



June 2017 Issue II



Hello Santa Clara County 4-H!

Welcome to the June edition of Timely Topics. Do you like what you see here? Would you like to be part of the Timely Topics' crew? Do you have an article to share? Some shout outs to wonderful achievements? Is there a volunteer that you would like to honor? Well, this is the place. The newsletter will be published each month. Articles and contributions must be received by the 6th of each month. Articles and contributions that include photos will be given priority. Submit all articles, contributions and photos to sjweaver@ucanr.edu



Rolling Hills 4-H Graduating Class of 2017

Submitted by Ethan Chi

Congratulations to ten of our Rolling Hills seniors who are graduating this year! The ten are: Stanley Armstrong, Rakhay Burtzlaff, Emma Bystrom, Jon Coleman, Nicholas Coleman, Kenna Doeden, Eileen Hails, Peter Martin, Olivia Nayler, and Kyra Neilly.

At the May general club meeting, Ms. Jill Willard presented these graduating seniors with tassels from

the club, while the Music Project played *Pomp and Circumstance* and parents and friends snapped photos happily. It was a very special and memorable moment for all of us. Afterwards, members got to listen to wise words of advice from our seniors. Here's some of what we heard that night:

"I will miss my 4-H family and the friendships I have made, both with adults and youth. I will especially miss 4-H Camp, as it was my favorite event out of the entire year."

"What I would tell a new member about 4-H is that as cheesy as it sounds, it helps you grow as a person."

"I have learned a good work ethic from 4-H. Also, I have learned leadership, success, and failure and it has been fun."

"Try any project that you are interested in. You never know, you might discover something you're passionate about!"

"I would tell any new member to find their focus and not to stretch themselves too thin."

"You'll never regret joining. It will be hard at times depending on what project you're in (or how many) and it might feel like it takes up a lot of your time, but every moment is worth it. You'll learn things and have experiences you wouldn't have anywhere else."



EVENTS – NEWS - LEARNING - EXCITEMENT

Please volunteer to help with outreach at the County Fair!

Submitted by Rebecca Call, El Sereno 4-H

For the last few years, El Sereno 4-H's Rabbit and Cavy Project has led a Service Learning Project to develop the Small Animal Education Area at Fair. Last year during the public hours there were crowds of kids trying to get turns to pet the animals. Parents and teens talked to visitors about 4-H, but it was so crowded they only spoke to maybe one in twenty people. At least three new families joined 4-H after talking to us at the Education Area - but we missed hundreds more who might have joined 4-H if we'd managed to talk to them.

This year, we plan to improve outreach, by creating more activities and by becoming more effective at talking with visitors. Our service learning project organizes the set-up of the Education Area, but it is for EVERYONE to share and help with. We need as many people as possible to participate so we can talk to as many visitors as possible!

- If you have an animal at Fair, or if you are good with animals, please come to the booth to help supervise the animals and answer questions.
- But we don't just need the animal exhibitors – we need an army of adults and youth who know about 4-H and can hand out flyers and explain what 4-H is and how to join. If you can spare an hour, two hours, or an afternoon or evening, you can talk to families whose children would become 4-Hers next year!

In addition, this year we will organize demonstrations and contests using a PA system, so there are more activities for the public to watch. During these activities we will use the microphone to explain what 4-H is all about.

- Anyone with a small animal can volunteer to do a demo – it can be of anything, e.g., a demo of showmanship, or bring up an animal and talk about its species, its breed, and information about the breed. It can be a long demo, or just five minutes. It can be done on your own, or a pair, or a group. We want to fill the afternoons and evenings with interesting demos!
- A project can work together to do some demos, or it can be as simple as showing your animal and having a friend ask questions about it with the microphone.
- We will create a schedule nearer to Fair, so anyone who wants to do a demo can sign up for a slot. If you have an idea for a demo with your project that needs more organizing than just signing up, please email us at nj_call@pacbell.net, and we can work out a time slot for you.

We are organizing a Cavy Costume Contest and a Rabbit Costume Contest during the public times.

- We would love for a Poultry Project to volunteer to organize a Poultry Costume Contest too! If your project could organize a costume contest, please email us!
- We'll send out more info about these fun events nearer the time, but we would love everyone to think about entering and making cool costumes, so we have a great event for the public to watch.

