

LUMINARIES MARTIN COUNTY

Nicholas Ranieri selected to serve on National Youth Advisory Council



BARRY RABINOWITZ The Keep American Beautiful Youth Advisory Council 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.

Keep Martin Beautiful announces that Nicholas Ranieri was 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 age three when he participated in his first beach cleanup.

Ranieri, a sophomore at Martin County High School 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.

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.