

Earth Grant Internship



Ramirez-Andreotta Integrated Environmental Science
and Health Risk Lab

Gabriella Parra

Earth Grant 2022-2023



Introduction

For my Earth Grant internship, I worked as a lab assistant in the Ramirez-Andreotta Integrated Environmental Science and Health Risk Lab.

I think this was a great match as I am interested in pursuing Environmental Justice and citizen science.

I assisted with a project based in Miami, Arizona called "Rethinking Fire, Floods, and Health" testing soil quality in response to a series of flash floods and fires, which caused community concern for potential soil contamination.

I also started assisting remotely in a project called CLASH, which is starting to test blood lead levels in children in Cleveland, Ohio.



Internship Activities

Most of my internship responsibilities lied within working in our lab, located on campus in Saguaro Hall. I attended weekly meetings and recorded data in our excel sheet. While working in the lab, I was trained in several new lab techniques that I did not know before. I primarily worked on pH and electro-conductivity analysis of soils, and ball-milling soil.

On top of that, I helped collect soil samples in Miami, Arizona and assisted in a community outreach event. I really enjoyed both aspects of these trips, I got great experience in community outreach and field sampling.

Summary

I have learned a lot during my time in the internship at the Ramirez-Andreotta lab and the Earth Grant program. I have gained valuable experience and made professional connections I will be able to apply this experience gained to go forward in my Environmental Justice career. In the future, I will continue working with Dr. Ramirez in her lab and finish my bachelor's degree.