Imagine: Thousands of people came through the Small Animal Barn last year, and we managed to talk to less than one in twenty. Please consider giving a few hours of your time on August 3, 4, 5, or 6th at The Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Road, San Jose. If we have an army of 4-H volunteers in the Small Animal Barn during the public hours, we can reach thousands more people who might then join 4-H and next year, they will be exhibitors at Fair, not spectators. This way, 4-H and our Fair will get even bigger and better next year!



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2016-2017 Rolling Hills 4-H Music Project *Submitted by Ryan Chi*

This was the first year of the Rolling Hills 4-H Music Project. It was a great success. We chose three pieces of music, spanning the centuries, from classical to pop to rock: *Ode to Joy*, *Imagine*, and *4-H Rocks!* We started rehearsing in December. After two action-packed project meetings, our orchestra comprised of violins, clarinets, vocalists, a French horn, a flute, a cello, a piano, and a drum set was ready to perform. In January, we had two performances: one at the general club meeting, and one at a senior retirement community in Cupertino. At the senior home performance, some of our project members also performed for the seniors, both as soloists and in chamber groups. Afterwards, we had a chance to talk to the seniors. They really enjoyed our performance. In May, we had another performance, this time to honor the graduating Rolling Hills 4-H seniors. Overall, everyone was really enthusiastic and had a great time throughout the year. In addition, it was a fun experience to combine our different skills and instruments and work together to create music. We look forward to our next season!



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Western Heritage Shooting Sports Winners. *Photo provided by L. Aquino*

The 4-H Western Heritage Project combines a comprehensive study of the Old West with the fastest growing shooting sports discipline in the world – western action shooting. In this project 4-H members and adult leaders experience the lifestyles and cultures of the Old West from the period of around 1860-1900 through a living history approach to learning while instilling the concepts of gun safety and personal responsibility. Members dress in Old West clothing, shoot replica firearms of the frontier period, and expand their knowledge of U.S. history. The California State Finals were held May 7-8 in Winton, CA - where qualifying 4-H members from counties all over the state came to compete. The members competed in a U.S. History Test (1860-1900), a vintage Firearms Identification Test, a timed shoot using, historically accurate revolvers, lever action rifles, and a double barrel coach style shotgun. They were also tasked with assuming a persona from the given time period and be interviewed as that person. : **Results:** Thomas Aquino, Pacheco Pass 4-H, 2nd overall California High Point, 1st overall Place in History Exam. Troy Chambers, Pacheco Pass 4-H finished top 10.



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All Star Ambassadors Announced – Please Join Us

From fun dances to beach parties to community service...the 2016-2017 All-Stars had a great time serving Santa Clara County 4-H! However, now is the time for them to “pass the baton” to the next group of passionate, capable 4-Hers. We are excited to announce the 2017-2018 SCC All-Star Ambassador team:

- Ashley Jordan, Pleasant Acres
- Chloe Tuckness, Pleasant Acres
- Connor Lydon, El Sereno
- Dustin Geringer, El Sereno
- Ethan Ho, Sunset Hills
- Fiona Reyes, Homesteaders
- Paula Piva, Coyote Crest

How were the new All-Stars chosen? First, they submitted an online application including their past 4-H and leadership experience, references from a peer/adult, and short answers to essay prompts like “what aspect of 4-H do you want to improve on?” Then, after their applications were reviewed, the prospective All-Stars were interviewed on May 13th by a panel of 4-H Alumni. Trust us, the interviews were far from a scary thing – the interviewees participated in fun group activities to demonstrate their leadership skills in action, as well as talked one-on-one with the panel. However, the interview process, was very rigorous and competitive. The response from our judges was overwhelmingly positive – they were impressed with how prepared, polite, and passionate the 4-Hers were. After the interviews, the panel selected seven interviewees who demonstrated excellence in their 4-H experiences and would be great representatives of Santa Clara County 4-H.

We, the 2016-2017 All-Stars, invite all Santa Clara County 4-Hers to celebrate the induction of these seven qualified individuals into their new position; on Sunday, June 25th (from 5 - 8:30 p.m), at the Peppersteak Building on the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. Join us for dinner and the appointment of our new All-Star Ambassadors! To RSVP, please sign up via our [online form](#); this way we know how much food to provide.

