

GO FOR THE GREENS **HER**story

About Gianna and Marisa Machado

Gianna and Marissa both attended Terra Environmental Research Institute in high school. They developed a keen interest in sustainability and environmental study. The Go for the Green Mentorship Program not only peaked their further interest in the environment, but they also learned confidence and leadership skills that have benefited them in their journey.

Gianna became president of the environmental club at the school and co-captain of the tennis team. She participated in community service projects, including planting a garden for a senior citizen's home. She also helped to clean up the beach and parks around her community.

Marissa has led a community toiletry drive for Chapman Partnership, which helps homeless people get back on their feet and provide them with housing. She has written letters to seniors in their community with an organization called Letters of Love, donated art supplies for the Sunflower Art Project, and donated clothes and toys to Veterans of America. In addition, while on vacation in Toronto in 2019, she volunteered with Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (P.O.W.E.R) to remove invasive species of trees in a nearby park.

Both students want to use their Mentorship Program experience to further their interest in sustainability and saving the planet. Gianna majors in environmental studies with an emphasis on environmental policy. With this degree, she wants to either become an environmental consultant, work in the government, or perhaps start her own business. Marisa wants to continue her environmental studies, with an emphasis on environmental science. She intends to use her degree to get a job in the environmental field to help keep the earth healthy for future generations.

Why did they choose to attend the Go for the Greens Mentorship Program?

First, they were encouraged by their mother, Ximena, who is the Trade Commissioner at Consulate General of Canada located in Miami Florida and a long-time Go for the Greens volunteer and partner. Here is what each one said about the program:

Gianna: I felt that this program would be of great value to me because, so far, it has helped me so much in becoming a more confident and self-assured person and has prepared me for the goals that I plan to pursue in the future. Every year, this program has a variety of speakers that I learn something new from every time I attend, whether that be the value of networking to how to prepare for an interview. By attending this program, it teaches me new skills and helps me to become an even better and knowledgeable version of myself.

“My biggest take away from this conference is not to be afraid to try new things and to be gutsy.”
– Gianna Machado

Marisa: I have attended this program since 2018, it has and will continue to greatly benefit me because it teaches me how to prepare for interviews, which is helpful since now is when I will get jobs. Hearing different panelists speak about their careers helps me decide what specific job I would want to go into. In fact, this program has helped me with a great leadership opportunity. I was able to lead others that were volunteering to help them remove the trees and give them some instruction.

“I really enjoyed Go for the Greens this year, I had a great time listening to the speakers and making new friends and I hope to come next year!”

– Marisa Machado