

25 MOST REMARKABLE TEENS

APRIL 23 , 2019



Rafael Alvarez

Rafael Alvarez is a Valedictorian at Ramona High School and has amassed a stellar reputation in his school and across the Inland Empire. With a GPA of 4.5, Rafael has established himself as one of three AP Scholars with Distinction. He has positively impacted every aspect of the Ramona campus from his involvement on the yearbook to academics. Since his sophomore year, Rafael has been a yearbook staff member and this year he was selected as Yearbook Editor. Rafael spent the entire past summer as an intern with the Apprenticeship Bridge to College Program at Loma Linda University, where he was one of ten students chosen from the Inland Empire to participate in a research opportunity with the university. Rafael attended seminars and engaged in research with professors, doctors and graduate students on a project which examined the effects of high altitude on pulmonary vascular development. Rafael co-presented his research project titled "Chronic Hypoxia High Altitude Stress Affects Antioxidant Levels in Sheep Pulmonary Arteries" at the 18th Annual Health Disparities Research Symposium hosted by Loma Linda University. In the future, Rafael aspires to become a doctor.



Alexis Arrivillaga

Alexis Arrivillaga has engaged herself in the life of Ramona High School's student community with great success. She was one of only 120 students statewide, chosen from over 1,000 applicants, who were selected to participate in the Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Project in Sacramento in the summer of 2018. The program saw students learn about the Chicano history of California, as well as the legislative processes of the state government. Alexis was even given the opportunity to become a lobbyist as the students passed Senate Bill 10 at the State Capitol! Alexis represented Ramona and RUSD with sophistication while honing her public speaking, problem solving, and collaboration skills. Alexis was also selected to serve on Assemblymember Jose Medina's Youth Advisory Committee, which empowers student leaders to address youth issues through collaboration and learn about public service. Additionally, Alexis was chosen to serve as a Peer Helper at Ramona. She provides empathy, mediation and support to high school students who are dealing with social and emotional issues. She holds a leadership position as the Vice President for Paws for the Cause which provides volunteer opportunities at the local pet adoption center.



Danielle Cabrera

A sophomore at Martin Luther King High School, Danielle Cabrera has achieved success in school and her community. Danielle holds a 4.41 overall GPA. She has won several awards including Charles Dickens festival first place essay contest winner, History Day district winner, Science Fair district first place winner, and student of the month in January and February 2018. She is a member of Associated Student Body (ASB) and received the ASB freshman scholar award. Danielle has achieved academic success while participating in several extracurricular activities. She has volunteered at the Riverside Family Homeless Shelter, is the treasurer of the American Red Cross club, and is a member of PAWSS club, a club that works with special need students. She has participated in church youth group and sings in church choir and band. She also has performed the National Anthem in front of her high school as well as in two musicals. She has played club soccer for the past four years and helped her team become League and State Cup Champions. She is also part of the high school Volleyball, Soccer and Track team. After high school, she plans to pursue a career in the medical field with aspirations to become a Physician one day.



Kaylee Cervantes

Kaylee Cervantes is an eighth grader at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School where she is a student ambassador and a member of the choir. Additionally, Kaylee is an active member in several other organizations outside of school, including Girl Scouts, Cheerleading, Riverside Children's Theater, and several local soccer teams. While participating in these extracurricular activities, Kaylee has maintained a cumulative 3.80 GPA. She is civic-minded and enjoys interacting with veterans, and can be counted on to share her talents by singing the National Anthem at various local businesses and sporting and charity events. She has participated in the Junior Charger Cheerleaders program and part of her participation involved raising money for charities. As a Student Ambassador for her school, Kaylee helps lead assembly in prayer and other activities. She is quite the motivator, always getting students to engage and enjoy themselves. With near perfect attendance, Kaylee comes to school with a positive energy, leading her classmates with grace and dignity. After finishing up this school year, Kaylee will be entering high school and is sure to create a legacy wherever she attends.



Laielonie Daniels

Laielonie Daniels is a well-rounded student athlete and an exceptional leader, as she is La Sierra High School's Senior Class president, Interact Club's president, a two-year Varsity Cheer captain, treasurer of Choose to Be Nice Club, historian for Cancer Awareness Club, and Soccer captain. As class president, she has advocated for the mental health of La Sierra students by creating U Matter Week, during which Associated Student Body (ASB) utilizes activities, lively posters, and positive affirmations throughout the campus to unify and empower the student body. As president of Interact Club, she spearheads one of the largest clubs on campus to uplift Riverside's elderly and low-income families. Additionally, Laielonie started a gardening club at La Sierra. Laielonie spoke with the AP Environmental Science teacher about starting a club to tend to a small garden on the empty plot of land. Soon after, they began raking weeds and planting flowers and vegetable plants to beautify the school's campus. In spite of her many leadership positions on and off campus, Laielonie manages to maintain a 4.3 GPA. After high school, Laielonie plans to attend a four-year university to major in Aerospace Engineering.



