

Student Spotlight: Haley Montgomery

BY JONATHAN KANE

Haley Montgomery, a Wood River High School senior carrying a 3.7 grade point average, has a great deal of activities to fill her day. Besides being an avid Nordic skier, Montgomery immerses herself in community service through the Key Club and the Compassionate Leaders program and is a budding artist. Born in Dansbury, Conn., she moved to the Wood River Valley when she was seven years old after a stop in Arizona. “It was a little different at first,” she said. “It was really laid back here and I had never lived in a really cold climate before but I liked it much more than Arizona. My first memories are of snowboarding on Dollar and then joining the Nordic ski team, which has had a big impact on my activities and has shaped my friendships. I also really like the fact that this is a close-knit community with a lot of community events and in a small town people really get involved. I guess the downside is that sometimes it’s hard to find things to do because everything is so structured, but we just get creative.”

Last year Montgomery became a Compassionate Leader and made the trip to India on a goodwill mission. “I had never joined a club like that but my friends really enjoyed it and I wanted to be in a completely different setting and to learn about a new culture. Visiting a place like New Delhi was shell shocking because there were so many people in a small area and because it was 105 degrees with high humidity.” But there was a lot to take out of the experience. “It really taught me to not judge people as much and to be more open minded. You really need to step back and enjoy life.”

In the Valley, Montgomery throws herself into community service as a member of the Key Club, which works closely with the Kiwanis Club. “I started my sophomore year because I wanted to be more involved and this seemed liked the perfect outlet. This year I’m the secretary. A lot of the work I do is at the senior home and I’ve also helped with Christmas fairs at the Armory and at Hemingway Elementary. What I’ve really taken out of it is that older people and kids have a lot in common and their relationship is not stereotypical. Doing service is also not just about the hours. It’s about the relationships and the people that you meet and it really makes you feel good when you do something for someone else.”

At Wood River Montgomery has immersed herself into a variety of Advanced Placement



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classes including U.S. history, language and composition, government, statistics, literature and psychology. She has also immersed herself in the visual arts by taking Introduction to Art, Studio Art and two ceramic courses. “At first I needed an art credit for college but once I started I really liked it. It turns out to be really therapeutic because I can go and just clear my head. Also, since I’m not naturally talented, I have to really work at it and that’s a great thing.” But it’s nothing new for a student that works hard at everything.

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Each week, Jonathan Kane will be profiling a local high-school student. If you know someone you’d like to see featured, e-mail jennifer@theweeklysun.com