

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta Weekend Ad**



Student Name: Valeria Avila

School: Ducor Union School, Ducor

Pillar: Trustworthiness

Nominator(s): Lupita Flores

Statement:

I am proud to nominate Valeria for the Character Counts pillar of Trustworthiness. Valeria is a dependable, responsible role model who consistently demonstrates respect, integrity, and leadership. She actively contributes to a positive, inclusive school culture and steps up to lead various school activities. As an eighth grader, she represents her peers and helps incorporate youth voice into schoolwide initiatives. Valeria leads by example, listens intently to others, follows through on all her responsibilities, and uses her voice to make a meaningful, positive difference in our school community.

Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad



Student Name: Alyssa Singleton

School: Exeter Union High School, Exeter

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Solinda Niles

Statement:

Alyssa "Delaney" is a shining example of what it means to be truly caring. She consistently puts the happiness and well-being of others before her own, always looking for ways to support those around her. Whether ensuring her friends feel valued or going the extra mile for her family, Alyssa's kindness stands out.

On football game days, she makes a special effort to buy lunch for her sister on the cheer team, ensuring she has the energy and encouragement she needs. Alyssa's thoughtful actions and unwavering friendship demonstrate a genuine commitment to making everyone feel included and cared for. Her compassion and selflessness make her an outstanding nominee for the Character Counts Caring award representing Exeter Union High School.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad**



Student Name: Jasper Delgado

School: Kaweah High School, Exeter

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator(s): Darin Pace

Statement:

Jasper exemplifies the Character Counts pillar of Citizenship through his leadership, service, and kindness across multiple school sites. At Exeter Union High School, he serves as an officer for the “Be That One” campaign, actively promoting kindness, inclusion, and belonging. At Kaweah High School, Jasper serves as the School Site Council Student President while mentoring several younger students. He consistently uses his leadership to lift up others, strengthen school culture, and make his school communities a better place for everyone.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad**



Student Name: Milly Stringham

School: Lincoln Elementary School, Exeter

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Bianca Poncey

Statement:

Milly is always a helping hand in class, consistently taking the initiative to support both her teachers and her peers. She is a trustworthy leader during group work, naturally taking charge while encouraging her classmates to stay focused and on task.

Recently, when a classmate broke her arm, Milly eagerly stepped up to be her designated helper. She assists with carrying her items and keeps her company during recess with thoughtful, gentle activities. Milly is a genuinely caring, helpful, and compassionate leader in our classroom community!

Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad



Student Name: Everly Broadway

School: Rocky Hill Elementary School, Exeter

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Krysta Alvarado

Statement:

Everly consistently goes above and beyond to help those around her. She makes a point of including others whenever she notices someone left out. When a new student joined our class, Everly immediately stepped up to welcome him, guiding him around our area of campus and helping him settle in. She continually goes out of her way to ensure everyone feels included, supported, and cared for—both in the classroom and on the playground. Everly is a wonderful role model for our entire class.

Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad



Student Name: Lucas Alves

School: Wilson Middle School, Exeter

Pillar: Fairness

Nominator(s): Dona Johnson

Statement:

Lucas is recognized for his calm yet assertive disposition and his strong sense of right and wrong. He consistently follows school rules and expectations while bringing a fun, positive spirit to those around him. Lucas has the courage to stand up for what is right and is willing to speak up whenever he notices something that is unfair or inconsistent with our school values. His ability to stay composed, make responsible choices, and demonstrate courage in challenging situations makes him a wonderful role model for his peers. Lucas shows us that you can have fun, enjoy school, and still lead with unwavering integrity and respect.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad**



Student Name: Anahi Arevalo

School: Farmersville Junior High School, Farmersville

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Mercedes Rosales

Statement:

Anahi is a remarkably reliable, kind, and outgoing student. She is actively involved across campus in organizations like FFA and Builders Club, while also serving as a lead participant for Step-Up this year. She can always be depended on to take on projects that elevate our school community.

Our school site has frequently counted on Anahi to serve as a student speaker, amplifying student voice for key events and cultural initiatives. She has grown tremendously in her ability to positively impact the lives of her peers and eagerly steps in wherever help is needed. In everything she undertakes, she brings a warm and encouraging presence—you can genuinely hear a smile in her voice. Anahi truly exemplifies what it means to strive for self-improvement and excellence every single day.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad**



Student Name: Evalyn Loredo

School: George L. Snowden School, Farmersville

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Kayla Vest

Statement:

Evalyn Loredo is nominated for the Character Counts award in the pillar of Caring because of the kindness and compassion she consistently shows to her classmates and teachers every day. Even as a first grader, Evalyn has a natural instinct to notice when someone needs help or comfort—whether it's checking on a classmate who seems sad, sharing supplies without being asked, or offering an encouraging word to someone having a hard day.

Evalyn treats everyone with warmth and respect, going out of her way to make sure no one feels left out during class activities or on the playground. Her caring nature creates a welcoming classroom environment, and she sets a wonderful example for our entire campus.

Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad



Student Name: Ariana Ugalde-Duran

School: J.E. Hester School, Farmersville

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Mrs. Corona

Statement:

I am proud to nominate Arianna Ugalde for the Character Counts pillar of Caring. Arianna consistently demonstrates kindness, compassion, and genuine concern for others. She is always willing to lend a helping hand, include her peers, and offer encouragement whenever someone needs a boost. Her thoughtful actions and warm attitude help foster a positive, welcoming classroom environment.

Arianna demonstrates that caring is more than just being kind—it is noticing when someone needs support and choosing to make a difference. She is a wonderful example of how small, everyday acts of kindness can make a meaningful impact on those around her, and I am proud to honor the caring heart she brings to our school community.

Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad



Student Name: Harper Hicks

School: Hope School, Porterville

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Tammy Gobel and Victoria Silva

Statement:

Tammy Gobel: Harper is a great student who is always eager to lend a hand around our school campus. Every morning, she visits the Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten classrooms to see where help is needed—frequently putting chairs down from the tables and assisting with whatever tasks arise. She possesses a genuinely kind heart, serves as a reading buddy for our younger students, and is a true friend to anyone in need.

Victoria Silva: Harper truly embodies what it means to be caring. She is a sweet soul who naturally looks for ways to make others feel included, supported, and valued. Her kindness shines through in everyday moments—offering a helping hand, checking on a friend, sharing materials, and treating everyone with genuine warmth. Harper's gentle and generous spirit brings immense positivity to those around her. The care she shows comes straight from the heart, making her a wonderful example of character. I am so proud to nominate Harper for the Kids of Character Award.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad**



Student Name: Mohamed Albithany

School: Jefferson Elementary School, Lindsay

Pillar: Respect

Nominator(s): Bernadette Fultz

Statement:

I am proud to nominate Mohamed for the Character Counts pillar of Respect. Everyday in our classroom, he shows what it means to treat others the way he would like to be treated. When he sees another learner playing alone, he invites them to join him. When a peer is hurt, he offers comfort or seeks help from an adult.

Mohamed is gentle and thoughtful with his peers, and he possesses a contagious smile and laugh that lifts up everyone around him. Classmates naturally gravitate toward him because he makes them feel welcome and valued. His kindness is genuine and consistent; he notices when someone needs a friend and immediately takes action. Mohamed brings joy to our class and helps create the caring, respectful community we hope every learner will experience.

Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad



Student Name: Daniel Ceballos

School: Lincoln Elementary School, Lindsay

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Alyssabeth Salas

Statement:

I am proud to nominate Daniel for the Character Counts award for his outstanding commitment to excellence and his caring heart. Daniel is an amazing learner who always strives to do his absolute best in every area. Whether working through Math and ELA or simply being a compassionate friend, he is always willing to give whatever it takes.

Daniel puts 200% effort into everything he does. Beyond his dedication to learning, he is selfless, consistently stepping up to help, teach, and support his peers. Daniel is an outstanding student and a loyal friend whose hard work and kindness inspire those around him, and I am so excited to see all the great things life has in store for him.

Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad



Student Name: Cash Lottermoser

School: Lindsay High School, Lindsay

Pillar: Respect

Nominator(s): Ken Spencer

Statement:

Cash Lottermoser is a learner who quietly leads others by example, demonstrating a respectful demeanor in every situation. He collaborates effectively with his peers and is frequently relied upon by his learning facilitators to assist other students in class.

Cash is actively involved in both the Ag Mechanics and the Automotive & Transportation CTE Pathways, and he is on track to complete both three-year programs. In both pathways, he can be trusted to handle all tools safely and master new skills at a rapid rate. Balancing his technical training with strong academic performance, Cash currently maintains a 3.25 GPA and is fully on track to graduate. He is an exemplary model of a respectful, trustworthy learner who leads with integrity and dedication.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad**



Student Name: Alejandra Segovia

School: Reagan Elementary School, Lindsay

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Manuel Cobarruvias

Statement:

I am proud to nominate Alejandra Segovia for the Character Counts award in the pillar of Responsibility. Alejandra consistently demonstrates responsibility through her dedication to learning, strong work ethic, and unwavering commitment to personal growth. She takes immense pride in her academic journey and always gives her absolute best effort.

Her impressive growth from Level 1 to Level 4 on the ELPAC reflects her perseverance, determination, and focus on long-term success. Beyond her individual accomplishments, Alejandra is a supportive classmate who willingly helps others, contributes thoughtfully to class discussions, and generously shares her knowledge. Her accountability, positive attitude, and dedication to both her education and her peers make her a deserving role model for our entire school community.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad**



Student Name: Aubree Macias

School: Roosevelt Elementary School, Lindsay

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Amanda Robles

Statement:

I am proud to nominate Aubree Macias for the Character Counts pillar of Responsibility. Aubree's exceptional leadership and dedication are evident in how seamlessly she balances academics, sports, ASB, school clubs like Team Empower, and her role on Grizzly TV—our daily school news program.

As an active member of Team Empower, Aubree plays a vital role in welcoming new learners by providing campus tours, assisting them with setting up their devices, and walking them to class. She takes on every responsibility with confidence, enthusiasm, and a genuine willingness to serve her school community. Her dependability and proactive mindset make Aubree a standout student and truly deserving of this recognition.

Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad



Student Name: Arianna Soria

School: Washington Elementary School, Lindsay

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Daniela Cordova

Statement:

I am proud to nominate Arianna Soria for the Character Counts award in the pillar of Caring. Arianna went above and beyond to make another student feel welcomed and included on our campus. During playtime, she noticed a learner from the AcCEL program and thoughtfully invited her to join in with her friends. Arianna didn't just make a casual invitation; she brought her friends over so the learner felt truly embraced and part of the group.

This simple act of kindness meant so much to the student and brought her tremendous happiness. What makes Arianna's actions even more special is that her care extended far beyond that single moment—the learner continued joining Arianna and her friends to play in the days that followed, creating a lasting sense of friendship and belonging. Arianna showed genuine compassion, inclusion, and care without being asked, making her a wonderful example of what it truly means to demonstrate the core values of CHARACTER COUNTS!.

Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad



Student Name: Ameerah Cruz

School: Pleasant View Elementary School, Poplar

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator(s): Priscilla Domingo

Statement:

Ameerah demonstrates outstanding Citizenship through her leadership and dedication to building an inclusive classroom community. Recognizing that a new classmate was hesitant to participate, Ameerah took the initiative to welcome them into group activities during recess.

Even when the student felt unsure or reluctant, Ameerah remained patient, persistent, and encouraging. Because of her steadfast kindness, her classmate has grown more comfortable, engaged actively in class, and built a wonderful circle of new friends.

Ameerah shows us all that true citizenship is about looking out for others, leading with empathy, and ensuring that everyone feels a genuine sense of belonging. She is deeply deserving of this recognition.

Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad



Student Name: Kevin Moreno

School: Alta Vista School, Porterville

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator(s): Vanessa Reilly

Statement:

I am proud to nominate Kevin Moreno for this well-deserved recognition. Kevin has been a dedicated member of ASB for several years, and this year, as an 8th grader, he ran for ASB President and won in a landslide—a clear sign that his peers recognize the leadership qualities our staff has watched flourish in him over time.

Kevin is the type of student who sets ambitious goals and works relentlessly to achieve them. He is organized, creative, responsible, and thoughtful. When collaborating with others, Kevin listens carefully and considers his peers' feelings and opinions before making decisions. Whether participating in group projects or planning ASB events, he leads with maturity, respect, and a genuine desire to do what is best for the entire student body. This year, Kevin has truly found his voice, stepping up as a confident leader who willingly shares his ideas and advocates for his fellow students.

Kevin's determination shines just as brightly in academics. Since 4th grade, one of his consistent personal goals has been to win our local spelling bee and advance to the TCOE Spelling Bee. Through persistence and hard work, he has achieved this milestone by becoming our school's spelling bee champion three times. Kevin doesn't just set goals—he puts in the daily effort required to make them a reality.

Most importantly, Kevin leads with kindness and integrity. He is widely respected by peers and staff alike because of the way he treats people. His leadership is not defined by a title, but by his dependability, compassion, and willingness to serve others.

It has been an absolute joy to watch Kevin grow from a quiet 3rd grader into a confident, inspiring 8th-grade leader on our campus. His determination, responsibility, and commitment to excellence make him an outstanding representative of our school, and I am honored to nominate him.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad**



Student Name: Guadalupe Gatica

School: Bartlett Middle School, Porterville

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Valerie Mendoza

Statement:

Guadalupe is a kind and compassionate student who consistently shows genuine care for those around her. She is thoughtful, respectful, and always quick to offer a helping hand whenever a classmate is in need.

Guadalupe's warm heart and uplifting attitude naturally create a welcoming environment where others feel supported, included, and valued. Through her daily actions, she serves as a wonderful example of what it means to lead with empathy and truly care for others.

Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad



Student Name: Ariana Carbajal

School: Burton Elementary School, Porterville

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Elvira Sanchez

Statement:

Although Ariana is relatively new to our school and is currently learning English, she continuously goes out of her way to make sure no one feels left out. She warmly opens her circle of friends to anyone in need of connection, leading with constant kindness and encouragement.

Whether helping clean up the room, carrying books and boxes, or sharing words of advice, Ariana is always ready to lend a hand to students and staff alike. Her generosity is evident in everything she does—from sharing snacks and classroom materials to sharing her bright smile with everyone she meets. Through these quiet acts of compassion, Ariana makes our classroom a truly welcoming and supportive community.

Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad



Student Name: Axel Tapia Valencia

School: Burton Middle School, Porterville

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Angel Corona

Statement:

When a new student joined our class, Axel immediately stepped up to ensure he felt welcomed and comfortable from day one. Axel personally showed him around campus, thoughtfully explained our classroom routines and expectations, and offered steady support as his classmates adjusted to a new school environment.

Through his genuine kindness, helpfulness, and generosity, Axel showed what it truly means to lead with empathy and make others feel included. He is an outstanding example of what it means to be caring and is deeply deserving of this honor.

Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad



Student Name: Natalie Hernandez

School: Granite Hills High School, Porterville

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator(s): Shelby Lozano

Statement:

Natalie Hernandez is an outstanding Grizzly at Granite Hills High School. Beyond serving as ASB President, she represents our broader community as a PUSD Student Board Member Ambassador and active member of the CVP program, serving others through dedicated outreach and presentations.

Natalie is a prime example of exceptional character in every role she holds. While she easily exemplifies all six pillars, her dedication to networking and building bridges within our school and community truly sets her apart. Natalie's presence at Granite Hills is genuinely uplifting; she consistently puts others before herself and stays deeply involved in campus life. It has been an absolute pleasure to watch Natalie grow into such a selfless, impactful, and inspiring young leader.

Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad



Student Name: Anissa Ruiz

School: Butterfield Charter School, Porterville

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Yaritza Guzman Hernandez and
Berenice Martinez

Statement:

Yaritza Guzman Hernandez: Anissa has demonstrated exceptional responsibility and dedication to planning for her future while staying on top of her academic responsibilities. She has taken the initiative to complete college applications, keep track of important deadlines, and stay informed about application openings. In addition, she has gotten a head start on her higher education by taking concurrent enrollment courses at Porterville College. Anissa has successfully balanced her high school coursework, college responsibilities, and personal life while remaining independent and self-motivated. I believe she is highly deserving of this recognition because she exemplifies what it means to be a truly responsible student.

Berenice Martinez: Anissa has demonstrated great responsibility throughout her junior and senior years by balancing concurrent enrollment in community college courses while staying on top of her high school classes. She actively reaches out to her counselors and teachers for guidance as she prepares for university and is proactively seeking scholarship opportunities to support her future goals. As a first-generation student preparing for college, Anissa has proven to be a wonderful, determined, and dedicated student committed to achieving her dreams.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad**



Student Name: Luka Tinajero

School: Jim Maples Academy Porterville

Pillar: Respect

Nominator(s): Sandra Rangel

Statement:

Luka consistently shows genuine care and compassion by being the first to help whenever a classmate is hurt or in need. Throughout the day, he routinely reminds his peers to lead with kindness and treat others the way they wish to be treated.

As a role model in the classroom, Luka goes above and beyond to support classmates who need extra help reading in Spanish, often reassuring them by saying, “*Yo te puedo ayudar, somos una familia*” (“I can help you, we are a family”). His warm heart, helpful spirit, and dedication to building a supportive classroom family make him deeply deserving of this recognition.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad**



Student Name: Mason Moreno

School: John J. Doyle Elementary School, Porterville

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Susana Arteaga

Statement:

Just when you think chivalry has disappeared, along comes a young man who reminds us that the qualities of a true gentleman are still very much alive! Mason Moreno consistently demonstrates kindness, respect, and deep thoughtfulness toward his classmates and teacher alike.

Whether answering the classroom phone, stacking chairs, tidying around desks, or lending a hand to a peer, Mason proactively steps up without ever being asked. His considerate nature, helpful spirit, and polite demeanor make him a standout role model and a true gentleman in every sense of the word.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad**



Student Name: Teigan Lamb

School: Los Robles Elementary School, Porterville

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator(s): Beatrice Ochoa

Statement:

Teigan is a positive leader at Los Robles who consistently sets an outstanding example for those around her. She approaches her schoolwork responsibly, actively contributes to class discussions, and consistently puts forth her very best effort.

Teigan builds strong, positive relationships with her peers, treating everyone with kindness and respect. As a dependable team member, she can always be counted on to make good choices and uphold our school expectations. Through her daily actions and respectful leadership, Teigan helps cultivate a welcoming, positive environment where all students can learn and thrive.

Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad



Student Name: Valeria Vargas

School: Monache High School, Porterville

Pillar: Respect

Nominator(s): Jennifer Giannetto

Statement:

Valeria is a young lady who consistently treats every person she interacts with with deep respect. Every day during her mealtimes, Valeria chooses to spend her breaks in the AcCEL classroom at Monache High School—sharing time, space, and quiet moments with her peers.

Rather than showing up only for special events or organized occasions, Valeria chooses to be present in the ordinary, everyday moments of breaking bread and sharing conversation. Through her steady presence, true friendships have blossomed—friendships that have genuinely enhanced the quality of life for several of her classmates. It is profoundly refreshing to see a young person show up every single day and extend respect so naturally, simply because of who she is at heart.

Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad



Student Name: Yonatan Cantor

School: Monte Vista Elementary School, Porterville

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator(s): Diane Torres and Frances Leyva

Statement:

Frances Leyva: Yonatan is a kind, polite, and deeply respectful student. He consistently treats everyone around him—peers and adults alike—with dignity, consideration, and genuine respect.

Diane Torres: Yonatan Cantor is a wonderful example of good citizenship through his strong work ethic, positive attitude, and willingness to help others. He works hard to support his parents at home yet comes to school each day with a bright smile and a cheerful mindset. Even when things become challenging, Yonatan remains positive, never complains, and continues to give his absolute best. At such a young age, he already demonstrates responsibility, perseverance, and a genuine sense of pride in everything he does. His kindness, determination, and willingness to contribute make him a truly valued member of our school community.

Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad



Student Name: Romina Botello Rodriguez

School: Oak Grove Elementary School, Porterville

Pillar: Fairness

Nominator(s): Cecilia Mejia

Statement:

Romina is an exemplary student who consistently follows classroom and school rules inside and outside the learning environment. She is remarkably self-disciplined—knowing when to listen quietly, when to share during class discussions, and always remaining in her assigned space without ever needing a reminder.

As an English learner, Romina shows incredible initiative and maturity. Whenever she needs clarification on an assignment, she proactively asks questions in Spanish to ensure she understands the expectations and can do her best work. Romina's respect for rules, commitment to learning, and positive behavior make her a wonderful role model for her peers.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad**



Student Name: Zamyr Palacios

School: Olive Street Elementary School, Porterville

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Shannel Miranda

Statement:

Zamyr is an incredibly responsible student who consistently comes to school ready to learn and prepared to make the most of each day. What stands out most about Zamyr is his deep understanding of the "why" behind our classroom expectations—he recognizes that our choices and actions directly affect not only our own learning, but the success of those around us.

Zamyr notices when behaviors become distracting or take the class off track, and he thoughtfully reminds his peers to refocus. He makes responsible choices without ever needing reminders from his teacher. Responsibility isn't something Zamyr has to be told to demonstrate—it is something he naturally embodies. Through his maturity, self-awareness, and dedication to learning, Zamyr sets a positive example for his classmates and helps create a classroom environment where everyone can thrive.

Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad



Student Name: Layla Hernandez

School: Pioneer Middle School, Porterville

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Eduardo Lopez-Contreras

Statement:

Although I have only had the privilege of teaching Layla Hernandez for eight school days, she has already made a remarkable impression on me through her maturity, work ethic, and sense of responsibility.

Layla is the type of student who does the right thing even when no one is asking. Recently, our class completed an activity using scissors, glue sticks, and colored pencils. As the bell rang, students understandably hurried to their next class, leaving a few supplies behind. Layla did not rush out with everyone else. Without being asked, she stayed behind and quietly put away the materials her group had left out. It was a small moment, but it spoke volumes about her character. She saw something that needed to be done, took responsibility for it, and helped simply because it was the right thing to do.

That same attitude is evident in the classroom every day. When it is time to read, Layla reads. When it is time to take notes, she takes notes. While I am teaching, she remains attentive—facing the speaker, whiteboard, or screen—and actively engaged in the lesson. She consistently completes her work, takes assignments seriously, and gives her best effort. She also seeks feedback and asks how she can improve, demonstrating that she is not satisfied with simply finishing—she genuinely wants to learn and grow.

What impresses me even more is what Layla does after her own work is complete. Rather than becoming distracted when she finishes early, she looks for ways to assist. She has volunteered to pass back graded assignments, distribute notes and handouts, organize materials, and help me prepare for the next activity. I never have to remind her of expectations; I can fully trust her to follow through.

In just eight days, Layla has demonstrated the kind of responsibility teachers hope to see in every student. She is dependable, respectful, trustworthy, caring, and consistently ready to learn. Her actions make our classroom a better place and set a positive example for her peers.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad**



Student Name: Camilla Gonzalez

School: Porterville High School, Porterville

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Diana Torres

Statement:

Camilla Gonzalez merits recognition for responsibility because she consistently follows through, leads with maturity, and can be trusted in every role she holds. She balances a 4.4 GPA and college coursework with leadership in ASB, Student Council, Tulare County Credit Union, varsity cheer, and Hype Squad—where she runs meetings and increases student participation. She also handles confidential financial and cash-handling duties as a Student Financial Service Representative. At home, she helps care for her younger twin sisters through homework assistance, meals, transportation, errands, and household responsibilities. Camilla recognizes what needs to be done and can always be counted on to execute it well.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad**



Student Name: Jehily Landeros

School: Porterville Military Academy Porterville

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator(s): Hector Medellin

Statement:

I am proud to nominate Cadet Jehily Landeros for the Tulare County CHARACTER COUNTS! Award. As second-in-command of our cadet organization at Porterville Military Academy, she leads by example through integrity, resilience, responsibility, and compassion. Jehily consistently does what is right, treats others with respect and fairness, and maintains a positive attitude even in the face of challenges. She is dependable, highly productive, and deeply committed to serving others. Ultimately, her leadership and genuine care for her fellow cadets have left a lasting, positive mark on both our school and community.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad**



Student Name: Diego Avalos

School: Roche Avenue Elementary School, Porterville

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator(s): Abelina Jimenez

Statement:

Diego Avalos demonstrates strong citizenship by being a responsible, respectful, and positive member of our classroom and school community. He follows rules, treats others with respect, and takes pride in doing what is right. Diego contributes in meaningful ways—actively participating, helping maintain an orderly environment, and showing genuine pride in his school. He understands the importance of teamwork and consistently serves as a positive role model for his peers.

