

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2025
Weekend Feature Representatives**



Student Name: Dom Simmons

School: Crescent Valley Public Charter
School II, Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Brett McGinnis

Statement:

Dom could easily be considered for Respect as well as Caring given her actions on a daily basis. Dom makes a point of regularly showing warmth and kindness to anyone and everyone around her when she is at school. Dom makes it a point of complimenting and saying kind words to strangers, both other students and staff members, almost every day that she is at school. Dom also regularly treats everyone she talks to with complete respect and kindness, even people who may not agree with her personal viewpoints or interests. If someone needs help, Dom is always willing to jump in and do so. She is very thoughtful and will take mental note of things and interests that are important to people and will often make drawings or bring little gifts or make an effort to get to know more about those things in an effort to make people happy and to feel seen and cared about. I am officially nominating Dom for the Caring Pillar for this character award, but in my 6 years as a teacher, I can easily say that Dom is one of the most caring, respectful, responsible, and trustworthy students I have ever worked with.

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Student Name: Preston Mendoza

School: Grace Christian School, Visalia

Pillar: Trustworthiness

Nominator: Sharine Neipp

Statement:

I would like to nominate Preston for the Trustworthiness Award. When I looked at this definition, I immediately thought of him. Preston is honest with others, but he is also honest with himself. He is willing to take a good look at himself and reflect on who he is, where he came from, and who he strives to be. Whenever I need a student to deliver "truth" to a situation, I can count on Preston. Truth is not just facts. It is a deeper level of knowing and understanding the human dynamics and emotions behind the truths that lie on the surface. Preston is a person of integrity, and so if he has a goal or a plan or a thoughtful idea to make the world, or his community of friends, a better place, it becomes a promise to himself that he doesn't easily give up on. These are the things that make Preston trustworthy - someone that can be counted on.

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Student Name: Ronny Westbrook

School: St. Paul's School, Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Deborah Petty

Statement:

Ronny sees a need and steps in to help without being asked. When a classmate arrived late one day, Ronny noticed that the student looked unsure about what to do. Ronny moved to sit next to his classmate, explained the assignment and helped him get started. When his classmate made an error, Ronny encouraged his classmate. He said, "That's a tricky one. Let me show you how." Ronny models perseverance and encourages others to keep trying as well.

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Student Name: Amélie Varpness

School: Blue Oak Academy, Visalia

Pillar: Respect

Nominator: Tina Weeaks

Statement:

Amélie is respectful to staff and students, always responding appropriately, no matter the circumstance or situation. She has a pleasant demeanor, a good sense of humor, and a kind heart. She models for us what it means to be a friend. She's cooperative, empathetic, and accountable. Amélie is a much-loved part of our classroom community.

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Student Name: Jackson Cole

School: Sycamore Valley Academy,
Visalia

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator: Natalie Gonzalez

Statement:

Jackson Cole is always doing his part in my classroom. I have had him for two years and he is always the first to clean his area and others. He never thinks twice to take responsibility for the classroom's state. He is always working hard in the classroom and takes responsibility for his assignments. He is a kind soul who treats others with respect and kindness.

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Student Name: Rylie Byrd

School: University Preparatory High School, Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Jeff Fritz

Statement:

This student is known around our school as being a tremendously kind young woman whose smile brightens everyone's day. She is a friend to everyone, even if she has never met them before. She knows what needs to be done without ever being told, and is an excellent example for her younger classmates as to what it means to take the initiative. I have had the joy of watching her grow into an even more amazing person over these last four years, and she was the first one that came to mind when I decided to nominate a student.

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Student Name: Lucca Thompson

School: Valley Life Charter School,
Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Amanda Germaine, Cory
Vasqueros, and Megan Carlton

Statement:

Nominator: Amanda Germaine states: Lucca is a dedicated student who consistently works independently, manages her assignments with care, and always meets expectations. Her kindness and ever-present smile make her a positive influence in our classroom. Lucca's commitment to her work and her ability to stay on task set a wonderful example for her peers.

Nominator: Cory Vasqueros states: Lucca consistently shows kindness and compassion, making others feel valued and supported every day.

She balances personal growth with uplifting those around her, celebrating their strengths and encouraging their success. Lucca notices when others struggle and reaches out with empathy, ensuring no one feels alone.