America Delgado

Ranked in the top one percent of her class, America is a Valedictorian who has set herself apart by taking the most Advanced Placement (AP) courses (fourteen) and Honors (six) offered at Ramona High School. She has exceeded the rigor of any student in the last decade. America has amassed a sterling record and reputation, both in and out of the classroom. As captain of Mock Trial, America has been a tremendous asset over the past three years. She helped transform the caliber of the Mock Trial program by taking Ramona to the finals competition at the district level, a feat that has not occurred since 1985. In her freshman year, America participated in the Mayor's Entrepreneurial Challenge Bootcamp. America represented the school with maturity, confidence and a high level of sophistication. Undaunted by the challenge, she helped Ramona place second in the competition. This year, America spent her summer interning at the local District Attorney's Office where she was actively involved in researching cases and writing briefs. Chosen by Ramona's district to serve as the student board representative, she helps make policies and decisions that best serve students' needs. After high school, America intends to become a lawyer or work in government.



Marcus Garcia

A senior with a 4.3 GPA, Marcus Garcia is a high achieving student whose work positively influences his community. As a committee leader for the Riverside Community Foundation Youth Grantmakers program, Marcus practiced acts of philanthropy and worked with a team tasked with addressing critical needs faced by youth in Riverside. He engaged in problem solving and decision making that supported programs and services provided by local non-profits in the city of Riverside. Generous with his time, Marcus is a mentor in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program, offering academic, social, and emotional support to young students. Marcus collaborated with Riverside's school district and local Chamber of Commerce in an effort to help coordinate the annual College and Career Fair. This past summer, Marcus was one of several students who participated in a summer cultural exchange program offered by the City of Riverside. He spent a month in Erlangen, Germany, staying with a host family while taking classes at a local university. This opportunity inspired him to learn German, his third language. Marcus represented his school, district and city with as much maturity on the international stage as he does in all of his endeavors at home.



Airam Michelle Gutierrez

Airam Michelle Gutierrez is a hard-working Ramona High School senior with a 3.70 GPA. In addition to being biliterate in Spanish and English, Airam has excelled in many honors and advanced placement courses. Her perseverance and drive serve her in academic pursuits and her cognitive ability sets her up for success on any college campus. She is a natural born leader and was elected as student body president for her next year. Her work through Associated Student Body (ASB) showed her as someone who her peers can trust in making sound decisions and representing them well. Airam is also a member of Ramona's Mock Trial team and has earned the coveted role of an attorney all three years. She continues to grow and was instrumental in the team's third place finish in the Riverside County competition. She was honored with a Golden Gavel and the Perseverance Award. She was also recognized with a special Coach's Award because of her dedication, willingness to do whatever necessary, and sheer determination and drive. She is a stellar athlete as she competes on both the Varsity Water Polo and Swim teams. This year, she made second team all-league for water polo. Airam applies herself in the water with the same passion that she does everything else. After high school, she plans to pursue a law or government major.



Raven Hall

Raven Hall is an outstanding student at Arlington High School. She has continuously enrolled in the most rigorous college-preparatory academics available. Raven is a model student, as she is ranked number eleven out of 423 students in her senior class, and carries an outstanding 4.30 cumulative and weighted GPA. When Raven was six years old her father suffered a serious car accident which left him requiring full-time care from Raven's mother. At age six, Raven took on a primary caretaker role in her family and did not let this accident hinder her dreams. Raven has never let obstacles stand in her way of achieving academic and personal success. Since kindergarten, Raven has known that she wanted to make a positive impact in the lives of youth in her community and wants to become an elementary school teacher. Even as a child, Raven enjoyed playing school with her younger siblings, acting as the nurturing teacher. Raven is a member of the marching band where she is the clarinet section leader. She is also a member of the award-winning Envirothon Team, Interact Community Service Club, and CSF. Raven plans on obtaining her bachelor's degree in English Literature and then entering a teaching credential/Master's program. She hopes to return to Riverside Unified School District as an elementary school teacher.



