

Imperial County 4-H selects 2016-2017 All-Star Ambassador team

By Shanna Abatti, Special to this Newspaper | Posted: Thursday, May 26, 2016 12:10 am

The University of California Cooperative Extension of Imperial County 4-H Youth Development Program is proud to announce the 2016-2017 4-H All-Star Ambassador team. This year the group is comprised of four outstanding 4-H members; Keeley Poloni of Holtville 4-H, Addyson Rubin of Verde 4-H, Rose Fiorenza of Magnolia 4-H, and Kirk Johnson of Star Route 4-H. All-Star is the highest rank that 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.



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FROM LEFT: Kirk Johnson of Star Route 4-H, Rose Fiorenza of Magnolia 4-H, Addyson Rubin of Verde 4-H and Keeley Poloni of Holtville 4-H are the 2016-2017 4-H All-Star Ambassador team. Courtesy Photos

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

In Keeley's interview, she spoke about increasing awareness of local community service opportunities at the Humane Society, Imperial Valley Food Bank, Boys & Girls Club, as well as a multitude of other entities. She would like to create plan of action for the local 4-H clubs to carry out in the upcoming year. Some ideas she has are to encourage the community to become involved are to hold a Pet Run and host a drive-thru barbecue in which all of the proceeds would go to buying supplies for a local charity. She is excited to reach out and encourage not only 4-H but also the community to get active and get involved.

Rose would like to instill more leadership events countywide and possibly bring a leadership conference to Imperial County rather than have to travel lengthy distances to gain these skills. She wants youths in Imperial County to know there is so much more to 4-H than the fair. In her

upcoming term as 4-H All-Star she is determined to expose as many youths in the Imperial Valley as possible to the leadership opportunities in 4-H.

Kirk expressed an interest in his interview to explore what 4-H has to offer in the state of California and meet as many people as possible. He wants to create more visibility for the program in the community and show how much fun 4-H can be. He would like to work with community members to create new projects in 4-H that would attract a diverse group of youths to 4-H. Some of these projects include web design, computer science, cultural arts and music. He wants to help implement a plan in which leaders are taught how to teach and engage with youths in the community. He is excited to start a program that helps youths and adults from all over to benefit from the wide array opportunities the Imperial County 4-H program has to offer.

The fourth ambassador on the team, Addyson Rubin, would like to reinvigorate leaders who may have been in volunteer positions for many years. She has developed and would like to implement a five-point training focusing on enriching volunteers experience in 4-H. She has a passion for leadership within her community and is excited to help younger members reach their fullest potential in 4-H. In the upcoming years she is striving to be the best role model possible for the youths in our community.

As a team they want to cultivate the All-Star program as well as build relationships and work together with the community. The All-Star team is looking forward to the challenges in the year ahead. These four elite 4-H members have all been through a rigorous interview and application process and are excited for the year ahead. If you would like to learn more about the 4-H program or invite the 4-H All Star Ambassador team to your next event please call the 4-H Office 760-352-9474 or email smabatti@ucanr.edu