Her caring nature is genuine and constant, treating everyone with respect—whether friend or stranger—without seeking praise. Lucca creates a safe, supportive space for her peers, inspiring kindness and connection.

Through her selflessness and unwavering compassion, Lucca embodies the true spirit of caring, making her an inspiring role model and deserving recipient of this award.

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Nominator: Megan Carlton states: Honestly, Lucca is like a real-life princess. Not because of a crown or a fancy title, but because she is just so kind and graceful to everyone she meets. Lucca's caring nature is clear in everything she does.

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Student Name: Logan E. Miller **School:**

Adult Transitional Program, Visalia

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator: Samantha Babb

Statement:

Logan is a responsible and proud student in the Adult Transition Program. Each morning, he takes initiative by sharing the daily weather report and student absences and helps his teacher stay organized with a “To Do” list. He’s a dedicated member of the school recycling crew, reliably helping keep campus clean and raising funds for ATP activities.

In the community, Logan shines as an active participant in Special Olympics, bowling, and Adapted Athlete programs, showing teamwork, perseverance, and positivity. At home, he responsibly cares for his two younger sisters, demonstrating his strong sense of duty.

Logan’s commitment to school, family, and community makes him an inspiring example of citizenship and a deserving candidate for this recognition.

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Student Name: Brooklyn Kennard

School: Annie R. Mitchell Elementary
School, Visalia

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator: Perry Inthalangsy

Statement:

I nominate Brooklyn Kennard for recognition for her outstanding citizenship. She consistently demonstrates responsibility, honesty, and a strong sense of community in everything she does. Brooklyn actively contributes to making our school a better place by helping others, participating in class and school activities, and showing respect and care for her peers. Her positive attitude and commitment to doing what is right make her a role model for others. I believe Brooklyn truly embodies the qualities of good citizenship and would be a deserving recipient of this award.

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Student Name: Leon Aguilar

School: Charter Home School
Academy, Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Sarah Gibson

Statement:

Leon shows tremendous responsibility and independence. He is on time for classes, keeps a scholarly routine, turns in his work, and maintains a very positive attitude.

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Student Name: Eziah Rangel

School: Conyer Elementary School,
Visalia

Pillar: Fairness

Nominator: Lyndsay Gentert

Statement:

I am delighted to nominate Eziah for the Character Counts Award in the category of Fairness for consistently demonstrating integrity and respect by playing by the rules.

Eziah understands the importance of fairness in all situations—whether in the classroom, on the playground, or during group activities. He always follows the rules and encourages others to do the same, creating an environment where everyone has an equal chance to participate and succeed. His commitment to fairness ensures that games, discussions, and teamwork are respectful and balanced. Eziah's dedication to playing by the rules and treating others fairly sets a positive example for his classmates and contributes to a supportive and just community. I wholeheartedly recommend Eziah for this award in recognition of his outstanding character.

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Student Name: Mia Gonzalez

School: Cottonwood Creek Elementary
School, Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Mariah Botello

Statement:

Mia is one of the most dependable friends that another student can have. She is responsible in all aspects of her life. I see it through her interactions as she speaks to and supports her friends. I see it academically through her work and the extra effort that she takes to make sure she understands something, challenges herself further, and the quality of work she turns in. I see it when she speaks about her faith and family. This girl is absolutely deserving and I only wish I could give her a character counts award in every category! This is someone who will be responsible for a positive change in the world.

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Student Name: Matthew Hernandez

School: Crestwood Elementary School,
Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Ms. Dominguez

Statement:

Matthew is an exceptional student here at Crestwood Elementary School. Throughout the day he shows exemplary behavior and persistence to perform his best in all academic areas. He consistently proves that he cares and holds value in his learning by making connections across subjects being taught. One example is when Matthew learned about a particular event that happened in history during his music class. He then proceeded to check out a non-fiction book from our school library about the event and has made many insightful connections by using diverse thinking codes in response to his reading homework. Matthew is a student who thinks carefully before acting, considers the effects of his choices, and shows immense self-control, which makes him a true role model for other students.