Changes for 4-H online Enrollment Effective July 1

It’s nearing the close of the 2016-17 4-H Program year. Looking toward enrollment for the coming year starting July 1, 2017, there are some exciting developments. The biggest change is that **Health History Forms** will now be part of the **4honline.com** enrollment system. When a member enrolls, or re-enrolls – they will fill out the Health History Form on line. When the youth or adult volunteer registers in advance for an event, those forms will be accessible for the nurse or event chairperson. When a paper version is required, a member may easily print it from the 4-H online system. Oh, the time this will save! Another advantage of the Health History Form being imbedded in 4honline is that the health history may be kept current. If there is a change in a member’s health, such as an allergy – the member or parent may update the form online. More information and links will be coming your way in an email toward the end of June. Be sure to re-enroll as soon as possible after July 1, so you don’t miss a thing in 4-H.





Wear it with pride! The 4-H Uniform Hat

(information source http://4h.ucanr.edu/About/Uniform/California_4-H_Hat/)

The 4-H hat is a source of pride for the California 4-H Youth Development Program, as we are the only state to have such a 4-H club hat. Many members use the hat to display their achievement pins and to wear during fairs. A 4-H hat is NOT required for membership in the California 4-H Youth Development Program or for participation in any 4-H activity, event, or occasion.

Guidelines:

Official green 4-H hat branded with the University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) and the 4-H clover logo mark. These can be purchased through [Leslie Carman 4-H Supplies](#).

Youth who are currently senior level members may continue to use their white hat for the remainder of their 4-H career. Senior members may also convert to the green hat as they choose.

It is expected that by **July 1, 2020**, all members will be wearing the UC ANR 4-H branded green hats. Stripes and pins are available from your club leader or enrollment

Where do I put my recognition and achievement items? Stars, stripes, and medals:

Left side of hat - All-star, platinum, gold, silver, or bronze stars in front. Members may "cascade" the stars. Behind the stars are placed the junior/teen leader emblems and the Hi 4-H patch (in that order).

Right side of hat - year completion pin and stripe is earned for each year completed in 4-H. Officer title pins and 100% Attendance pins should align with the year the pin was earned.



(Continues on next page...)



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4H Hat Guidelines, cont...

Note: If a member earns more year stripes than can fit on the right

side of the hat, they may "wrap around" their stripes and continue onto the left side of the hat.

To align the year completion pin and stripe recognition items to the [Steps to Success in 4-H](#), for meeting project completion requirements members will receive:

1) A "Year Completion Pin" that is specific to their age level. Four pins will be available:

- a) Primary
- b) Junior
- c) Intermediate
- d) Senior

2) A year stripe

White stripes for all members or gold stripes in years where they serve as a junior or teen leader. (Members do not need to complete the whole Record Book for this criterion to be met.)

Year pins are fastened to the hat above the stripe, starting with the primary pins next to the 4-H clover. The 100% attendance pin, if it is part of your club's procedures and is earned, should be fastened to the hat below the stripe of the year that the pin was earned.

- Either side - Medals may be worn on either side of the hat, or placing them on the left is recommended.
- Note: No other pin or ribbon should be worn on the hat other than 4-H related items. The hat should reflect the dignity of the 4-H Youth Development Program. Some items that should not be worn on the hat include buttons, fair medals, convention badges or other regalia.

IT'S TIME FOR SPARKS SURVEYS!



What are the "Sparks Surveys"? Sparks Surveys help us learn about youth experiences in 4-H. We want to share how 4-Hers are doing and also learn where we can make 4-H even better. Surveys are private and confidential.

Help us learn about the impact 4-H has had on you!

<https://4horb.ucanr.edu/login.cfm>

Online surveys are in ORB 2 times a year: Oct-Jan and May-Aug

Your 4hOnline login email is the same to login to ORB. Surveys you need to take will all be listed – it's easy to take them!



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Share your 4-H story and apply for the **2018 4-H Youth in Action Awards Program**

Every 4-H'er has a story, and every story is worth telling! National 4-H Council's 4-H Youth in Action Awards Program is a premier opportunity for youth to share their stories of how 4-H has changed their lives and how they have, in turn, impacted others. We will honor four outstanding young people who embody 4-H youth empowerment & leadership—one in each of the four 4-H Pillar Areas: Agriculture, Citizenship, Healthy Living and STEM. Each of these Pillar Winners will experience an exciting year of telling their 4-H story and celebrating their leadership, including:



A \$5,000 scholarship for higher education



An all-expenses-paid trip to National 4-H Council Legacy Awards in Washington, D.C.



