

T. A. Barron

T. A. Barron grew up in Colorado ranch country and traveled widely as a Rhodes Scholar. He is the winner of the de Grummond Medallion for “lifetime contribution to the field of children’s and young adult literature”, the Nautilus Award Grand Prize, and many other awards. T. A. Barron is the author of more than 30 highly acclaimed books, many of which are international bestsellers. They include the *Merlin Saga* (now being developed into a feature film by Disney), *The Great Tree of Avalon* (a New York Times bestselling series), *The Ancient One* (the tale of a brave girl and a magical tree), and *The Hero’s Trail* (nonfiction stories of courageous kids).

Though he’d dreamed as a young man of becoming a writer, he couldn’t find anyone to publish his first novel. He joined a successful business, eventually became president, then decided to try again. So in 1990, he surprised his business partners by moving back to Colorado to become a writer and conservationist.

In 2000, he founded a national award to honor outstanding young people who help their communities or the environment: the Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes, which honors 25 highly diverse, public-spirited kids each year. He has also produced a documentary film, *Dream Big*, profiling seven winners of the Barron Prize. When not writing or speaking, T. A. Barron serves on many boards including Princeton University, where he helped to create the Princeton Environmental Institute, and The Wilderness Society, which recently honored him with its highest award for conservation work. He loves to go hiking, camping, and skiing in Colorado with his family.

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