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Student Name: Amari Alvarez- Sedillo

School: Crowley Elementary School,
Visalia

Pillar: Respect

Nominator: Ricardo Gil-Aguilar

Statement:

Amari shows respect every day by listening carefully to others, using kind words, and treating classmates and teachers the way he would want to be treated. He shows respect for our classroom by taking care of materials and helping keep our space clean. Amari also respects differences by including others and encouraging everyone to do their best. He is always willing to help his fellow classmates and they appreciate him for it. You can always count on him to be smiling and making everyone's day brighter.

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Student Name: Rhys Manning

School: Denton Elementary School,
Visalia

Pillar: Trustworthiness

Nominator: Haley Rodriguez

Statement:

Rhys is a shining example of Trustworthiness. His teachers and classmates know they can rely on him because he always speaks the truth, follows through on what he says he will do, and demonstrates a strong sense of integrity. Whether he is working with a partner, completing a task, or helping out in the classroom, Rhys consistently shows honesty, reliability, and care. His dependability and strong character set him apart, and we celebrate him today as an inspiring example of what it means to be trustworthy.

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Student Name: Bryan Baez

School: El Diamante High School,
Visalia

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator: Jennifer Kirkman

Statement:

I am honored to nominate Bryan Baez for the Character Counts Responsibility Pillar. Bryan started at El Diamante High School, transferred to Sequoia High School, then returned to El Diamante to finish his diploma. From the start, he showed motivation and dedication, actively seeking support and taking responsibility for his academic success.

Bryan faces challenges with maturity beyond his years. He balanced a full course load, home/family responsibilities, and job searching, all while maintaining passing grades. His grit, determination, and sense of responsibility make him a remarkable young man deserving of this recognition. Bryan knows about this nomination, and I appreciate your consideration.

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Student Name: Lily Gonzalez

School: Elbow Creek Elementary
School, Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Hannah Rufert

Statement:

It is my pleasure to nominate Lily Gonzalez for recognition under the Character Counts Pillar of Caring. Lily consistently demonstrates what it means to have a caring heart, both inside and outside of the classroom.

In class, Lily works hard to complete her assignments and is always willing to lend a helping hand to her classmates. She shows empathy, kindness, and respect to everyone she interacts with. Her positive attitude helps create a supportive and welcoming environment in our 3rd-grade classroom.

Lily is also very involved in her school community and displays excellent leadership skills that her peers look up to. She sets a wonderful example for others. Outside of school, Lily is actively involved in dance and sports and participates as a young actor in local plays. Through these activities, she continues to model teamwork, dedication, and compassion while inspiring others with her creativity and leadership. For these reasons, I am proud to nominate Lily for recognition in the Character Counts Pillar of Caring. She truly exemplifies the caring qualities we value and encourage in our students.

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Student Name: Caeli Rivera

School: Four Creeks Elementary
School, Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Roberta Cox

Statement:

I am proud to nominate Caeli Rivera for recognition in the pillar of Responsibility. This student consistently demonstrates accountability by completing assignments on time, coming to class prepared, and putting forth her best effort in all tasks. She takes ownership of her learning, makes thoughtful choices, and can always be relied upon to follow through with commitments. Her maturity and reliability set a positive example for peers and reflect the true meaning of responsibility.

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Student Name: Emerald Arriola

School: Golden Oak Elementary
School, Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Sal Campos

Statement:

Emerald is one of the more caring and reliable students I have seen as a 4th grader. She is a friend to all of her classmates and always shows caring behaviors in the classroom, cafeteria and the playground. Her behavior is always pleasant to recognize because she serves as a model for the others in class. She is our student representative to the school council and always finds a way to include everyone in her decisions to take back to the council.

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Student Name: Gerardo Guerra

School: Golden West High School,
Visalia

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator: Joy Rubio

Statement:

This young man has served as our school's Key Club president for the past two years, but even before he held this position, he engaged in volunteer service simply because he wanted to help his school and local community. He has volunteered over 100 hours and he holds himself to the highest standard while representing his Key Club chapter along with his high school. His demeanor allows his peers to approach him about anything, which allows him to encourage them to do their part in bettering our school and Visalia at large. He is constantly arranging and organizing new service events so that his peers can experience the joys of service he has experienced, and so that students can have the opportunity to qualify for honor societies such as NHS. Not only does he have a servant's heart in the areas of community service and volunteerism, he spends many afternoons tutoring students and participating in a variety of clubs and organizations to be as well-rounded as he can be. Gerardo is as selfless as they come and will always put others before himself. When I think of Citizenship, Gerardo is the definition and prime example everyone should think of for this category.