A customized promotional video showcasing their 4-H impact story



Networking experiences with 4-H celebrity alumni and influencers



An official reference letter from National 4-H Council President & CEO



Recognition as the official 4-H youth spokesperson for their pillar

One Pillar Winner will be selected as the 4-H Youth in Action National Award Winner and will receive **an additional scholarship for higher education!**

You have a story to tell—share your 4-H story and apply for the 2018 4-H Youth in Action Awards! Application information is available online now. The application period will be open from August 1 to October 23, 2017.

Visit www.4-h.org/4-h-youth-in-action to learn more and get to know our 2017 Pillar Winners today!





4 – H Alumni and Collegiate Opportunities



Alumni Focus

A monthly article contributed by UCCE, Santa Clara County 4-H Alumni

Why 4-H?

Contributed by: *Tyler Flesner, formerly a member of Calaveras Hills 4-H, Graduate from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo*

4-H allowed me to discover a passion that eventually influenced my career path. Before I joined 4-H at age 12, I was just like any other city kid from Silicon Valley. I was oblivious to how our food ended up at the supermarket. Raising pigs and beef cattle through 4-H sparked my interest in agriculture and an appreciation for all of the dedication that goes into bringing fresh food to our dinner tables.

The experience of raising market animals for the Santa Clara County Fair built character, instilling values such as commitment, dedication, hard work, and leadership along the way. A formerly shy guy eventually went on to become junior leader of his club's swine project and president of his club.

My experiences in 4-H led me to select a college with a well-known agriculture program. In 2014, I graduated with a degree in Agricultural Business from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. I am now working in the banking industry in Paso Robles helping to finance local farmers and ranchers. The agricultural products I work with are varied and include wine grapes, beef cattle, strawberries, various vegetables, and tree nuts. Why 4-H? My passion, discovered in 4-H – led me to this career.

High School Seniors and College Students – Have you applied for a scholarship?

8 different scholarships are available to apply through the online link below.

Applications must be submitted no later than **August 6th, 2017, 11:59 p.m.**

All required information must be included with the application to be considered.

The candidate for any 4-H scholarship must be: A high school senior, graduate, or equivalent who is already enrolled in or accepted to an institution of higher education. Institutions of higher education include accredited vocational schools, colleges or universities.

- Enrolled in the California 4-H Youth Development Program at the time of high school graduation or equivalent, such as receiving a General Education Diploma (GED)
- Enrolled or planning to enroll in at least half of the full-time course load as defined by the applicant's institution.
- Not older than 25 as of December 31st of the application year.

Applicants may apply for multiple scholarships but are only eligible to receive one scholarship per year. Previous scholarship recipients may reapply.

https://ucanr.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0dpHwfT6tAAWRmt



On May 27, Santa Clara County 4-H members traveled to U.C. Davis to compete in State 4-H Presentation Day. Each of the participants had qualified in advance by participating in a county and regional Presentation Day competition.

Public speaking skills are ranked number one among the desired skill sets of professionals. Every 4-H member is encouraged to give a presentation each year. A 4-H presentation can be a demonstration, include audio-visual aids, and involve problem solving. Through their presentations, youth learn to research a subject, organize their ideas into a logical order and practice public speaking skills.

And... the Santa Clara County State 4-H Presentation Day winners are:

- Marcos Aguirre – El Sereno 4-H - Senior Illustrated Talk – *Gold Award*
- Aaron Alger – Coyote Crest 4-H - Intermediate Demonstration - *Blue Award*
- Stuart Bettencourt – San Martin 4-H - Senior Illustrated Talk - *Gold Award*
- Nathan A. Chi – Rolling Hills 4-H - Intermediate Illustrated Talk - *Gold Award*
- Ryan Chi – Rolling Hills 4-H - Senior Illustrated Talk - *Gold Award*
- Ethan Ho – Sunset 4-H – Senior Demonstration - *Gold Award*
- Ashley Jordan – Pleasant Acres 4-H - Senior Demonstration – *Gold Award*
- Sydney Stutzman – San Martin 4-H - Intermediate Illustrated Talk – *Gold Award*
- Sienna Stutzman – San Martin 4-H - Intermediate Illustrated Talk – *Gold Award*
- Isaac Tiscareno – Rolling Hills 4-H – Intermediate Interpretive Reading – *Blue Award*
- Samuel Tiscareno – Rolling Hills 4-H – Intermediate Interpretive Reading – *Gold Award*
- Nicole Zera – Rolling Hills 4-H - Senior Illustrated Talk – *Platinum Award*



