

National 4-H Week recognizes local significance

By VINCENT OSUNA, Staff Writer | Posted: Sunday, October 8, 2017 1:30 am

SEELEY — While 4-H is recognized as the national's largest youth development and empowerment organization, the impact it's had locally is more significant than most think.

With the lack of after school programs in the Imperial County, the organization has helped thousands of local youths gain essential leadership experience and learn new skills through hands-on projects.

From Oct. 1 to Oct., 7, National 4-H Week was celebrated for the 75th year in a row by programs across the country, including the total of 15 within the county. Programs participated in different projects each day throughout the week, highlighting what 4-H has to offer.

Six years ago, a total of 693 number of youths made up the entirety of 4-H locally.

In July, 7,282 local 4-H members were accounted for, showing a drastic increase in the support and impact it's made within the county.

On Saturday afternoon, members from 4-H clubs throughout the Imperial Valley came together at Sunbeam Lake to participate in the National 4-H Science event, which acted as the specific day during the National Week to participate in STEM projects.

McCabe 4-H Robotics Leaders Joel Lopez and Vicky Lopez-Cantwell acted as the instructors for the science event. It was the third consecutive year it was held locally.

Lopez lead middle school-aged 4-H members in a drone discovery project while Cantwell demonstrated for 4-H teenage members on how to create a wearable heart rate monitor.

4-H members from different local clubs at a science event on Saturday were interviewed and asked their favorite part of being in the organization.



National 4-H Week

A group of Amanda Cantwell, 16, (right) of McCabe 4-H, Andrew Angulo, 13, (left) of Mt. Signal 4-H and Aliyah Al-Jasim, 10, (middle) of McCabe 4-H work together to create a heart rate monitor during the National 4-H Science event on Saturday held at Sunbeam Lake in El Centro.

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