Alejandra Horta

Alejandra Horta, a senior at Ramona High School, is a high achieving student leader who has a huge impact on her community and makes it a better place. Generous with her time and many talents, Alejandra has contributed over 500 hours of combined volunteer work with the Habitat for Humanity and the Big Brothers and Big Sisters mentoring program. Additionally, she was chosen by the faculty advisor at Ramona, Chris Hulme, to be the president of the Ramona Rowdy Rams where she leads a group of a group of 50 to 100 students. The main objective of this club is to seek promotion of positive school spirit. After joining the Yearbook staff in her sophomore year, Alejandra has been elevated to the highest leadership position of responsibility, head editor. After graduating from high school, Alejandra is planning to major in business or education.



Arpita Kanrar

Arpita Kanrar is responsible and always gives her all in academics, Associated Student Body (ASB), Speech and Debate, and in her artwork. She excels in six to seven advanced placement courses each year and also navigates University of California, Riverside (UCR) summer and extension courses. She would like to study as a STEM major after high school, so she volunteers each month in UCR science labs during the school year and over summer break. Arpita is also a self-taught artist. She takes courses through Riverside Art Museum and works on her own to develop her artistic abilities. She has volunteered time with the city to help run art camps for children and has studied art in Mexico. Her work ethic and desire to learn are infectious, as she not only motivates those around her but also helps others find success as a tutor on campus. Through her future studies as a STEM major, Arpita aims to contribute new and innovative research and findings.



Kane Le Blanc

Kane Le Blanc is a senior at Martin Luther King High School where he stands out as a leader. Kane is the President of the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) club at King High, which is a continuation of his efforts from his time in middle school. At Frank Augustus Miller Middle School he initiated the first GSA Club. Along with that, Kane pursues his creative passions and has become a skilled makeup artist. He has been the Co-Director for Makeup at Riverside Children's Theatre (RCT) since age sixteen. As Makeup Director, Kane designs and implements makeup for anywhere from 80 to 100 plus cast members for each theatrical performance. His main responsibility is specialty makeup, meaning he designs and applies makeup for animal and fantasy characters. Kane is also a teaching aid for RCT's Saturday School and a teacher for theater summer camp. Civic involvement is important to Kane as well, and he is a member of the Youth Advisory Committee under Assembly Member Jose Medina. While managing all of his community service activities, Kane keeps up with his studies and maintains excellent grades. Following high school, Kane plans to continue his education and career as a makeup artist.



Sophia Leight

Sophia Leight, a National Honor Society student at La Sierra High School, is ranked third in her junior class of 393 students. She is enrolled in the Biomedical Pathway and the Health Academy in anticipation of pursuing a career as a pediatrician where she plans to leave her mark on the lives of children. Her involvement as an officer of Key Club has given her opportunities to volunteer in the community and to take the initiative to encourage others to volunteer, specifically for charity judo tournaments for the Riverside Youth Judo Club. Along with volunteering at the Fight for the Cure Breast Cancer Charity Judo Tournament, Sophia competed twice and received two first place finishes during the tournament. She has been in the Judo Club for three years and has earned an orange belt through years of persistent practice and controlling her asthma. She utilizes her skills to help youth and special needs students during classes. Sophia has persevered and faced fears, shortcomings, and challenges by helping her family recover from loss, injury, and disability as well as overcoming asthma and anxiety, all while maintaining a 4.67 GPA and making a difference in her community. She hopes to contribute to society by finding a cure for cancer.



Bryan Martinez

Bryan Martinez is the National Council for Exceptional Children "Yes I Can!" award recipient in the area of technology – a prestigious award given to two individuals in the nation. Bryan embraced technology at the age of eight when he lost his hearing due to a car accident. After hospitalization, he began to wear a hearing aid and use an FM system in school. Bryan is exceptionally gifted in the area of technology, and has even trained teachers and staff at Hillcrest High School to use a variety of amplification systems. Bryan is also responsible for all of the technology and filming for both his soccer and football teams. Bryan is truly a hard working student who worked his way from individualized instruction into general education, and is now taking Advanced Placement courses. Due to his dedication, Bryan earned a scholarship to attend the Rochester Institute for Technology "Explore Your Future" summer program in 2018 to try out college for a week. Following that, Bryan volunteered with the Hearing Loss Association of America as Alvord's team captain during the Walk 4 Hearing in San Diego. Bryan looks forward to attending college in New York or here in California where he can continue to develop and expand his technology skills.



