

AVA WEISSMAN

High school student passionate about business, community service, & public policy

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EDUCATION

American Heritage Schools, Plantation, FL

Graduation date: May 2026 GPA: 5.7 / AP Scholar with Distinction

- NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY & NATIONAL BUSINESS HONOR SOCIETY

LEADERSHIP & CLUBS

Founder & President

Pickleball 4 A Purpose, a 501(c)(3)organization

📅 02/2024 - Present 🌐 Parkland, FL

Founded non-profit fostering connections between older adults and teens via pickleball, raising funds for senior and youth groups: pickleball4apurpose.com

- Executing pickleball tournaments with over 300+ participants, raised \$50K+, 35+ sponsors and oversee 200+ teenage volunteers.
- Established 15 chapters in 11 states, with tournaments in multiple states in the US and digital outreach to 31 countries with 6K+ digital users.

President (25-26), Executive Vice President (24-25), Director of Fundraising (23-24)

DECA

📅 08/2022 - Present 🌐 Plantation, FL

Lead and manage a student organization of 300+ members focused on marketing, finance, hospitality, and business management. Held positions since sophomore year.

- Delegate tasks to the 20+ student-led officer team and oversee successful execution of chapter projects and initiatives.
- Served as a leader for over 300 DECA competitors and managed \$90K for competitor fees and membership dues, directly handling and assisting all cash flows.
- Spearheaded DECA Boot Camps with over 150 participants for competition practice.
- Executed fundraising events with outside retail stores to give back a percentage of sales to our DECA chapter, raising over \$2K for the chapter.

Executive Vice President (25-26), International Competitor (23-26)

Model United Nations

📅 08/2023 - Present 🌐 Plantation, FL

Selected on the travel team (1 of 35) with the Top 5 Model UN team in the US.

- Mentor 30+ students on public policy, global research and public speaking.
- Coordinate logistics & communication for international conferences.

Founder & President

AVUS Connect (American Heritage School Chapter)

📅 08/2022 - Present 🌐 Plantation, FL

- Created and leads the AVUS Connect chapter in high school, with 100+ members. Regularly volunteer to teach technology skills at senior centers.
- Organize monthly volunteer opportunities for 100+ students to help elderly and disabled adults living in isolation through visits at senior facilities.

Entrepreneurship Mentor (25-26) Vice President of Fundraising (23-25), Founder & Chair, Sports & Entertainment Special Interest Group (22-23)

Pre-Business Society

📅 08/2022 - Present 🌐 Plantation, FL

- Manage fundraising & relationships with 330+ dedicated business members, such as handling \$10K+ in dues and hosting various society fundraisers.

Vice President

March For Our Lives (American Heritage School Chapter)

📅 08/2022 - 05/2024 🌐 Plantation, FL

- Led a school gun safety movement while organizing speaker and mental health programs, growing membership from 10 to over 50 students.
- Increased student engagement by coordinating letter writing campaigns with 50+ volunteers.

AWARDS & HONORS

DECA ICDC 4TH PLACE IN THE WORLD 2025

4th place in Business Growth Plan event at the DECA International Career Development Conference for Pickleball 4 A Purpose. 4/250+

2026 COCA-COLA SCHOLAR

Selected as one of the 150 Coca-Cola Scholars out of 107,000 applicants based on academic excellence, leadership, and service in school and the community. 20K Scholarship Award.

2x DECA INTERNATIONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE QUALIFIER & 3x STATE QUALIFIER

DECA 2025 States 2nd place award for Business Growth Plan. DECA 2024 States Conference 4th place award.

BEST DELEGATE AWARD OF DISTINCTION- NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2025

First place delegate in the prestigious and largest high school tournament in NYC. 1/100+

2x BEST DELEGATE AWARD AT THE WILLIAM & MARY MODEL UN CONFERENCES 2025 & 2024

1/120+ in the World Trade Organization. 1/50+ in the Small Island Committee.

BEST DELEGATE AWARD-NORTH ATLANTIC INVITATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS AT GEORGETOWN 2025

1/150+ in the Forum for East Asia-Latin American.

VERBAL COMMENDATION AWARD AT THE 2025 IVY LEAGUE MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE AT UPENN

4th place delegate in the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization committee. 4/110+

PRESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE GOLD MEDAL (2025) (500+ HRS)

Award issued by The Office of the U.S. President for dedicated service helping seniors stay connected.

FLORIDA COUNCIL ON AGING PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD (2025)

Received due to efforts to improve quality of older Floridians' lives.

