учениця 10 класу Кременчуцької ЗОШ

I-III ступенів №17 «Вибір» імені М. Г. Неленя

Мещерякова Дар’я Олександрівна

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*Next year I’m going to spend in the USA as a FLEX program participant. But I’ve never thought of becoming a part of brain drain problem for my country in future. I’ve always dreamt of coming back home from any abroad trip with super experience gained in life skills and try to make a difference in the lives of my family, school, town, country, to become a real future leader, to be that change I want to see in my country!*

*So I am a 16-year-old resident of a very special town in the center of Ukraine, almost in the heart of our Motherland!* Welcome to Kremenchuk!

We are the town of real patriots! In 2016 on the 25th anniversary of Ukrainian independence Kremenchuk had an unbelievably huge Vyshyvanka Parade. That year we beat the Ukrainian record as the biggest Parade of embroidery. When almost 30000 people sing the national anthem together it is very hard to describe that feeling of belonging, the tears in your eyes, the thrill in your soul and the tremendous pride of being Ukrainian!

*(I am reaching the limit of 180 words but I’m not sure if it is more important than my desire everyone to know how great my native town is. So I’m sorry but I can’t stop telling at least some facts which the residents of Kremenchuk are so proud of!)*

We are the town of generous and merciful people. We want every child can hear and see, be healthy and enjoy his/her life to the full! That’s why we’ve been the participants of All-Ukrainian “From Heart to Heart” charity action during13 years. This year we beat our own record by gathering more than half a million hryvnas to buy the equipment to our local hospital for the kids with hearing problems.

Really creative people live in Kremenchuk. This winter our amazingly beautiful City New Year Tree became the best one in Ukraine! *The composition by itself, modern illumination, gorgeous Christmas Arch made unbeatable holiday atmosphere.*

Kremenchuk is a really hospitable and sweet town. Only 3 Ukrainian cities can boast of having Roshen Confectionary Factory: Kyiv, Vinnytsia and … Kremenchuk, of course! Residents of our town have a sweet tooth! In 2016 on the Town Day Celebration we beat one more record. Our confectioners made the biggest Napoleon cake in Ukraine. Sweet giant’s weight was more than 1 ton. *And it was in the shape of our bridge across the Dnipro.*

Kremenchuk is the youth-friendly town. This year our town was among Top10 finalists of “The Youth Capital of Ukraine” first National Competition.

*And the last but not the least in my story is the fact that* Kremenchuk is the only town in Ukraine that has the World Peace Gong, the Indonesian symbol of peace, unity and humanity. According to the legend the sounds of the Gong make the peace spirits awaken, its sounds symbolize the end of any hostilities, the beginning of something new, of deep hope and noble ideals.

**I want it to be loud, to sound as loud as never before and bring so long-expected peace to our nation!**

P.S. I believe in the power of visualization that’s why I asked my classmate Kateryna Pokora to mirror the peace spirits from my essay by the power of her artistic skill!)