Savannah Petty

Savannah Petty has made an impact on her local community through her natural talent and influence as a student leader at Ramona High School. Savannah continually makes a difference in the lives of others, as she is the captain of the Varsity Basketball team, a member of the Help the Homeless club, the president of the Black Student Union (BSU), an elected Controller at Girls State, and an ambassador of international issues as the Publicity Officer of Model United Nations. Savannah was the only junior female chosen to represent Ramona for a leadership and citizenship program sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. As a Scholar Athlete and captain of Varsity Basketball, she has been one of the stars of the team for over four years, and was selected as the Lady Ram athlete of the year in 2017. Savannah is a role model for others through her leadership as president of BSU, a group that works to share their pride in their African American heritage. As an advocate of social equality and racial justice, she challenges negative viewpoints with her strong beliefs and deep concern for the marginalized. Savannah plans to attend the United States Air Force Academy to pursue a career as a pilot.



Valeria Ramirez

Valeria Ramirez is a senior at Arlington High School and currently serves as the historian in a new club at Arlington called Las Hermanas. She is also proud to be involved in Associated Student Body (ASB) and to be part of Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) at Arlington for her fourth year in a row. On top of maintaining an impressive GPA and participating in JROTC, she takes her job as a role model to her siblings very seriously. She is the oldest of her three siblings and cares for them while proudly taking on the responsibility of helping her mom raise them. In spite of challenging personal circumstances, she works hard and always fulfills her commitments and promises. Valeria is determined to set a good example for her younger siblings, and she will be the first person in her family to join the Air Force and the first to attend college. She is a smart, kind and dependable individual and wants to make a difference in people's lives by joining the Air Force and serving her country. Following her time at Arlington, Valeria plans on studying photography at California Baptist University.



Paola Rosa

A Valedictorian with a 4.5 GPA and an AP Scholar with Distinction at Ramona High School, Paola Rosa is a leader in and out of the classroom. Paola leads a group of students several days each week in collecting recyclables found on campus and donates the proceeds to various non-profit organizations that support charitable causes. As vice president of AP Club, she also tutors her peers in AP Club study after school. Paola currently serves as the Assistant Secretary-General of Communications for the Model UN Club. As a member of the Model UN Travel Team, Paola won the Distinguished Delegate award in a simulation of the World Health Organization. Additionally, Paola helped craft the plan for Model UN's Tent Walk, where students walk the path of a child refugee. As the child of refugees, Paola took the opportunity to share her experience with her peers and deepen understanding of the global refugee crisis. She also assisted in coordinating Culture Fest '17, which brought eight clubs together to celebrate Ramona's cultural diversity in a campus-wide activity. In the fall, Paola will attend the University of Pennsylvania majoring in Applied Mathematics and plans to pursue a career in research or higher education.



Sydnee Salcedo

Sydnee Salcedo is an eighth grader attending Amelia Earhart Middle School. Sydnee is a hardworking student with dedication to her family, school, club, and community projects, and she enriches the lives of students and faculty around her. Sydnee is known as a mature individual who has a strong work ethic, outstanding leadership qualities, a passion for sports, and a deep commitment and compassion to help others. She proves herself to be an inspiring leader through her academic achievements throughout elementary school, as well as through her leadership as vice president of her middle school Associated Student Body (ASB). She also won the Physically, Healthy, Active, Teen (PHAT) Award. Additionally, Sydnee attended the Rotary Leadership Conference, Personal Rotary Youth Development Education (PRYDE), where speakers and leaders advocated community projects and leadership and business skills. Sydnee looks forward to bringing her lessons learned and enthusiasm to her future endeavors in high school and college. Sydnee strives to become a positive member of society and is fueled with a desire and passion to coach college basketball in the future. Sydnee's commitment and dedication shows in her everyday life, her academics, and in sports.



Fabian Sanchez

An influential student leader at Ramona High School, Fabian Sanchez strives to make a difference in his community. Ranked in the top two percent of his class with a 4.4 GPA, he has established himself as a top scholar at Ramona. Whether he is serving as lead usher at church for eight years, playing club soccer for six years, serving as the secretary for Physics Club, or founding a club called Heat on Your Feet and serving as its president, Fabian makes a difference in the lives of others. In 2018 he was chosen as the Riverside Most Remarkable Youth for his volunteerism with the Riverside Youth Grantmakers which aims to cultivate young philanthropists like Fabian. For three years, Fabian collaborated with other student leaders in learning how to responsibly give money to nonprofit and social service organizations that address youth concerns. Fabian then collaborated with other student leaders in making decisions to help fund local nonprofit organizations that coordinate programs and projects that address critical youth needs and issues. This year, he was selected by his peers as the co-facilitator/leader of the committee. Fabian has amassed a stellar record both in and out of the classroom, making an impact wherever he goes.



