



CAYMUS MAXSON | FOUNDER, TRASH TURTLES



SHE DIDN'T WAIT TO GROW UP TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

At 10, Caymus saw preventable waste and wildlife harm on her beach. She went to the mayor with four proposed ordinances and founded Trash Turtles.

SIX YEARS LATER, THE IDEA HAS BECOME A COMMUNITY.

REAL-WORLD IMPACT

1,500+

VOLUNTEERS

300K+

BOTTLES SAVED*

\$8,500

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

850+

EDUCATIONAL POSTS

6+ TONS

REMOVED

~75K

BUTTS RECYCLED

50+

CLEANUPS

300+

SHORELINE MILES

SOCIAL REACH

316K+

FB + IG VIEWS

43K+

TOP EDUCATIONAL POST

20K+

FB ENGAGEMENTS

SIGNATURE SPIN: "WHAT'S UP, TRASH TURTLE NATION?"

850+ original educational posts • researched, filmed + edited by Caymus

FROM ONE BEACH TO A PLATFORM FOR CHANGE

ACT

SHE TOOK ACTION

AGE 10

Proposed four ordinances to Madeira Beach City Council targeting beach waste and wildlife harm.

POLICY

Beach smoking and intentional balloon releases, two issues she raised, were later addressed through stronger Florida law and local policy.

JANE GOODALL'S ROOTS & SHOOTS YOUTH COUNCIL USA

Major youth driver of the Tampa Bay Hope in Action Summit; afterward selected to Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots Youth Council USA.

BUILD

SHE CREATED SYSTEMS

INFRASTRUCTURE

3 school water refill stations • \$6,000 invested • education programs at each school.

RECYCLING

TerraCycle cigarette-butt and writing-instrument programs across 7 states • 1,100+ writing instruments in one school drive.

COMMUNITY

50+ cleanups • 1,500+ volunteers • annual sea turtle nest sponsorship since 2024.

LEAD + TEACH

SHE MULTIPLIES IMPACT

SCHOLARSHIPS

8 changemakers • 4 states • \$8,500 awarded • recipients at Harvard, Ohio State, Clemson, FSU and USF.

CREATOR

850+ original posts; Caymus researches, writes, films and edits the content herself, including her signature video format.

IN PERSON

School talks • panels • interviews • recipient follow-ups • partner and government outreach • university collaboration.

NO PAID ENDORSEMENTS • ALL FUNDS SUPPORT TRASH TURTLES INITIATIVES

6 YEARS OF RECOGNITION + LEADERSHIP

2026 GLORIA BARRON PRIZE FOR YOUNG HEROES

NATIONAL WINNER

FEATURED IN TRASHY: A ZERO WASTE FILM • 2022

Environmental honors • national + local media • youth leadership
Speaking + panels

WHAT'S NEXT?

CONTINUE TO SCALE THE IMPACT.

Policy • More scholarships • #LeaveWith3™ on campuses • 100K cigarette butts recycled

Including UMass Dartmouth + expanded Surfrider collaboration

"Environmental issues are rarely the result of bad intentions. Usually, they come from everyday systems that have never been challenged."

"That makes me hopeful, because change is only one choice away."

CAYMUS MAXSON • AGE 16

*300K+ bottles saved is an estimated impact of the school water refill stations. Social metrics through Sept. 7, 2026.



TRASH TURTLES

Saving the planet one piece of trash at a time.

TRASHTURTLES.ORG

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#LeaveWith3™

Take your trash, plus three.