Ultimately, Diego's actions reflect the true spirit of citizenship, making him an invaluable part of our school community.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad**



Student Name: Julieta Torres

School: Santa Fe Elementary School, Porterville

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Citlalli Deorta

Statement:

Julieta is a wonderful example of responsibility in our classroom. She comes to school ready to learn, follows routines, and takes pride in doing her best work. Julieta completes her tasks diligently and takes great care of her materials and belongings. She listens carefully to directions and consistently strives to make responsible choices throughout the day. When facing a challenge, she takes accountability for her actions and uses her words to ask for help or support. Julieta's caring attitude, effort, and willingness to learn make her a deserving nominee for the CHARACTER COUNTS! Award for Responsibility. I am so proud of the responsible choices she continues to make each day!

Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad



Student Name: Maleena Ceballos

School: Sequoia Middle School, Porterville

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Lawrence Haas

Statement:

Maleena is a superstar student at Sequoia Middle School! She consistently goes above and beyond to help others, serving as a quiet leader who sets a great example and exemplifies our school culture.

Every morning, Maleena makes her way to the cooking classroom to ask how she can assist. Whether she is folding towels, sanitizing countertops, organizing the refrigerator, or shaping loaves of bread, she steps in with enthusiasm.

The best part of Maleena's willingness to serve is that it has become contagious—her friends now join in and offer to help as well.

Maleena may not fully realize it, but she plays a massive role in creating the positive school culture we enjoy here at Sequoia Middle School!

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CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad**



Student Name: Carl Maddox

School: Summit Charter Academy Lombardi Campus,
Porterville

Pillar: Fairness

Nominator(s): Christy Fischer

Statement:

Carl is involved in numerous sports teams throughout Porterville and consistently demonstrates fairness in the classroom, on the playground, and on the field. At school, he takes turns, listens to others' ideas, and makes sure his classmates are included in group activities. For example, if two students want the same classroom job, he helps find a fair way to share it. During sports, he strictly follows the rules, gives everyone a chance to play, and remains honest about every call. Carl shows true sportsmanship by congratulating opponents when they win and encouraging his teammates when they fall short. His actions help everyone feel valued, respected, and included.

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CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
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Student Name: Isaiah Baca

School: Summit Charter Academy Mathew Campus,
Porterville

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Natalia Medina

Statement:

Isaiah is an amazing leader and Spanish model in our Dual Program. He is always ready to learn, practice his Spanish, and lend a helping hand to others. He has mastered the routines and responsibilities of a 3rd-grade student, always arriving prepared with his materials and assignments while consistently making time to support his group. Isaiah pours immense hard work into reaching every goal set before him. His kind heart naturally draws others to him, and he easily builds strong friendships. Isaiah is an incredible student, and I am so lucky to have him in my 3rd-grade class this school year!

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CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
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Student Name: Alexis Inthasone

School: Summit Charter Collegiate Academy,
Porterville

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Stephanie Collins

Statement:

I would like to nominate Alexis for her dedication and commitment to our Special Resource Preschool students. As a Cross-Age Tutor, Alexis works with children ages 3–5 who have a variety of special needs, consistently showing patience, kindness, and compassion. She takes the time to build positive relationships with our students, supports them through challenging moments, and celebrates their successes, both big and small. Alexis is dependable, caring, and always willing to help. She is an important part of our classroom team and makes a meaningful difference in the lives of our students every day.

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CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
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Student Name: Estevan Nunez

School: Summit Charter Intermediate Academy, Porterville

Pillar: Fairness

Nominator(s): Yessenia Cruz and Jason Goodin

Statement:

Yessenia Cruz: Estevan Nunez, you demonstrate trustworthiness by being honest, dependable, and true to your word. You can always be counted on to do your best and make good choices, even when things are challenging. Your classmates and teachers know they can trust you to be genuine, treat others with kindness, and persevere. Keep being someone others can count on!

Jason Goodin: Estevan, you have quickly shown what it means to be a SCIA Bear with great character! Your actions and choices throughout 6th grade demonstrate that you care deeply about doing the right thing and being a positive member of our school community.

You demonstrate trustworthiness by being honest and keeping your word. You show respect by treating your teachers, classmates, and staff with consideration. You practice responsibility by taking ownership of your work and making a consistent effort to meet expectations. You demonstrate fairness by following the rules and treating others with equality. Your caring nature shines through your willingness to help others and be a supportive classmate. Finally, you demonstrate citizenship by participating, contributing, and doing your part to make our classroom and SCIA a stronger community.

Estevan, your character is reflected in the way you carry yourself each day. The choices you make and the way you treat others help create an environment where everyone feels valued and included.

Congratulations, Estevan! Keep leading by example and showing what it means to be a kind, responsible, and proud SCIA Bear!

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CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
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Student Name: Abby Zepeda

School: Vandalia Elementary School, Porterville

Pillar: Fairness

Nominator(s): Kara Martinez

Statement:

Abby exhibits good character by being exceptionally fair. She always plays by the rules, acts with honesty, and ensures she is doing the right thing. When working with classmates, she makes sure everyone is included and has what they need. She willingly shares her supplies whenever someone cannot find their materials. Abby genuinely wants all of her peers to succeed and do their best. She is a wonderful student who deeply values those around her. Way to go, Abby!

