC Sweep event with the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District, where volunteers gave away more than 50 trees. She also represented PalmettoPride at the South Carolina State House and before the Lancaster City Council. Grace serves on the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District Youth Board and as a Charter School Ambassador representing more than 30,000 students statewide. She co-founded Pathly, a student guidance platform, through the Harvard Business School Foundry Startup Program. Fun fact: she's happiest outdoors, especially somewhere with a mountain view.

Grayson Castle is a freshman at Berkeley High School in Moncks Corner. A volunteer with Keep Berkeley Beautiful, he plans and leads cleanups and wears the costume of Toby the Trash Talking Dog to teach young children about litter. Grayson also works with South Carolina Advocates for Epilepsy. He testified before the South Carolina Senate in support of the Seizure Safe Schools Act and was recognized for that work by the Senate, SAFE, and the Berkeley County School District. He is a First Class Scout in Scouts BSA, a member of his school's Air Force JROTC, and a volunteer with the Moncks Corner Miracle League. Fun fact: he loves playing video games with friends.

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William Cutshall is a senior from Spartanburg who attends the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe in McCormick. He is returning for a second year as a PalmettoPride Youth Ambassador. Last year, he hosted cleanups at school and around the state and started a campus recycling project. He then folded that work into his FBLA chapter's community service project, which placed fourth in the state and went on to the FBLA National Leadership Conference. William is vice president of his FBLA chapter, has held officer roles in FFA and 4-H, and loves engineering, aviation, and 3D printing. Fun fact: he builds and flies drones and RC planes.

Hannah Dean is a senior at Catawba Ridge High School in Fort Mill and is returning for her second year as a PalmettoPride Youth Ambassador. During her first year, she helped remove more than 3,000 pounds of trash through community cleanups. She also presented her work to the Fort Mill Town Council. Each month, Hannah collects water samples from the Catawba River to test for contaminants. She is a varsity swimmer and enjoys making art in her free time. Fun fact: she loves bedazzling.

Safa El Kouch is a senior at Socastee High School in Myrtle Beach. As co-president of Students in Action, she grew the club to more than 30 members and is bringing Mothers Against Drunk Driving programming to her school. She also serves on MADD's 5K committee. Safa co-founded Operation Bridge the Distance, which raises money for senior transportation, and earned an Outstanding Leadership Award through Chick-fil-A Leaders Academy. She runs varsity track, has interned in criminal law, and was a Palmetto Girls State delegate. Through Key Club, she has joined community cleanups. Fun fact: she speaks Arabic.

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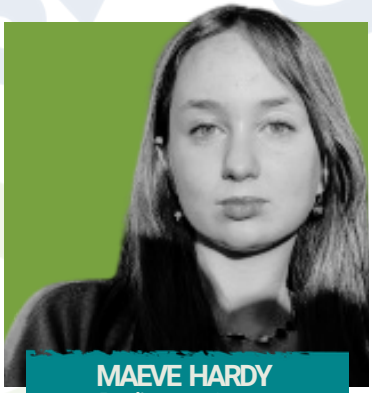
CORRINA GIACALONE
Greenville County

Corrina Giacalone is a sophomore at Blue Ridge High School in Greer. She is a flight commander in her school's AFJROTC program and serves on its drill team and honor guard. She also runs track and cross country and plays cello in the orchestra. Corrina often represents these programs at middle school recruiting events. She volunteers in her church's nursery, at food packaging events for families facing food insecurity, and at community cleanups. She first caught the anti-litter bug when she saw PalmettoPride's Litter Trashes Everyone Marionette Show at her elementary school. Fun fact: on her only international trip, to Iceland, she couldn't find any trash.



MAEVE HARDY
Darlington County

Maeve Hardy, a junior from Fort Mill, attends the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics in Hartsville. A Girl Scout since before kindergarten, she has planted gardens, joined river sweeps, and helped build a gaga ball pit for a local elementary school. She has also volunteered at local river and road cleanups. Maeve served as vice president of her previous school's Sustainability Club and is now part of GSSM's environmental club. She also cheers, writes for the school newspaper and yearbook, and plays percussion in the jazz band. Fun fact: she has three grey cats named Cinder, Carbon, and Cobalt.

EMIL INCE
Richland County

Emil Ince is a student at A.C. Flora High School in Columbia. As a Boy Scout, he created and leads his troop's Adopt-a-Street project, organizing quarterly cleanups and recruiting fellow Scouts and their families. For his Eagle Scout project, he led 13 volunteers in renovating a community meeting house that serves about 250 people each week. Emil has also helped install trail markers at Lee State Park, built garden beds for Koinonia of Columbia, and volunteered with Gills Creek Watershed, Senior Resources, and Habitat for Humanity. In his IB Design Technology class, he is designing a portable trash can that attaches to picnic tables, inspired by a problem he noticed while camping. Fun Fact: He plays drums in his school's concert and jazz bands.

