

RISHI GURJAR

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EDUCATION & ELECTIVE COURSEWORK

Cornell University

Bachelor of Science, Environment & Sustainability

Ithaca, NY

Class of 2027

Ohlone College — Dual Enrollment

AWS Machine Learning (4 credits, GPA: 4.0) | 3 hrs/wk, 12 wks/yr

Online

2022

American High School

GPA: 4.25 (Weighted); 3.78 (Unweighted)

Fremont, CA

2019 - 2023

RESEARCH

Terrer Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Research Intern | 50 hrs/wk, 12 wks/yr

Cambridge, MA

2022 - Present

- Mentors: Professor César Terrer and Wenzhe Jiao
- Looking at temporal changes in the distribution of mangrove forests, shrinkage due to deforestation, and links with carbon through remote sensing and machine learning

Tulja Lab, Stanford University

Research Intern | 7 hrs/wk, 40 wks/yr

Stanford, CA

2021 - Present

- Mentors: Professor Shripad Tuljapurkar and Harman Jaggi
- Analyzing the state of aquaculture in the United States, with a focus on the demographic, environmental, and economic trends

Fisheries in the 21st-century: A Sustainable Shift to Aquaculture

R. Gurjar, H. Jaggi, W. Zuo, S. Jiang, S. Tuljapurkar

Expected: Population and Development Review

Polygence

Research Trainee | 10 hrs/wk, 12 wks/yr

Fremont, CA

2021

- Mentored by Cornell University Ph.D. candidate Katherine Haviland to write a meta-analysis on fungal community structure

The Impact of Anthropogenic Disturbance on Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi Community Structure

R. Gurjar

[dx.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.18005.96485](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.18005.96485)

Expected: New Phytologist; 5th Polygence Symposium for Rising Scholars (oral)

ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE EDUCATION

FUSD Climate Literacy and Environmental Education Network

Student Representative | 2 hr/month, 52 wks/yr

Fremont, CA

2022 - Present

- Selected as the CLEEN representative from American High School (1/5 students in all of Fremont USD)
- Working on drafting a vision and planning for K-12 climate literacy and environmental education in Fremont Unified School District with an interdisciplinary group of FUSD staff, students, and curriculum builders
- The CLEEN committee helped launch a [K-12 Garden Network](#) across all FUSD schools, [summer programs that integrate environmental themes in curriculum](#), and a Climate Literacy and Environmental Education Professional Development Series, with sessions for hundreds teachers across all FUSD schools

Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Climate Literacy Committee

Student Leader | 8 hr/month, 52 wks/yr

Alameda County, CA

2021 - Present

- Co-authored and drafted a resolution with the Sierra Club South Alameda County Group: [Resolution No. 030-2021: "Educational Response to the Climate Emergency"](#)
- Worked with school faculty, advocacy groups, and environmental groups for support and passed a climate literacy resolution, unanimously supported by the Fremont USD Board of Education in May 2021
- Featured on the Sierra Club website twice: ["Fremont Ed Board Unanimously Passes Climate Literacy Resolution"](#) and ["A Year of Victories for the Climate Literacy Committee"](#)
- The committee helped pass a similar resolution in Berkeley Unified School District with \$225K over 3 years with an ongoing budget and Los Angeles Unified School District: impacted >744,000 students
- Co-authored [letter calling for \\$200M of funding for climate literacy](#) in California schools, amassed over 140 supporting organizations; working with State Senators Dave Cortese, Nancy Skinner, and Assemblymember Alex Lee (Secured support from Senator Dave Cortese, Josh Becker, Ben Allen, Scott Weiner, Bob Wieckowski, Robert M. Hertzberg, Luz Rivas, and Monique Limón in a [letter to the California Legislature](#))
- Secured support through a formal resolution from California County Superintendents and adopted Climate Literacy into the CA Democratic Party platform through a resolution via the Democratic Party Central Committee & California Environmental Legislative Caucus
- Invited by Rep. Barbara Lee to lobby in Capitol Hill, pushing a climate education bill through the House
- Commissioned to write an article for Ten Strands:

From Climate Worrier to Climate Warrior: A Journey through Gardening and Climate Advocacy

R. Gurjar

<https://tinyurl.com/ten-strands-rishi-gurjar>

Ten Strands

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Beyond Terra, Inc.