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CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
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Student Name: Ariana Corona

School: West Putnam Elementary School, Porterville

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Elizabeth Cervantes Ramirez

Statement:

Ariana demonstrates outstanding responsibility both inside and outside the classroom. She is an outgoing, involved student who participates in our school's leadership group, performs in our school mariachi, and is always willing to assist our office staff whenever needed. Despite balancing numerous commitments that occasionally require her to miss classroom instruction, Ariana takes complete ownership of her learning by ensuring she catches up on any missed work.

She consistently returns to class focused, prepared, and ready to learn. Ariana does an excellent job balancing her extracurricular involvement with her academic responsibilities, making her a wonderful example of what it means to be a responsible student.

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CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
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Student Name: Charlotte Clark

School: Westfield Elementary School, Porterville

Pillar: Respect

Nominator(s): Stephanie Carr

Statement:

Charlotte exemplifies respect by consistently treating others with kindness, patience, and consideration. She listens attentively when others speak, uses polite words, and shows genuine appreciation for her classmates' ideas and feelings. Charlotte understands that everyone deserves kindness, and she actively works to ensure those around her feel valued and included. She takes great care of classroom materials and follows expectations because she recognizes the importance of respecting her school and learning environment. Charlotte's thoughtful actions and encouraging words help build a positive classroom where everyone feels welcome and respected.

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CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
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Student Name: Kaylee Gonzalez

School: William R. Buckley Elementary School, Porterville

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Vanessa Macias

Statement:

Kaylee comes through our lunch line every day and greets us with a warm, "Hello ladies, how is your day going?" She is the only student who greets us with such genuine care, and her daily thoughtfulness truly touches our hearts. That small act of kindness makes a big difference!

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CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
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Student Name: Melanie Aguilar

School: Woodville Union School, Porterville

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Connie Estrada-Tsuboi

Statement:

Melanie took it upon herself to help a new classmate transition smoothly into our learning environment. When she noticed the new student was having trouble adjusting, Melanie stepped in without being asked. She is exceptionally gentle and listens attentively to his needs. She ensures he is always included in all activities and expectations, even making sure he always has a partner.

Melanie even showed her peers how to interact with him to help him feel comfortable and calm during rotation time. At such a young age, she has demonstrated immense kindness, a caring "nurturing" spirit, and a truly generous heart. I am so proud of her!

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CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
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Student Name: Samantha Garcia

School: Richgrove School, Richgrove

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Salvador Arredondo

Statement:

Samantha demonstrates outstanding responsibility by consistently staying on top of her academics. She arrives ready to learn, never complains, and puts forth her best effort on a daily basis. Beyond the classroom, she is a dedicated student-athlete as a member of our Richgrove Volleyball Team. Samantha is a true example of what it means to show responsibility every day, and she is my choice for our September Student of the Month Award. It is my absolute pleasure to nominate Samantha Garcia for the CHARACTER COUNTS! Award for the month of September.

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CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad**



Student Name: Morgan Barnett

School: Springville Union School, Springville

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator(s): Ashley Ray

Statement:

Morgan is an outstanding example of citizenship. Whether she is helping at the rodeo, volunteering at baseball games, or supporting her community alongside her family, she is always willing to lend a hand. Her servant's heart, strong sense of responsibility, and dedication to serving others make her a wonderful role model for the pillar of citizenship.

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CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad**



Student Name: Leah Mikles

School: Harmony Magnet Academy, Strathmore

Pillar: Trustworthiness

Nominator(s): Kevin Cruess

Statement:

I would like to nominate Leah for CHARACTER COUNTS! because she is a wonderful student who consistently demonstrates a positive attitude and a genuine willingness to help others. She asks thoughtful questions in class and truly cares about understanding the material.

Today, I placed a few students in Leah's whiteboard group who were struggling and feeling confused about equations. Leah did an exceptional job supporting them. Instead of simply giving them the answers, she took the time to explain the process and guided them so they could learn how to solve the problems themselves.

Having a student you can trust to lead and support a study group is invaluable. Leah is patient, knowledgeable, and always eager to help her classmates succeed. Her ability to encourage others and share her knowledge sets a powerful example of the character we want to see in our students. I am so proud to nominate Leah for this recognition!

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CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
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Student Name: Avery Maciel

School: Strathmore Elementary School, Strathmore

Pillar: Responsibility

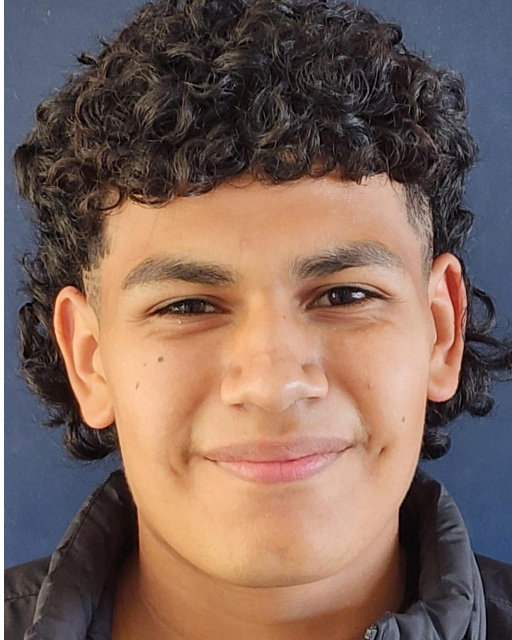
Nominator(s): Shelly West

Statement:

Avery is an exceptionally responsible student. She consistently pays attention in class and asks thoughtful questions whenever she needs clarification. She sets a wonderful example for her peers by always following the Bullpup Way, listening attentively, and actively participating in class discussions.

