

In Our Field: Imperial County 4-H selects 2014-2015 All-Stars

By SHANNA ABATTI Special to this Newspaper | Posted: Thursday, June 12, 2014 12:20 am

What is a 4-H All-Star? All-Star is the highest rank a 4-H member can achieve at the county level. The All-Star award affords 4-H members the opportunity to further develop their leadership skills on a county-wide basis.

Each year Imperial County selects elite 4-H members who have applied and are deserving of this rank to become All-Stars. The Imperial County 4-H Program expects its All-Stars to contribute to the 4-H program during the next program year.

The 4-H All-Stars act as liaisons between the county 4-H office, 4-H members and volunteers, and are ambassadors to the public. The All-Stars visit 4-H clubs, reach out to other organizations within the community, attend and participate in the 4-H State Leadership Conference, 4-H county, sectional and statewide meetings, and other activities as requested by the county. The 4-H All-Stars act as visible 4-H members, role models for their fellow 4-H members, their county and their community.

This year the Imperial County All-Star team is comprised of three outstanding members: Bryanne Sanchez of Southwest Valley 4-H, Carlos Lopez of McCabe 4-H and Steven Johnson of Star Route 4-H.

As a team they are looking forward to cultivating the All-Star program as well as building relationships and working together with the community. The All-Star team is looking forward to the challenges in the year ahead. These three elite 4-H members have all been through a rigorous interview and application process and are excited for the year ahead.

In Bryanne's interview, she spoke about increasing involvement at county events and club meetings. She would also like to help members learn about record keeping and the value in starting their record books in the beginning of the program year.



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Steven would like to instill more leadership events countywide and possibly bring a leadership conference to Imperial County rather than have to travel lengthy distance to gain these skills.

Carlos expressed how much the 4-H has helped him develop his communication skills over the years and wants to create more visibility for the program in the community. He wants youth from all over to benefit from the wide array of opportunities the Imperial County 4-H program has to offer.

The 4-H All-Star program is a source of leadership development. The best and brightest 4-Hers are selected to represent this county. These members have excelled in their own projects, have served their county program in other ways, and have been deemed worthy to represent their fellow 4-Hers.

The All Star 4-H Ambassador rank recognizes members' leadership abilities, but it is also a working honor. Besides their regular projects and activities, 4-H All Star are required to assist with county events, develop a plan of action, and perform service projects. This esteemed position keeps older members involved by providing them with a goal for which to strive and it also creates leaders for younger members. All of these factors add up to a unique leadership experience special to the 4-H Youth Development Program.

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