

Spotlight on SAMs

By Leah Feldman

Karina Franke's first exposure to CELF's Student Ambassador (SAM) Program was at a CELF presentation on global water insecurity during her freshman year of high school. She is now a CELF Student Ambassador and President of CELF's SAM Student Advisory Board. Karina explains her interest, "Through the platform of access to clean water, CELF student ambassadors are moving environmental awareness beyond reduce, reuse, recycle and engaging community members of all ages in environmental justice issues."

Karina is a rising high school senior at the Hackley School in Tarrytown, New York, and is one of the lead members of CELF's Student Ambassador Advisory Board. CELF's Student Ambassadors receive training in sustainability issues while gaining hands-on experience making a difference in their own community and communities around the world. Ambassadors and Members of the Advisory board, like Karina, also get the opportunity to present at local, regional and national events.



Karina presenting to an audience of her peers.

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After she first learned about CELF SAMs, Karina was inspired to participate in CELF's LifeStraw Freshwater Water Crisis campaigns and become involved in water conservation, eventually teaming up with members of her Water Works class to launch her own community-wide bottled water awareness campaign. Through her involvement with her school's sustainability team and the CELF Ambassador Program, Karina shared information and ideas surrounding bottled water consumption with local schools. This allowed her opportunities to meet likeminded environmental advocates in her community, and fostered a sense of efficacy and creativity among the young environmental ambassadors.

Karina is extremely grateful for the opportunities and guidance offered by CELF administration and student alumni. Direct involvement in planning SAM activities helped prepare her for a leadership role on the Student Advisory Board, and provided her with the opportunity to pursue additional projects.

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promoting sustainability. By applying their wisdom to our bottled water reduction campaign and other projects, we have tackled a number of tricky obstacles.”

As Karina looks towards her senior year and the college application process, she has no doubt that her experience with CELf has provided her with knowledge and skills she will use throughout her life.

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