



# 2019 18 UNDER 18

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# Catherine Broski

Junior  
Millennium High School  
Litchfield Park

After Valentine's Day, 2018, Catherine Broski the student became Catherine Broski the advocate.

Along with the nation, Catherine watched in horror as another school shooting, this time at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, claimed the lives of 17 people. She knew she had to do something.

"I was feeling angry, I was feeling frustrated, just like a lot of other students across the nation," she said. "I didn't feel like I could do anything. I got connected with other students throughout the Valley who were feeling just like me."

Broski was one of the early organizers for March for Our Lives Arizona. She's led efforts at her school, district and beyond to combat gun violence, raise awareness and get voters registered.

"I've learned so much from my peers, and about gun violence and the different ways it affects our communities," she said. "I've learned about civic engagement, and advocating and activism. I realized more of my identity, and what I was passionate about. I realized how much power I actually had, and that I could inspire others to see they had that ability within themselves."

Most recently, Catherine has helped to pass resolutions within school districts – including her own – to recognize mental health as a school safety issue.



"We believe mental health is school safety, and we should be taking more proactive measures instead of reactive measures like metal detectors," she said. "And my district is taking it further. I'm working with my principal to create a committee where students can voice their concerns about student safety. The students would be providing feedback that informs decisions – as well-intentioned as adults might be, they're not the students."

Catherine also has held and emceed a town hall at her school featuring local candidates, as well as hosting voter registration drives at her school and surrounding community.

"This past town hall was for the election, with several candidates for local and national politics as well as our school board," she said. "I'd like a repeat of that to have them come mid-term and give their student-constituents the opportunity to hold their representatives accountable."