Whenever partner work is assigned, Avery is always willing to work with anyone who needs a partner. Even when paired with someone who requires a little extra guidance, she never gets frustrated—instead, she patiently takes the time to explain the activity and helps them get involved. Avery is an all-around terrific student and a shining example of what it means to be responsible.

Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad



Student Name: Angel Luviano

School: Strathmore High School, Strathmore

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Evelia Alvarez

Statement:

Angel is an exceptional young man who consistently demonstrates kindness, respect, responsibility, and perseverance. Not a day goes by that he does not greet me with a warm smile and a genuine hello. He treats everyone on our campus—both students and staff—with profound respect and kindness. Angel comes to school prepared and ready to learn every day. As he prepares for life after high school, he actively takes charge of his future, never hesitating to ask questions and seek guidance. He is genuinely excited about what awaits him after graduation, and his eagerness to explore the opportunities ahead is truly inspiring.

What stands out most about Angel, however, is his resilience. He has faced many challenges throughout his life, yet he continues to press forward with determination, optimism, and a drive to succeed. Rather than allowing difficult circumstances to define him, Angel chooses to look ahead with hope and purpose. His ability to remain positive, work diligently toward his goals, and believe in future possibilities speaks volumes about his character.

It has been a true pleasure to work with Angel and watch him grow into the remarkable young man he is today. He represents the highest values we hope to cultivate in all of our students, and I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this recognition. I am deeply honored to nominate Angel Luviano for this award.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad**



Student Name: Natalie Pavone

School: Strathmore Middle School, Strathmore

Pillar: Trustworthiness

Nominator(s): George Baker

Statement:

Natalie is a student in my band who showed a strong interest last year in becoming our drum major. I explained that my expectations were high, but I was confident in her ability to lead the SMS Marching Band. Since then, Natalie has grown into the exact leader I hoped she would be.

She handles all the responsibilities that come with being a drum major seamlessly and without hesitation. I can trust her implicitly to lead her fellow band members with confidence, and I know I can rely on her with my key to unlock the band room after our marching rehearsals. Natalie has demonstrated such exceptional responsibility that she is proudly serving as our drum major again this year!

Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad



Student Name: Adrian Hernandez

School: Sunnyside Union School, Strathmore

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Breanna Monreal

Statement:

I would like to nominate Adrian for the Responsibility Award because he consistently demonstrates outstanding accountability in the classroom. He comes prepared to learn, completes assignments on time, follows classroom expectations, and takes full ownership of his actions and education. Adrian can always be counted on to stay focused, make positive choices, and help create a respectful, productive learning environment. His dependable attitude and commitment to excellence make him an inspiring example of responsibility to his classmates.

What makes Adrian's growth truly remarkable is the complete turnaround in his attitude from the start of junior high to now in the 8th grade. He has written passionately about his desire to graduate, stay focused, and achieve his goal of staying on the right path. Every day, Adrian arrives on campus ready to participate, ready to work hard, and ready to succeed.

Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad



Student Name: Julian Lilis Martinez

School: Monson-Sultana Joint Union School, Sultana

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator(s): Jaqueline Montejano

Statement:

Julian is a student who never allows any circumstance to hold him back from succeeding academically, being a good friend, treating others with respect, and demonstrating deep care for those around him. He consistently embodies fairness, truthfulness, and what it truly means to be a stellar student.

Recently, Julian showed remarkable alertness and responsibility while waiting in the front office to be picked up due to an illness. He noticed a young primary student walk out of the office without first notifying a staff member. Although the little girl's mother was waiting just outside the door after signing her out, Julian immediately recognized the safety concern. Despite feeling unwell, he got up from his chair to keep a watchful eye on her, trailing behind while actively signaling to catch my attention. Julian's quick thinking, vigilance, and genuine concern for a younger peer reflect his outstanding character.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2026
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad**



Student Name: Eli Blackmon

School: Saucelito School, Terra Bella

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator(s): Michelle De La Rosa

Statement:

Eli Blackmon exemplifies Citizenship at Saucelito Elementary by actively serving his school and leading his peers. As a 7th grader, he goes far beyond basic expectations by serving as the FFA Officer Team Reporter, where he helps plan school events and represents Saucelito with immense pride.

Eli leads by example in everything he does. He maintains a 4.0 GPA, models outstanding sportsmanship in athletics, and brings positive energy to the classroom. His peers truly enjoy his presence, and he is a loyal friend who constantly lifts up those around him. Through his dedicated service, academic excellence, and encouraging spirit, Eli does far more than his share to make Saucelito Elementary a better place for everyone.