

## Now gone from Corona, teen recycles her enthusiasm Graduation doesn't interrupt lifelong commitment to the environment

By Alison Stanton

Ever since Mackenzie Bader was a youngster, her mom worked hard to instill in her the importance of recycling.

A member of the 2012 graduating class at Corona del Sol High School, Mackenzie pursued that commitment as president the school's Recycle Club.

Now at Mesa Community College, her passion hasn't diminished.

She's involved with MCC's Environmental Action Club, which emphasizes the importance of reusing and recycling, just as her mom did with her years ago.

While at Corona, Mackenzie's group of about 20 or so club members met once a week to brainstorm ways to help broaden awareness among their fellow students about recycling at school, she said.

"We talked about using newspapers and re-using them to make posters, painting on them with green paint so they would be really noticeable; sometime we watched documentaries on recycling and the importance of reusing everything," she said.

In late April, Mackenzie and other members of the club hosted an Earth Day celebration at Corona that included trivia questions, fun and interesting facts about recycling, information about what can and cannot be recycled, and a game that awarded candy to students who could toss their recyclable water bottles and other items into the correct bins.

"We just thought it would be fun to do something for Earth Day to try to make other students at our school more aware about recycling," Mackenzie said.

"Not all students here know what's recyclable and what isn't."

Mackenzie and the other members of the club also organized a paper race for the teachers.

"We encouraged them to go through their file cabinets and do some spring cleaning—get rid of papers they didn't need anymore," she said.

"Then at the end of the week we weighed everything, and the homeroom class with the most paper won a party."

The top recycling teacher collected around 500 pounds of paper in that one week, Mackenzie said, and the runner-up came in just about 10 pounds lighter.

All of the paper was put into the Abitibi Recycling bins outside the school, which she said is a program that will pay the school for the recycled paper.

Although the Earth Day celebrations at Corona were considered extremely successful, Mackenzie knows that it's important to remember to recycle every day, not just once in late April.

"The Earth Day celebrations were fun, but hopefully next year it will be even bigger," she said.

"Recycling is just so simple to do. It's quick and easy, and so beneficial to our Earth."

Cara Ridley, last year's vice president of the Cds Recycle Club who now is a business major at ASU, says she too values her experiences with the organization.

"It is important to spread the word about recycling because we only have one world to live in," Ridley said.

"We need to take care of our home so other humans and creatures can continue to thrive on this planet."

As to the current year's recycling effort at Corona, Mackenzie says the club has been reconstituted with new members and is just now making plans and organizing events.



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