

QUESTIONS? Contact Editor in Chief Tom Bodus at tbodus@ivpressonline.com or 760-337-3427.

4-H

Focus on youth development



FROM LEFT: Dillon Sanchez, Ella Hoyt, Hannah Cartee and Hayden Hulsey. COURTESY PHOTO

BY SHANNA ABATTI
4-H program representative

What does it mean to be a good citizen or a leader? Are you a strong civic leader for your community, country and world?

4-H members from across the Imperial Valley have been selected to represent Imperial County at the 2018 Citizenship Washington Focus Conference. This conference, now in its 59th year, will be held June 16-26 at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Md.

After the conference, California delegates will venture through a four-day Heritage Trail tour, visiting historic landmarks in Baltimore and Gettysburg, Pa. These four Imperial Valley members will join an 11-member California delegation. They will connect with hundreds of 4-H members from across the country at this year's conference.

The 4-H youth members will take residence for the duration of their trip at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center, located just outside Washington, D.C. The program is aimed at enriching young people's lives by broadening their appreciation and respect

for themselves and others in the world.

Participants attend workshops, committee meetings, field trips and social events, giving them hands-on opportunities to learn and grow. They learn and practice skills that will make them better citizens and more successful individuals.

In addition to the many sightseeing opportunities the youth members are also challenged to address a current issue in their community and develop and carry out a service-learning plan of action.

This intensive 10-day summer citizenship program is for youth ages 15-19. If you attend CWF, you can expect to get a behind-the-scenes look at our nation's capital, become involved in activities that stress the importance of civic and social responsibility, and experience hands-on learning in our nation's capital.

During the week, program participants will have the opportunity to visit local Washington, D.C., landmarks. These include the Capitol, Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, and other historic sites, as well as Smithsonian museums.

The conference provides opportunities for young people to iden-

tify individual citizenship rights and responsibilities; identify issues facing youth and explore causes and possible solutions; establish communication with law makers; and witness government in action.

The 4-H program's main goal has stayed true: to create better citizens today and better leaders tomorrow.

The participants will learn new skills that will allow them to create a better world at the local and national levels. Most importantly, they will be ambassadors for our community and the state of California.

Delegates from Imperial County attending this year's conference are: Hayden Hulsey, Hannah Cartee, Dillon Sanchez and Ella Hoyt, along with their adult advisor Marci Hulsey. The delegates are working nonstop from December to May to raise \$17,500 for this trip.

For more information about the 4-H program, please contact the UCCE-Imperial County office at 442-265-7700.



FROM LEFT: Isabella Estrada, Star Route 4-H Club, Best of Show Intermediate Novice and Overall Reserve Champion and Emma Walker, Star Route 4-H Club, Best of Show Intermediate and Overall Grand Champion. COURTESY PHOTO



Liliana Rodriguez, Meadows 4-H Club, Best of Show Novice Junior. COURTESY PHOTO