



Mira Michelson  
2020-2021  
Senior Profile

“I was in a MoCo class with my friend and she was telling me about her day at school. My friend said, “We went on a hike in the woods and I got lost.” I thought, “That sounds like the place for me. I thought it would be really cool to get to go outside.” Mira Michelson then went home and told her mom about LEAF. I went on a tour and talked to founding director, Dakota Benedetto and Humanities teacher, Chris Becker. “Everything about LEAF was what I had been looking for in a school. They offered individualized learning with hands-on projects that I wanted to do and I cared about doing.”

“Humanities has always been my favorite class. I really like history, but I loved Chris Becker’s class.” In this class, “we learn more about the world. You get a lot of different perspectives and we go a little deeper than what you would normally get.”

During her time at LEAF Mira has developed “ a good relationship with a lot of teachers.’ With her love of history, it is not surprising that Mira connects with Humanities teacher Chris Becker. “Chris is G(gangster). He is a really chill guy. I like hanging out and talking to him. He is a nice dude and funny.”

Spanish teacher Barb Davis has been one of Mira’s favorite teachers. “I took 3 Spanish classes. After the first class, I just took Spanish to hang out with Barb.” Mira has traveled to Costa Rica twice. The first time she had not studied the Spanish language at all but the second time she went, she had been studying Spanish with Barb. She says the second visit was so much better because she had some Spanish language skills.

As a student at LEAF, Mira completed an internship at The Sustainability Project. Mira was involved in many learning experiences while doing her internship. The highlights include helping with the Music and Art in the Forest Open House, learning about permaculture principles, vermiculture, and the 13 Core Routines.”This internship really motivated me. I hope to have a career that has agriculture as a part of it.” Mira appreciates her internship mentor, Valerie Piedmont who is “a super good listener and shares her wisdom.”

Mira’s dream job is to be “ a mattress tester and sleep all day.” If that doesn’t work out, she would like to have a bee farm, with a small garden, and run a small business.

After graduation, Mira would like to participate in the World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF) program. WWOOF provides opportunities for cultural and educational exchanges. WWOOFers stay in a country and work on a farm and learn about sustainability practices. She would love to go to Ireland, Sweden, or Denmark because they are places that are making green choices and developing green energy.

Mira believes “literally everything about LEAF is unique. Students make the food and this helps build community. Students clean the school. This instills a little more pride in our school. We appreciate what we have more.”

One of Mira’s favorite memories at LEAF is when two students practiced the jump from the Dirty Dancing movie. “They spent hours practicing. Then they ran and jumped just like in the movie and nailed it.”

Mira reflects fondly on her LEAF experience. “10 out of 10! I never had a boring day at LEAF. I felt good about going to school. It was nice to see people being authentically themselves. Being around generally positive people who share their experience and offer different perspectives. I came out better because of it.”