Founder & Executive Director | 7 hrs/wk, 52 wks/yr

SF Bay Area, CA

2020 - Present

- Founded an environmental 501(c)(3) nonprofit to preserve and protect SF Bay Area biodiversity through innovative conservation initiatives and projects
- Oversee the leadership and team; manage thousands of dollars in grant funding, crowdfunding, and sponsorships
- Led projects including the Unhoused for Conservation, Urban Forests, Conservation Projects, Awareness Campaigns, etc.; impacted over 7,000 students, handed out over 1,000 service hours, and secured 26.5 acres of land
- Partnered with the City of Fremont to host a [Youth Climate Summit](#), led partnerships, event management, and marketing
- Designed and developed beyondterra.org to attract donors, volunteers, and supporters

Sierra Club SACG Conservation Committee

Founder & Chair | 1 hr/wk, 45 wks/yr

Fremont, CA

2021 - Present

- Working on issues around stormwater pollution, land use, and climate action in the incorporated and unincorporated cities of Southern Alameda County with several Bay Area public organizations including Union Sanitary District, Alameda County Water District, and East Bay Regional Parks
- Founded and leading a team of >15 Sierra Club members, organizing monthly meetings, and coordinating communication with the Sierra Club SACG Executive Committee

SCHOOL CLUBS

Science & Ecology Club

President | 4 hr/wk, 35 wks/yr

Fremont, CA

2020 - Present

- Lead an 18-person executive team, maintain a following of 270 student members, and manage six branches focused on several environmental issues
- Engaged >400 students through tens of events, projects, and competitions

FIRST Tech Challenge Ink & Metal

Outreach Captain | 14 hrs/wk, 45 wks/yr

Fremont, CA

2019 - 2020

- Acquired \$10,000+ in grants, sponsorships, and crowdfunding; donated \$5,000 to the Alameda County Community Food Bank, providing meals to 11,000 Alameda County residents during the COVID-19 pandemic (Efforts featured in [FUSD Community Conversations](#), [India Currents](#), and [CBS News](#))
- Co-authored a thorough eight-week Engineering Curriculum for students in the Bay Area and India, raising \$3,500 and impacting 51,000+ students internationally
- Co-led the research and development of the Trash Sorter (a robot aimed at stopping waste contamination and educating the youth about this problem); managed a 10-person design team
- Developed the FTC Robot; used the design process to conceptualize, design, and manufacture an industrial-grade robot using 3D printing and CNC technology

HONORS

FIRST Tech Challenge

2019, 2020

- 2019-2020 Season
 - **NorCal FTC Belmont Qualifying Tournament:** Design Award
 - **NorCal FTC Santa Clara Qualifying Tournament:** Collins Aerospace Innovate Award 3rd Place, Connect Award 3rd Place, and Inspire Award 3rd Place
- 2020-2021 Season
 - **NorCal FTC Fremont #2 Qualifying Tournament:** Motivate Award, Top Ranked 3rd Place
 - **NorCal FTC Cupertino Qualifying Tournament:** Inspire Award, Think Award 2nd Place, and Top Ranked 3rd Place
 - **NorCal FTC Sacramento Qualifying Tournament:** Think Award, Top Ranked
 - **NorCal FTC Regional Championship:** Inspire Award (#1 in Northern California)

Alameda County Science and Engineering Fair

2022

- 1st place, \$100, and selected to go to the California Science and Engineering Fair

StopWaste (RE)Generation Challenge

2021, 2022

AP Scholar with Distinction Award

2022

ClimateScience Olympiad Finalist

2022

- 47th place of >50,000 participants worldwide

INVITED TALKS

[Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action Leadership Summit:](#) Climate Literacy Panelist

2022

[Teacher's College at Columbia University:](#) Social Justice Institute Speaker

2022