



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MEDIA ALERT** – Monday, May 6, 2024  
**Fargo Public School District #1**

## **DISCOVERY TO HOST YOUNG LOCAL AUTHOR AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST SAWYER ANDERSON**

A young local author will visit Discovery Middle School on Tuesday and will show the students that despite their age, young people can make a huge impact on lives around the world.

**WHAT:** Guest Speaker Sawyer Anderson  
**WHEN:** **Wednesday, May 8** at 9 a.m.  
**WHERE:** Room 144, Discovery Middle School, 1717 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Fargo  
**CONTACT:** **Karlie Kerr**, Discovery Special Education Instructor, 701.446.3442 or [kerrk@fargo.k12.nd.us](mailto:kerrk@fargo.k12.nd.us) for more information.

Karlie Kerr's students at Discovery Middle School, along with their mentors from the school's peer mentor program, will welcome 14-year-old Fargo native Sawyer Anderson, author and illustrator of the book "Water Works" to present and read to the class. The presentation corresponds with the class's unit on water.

During the visit, Anderson, a student at Oak Grove High School, will read her book, "Water Works," to the students in class. She will then show examples of how water is transported from bodies of water to homes. At the end of the visit, she will provide each student a copy of her book. Funding for these books was provided by community sponsors.

After her father returned from a mission trip to Zambia and told her about the struggles many families in Africa face obtaining clean and usable water, the then-10-year-old Anderson was determined to help. In order to raise money to help individuals access clean water, Anderson started by selling her grandma's cookies at a garage sale. She aimed to raise \$50, the total required to provide clean water to one individual for life, but she far overshot that goal and was inspired to think bigger.

Wanting to do even more, Anderson wrote and illustrated the children's book "Water Works" in 2019. The book illustrates the challenges African villagers face in procuring clean water and to raise more money for additional wells. Proceeds from the sale of each book are matched by donors and secure clean drinking water for one person for their entire life.

Anderson's charity project has raised more than \$1.2 million in donations to provide clean water in Zambia. Anderson received the Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes in 2023 and the International Young Eco-Hero Award in 2022.

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