



The Maryland DARE Coordinator's Office and the Maryland DARE Officers' Association proudly announce that Ms. Alyssa Gibson has been selected as the State's representative to the DARE America Youth Advisory Board. Alyssa is a sophomore at Huntingtown High School in Calvert County. She was nominated by her 6<sup>th</sup> grade DARE Instructor, Michael Bomgardner, a retired Sergeant from the Calvert County Sheriff's Office.

Five very deserving students from across Maryland were nominated for the appointment, each having received DARE programs earlier in their student careers. Their academic achievements, extra-curricular activities, and service to community, along with letters of recommendation were reviewed to select Maryland's newest youth representative.

A life-long Honor Roll student, Alyssa attended Plum Point Middle School where she participated in DARE during 6<sup>th</sup> grade. In the 8<sup>th</sup> grade she received the Fisher Award for citizenship because of her volunteerism and community service. In high school Alyssa has continued her academic excellence and sense of service. She has been named "Student of the Month," and selected by faculty as a student representative to the Technology Team to advise on student needs. She is member of the school's Humane Society Club because of her love for animals; she is a volunteer teacher's helper and advisor at her church, because she loves working with children; and she is an active cadet member of her local volunteer fire/rescue company, where she will take classes this year for her EMT certification, enabling her to become an aide of the ambulance. Her ambition in life is to study medicine and become a medical doctor. During the summer, Alyssa is a lifeguard and swim instructor at a local water park.

Alyssa's teachers and counselor have said of her, "Overall, it is Alyssa's work ethic and integrity that makes her extraordinary. She strives to be challenged, and takes pride in the work and effort she puts into achieving her goals." "Alyssa's greatest strength is her leadership." "Alyssa always had the ability to think outside the box." "...I came to recognize Ms. Gibson's relentless persistence for excellence." "She is well-spoken and eloquent along with being a focused and attentive listener." "Alyssa is a stellar example of a well-rounded student whose balance of intellectual talent, career goals, community service, leadership skills, and extracurricular involvement define a model young lady."

Alyssa will represent the students of Maryland on the DARE America Youth Advisory Board for the next two years. In 2018, she will be eligible for DARE America's \$20,000.00 scholarship.

Please join us in congratulating Alyssa for being a model youth from Maryland.