NATIONAL TOP SCHOOL RECOGNITION AWARD

Recognized by the College Board in 2025 for academic excellence within the school community.

FEATURED TEEN ENTREPRENEUR GUEST, WHARTON GLOBAL YOUTH FUTURE OF THE BUSINESS WORLD PODCAST (2025)

<https://tinyurl.com/Wharton-Youth-podcast>

2026 MIAMI HERALD SILVER KNIGHT BUSINESS CATEGORY NOMINEE (SELECTED BY SCHOOL)

One of the nation's most regarded student recognition programs, honoring seniors across Broward and Miami-Dade County who achieve impressive academics and lasting change in their communities. 1/100+

LEADERSHIP & CLUBS

Chief Executive Officer

American Heritage Business Incubator Course

08/2024 - 10/2025 Plantation, FL

Start-up planning in an interdisciplinary team format with real investment at stake.

- 1st place award out of 12 teams at the end of the year-long class during the "Shark Tank" style competition. Pitched startup to top executive judges (ex-Kraft Foods President, City Furniture CEO and a Venture Capitalist executive). Won \$1K.
- Created a startup truck-style mobile, sustainable shopping option business designed to reduce or eliminate packaging and food waste in communities.
- Developed an Investor Pitch Deck, Business Plan and Financial Model. Analyzed Harvard Business Review Case studies.

Director of Sales

Junior Achievement USA Fellows Program

08/2022 - 05/2023 Plantation, FL

14-week entrepreneurial experience. Developed a start-up shoelace company with capital funding, liquidation of the company and culminated with a JA competition.

LEADERSHIP & VOLUNTEERING

Broward County Youth Advisor

AVUS Connect

05/2023 - Present

- Worked with national AVUS to help secure over \$100K in government grants for senior tablet access and to lobby for passage of two Florida House Bills to source senior health aids.

Co-President & Legislative Advocate

Florida House of Representatives Marie Woodson District 105 Youth Council

05/2025 - Present Miramar, FL

Oversee youth board of six teens and represents 40K teenagers.

- Advocated for and co-created a bill that lowers teen volunteer age for seniors from 18 to 16. Bill goes to Florida House floor in November 2025.

Youth Director of Fundraising

March For Our Lives Parkland

05/2022 - 05/2025

- Led initiative to secure \$20K+ for community march of 2000+ attendees. Featured on CNN & MSNBC.

Co-Founder & President

Heal Together

06/2022 - 05/2024

Co-Founder of non-profit organization <https://www.helphealtogether.com> which provides peer support for teens affected by gun violence.

- Raised \$5K annually to fund five scholarships for gun violence survivors.

Volunteer

Kids In Distress

08/2022 - Present

- Organize and collect holiday donations for kids in need (90 hours to date).

WORK EXPERIENCE & RESEARCH

The Maurice A. Ferre Institute for Civic Leadership at Florida International University, Research Assistant

05/2025 - 09/2025 Miami, FL

Conducted research with Professor Agatha Caraballo on philanthropy solutions to increase funding sources and promote civic engagement for issues like voting rights and legislative process.

Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development, Research Intern for the Governor's Office

03/2025 - 09/2025

Assisted the Commissioner of Economic Development, Dan O'Keefe, with an analysis of economic incentives programs including their reach and frequency.

Happy Recap Productions, Junior Producer

06/2024 - Present

Provide creative input to generate funding for Broadway plays like *Sunset Blvd* and *Gypsy*. Chosen to attend 2025 Tony Awards to represent the company.

Roundview Capital, Summer Analyst

07/2024 - 08/2024 Princeton, NJ

Selected as one of the first high school students to intern at the prestigious wealth management firm, with a 15% acceptance rate.

- Created and presented a stock pitch for publicly traded securities to the Partners/Principals of Roundview Capital.
- Achieved 'Best Presentation' award among {20} interns, improving overall perception by elevating engagement strategies.
- Developed qualitative analysis skills, including interviewing consumers and employees of publicly traded companies.

Grouped, Inc., Business Intern

06/2023 - 08/2023 Nashville, TN

Participated in marketing brainstorming sessions, supported campaign planning and execution.

COURSES

Wharton Global Youth: Leadership in the Business World (Summer 2025)

Entrepreneurship & New Venture Creation, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Summer 2024)

University of Florida Young Leaders Conference 2025

Kelley Women's Leadership Institute, Indiana University 2024

Coursera Wharton course: Introduction to Marketing

Coursera course: Excel Fundamentals for Data Analysis 2024