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Student Name: Cara Xaivong

School: Goshen Elementary School,
Visalia

Pillar: Trustworthiness

Nominator: Ana Bagley

Statement:

Cara is a student that I can always trust to be doing the right thing even when no one is looking. When I am scanning the room after giving directions, she never has to be told more than once. In her group she is the first one to be ready with a task and then she checks with others to gently remind them or see if they need help. I can always trust that she will be on task and on topic. So if she is talking to another classmate it is related to academics or classwork. Cara is a great model student to her peers when it comes to many pillars but especially trustworthiness.

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Student Name: Rayliana F. Jacovo

School: Highland Elementary School,
Visalia

Pillar: Respect

Nominator: Sarah Butler

Statement:

Rayliana is a model student who starts each day with a positive attitude, warm smile, and caring heart. Rayliana shows respect to her peers by offering to help with challenging classwork, and reminding others to have a growth mindset. Each and every day Rayliana is a caring, sweet, smart student who makes everyone's day better by simply being herself. She is a great writer and shows respect to her teacher by trying her best during class, especially when it comes to writing! Rayliana follows directions from her teacher and school staff quickly and reminds others to do the same. She sets a wonderful example of how to treat others, and we are so very lucky to have such a scholar at our school!

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Student Name: Estrella Escareno

School: Houston Elementary School,
Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Marsela Diaz

Statement:

I would like to nominate Estrella Escareno for being Caring because she shows kindness in many ways. She goes out of her way to include others, offers to help classmates who are struggling, and treats everyone with respect. She is thoughtful, compassionate, and makes our classroom a better place.

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Student Name: Cora Miller

School: Hurley Elementary School,
Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Mrs. Martin

Statement:

Cora is a wonderful example of responsibility. She is dependable and can always be counted on to complete her work on time and with great effort. As a leader in the classroom, Cora sets a positive example for others by making good choices, staying prepared, and encouraging classmates to do their best. She takes ownership of her actions, shows respect for others, and always puts forth her greatest effort. Cora truly demonstrates what it means to be a responsible student and role model.

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Student Name: Richard Martinez

School: Linwood Elementary School,
Visalia

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator: Isabel Beltran

Statement:

Richard has been serving on our Eagle Academy Leadership Club for three years now! He has been actively involved in both before and after-school meetings and activities, putting in lots of volunteer time, all to promote and nurture a positive school climate and culture at Linwood Elementary! Our school-wide campaigns such as Unity Day, Red Ribbon Week, Kindness Week, and Spirit Rally Fridays would not be possible without his willingness to get involved. As his club advisor, I have watched how his visual and performing talents, along with his overall enthusiasm, have helped turn up school spirit at our assemblies and our end-of-year Lip Sync show! We are so grateful to Richard for his positive contributions to our school. We know he will continue to SOAR strong in all the years to come!

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Student Name: Oliver Madrigal

School: Manuel F. Hernandez
Elementary School, Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Delmy Mota

Statement:

Oliver Madrigal is a caring and empathetic student. He easily notices when his friends are feeling sad or when something is bothering them, and he is always the first to ask if they are okay. Recently, a classmate was upset because he didn't have any friends to play with during recess. Before I could even respond, Oliver kindly invited the boy to sit with him and share his snack with his friends. He assured the boy that his friends are nice and that he would introduce him to them. Oliver is always willing to include others and makes it a priority to ensure that the people around him are happy.

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Student Name: Juliet Bender

School: Mineral King Elementary
School, Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Kaitlyn Miller

Statement:

Juliet is always prepared when she arrives at school, exhibits school spirit, and the essence of responsibility. She is always on time, and exemplifies the qualities of a leader. She tries her best to focus on her school work, complete tasks, and follow what it means to be a BRUIN at Mineral King Elementary School. Not only does Juliet care deeply about her peers, and always chooses to do the right thing helping others who are in need, but she also cares for her teachers. She does this every single day and never fails to have a positive attitude when doing so. For this reason Juliet is deserving of the character counts award for RESPONSIBILITY.

