

TCPALM

MARTIN COUNTY YOURNEWS

Local student to serve on Keep America Beautiful youth council



Photo provided Members of the Keep American Beautiful Youth Advisory Council are pictured after their presentation at the National Conference in Orlando. From left are Ana Gomez, Reagan Gifford, Nicholas Ranieri, Eugen Cotei, Krysten Racs, Laine Rumreich, Elena Prenovitz, Jannah Brown, and Connor Stack.

By Tiffany Smith, YourNews contributor

PALM CITY - Keep Martin Beautiful is proud to announce that Nicholas Ranieri has been selected as one of 10 high school students from across the country to serve on Keep America Beautiful's National Youth Advisory Council (YAC). Ranieri brings a strong base of knowledge to the YAC, having been involved with Keep Martin Beautiful, the local affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, since the age of three when he participated in his first beach cleanup.

Ranieri is a sophomore at Martin County High School and has remained active in Keep Martin Beautiful for the past 12 years, participating in litter removal and community improvement and beautification projects coordinated by Keep Martin Beautiful during the organization's annual Great American Cleanup and the Extreme Martin Makeover program. The Extreme Martin Makeover projects focus on revitalization efforts in some of the economically challenged neighborhoods in Martin County including Banner Lake, Booker Park, Golden Gate and East Stuart.

As a newly-selected YAC member, Ranieri will provide an original point of view in assessing Keep America Beautiful programs, implement local service projects, and will act as an ambassador and leader for youth service in our community and state.

"To have Nicholas Ranieri chosen as a youth representative from our small county - out of thousands of high school students representing large urban areas across the country - is truly impressive," said KMB Board President, Craig Ahal. "Given his history with Keep Martin Beautiful, we're confident he will serve as strong representative on the KAB Youth Advisory Board. It's important that we involve and inspire the next generation of our youth who will eventually take the reins in advocating for our environment."

YAC members pilot Keep America Beautiful programs and develop programs to engage youth to support the Keep America Beautiful mission. Goals for this year include promoting Keep America Beautiful Schools, including tools to be litter-free, and developing a framework for establishing or branding local youth groups as Keep America Beautiful YAC. With support from the Wrigley Company Foundation, YAC members are also provided with a grant of up to \$1,500 to produce a community service project in their own community.

In addition to his participation on the KAB YAC, Ranieri is also active in a number of other volunteer and community involvement activities. He is a mentor and volunteer with TOPS Soccer, helping developmentally challenged youth to be physically active. He is a founding member of SafeSpace's YOUR Leaders, a group of highly active teen leaders in the Treasure Coast Area of Florida focused on promoting healthy relationships. SafeSpace is a nonprofit organization that helps victims of domestic violence.

Ranieri is also an active member of his high school debate team, which exemplifies his strong communication skills. In addition, he is currently participating in the Martin Youth LEADERShip program, which selects 35 high school sophomores and juniors throughout Martin County to develop and nurture the young leaders of our community. The comprehensive nine-month immersive program provides opportunities to learn about the local history, government, business, arts and culture, criminal justice and the environment.

Keep Martin Beautiful is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community organization founded in 1994 and an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. Its mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of life in Martin County through litter prevention, the promotion of recycling, improvement of solid waste management practices, and beautification and community revitalization activities. Signature events and programs include the Great American Cleanup, Extreme Martin Makeover, International Coastal Cleanup, Environmental Stewardship Awards and Adopt-A-Road programs. Like KMB on Facebook at [facebook.com/KeepMartinBeautiful](https://www.facebook.com/KeepMartinBeautiful), follow KMB on Twitter at twitter.com/KMBmartin, visit <http://KeepMartinBeautiful.org> or call 772-781-1222.

Established in 1953, Keep America Beautiful is a leading national nonprofit organization that inspires and educates people to take action every day to improve and beautify their community environment. KAB provides the expertise, programs and resources to help people end littering, reduce waste, increase recycling, and protect the natural beauty of the areas around us. The organization is driven by the work and passion of more than 600 community-based Keep America Beautiful affiliates, millions of volunteers, and the support of corporate partners, municipalities, elected officials, and individuals. For more information, visit <http://kab.org>.