

2014 Governor's Youth Volunteer Service Award Winners

Sussex County ~ Individual

Sarah L. Bell

Education

Nominator: Ann Gorrin

After Sarah Bell heard a presentation from Read A Loud about the lack of access to books among low-income households, she decided to do something about it. Sarah devised a project for Read A Loud in which she delivered tubs of children's books and bilingual educational materials for parents to all Delaware State Service Centers. She is also a member of the Girl Scouts, Key Club, and treasurer of her class at Sussex Tech.

Regina (Gigi) Gijanto

Community Service

Nominator: Bonnie Wood

Regina (Gigi) Gijanto spent the last year working toward the goal of serving her community through the group "Kids Say Thank You," which she started with her brother. This group supports various causes -- both local and national -- with the goal of making a positive difference for others. An example of this is "Gigi's Closet," which allows girls to borrow gowns at no cost because "every girl deserves to feel like a princess." Gigi started this program after hearing about a local girl who could not afford a gown for an event. All this at the age of 10!

Mekenna Jade Richardson

Community Service

Nominator: Leigh Anne Fake

Mekenna Richardson, of Seaford, knows what it means to give back. She is a member of the ROTC program, Seaford's Key Club, and Future Farmers of America. Outside of school, she volunteers with her brother, fellow awardee Nash Richardson, in 4-H and helps local organizations. Through her mentoring, coaching of others, and motivation it is clear that Mekenna takes pride in her volunteer efforts both in school and the community.

Nash Richardson

Community Service

Nominator: Leigh Anne Fake

Over the past few years, Seaford High School student Nash Richardson has participated in more than 20 different community service activities. From coordinating a "fun day" for Wounded Warriors and Wounded Officers, to babysitting toddlers at a local school while parents attend PTO meetings, there is not a segment of the Seaford population not touched by Nash's service.

Kent County ~ Group

Delaware Military 4-H Youth

Community Service

Nominator: Rhonda Martell

The Delaware Military 4-H Youth is a group of individuals from age 5 to 17 who spend more than 5,000 hours each year improving their communities. This group has been actively involved in such projects such as highway and trail clean-ups, and volunteering at Abbott's Mill and the Food Bank of Delaware. These youth even make toys for animals at shelters and make crafts for seniors. There is not one segment of the population who has not benefited from the volunteerism of these young people.

Hartly Volunteer Fire Company Cadets

Public Safety

Nominator: Joshua Norris

The young people of the Hartly Volunteer Fire Company Cadet program give more than 200 hours each to firefighter training and service. In addition to the 16-week training program, they assist at fundraisers, attend company meetings, learn from veteran members, and help out around the station. All in all, the 12 cadets have given almost 1,500 hours of service to the safety of others.