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Student Name: Robert Johnson

School: Mountain View Elementary
School, Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Erika Chan

Statement:

Robert Johnson is not just a responsible student; he is also respectful, reliable, and a kind human. Robert works quietly with purpose, yet is thoughtfully engaging with his peers when it's time for group work. 6th grade can be a year of social pressures, but Robert stays true to his moral compass. He's a great role model for the other students in our class for many reasons. I am honored to have Robert as a student this year, and this nomination for the Kid of Character Award and the pillar of responsibility is well-deserved.

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Student Name: Savinah R. Diaz

School: Mt. Whitney High School,
Visalia

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator: Tim Perrotta

Statement:

Savinah is a great example of what citizenship is about. She has been a member of the Academy of Health Sciences while at Mt. Whitney High School and has volunteered for numerous activities in and outside of school. Savinah recently completed an internship at Caldwell Veterinary Hospital where she volunteered for many hours over the summer to learn more about veterinary science. She has also participated in the county-wide disaster drill, playing the role of a victim, and has shared an anti-vaping presentation at our local elementary schools for 4th and 5th grade students. She is dedicated to becoming a health professional and serving the citizens of the central valley, be they two or four legged. Savinah has always shown kindness and willingness to help out in her community, both at school and work (which she also, somehow, finds time to do). Savinah Diaz is a true exemplar of good citizenship.

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Student Name: Adil Al Kudsi

School: Oak Grove Elementary School,
Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Rachael Ray

Statement:

Adil is the most polite and caring child I think I have ever taught. He greets me every day, makes sure I have a good break and a good lunch period, and is sure to say goodbye to me before he leaves for the day. Adil cheers on other students, celebrating them and sharing his pride in their accomplishments. I often see him walk over to his friends and high five them after they get a compliment. Adil is also very appreciative of receiving help. He thanks any student or adult who supports him with his learning. His smile is infectious and his positive and caring attitude has made a world of difference in our class.

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Student Name: Maurice Cruz

School: Pinkham Elementary School,
Visalia

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator: Marleen Martinez

Statement:

It is with great joy that I nominate Maurice Cruz for Character Counts. Maurice is an extraordinary student whose heart and actions truly set him apart. He is loving, caring, and always looking out for others. Maurice forgives endlessly, never seeking attention for himself, but instead uplifting those around him. Through words and actions, Maurice teaches us all students and adults alike how we should be treating each other. His kindness and generosity are constant reminders of the power of compassion. He is always smiling, bringing warmth and encouragement wherever he goes. Maurice doesn't just need us, we truly need him. He shows us every day what it means to live with character, to be selfless, and to spread joy. Maurice Cruz is a shining example of how one person can make a difference in the lives of many. Here at Pinkham Afterschool, our motto is BE THE CHANGE !!! and Maurice is the perfect candidate who lives out that message each and every day.

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Student Name: Pierce D. Ramos

School: Redwood High School, Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Travis Roebuck

Statement:

Pierce exemplifies the pillar of Responsibility by consistently demonstrating the courage to model proper weightroom technique in front of his peers. His quiet leadership sets a strong example for others, showing that doing things the right way is more important than simply going through the motions. He takes initiative, goes above and beyond expectations, and leads not with words but through his actions, encouraging others to follow his example. His dedication and reliability make him a role model both inside and outside the classroom.

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Student Name: Joaquin Espinoza

School: Ridgeview Middle School,
Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Clara Espinoza

Statement:

Joaquin is an eighth grader who excels academically, earning straight A's in both middle school and college courses at College of the Sequoias—a rare achievement for his age. His maturity, discipline, and focus show in how seriously he takes his education and future goals.

He actively participates in AVID, band, and leadership, managing these commitments alongside his challenging coursework. Joaquin takes full ownership of his learning—checking in with teachers, completing assignments on time, and asking questions when needed.

He consistently shows responsibility by arriving prepared, managing his schedule, and putting in effort without complaints. Beyond academics, Joaquin is a respectful leader and role model who contributes positively to his school community. His hard work and dedication make him a deserving Kid of Character.

