

Pair of Chippewa High grads earn Gold Award

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Makayla Ramos



Gabrielle Jarosz

CLINTON TOWNSHIP/MACOMB TOWNSHIPS — Chippewa Valley High School alumni Makayla Ramos, of Macomb Township, and Gabrielle Jarosz, of Clinton Township, both 18, were among 25 Girl Scouts honored by Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan with the Gold Award.

The award is the most significant award a Girl Scout can receive and is presented to Girl Scouts who dedicate a minimum of 80 hours to addressing a community issue or problem through a sustainable community change project.

Ramos' project was a recycling program, where she addressed the issue of plastic waste by creating a sustainable marker recycling program for Chippewa Valley Schools.

She's worked with a high school teacher to develop educational materials and collection bins for several Chippewa Valley schools. So far, the school district has recycled dozens of markers to fight universal plastic waste.

"In Girl Scouts, I learned a lot about developing great leadership skills." Ramos stated in a press release. "However, my Gold Award project took it to a whole new level. I developed better communications skills and time management, which I know will benefit me no matter where I go in life."

Jarosz's project — Fight Back: A Woman's Self Defense Seminar — combatted the increasing rates of sexual and physical violence in the state and nation. A team of local martial arts experts demonstrated powerful techniques for young women in Macomb County.

"Completing my Gold Award helped me realize the importance of self-empowerment in all girls, but especially in myself," Jarosz stated in the press release. "Like I learned in Girl Scouts, even the smallest of lessons can boost girls' self-confidence levels long into the future."

Since 1916, Girl Scouts have been making meaningful, sustainable change in their communities and around the world.

In recognition of Ramos, the Macomb Township Board of Trustees proclaimed May 5 "Makayla Ramos Day" in Macomb Township.