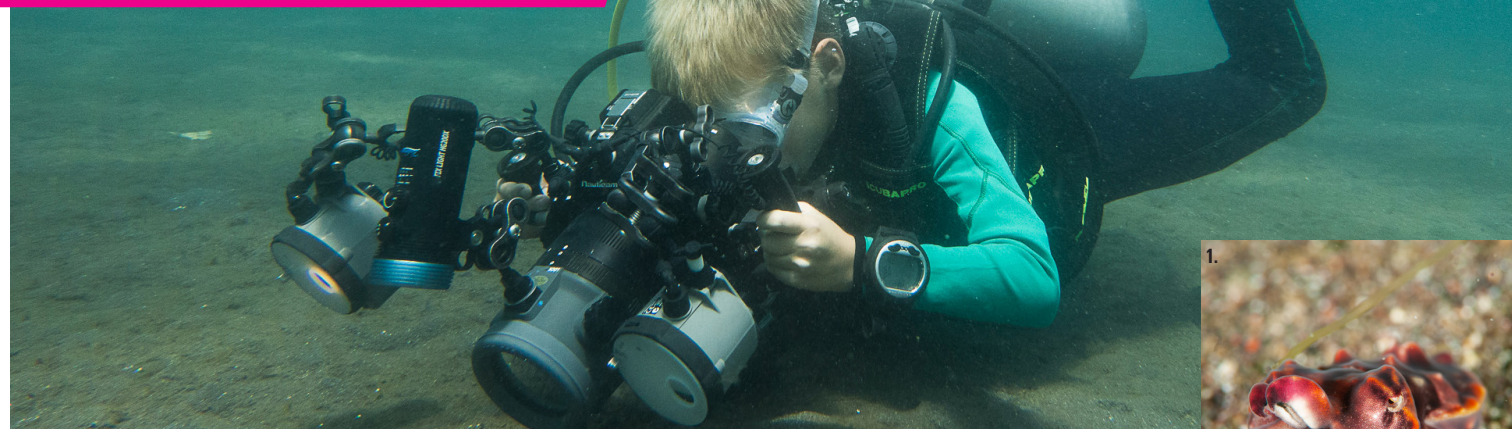


THERE'S
NO STOPPING
SAM!

AVID PHOTOGRAPHER CAPTURES THE HIDDEN UNDERWATER WORLD OF THE OCEAN'S SEALIFE

DESIGN BY ALEXANDRA TRAUERNICHT
PAGE BY NICHOLAS GERGELY & NATHAN HOEHENDORF
STORY BY SAMUEL SLOSS



THE OCTOPUS CREEPS OUT OF ITS HOLE eyeing the horizon wearily. The octopus knows I'm in its vicinity; it just saw me. I disappear behind a rock so not to scare it, yet it still knows I am watching. From behind cover, I adjust my camera settings. I will try a special type of shot on this critter. Suddenly, it makes a run for it, knowing I'm not ready to pursue it. I dart after him, changing my f-stop as I go. When I finally catch up to it, I take a series of six pictures, hoping I'll get the shot I planned for. Click! I pull the trigger, and the shot comes out perfect. Just the eye is in focus, and all else is blurred out. Incredible picture.

PHOTOGRAPHER IN THE MAKING

My name is Sam Sloss, and I am in 8th grade. I have been scuba diving since I was 10 years old and taking underwater pictures since I was 11. Over the past years that I have been able to scuba dive, I have experienced first hand how wonderful the underwater world is in every way. What lies beneath the surface is so fascinating that I want to protect it in every way that I can. **THERE'S NO STOPPING ME.**

THE OCEAN'S IMPORTANCE

The oceans are the largest ecosystem on Earth and they are so important as they generate half the air we

breathe and contains more than 97% of the world's water. They also absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and reduce the impact of climate change. Today they are in desperate need of protection from pollution, overfishing and habitat destruction.

I believe through my pictures I can inspire everybody, and most importantly the youth of the world to help protect the ocean and its threatened species and habitats. I am lucky enough to have learned to dive and take pictures underwater, and I want to use these skills to connect people to the beauty of the underwater world. I aim to spread the word and raise awareness for marine conservation and inspire people to act for the welfare of the ocean before it is too late. The more people learn about and relate to the ocean and its creatures, the more they will want to protect them. The underwater realm's fragile ecosystem is in dire need of protection, because we all need it to survive and flourish.

THE POWER OF ONE

Every individual has the power to make a difference. I want to use my newfound passion and talent to raise awareness for this cause by sharing the sea's beauty with my photography. The underwater world is an incredibly beautiful place, and the human race should make a strong effort to preserve the ocean and its creatures.

1. SWIMMING WITH THE FISHES, Samuel Sloss, 08, takes pictures of underwater sea life as a hobby. Sloss photographed a flamboyant cuttlefish during one of his dives. Along with the Hairy Frog fish and the Juvenile Sweetlip, Sloss photographed a variety of fish. "Currently I've got about 175 dives under my belt," Sloss said. **2. TAKING THE PERFECT SHOT**, Samuel Sloss takes his time to get the perfect shot. Sloss uses a Nikon D800 camera in a waterproof housing. "You take the camera and you put it in the housing. I always have more than one light to get the best shot," Sloss said. **3. READY TO TAKE THE PLUNGE**, Samuel Sloss prepares to leap off the side of a boat. Sloss dove into the depths of the ocean in a search for rare ocean life. "I go scuba diving with my parents; they have been diving for a long time," Sloss said. **4. CHILLIN' WITH HIS HOMIES**, Samuel Sloss gets up close and personal with a sea turtle and a fish. Sloss has been taking underwater photos of creatures since he was 11. "All of my photos from my first year were published. Now, I just post them on Instagram," Sloss said. *photos courtesy of s. sloss*

8TH



Joshua Acker
Avery Adams
Dale Adolph
Ryan Alderete
Ava Anderson

Weston Andrews
Mason Arellano
Emiliegh Sjostrom-Atkins
Eli Backer
Megan Baker

Christopher Banas
Benjamin Barbour
Xander Barker
Alexi Bauler
Kaylyn Bell

Brock Benson
Brady Bergstrom
Lucas Bernauer
Anna Bjornebo
Emily Bjornebo

Shay Blankenship
Robert Boccard
William Bolton
Reed Bonge
Zoe Bonge

Cade Bosler
Oliver Braaten
Heather Bradford
Madelyn Braun
Annalyse Brenzikofer

Anna Bridges
Chase Brown
Joseph Bruno
George Bull
Riley Burge

Samuel Butler
Eleanor Calvanese
Isabella Caranna
Sofia Chakounis
Julia Chaney

DESCRIBE A TIME YOU
OVERCAME
FEAR TO SUCCEED?

"I had a dance competition and was very nervous; I overcame fear to do well on stage."
RAVEN MICHAEL, 08

"When I talked to people more, I overcame shyness."
MILES KRIEGER, 08

"When I ate corn bread because it tastes weird, but it tastes better now."
ALEXANDRA PEREZ, 08

8TH GRADE DIVIDER **PUMA 093**

Job # 12449 School POWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

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<input type="radio"/> MAC	<input checked="" type="radio"/> WIN			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						

FOR PLANT USE	<input type="checkbox"/> PM	<input type="checkbox"/> CS	<input type="checkbox"/> CS2CC15	Con	HJT	QPP	<input type="checkbox"/> Pro	<input type="checkbox"/> ePro	<input type="checkbox"/> OLP	Prep SB	Place Jax	Proof
<input type="radio"/> MAC	<input checked="" type="radio"/> WIN			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						