

## 4-H members attend Leadership Conference

By Shanna Abatti, Special to this Newspaper | Posted: Thursday, August 4, 2016 12:10 am

As most of California was chasing Pokémon, 4-H members were loading up and making the long trip to California State University, Humboldt, for the annual 4-H State Leadership Conference. Fifteen individuals from Imperial County 4-H also made this trip in varying roles.

The 4-H State Leadership Conference is the premier opportunity that brings together youths from across California for a four-day leadership training, networking and learning experience.

Members participated in advanced leadership training sessions, networked and shared ideas with other 4-H'ers from across the state and had the opportunity to participate in experiential education on leadership development, civic engagement, college admissions and other 4-H project areas. Imperial County 4-H members, along with the rest of the state, also experienced a slice of college life. They lived in the residence halls, ate in the dining commons and participated in educational sessions, many of which were taught by University of California faculty and staff.

Imperial County 4-H members and adults participated in a variety of roles at this conference. The California State Leadership Conference is a tremendous undertaking organized by a team of dedicated leaders and members. The conference is organized by the state ambassadors, advisors and the SLC Planning Committee, but could not be accomplished without help from the Technology Leadership Team and the SLC Support Group. There truly is a niche for everyone.

With two state ambassadors, one state technology leadership team member, one state leadership planning committee member, three adult advisers, the conference nurse, four all-stars, one program assistant and four youth members with aspirations to grow and achieve more, there was no mistaking that Imperial County was on campus.

The State Leadership Conference Support Group recruits teen leaders to help with tasks and logistics for the conference. Applicants must be eligible to attend State Leadership Conference as youth members between the ages of 13 and 19. SLC Support staff travel to Davis. prior to the conference to plan and prepare for it.



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Courtesy Photo

The entire conference is planned by the SLC Planning Committee, a team of high school 4-H members and adult volunteers. Working in a strong youth-adult partnership, they design the educational, recreational and logistical components of the conference.

Program assistants help the youth delegates to have the most amazing leadership experience possible. This year we had some wonderful alumni who signed up to help out as program assistants which included one from Imperial County.

It was a great trip in which members bonded, leaders expanded their knowledge and our very own state ambassadors completed their year with heartfelt speeches. I encourage each and every one of you to become involved with 4-H. There truly is a niche for everyone.

To learn more about programs like the 4-H State Leadership Conference, or get involved please contact Shanna Abatti at the University of California Cooperative Extension Imperial County Office at 760-352-9474 or [smabatti@ucanr.edu](mailto:smabatti@ucanr.edu)