

Learn more about River Kidz co-founder Naia Mader

By Tyler Treadway

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Naia Mader became an environmental activist thanks to a lemonade stand.

In April 2011, Naia and her friend, Evie Flough, both 10-year-olds at the time, donated the \$85 in proceeds from their Sewall's Point streetside business to the Rivers Coalition, a group dedicated to stopping discharges from Lake Okeechobee into the St. Lucie River estuary.

The two went on, with the help of some grown-ups, to form the River Kidz, an offshoot of the coalition for children that now has more than 300 members in Martin County and a new chapter in St. Lucie County.

Naia, now 13 and a seventh-grader at The Pine School, and the River Kidz have taken part in several protests against the discharges, helped develop a workbook on the local environment for schoolchildren and participated in beach cleanups and oyster restoration projects.

Naia, daughter of Don and Nic Mader of Sewall's Point, has attended a state Senate special committee meeting in Stuart and a Congressional hearing in Washington, D.C., both looking into ways to stop the discharges.

[Watch a video](#) where Mader narrates a column written by former Stuart News editor and environmentalist Ernest Lyons.

