### Image result for 4-h logoSusan Scott, Olivenhain Valley 4-H Retired Community Club Leader

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Date: February 24, 2021

From: Olivenhain Valley 4-H, Miss Susan Scott

Title: Recommending Claire Fernandez Don Diego Scholarship

Re: Claire Fernandez, Don Diego Scholarship

I am thrilled to recommend Claire Fernandez for the Don Diego Scholarship. Having worked with Claire for 9 years, I can attest to her great organizational skills, incredible leadership skills, and public speaking ability. Claire has served as the club’s president for one of the largest 4-H chapters in San Diego County.

Claire has held leadership positions such as Sergeant at Arms, Vice President and Community Service leader. Her jobs have included setting up the townhall for the monthly general meetings, hosting the monthly officer meetings at her home, sending text reminders for both meetings, making the agendas and running both meetings.

Claire has served as community service officer and has led various events such as pet therapy, fruit picking, and holiday gift baskets. Claire has also served her community at large with Next Step Dog Service and has put in over 400 hours in the last three years. This program is for veterans, active military, and first responders who have PTSD, TBI, and/or mobility limitations. She is now the San Diego County 4H Chairperson of the Community Service Advisory Committee.

Claire has served as our Speech and Presentation Project Junior Leader and a Teen Leader. She as well as other members have made it to the State Field Day at UC Davis. She herself has won gold and platinum for four years at State Field Day and she works closely with members in their projects and has encouraged them along the way. Claire has also been an amazing teacher as she has taught other members how to become a Junior and a Teen Leader.

Claire shows animals at the San Diego Fair every year and has been a teen leader for our Rabbit and Sheep Projects. She is a great example of helping team members and makes sure all members feel included. She has passed along her knowledge of animals to younger members on our award- winning Knowledge Bowl teams. She has also become Olivenhain Valley’s cheerleader when it comes to encouraging younger members.

Claire has won Gold medals both in 4-H and on the National level. Claire earned a gold medal for her Record Book at the county level. She has also earned the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal. Congress has commissioned gold medals as its highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions by individuals. Claire received the Congressional Gold Medal for her work in community service, physical fitness, an exploration and personal development.

I had Claire in Vet Science project, and she presented to the group a presentation on Strange and Weird Animals. She presented the information very well, so that all members of the group could understand. The Vet Science project had a mix of ages from 7 to 16 years. Claire plans to attend a four- year college to study something related to animals.

I have watched Claire grow from a 9 year old to a senior in High School, and I am extremely proud of Claire’s accomplishments, and proud to have known her throughout those years. I am proud to recommend Claire as a recipient of the Don Diego Scholarship; she is an outstanding example of what 4H exemplifies.

Best regards,

Miss Susan Scott

Olivenhain Valley 4-H Community Club Leader 2016-2019