



# Educating the Youth on Building a Sustainable and Eco-friendly Planet



## Environmental Center Leadership Program - Spring 2021

### The Mission:

- 35.7 million tons of plastic waste was produced in the US alone. While only 8.7% of the single-use plastics were recycled or composted, (EPA, 2018)
- 275 million metric tons of plastic waste is produced and less than 9% are recycled or composted, (Ocean Conservancy, 2021).
- Every year, 8 million metric tons of the non-recycled plastic enters our oceans creating micro-plastics that disrupt our ocean life and pollute our clean waters.
- The Ellen MacArthur Foundation predicted that by 2050 there will be more plastics in our ocean than wildlife.
- In partnering with Beaches Go Green, it was our mission to participate in community beach clean-ups; in addition to, creating content videos to educate the youth on the importance of becoming sustainable and eco-friendly.



### The Outcome:

In partnering with non-profit organization Beaches Go Green, beach clean-ups at Atlantic/Neptune, Jacksonville, and Ponte Vedra were organized to help eliminate the waste pollution of our beaches.

- In total, 1,097 volunteers, 30 bags of trash, 10 recycled bags, and 22,159 cigarette butts were collected.
- Cigarette butts contain plastic fibers that can be recycled into park benches, bricks, and other useful resources for the community.
- Every cigarette butt found along the beaches were picked up and assorted to be shipped to a manufacture that recycles the cigarette plastic fibers.

Educational content videos were produced, filmed, and edited. The videos were shown at various Duval Schools to educate the youth about sustainability and The video's observed 300-400 views.



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