

Air Quality in Houston

A community workshop addressing health concerns associated with pollution, environmental justice, and more.

Girl Scout Gold Award

- The highest possible award that a Girl Scout can earn
  - Addresses the root cause of an issue
  - 80 hours minimum
  - Sustainable, measurable impact on a community (usually through education)
- Less than 6% of Girl Scouts receive their Gold Award annually





My Gold Award

- Aims to increase awareness of air quality in Houston (especially because we have bad ozone pollution)
- Worked with Trees for Houston, Austin Landscaping, and the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy to procure, transport, and plant trees
- Attempted to install an air monitor at Willow Waterhole

Last December, we planted 10 trees at Willow Waterhole in locations selected to provide shade to benches and play areas

Over 30 people showed up to plant trees





Many thanks to…

- Bill Burhans, my Gold Award advisor, and the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy
- Marina Badoian-Kriticos from the Houston Advanced Research Center
- Becky Edmondson and the Westbury Civic Club
- James Bland and Austin Landscaping
- Donna Adair
- Patrick Rodriguez from Harris County IT
- Carolina Velasquez and Trees for Houston
- All of my tree planting volunteers
- Helena Gallaway, my Gold Award mentor
- And our speakers today, Bakeyah Nelson, Ph.D and Hanadi Rifai Ph.D

Bakeyah Nelson, Ph. D



Bakeyah S. Nelson, PhD, is the Executive Director of Air Alliance Houston - a research-based nonprofit organization working to reduce the public health impacts of air pollution and advance environmental justice in the Houston Region. Dr. Nelson has been working to reduce environmental inequities in Houston communities for 15 years. She was recently honored as the 2020 Texas Energy Summit's Clean Air Champion of the Year. In 2019, she was selected as one of the Aspen Institute's Health Scholars and in 2018 was one of the Texas Organizing Project's Community Champions of the Year. Dr. Nelson currently serves on a number of committees aimed at reducing environmental inequities. Dr. Nelson's doctorate in public policy, master's in applied sociology and bachelor's degree in psychology all come from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.



Hanadi Rifai, Ph. D

Dr. Rifai is an Environmental Engineering Professor at the University of Houston. Her research is focused on pollution fate and transport in the environment with emphasis on industrial and pathogenic pollutants and their sources into natural water systems. Her recent research is focusing on health risks associated with natural disasters including infectious disease and disease vectors. She has conducted numerous studies in watersheds and airsheds in the greater Houston Metropolitan Area and on Galveston Bay and its associated network of streams, bayous and lakes.