



Alejandra Isabel Barranco

Your culture is your own logo, it shows people your true colors.

Alejandra was only seven years old when she began to understand the value of her culture! Alejandra Isabel Barranco was born in Los Angeles. Alejandra's parents exposed her to the wonders of her heritage at an early age, during a vacation trip to Mexico City and Oaxaca. In addition, Alejandra was a member of a traditional Oaxacan brass band for 5 years. This involvement not only increased her interest in her Mexican/Oaxacan culture, but also gave her the foundation she needed to feel proud of her roots and stand strong when necessary. Alejandra is the oldest of four. She had to learn responsibility at an early age and assumed the role of taking care of her youngest siblings when needed. Alejandra holds a close relationship with her parents and appreciates the gifts each of them have taught her. Growing up, it was difficult to get homework help from her parents due to their limited English. However, her mother helped her with math while instilling an appreciation for numbers in her. On the other hand, her father's fascination with photography and film, led him to read books and watch YouTube videos to absorb all he could of this art. Her father became involved in photographing and filming all the Oaxacan celebrations and family festivities. Alejandra would serve as his assistant and began to grow fond of photography herself. Alejandra will be a rising junior this year in High School. She plans to use the skills her father has taught her in photography, to be part of the yearbook committee and become involved in the creation process!

Alejandra's story in G.E.M began as a participant in 2015. Her maturity and responsible nature makes her a valuable team player. Alejandra has experience and patience with the young, therefore she never hesitates to assist them. She loves being a part of G.E.M and mentors the girls by teaching them more about their culture. You can also find her behind the camera photographing the sessions. Since Alejandra is great with numbers, she volunteers as the Development Coordinator and keeps track of our fundraising money and donations. In addition, just like the rest of the team, Alejandra participates in the events and sessions that G.E.M hosts. Alejandra wants to major in Accounting when she finishes High School. During her free time, Alejandra likes hanging out with friends. She also appreciates and values her American culture and food! Her favorite foods are tlayudas from Oaxaca and chicken nuggets.