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Student Name: Jimena Trejo

School: Stone Corral School, Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Diana Ward

Statement:

It is my honor and pleasure to nominate Jimena Trejo in second grade for the character trait of Caring. Jimena shows a caring heart everyday by making sure her Spanish speaking classmate who is new to this country and learning English, is not left behind. She simultaneously translates what the teacher is teaching. This caring act is admirable. Jimena also spreads her kindness by helping other classmates in need; offering a helping hand, a smile, and giving these students positive words of encouragement. Her compassion and thoughtfulness makes her classroom a more welcoming and happy place for everyone. Jimena is the ideal role model for the Caring Character Pillar. Thank you Jimena for reminding me how powerful caring can be!

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Student Name: Everly Seechan

School: Riverway Elementary School,
Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Victoria Ortega

Statement:

Everly was new to our school this year and was not only brave but also responsible. She always tries her best, works hard, and is a good influence to those around her.

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Student Name: Halle Wood

School: Royal Oaks Elementary
School, Visalia

Pillar: Respect

Nominator: David Garza

Statement:

I would like to recommend Halle Wood for recognition under the pillar of Respect. This student consistently treats classmates, teachers, and staff with courtesy. She listens to others, uses kind words, and shows empathy in her interactions. She has a respectful attitude and creates a positive and welcoming environment for everyone. Halle treats everyone equally, plays by the rules, and encourages others to have a voice. She is honest, keeps her promises, and can always be counted on to do the right thing even when no one is watching. She has strong family moral values and always wants to do what is best and the right thing to do.

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Student Name: Kevin Rubio

School: Sequoia High School, Visalia

Pillar: Trustworthiness

Nominator: Salud Cobarruvias

Statement:

Sequoia High School is proud to nominate Kevin Rubio for exemplifying the values of trustworthiness, respect, caring, and responsibility. Kevin, a 16-year-old student, has earned the trust and admiration of both his peers and staff through his actions and character.

Kevin's dedication and sense of responsibility have earned him the honor of serving as ASB's representative. He was formally sworn in by the Visalia Unified School District Board Members as Sequoia's student body representative—a role in which he demonstrates leadership, reliability, and school pride.

Beyond his leadership, Kevin is a self-taught musician with the remarkable talent of playing the guitar. During lunch and breaks, he shares his gift by serenading his peers, creating a positive and welcoming school environment. Kevin is also a committed team player, actively participating in school sports where his encouraging words motivate and inspire his teammates to stay determined.

Kevin fulfills important responsibilities in the ASB on-site store, managing stocking duties and cash register operations with care and accountability. His willingness to step up and serve in multiple capacities demonstrates his maturity and commitment to the school community.

Kevin embodies the spirit of Sequoia Strong through his leadership, kindness, and responsibility. His actions and character make him an outstanding nominee.

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Student Name: Haydin Priest

School: Shannon Ranch Elementary
School, Visalia

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator: Adrienne Terry

Statement:

I first met Hayden Priest when she was just ten years old, and even then, it was clear she carried herself with a unique sense of kindness and determination. Now, as a sixth grader at Shannon Ranch Elementary, Hayden has embraced her role as a leader with grace and confidence. After spending the past two years watching and learning from the student leaders before her, she has stepped into this year with a clear intention to serve and to inspire. Hayden is the type of student who quietly yet powerfully makes a difference everywhere she goes. In the cafeteria, the classroom, the play yard, the front office, and the library, she is quick to offer help and sets an example of responsibility and respect. She is not only a talented student-athlete and performer in the arts, but also a diligent scholar and, perhaps most importantly, a loyal and compassionate friend. Hayden consistently reflects fairness, caring, and integrity in her actions, making her a true role model for her peers. From the very first day I met her, Hayden captured my heart with her warmth and her spirit. To see her now, growing into a young woman who uplifts others and leaves a positive impact wherever she goes, is an absolute blessing. I am deeply proud of her and confident that as she continues to grow, Hayden will be an asset not only to her school but to her community as well.