Member tip of the month:

Did you know...? There are branding guidelines available for creating club flyers, posters and t-shirts. Be sure to send it in to the 4-H office for final approval. Check it out on the 4-H Branding page: <http://4h.ucanr.edu/Resources/Branding/Toolkit/>

Volunteer of the Month:

Do you know...? About an incredible Santa Clara County 4-H Adult Volunteer that creates learning and growing opportunities for our youth? Please submit your suggestions.

Santa Clara County June Volunteer of the Month:

There are amazing volunteers in Santa Clara County 4-H. They each contribute countless hours to making sure that important youth events happen in our county. This year, one of our generous volunteers took charge of not one, but multiple county events.

Sandi Geringer was once herself a busy 4-H youth in Hanford, CA. As a mother of two active 4-H sons in El Sereno 4-H – her life was already quite hectic. Sandi made time to team up with other volunteers to assure the success of annual events in Santa Clara County. She also continued coordinating for our county members as they went on to area and state competitions.

Sandi was a crucial driving force behind Fashion Review, County Presentation Day, North Bay Coast Presentation Day, State Presentation Day, the Color Me Green 5k, and the Project Leader Social. Even with the demands of planning, reserving locations, and coordinating judges, Sandi kept her joyful spirit. With a smile on her face and hands ready to help, Sandi is a shining example to our youth and adults in Santa Clara County 4-H.





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4-H Calendar

County, State and Nationwide Events

[Click on the highlighted links](#)

[for more information:](#)

[State 4-H Horse Classic](#)

level: state

location: Murieta, CA

when: **June 21 - 25**

This event is open to public spectators! **Register by June 12**

[All Star Banquet](#)

level: county – All are welcome.

location: Pepper Steak Bldg. SCC Fairgrounds

when: **June 25, 2017** This event is open to public spectators! This event is to induct the new All Star Ambassador team and pass the torch from the old team. All are welcome to learn about the opportunity and recognize our youth.

[4-H Online Enrollment Opens, July 1, 2017](#)

Begin registering for the new 4-H program year.

[Club Leadership Team Training](#)

level: county 4-H Club Adult Leadership Teams

location: 1555 Berger Drive Auditorium, San Jose

when: **July 15** Club leadership team should attend. Complete online RSVP.

<http://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=17921>

[Santa Clara County Fair](#)

level: county – All Ages

location: San Jose

when: **August 3 – 6, 2017**

Entry information: <http://thefair.org/entries.cfm>

This event is open to public spectators!

It's only Fair!

What craft, sewing or collection might you enter in the fair? What cookie or cake recipe have you perfected? Have you been raising an animal or practicing showmanship? The Santa Clara County Fair offers a wonderful opportunity to enter your creations, demonstrate your skills and receive feedback from the judges. Your entries will be showcased during the fair and ribbons and prizes are awarded.

- The first step is to review the online entry catalog. Identify what you would like to enter.
- Submit the online application at <http://www.thefair.org/entries.cfm#>
- Be sure to complete your online application by **June 30**.
- Mark on your calendar the important drop off dates and pick-up dates.



Last Chance!! Calling all 4-H alumni!

Help us raise up to \$20,000 for California 4-H leadership development for teens. Sign up on the [4-H National Raise Your Hand webpage](#) by **June 30**.

The state with the most alumni signing on will win up to \$20,000!



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Follow us on social media
and keep in touch with 4-H!

Twitter: @4Hin SCC

Facebook: @SCC4H and @Sc4Hespanol

4-H...

More than you ever imagined!



TIMELY TOPICS is published monthly through the cooperative efforts of the University of California Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development Program staff, 4-H volunteers and 4-H members of Santa Clara County.

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Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday All meetings and events are open to 4-H members, parents and 4-H volunteers. Please come!

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Check out our website for more updates and resources:
[http:// http://cesantaclara.ucanr.edu/Youth_Development](http://cesantaclara.ucanr.edu/Youth_Development)

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