



## **Exemplary Student Service Award Nomination – Madeline Gochee**

*Nominated by Jennifer Owen, Coach at Lincoln High School, OR*

Madeline Gochee puts her speech and debate skills to the service of others as follows:

First, with strong research and speaking skills from debate, Madeline was chosen for our school's We The People team. Thereafter she has used knowledge of the U.S. Constitution from that experience and speech skills from debate during her service on a program called Mission: Citizen. There she has taught at the three-month long courses for 25-30 non-citizens to help them pass the Civics portion of the U.S. Citizenship Test. She's also a member of Democracy Club, which works to register teens to vote and spread civic engagement in the community.

Second, Madeline serves as the co-president of student government where she plans assemblies and works for equity issues. The most significant project student government has completed this year under Madeline's leadership is a revamp of the anti-bullying curriculum. Our school has had one of the lowest numbers of incidents of bullying in our district because of the student-created and taught curriculum. This year they have focused on explaining how to identify and the impact of micro-aggressions, which are the largest form of bullying at our school. Madeline teaches strategies to prevent bullying under the Name it Claim it Tame it model. Finally, Madeline has worked diligently to include a section called "remembering resilience" which equips students with strategies to recognize their own self worth, an aspect that can be controlled and strengthened if they are experiencing bullying.

Third, Madeline serves on the Teen Council of Planned Parenthood and teaches peers a comprehensive and inclusive sexual education program. Topics include: Sexually Transmitted Infections; pregnancy; pregnancy prevention; how emergency contraception works and where to access it, etc. Madeline also discusses and teaches about healthy relationship, consent, emotional and physical boundaries, and solutions to not having access to healthcare, transportation, or information necessary to make healthy decisions about sexual health. Madeline's skills as a skilled communicator have given her the opportunity to directly help her peers; and, she knows that studies corroborate the idea that students can learn better and more profoundly about sexual education when taught by their peers rather than an adult.

Fourth, Madeline was elected vice president of a student-wide walkout for gun reform at our school. And, when I was looking for students to represent our school at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Speech and Debate Tournament in Parkland, Florida, last spring as a show of support for the victims of gun violence, Madeline took the lead and helped organize a small delegation of debaters who presented letters from our student body to theirs.

Finally, as our lead team captain, Madeline has led our team's strongest section these two past years. Her skills with training novice, organizing senior members and motivating all team members at tournaments are remarkable. She is a role model for other captains on our 65-person team not only in her competitiveness in policy debate but also with her motivational attitude and reliability.