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Student Name: Sapphire Sanchez

School: Sierra View Elementary School,
Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Jordan Mitchell

Statement:

Sapphire is a bright, shining star on our campus. She always recognizes when others need help or a friend. Sapphire is the first person to be ready to lend a hand. She leads by example with her kind heart and keen awareness of others, lighting a clear path toward community and inclusion. She is always willing to be a partner or teammate to any and all of her peers, and loves to share strategies and encouragements as a strong, compassionate classmate. Not only is she a member of our school student council of leaders, she is also deeply involved in helping with the afterschool program as well. Sapphire is kind to all, humans and animals alike, as she will even go out of her way to gently catch a bug when it is in our classroom and release it to the safety of outside. I truly believe that her heart is made of pure gold.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2025
Weekend Feature Representatives**



Student Name: Wyatt Hopper

School: Valley Oak Middle School,
Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Shay Williams

Statement:

Wyatt Hopper is willing to go out of his way to help his school in every aspect. He is a member of the Leadership Class and WEB, and when activities happen, he is quick to volunteer his time and efforts to make sure every event goes off as a success. He arrives early and leaves last. Also, he is willing to accept accountability for his actions.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2025
Weekend Feature Representatives**



Student Name: Olivia Hunyady

School: Veva Blunt Elementary School,
Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Maria Edholm

Statement:

I am nominating Olivia for the Responsibility award because she consistently demonstrates reliability and accountability both at school and at home. She always completes her tasks on time, follows through on her commitments, and takes ownership of her learning. Olivia sets a positive example for her peers by showing maturity, staying organized, and demonstrating a strong sense of duty. Her responsible behavior makes her a role model in our classroom community.

**Tulare County Office of Education
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Weekend Feature Representatives**



Student Name: Danica A. Roberts

School: Visalia Technical Early College
High School, Visalia

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator: Scott Braun

Statement:

I proudly nominate Danica Roberts for the Citizenship pillar of the Kid of Character award. As President of the VTEC FFA Chapter, Danica has led with integrity and vision, helping her team earn National Chapter recognition two years in a row. She exemplifies citizenship by lifting her community and inspiring collective success.

Beyond leadership, Danica positively influenced her younger brother, encouraging him to stay in school and become a leader himself—showing the powerful impact of caring citizenship. Academically, she excels with a 4.08 weighted GPA, IGETC certification, and numerous honors. She also completed a unique internship with the VMTRC Milk Quality Program, gaining valuable experience toward her goal of becoming a veterinarian at UC Davis.

Danica's commitment to service, leadership, and academic excellence makes her a true model of citizenship—someone who uplifts others, strengthens her community, and leads by example. She is a deserving nominee whose impact will inspire many.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2025
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Student Name: Felisa Martinez-Garcia

School: Washington Elementary
School, Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Diana Martinez

Statement:

Felisa is a shining example of what it truly means to be caring. Every day, during her own free time at recess, she chooses to come into the library to lend a helping hand. Instead of using that time for herself, she willingly gives it to others. She takes pride in straightening shelves and putting away books, making sure the library is neat, organized, and welcoming for everyone.

Even when there isn't much to do, Felisa continues to show kindness and thoughtfulness. She doesn't sit idly by; instead she spends time with the other students, offering to help them pick out books that match their interest or sitting beside them to color and chat about their day. Her presence brings warmth and comfort, and her willingness to listen shows others how much she values them.

Felisa's actions remind us that caring is not just about chores or helping with tasks - it's about giving your time, attention, and heart to others. She has made the library not just a place for books, but a place for friendship, encouragement, and kindness.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2025
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Student Name: Daniel A. Gonzalez

School: Willow Glen Elementary
School, Visalia

Pillar: Respect

Nominator: Wendy Rivas

Statement:

Danny is a first grade student who demonstrates respect in all areas of school life. He takes pride in being a Willow Glen Warrior by working hard, staying organized, and always trying his best, even when faced with challenges. Whether it's completing classwork neatly or taking responsibility for his own actions, Danny shows that he values himself and his learning. He is also a kind and thoughtful friend. Danny listens when others are speaking, takes turns, and includes others in group activities. He helps his classmates when they need it and his respectful attitude helps others feel valued and heard. When interacting with teachers and school staff, Danny consistently uses good manners and follows directions the first time they are given. He makes eye contact, uses polite language, and responds with kindness and cooperation. Teachers and staff appreciate his respectful demeanor and know they can count on him to be a positive role model for his peers. Danny is the perfect candidate to be awarded the Kids of Character honor as he exemplifies all pillars of character, but especially demonstrates respect in all areas of his life.