

Hello PASA-DKS Family! I am Serafina Chavez and I graduated from Los Gatos High School and PASA-DKS in 2016. I am double majoring in Sociology and Environmental Science at UC Santa Barbara. Here are some highlights since I graduated from DKS:

- I studied abroad in Costa Rica for a semester to study Spanish and researched climate change effects on coral reefs, mangroves, and sea turtles.
- My sophomore year, I worked part-time at Trader Joe's, ate lots of free snacks, and made great friends with my co-workers. I also learned how to mop a floor! Life skills!
- I have an internship with Get Out Stay Out-Vamos Afuera, a non-profit focused on inclusion, justice, and equity in the outdoors. As an intern, I lead weekend excursions hiking, surfing, climbing, and kayaking for Indigenous and migrant middle school students in Santa Maria, CA. I am grateful for my background in swimming and experience teaching swim lessons that has allowed me to share my skills and love for the water with underserved communities.
- The athleticism I learned from DKS inspired me to continue sports in college; open water swimming, ocean freediving/snorkeling/scuba club, and UCSB club rock climbing team. I even took an ocean swim class for college credit last summer and swam my first 10k ocean swim!
- I had lunch with 2020 U.S Poet Laureate, Joy Harjo, and heard her read excerpts of her poetry. I highly recommend checking out her books.
- After I graduate from UCSB next year, I would like to get my PhD in Sociology and become a professor. (Does that technically mean I'll be in school forever?)

I am so incredibly grateful for the DKS team, for Dana and Bruce, and all of the assistant coaches throughout the years. Thank you for challenging me to be better and for your patience during my awkward teenage years. Thank you for being a community and family I continue belong to. I still have Dana's voice in my head saying, "Don't just be good, be great" and "Commit to it!". These are comforting yet challenging reminders to myself that I am applying to all parts of my life. I cannot wait to visit and see you all on the deck soon! As for the global pandemic, "Oy Vey!", as Bruce would say.

