

Kids with character



Akron
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Samantha Peddicord is a senior at GlenOak High School in Stark County. Her integrity, perseverance and respectfulness drive her excellence in citizenship. For her junior year in high school, Samantha was placed as a Rotary exchange student in Argentina. From the moment she landed in Argentina, she was faced with adversity. The local Rotary representative told her that there was no host family for her to stay with and that she would have to return to the United States. Samantha refused to go home. Instead, she arranged temporary housing and made contacts until she found a local family in a small village that would serve as her host family. After she settled in with her host family, she found that her assigned high school did not have the same dedication to education that Samantha was used to. So, once again, Samantha set out to resolve the problem on her own, this time to find a better learning environment. She did, but it would be a one-hour bus ride away. Samantha did all this having studied Spanish for only two years in high school. As she settled into her daily routine, she soon discovered that the young people of Argentina had a twisted view of the United States based on information from their biased press, which has stringent government control, and from the tabloid headlines about Hollywood scandals. Samantha made it her personal mission to tell her Argentinean classmates about the liberties and rights of the true American way of life. She became an ambassador for our country. Because of her year abroad and realizing how people in other parts of the world think about America, she has decided to major in international relations/comparative politics at Kent State University.

Thank you, Samantha, for being such a model citizen and trying to make the world a better place.

Samantha

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