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MADDISON MCCREE
Chester County

Maddison McCree is a sophomore at Chester High School and has been a Chester County 4-H member since 2019. She is a South Carolina 4-H Pinckney Leader, sophomore class historian, and a member of the Student Council and Athlete Council. She also competes in tennis and track and field. Through 4-H and her sports teams, Maddison regularly joins roadside and athletic field cleanups. With her sister, she organizes a Christmas Angel Tree project for her school's special needs class. She is also active in her church's youth team. Fun fact: she loves Super Mario.

NATHAN NGUYEN
Spartanburg County

Nathan Nguyen is a sophomore at Boiling Springs High School, where he serves as class president. He swims, plays tennis, and competes on the esports team, and he is a member of Hope Squad and Beta Club. Outside school, he works as a lifeguard at the YMCA of Spartanburg. Nathan has volunteered more than 50 hours in Boiling Springs and Spartanburg, including helping homeless families at the Eastside Community Center. On MLK Day, he joined a litter cleanup with PAL on the Mary H. Wright Greenway. He shares upcoming service opportunities with friends through weekly Instagram videos. Fun fact: he has 10,000 trophies in Clash Royale.

JURNEE RAINEY
York County

Jurnee Rainey is a senior at Northwestern High School in Rock Hill. She serves on the Rock Hill Youth Council and the Rock Hill Schools Student Advisory Council, and she is part of the South Carolina 4-H Pinckney Leadership Program. As a City of Rock Hill volunteer, she supports community events, including cleanups, and she helps coach a 14U volleyball team. At school, Jurnee is a member of the Trojan Council, Junior Civitans, National Beta Club, yearbook, and the track team. She believes in servant leadership and wants to show younger students they are never too young to speak up for their community. Fun fact: she's obsessed with the color pink.

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JAMIYA SMITH
Greenwood County

Jamiya Smith is a senior at Greenwood High School and chairwoman of the Greenwood Mayor's Youth Council, which holds monthly litter pickups. She founded her school's first Mental Health Awareness Club and leads its monthly meetings. A four-year varsity track and field athlete and team captain, she also played tennis for two years and helps coach in a junior tennis program. Jamiya completed Self Regional Healthcare's teen summer volunteer program, tutors fellow students, and works a job in food service. Fun fact: she's a sprinter.

MCKENZY STROEDE
Dorchester County

Mckenzy Stroede is a junior at Summerville High School, where she is a member of Student Council, HOSA, and the National Honor Society. She also plays volleyball through the YMCA. A photographer, she has twice won first place in district competition. In her community, Mckenzy has volunteered at Summerville's Italian festival, helping a family-owned business run its stand. She plans to become a nurse and hopes to show other students how good it feels to give back to their community. Fun fact: she loves to dance.

DIVIJA VISWABRAHMANA
Lexington County

Divija Viswabrahmana is a junior at River Bluff High School in Lexington. She is an Eagle Scout candidate, Senior Patrol Leader, and Order of the Arrow member, and she has rallied fellow Scouts to join the Keep the Midlands Beautiful's Lakeside Litter Sweep and serve with Mission Lexington. Divija has volunteered more than 60 hours at the Lexington Main Library, helping with Summer Reading and Earth Day programs. She also takes part in the MUSC Candy Striper Program and Lexington Medical Explorers. At school, she is HOSA co-director of membership engagement and DECA school-based enterprise manager, and she is a certified yoga teacher. Fun fact: she won first place in a mile swim on Lake Murray at Scout summer camp.

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Olyvia Wall is a senior at Wardlaw Academy in Johnston. She has kept up a litter pickup on her road since 2021, and she brought PalmettoPride to her school, giving Beta Club members a way to earn service hours while caring for their community. Olyvia is president of the Senior Beta Club and vice president of the Student Body Government, and she cheers on the varsity squad, plays volleyball and softball. She is also a volunteer firefighter with the Northside Volunteer Fire Department and completed the EMT course at Piedmont Technical College this summer as she works toward becoming an ER nurse. In March, she was named North Edgefield's Distinguished Young Woman.

About PalmettoPride

PalmettoPride is South Carolina's anti-litter organization. Created as a legislative initiative to fight litter and help beautify the state, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit works to inspire prevention through education, support litter enforcement, connect community groups with resources, and mobilize volunteers in every corner of South Carolina. Since 1999, more than 1 million South Carolina students have seen its "Litter Trashes Everyone" marionette show, and thousands of volunteers join its cleanups each year.

About the Youth Ambassador Program

Launched in 2022, the PalmettoPride Youth Ambassador program gives high school students across South Carolina the chance to lead the fight against litter in their own communities. Throughout the year, ambassadors take part in training and networking sessions, represent PalmettoPride at community events, plan and lead local cleanups, and inspire their peers to take pride in their surroundings. Each ambassador receives a $1,000 scholarship, community service hours, and professional development opportunities.

Now in its fifth year, the program has grown to 16 ambassadors from 16 schools in 13 counties, selected from nearly 200 applicants. Together, they represent the next generation of South Carolinians committed to keeping the Palmetto State beautiful.