Katherine (Katie) Savage

Since starting her stage life at Riverside Children's Theatre in kindergarten, Katie Savage has exemplified natural leadership skills and displayed poise in her stage presence. In each of the over 25 shows she has performed in, Katie's passion and diligence shines in every show. On stage she is confident, yet she remains sweet and humble off stage. Katie is a friend to everyone she meets and is always prepared to lend a hand. Recently, Katie received the inaugural Angela C. Gomez "Living Above the Line" award for showing genuine concern and kindness to everyone she comes into contact with. This award is in honor of Angie, whose life ended much too soon at the Las Vegas Route 91 mass shooting. Angie and Katie shared a special bond, and many of the same resilient qualities. As a first year high school student, Katie continues to excel in both academics as well athletics. At her school, Katie has dedicated herself to the water polo program while also finding time and energy for jazz class and her lead roles at the RCC Summer Conservatory production. Katie participates in extracurricular activities while maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA, setting an excellent pattern of success for herself.



Wendy Solis

As a senior at Ramona High School, Wendy Solis's work with undocumented youth in the Inland Empire has made an impact at the state and national level. Sponsored by the Undocumented Mentorship Academy (UMA), Wendy went to Sacramento last year and collaborated with non-profit organizations to create a publically displayed mural that captures the essence of diversity in California. Wendy spent a week in D.C. advocating for immigrant rights by sharing her story with Congress Members. She founded the DACAmented club that supports undocumented students. As president of the Dreamer's Club, she offers resources and promotes higher education as the most viable option and path toward upward mobility in our country. The club hosts several California Dream Act financial aid workshops for undocumented students. Wendy was chosen as a S.U.P.E.R. (Students Utilizing Peer Educational Resources) Peer Helper and was trained to provide hope to peers in crisis. Wendy volunteers as a tutor at Ramona and at a local middle school. She holds leadership positions on the tennis team, K Pop Entertainment, One Step Closer, and is a founding member of El Mundo. This year, Wendy is serving on the Riverside County Youth Advisory Council as a member of the Homeless Committee. After high school, Wendy seeks to pursue an education in Sociology/Political Science and International Relations.



Kyle Suk

Kyle Suk is a junior at Arlington High School (AHS) who strives to be an example to others around him by involving himself in as much as possible. Kyle is intellectually and academically strong, competes as an exceptional athlete, and continually seeks and accepts opportunities to serve others. He thrives in leadership roles both in and outside of school and is dedicated to refining his teambuilding skills. He maintains a 4.3 GPA and serves as president of the Chemistry Club, president of the Environmental Science Club, treasurer of the National Honor Society, co-president of the Envirothon Club, and as a member of the Red Cross and STEM Clubs. As the starting setter for the Arlington Varsity Volleyball team, Kyle received the Scholar Athlete Award. He was a first place winner in the RUSD History Day Competition last year, and was recognized with the Top 10 Sophomore Award in 2018. Through these leadership experiences, Kyle learned the importance of patience and how to be sensitive to each individual's unique needs in order to bring people together. He hopes to study medicine and is particularly interested in cancer research and prosthetics.



Blanca Torres

Blanca Torres is a senior at Arlington High School who was born and raised in Jalisco, Mexico. Thanks to her father's hard work, she and her family came to the United States in March of 2010. Unfortunately, Blanca's family experienced great hardships after her father was involved in a near-fatal car accident. Despite this traumatic experience she remained positive and continued doing well in school as well as helping her mom. Her drive to succeed pushes her to get outstanding grades and keep up with her studies. Besides her father's accident, Blanca has overcome personal adversity with a positive attitude. Throughout elementary school she experienced bullying due to her ethnicity. Driven by that experience, Blanca formed an initiative to help other students coming from foreign countries who are unable to speak English. She helps translate for them, tutors them, and befriends them. Her investment in these students has equipped them with the confidence they need to succeed in any environment. Blanca is a self-starter and pushes herself to excel at everything she puts her mind to.



Lisa Younes

Lisa Younes is a senior at Hillcrest High School. Determination is one of the qualities that stands out most when one meets her. Although Lisa has been faced with challenges and adversity, she has been determined to make the best of her situation at home by taking on extra roles and responsibilities. In her classes, Lisa is determined and strives not only to meet but to exceed her academic potential. She strives for the best in each one of her Advanced Placement courses and, despite this rigorous coursework, Lisa manages to be at the top of her class. While playing volleyball, she is determined to be the strongest athlete on the court. She was recognized with several awards such as Most Valuable Player and Offensive Player of the Year. She also received Coach's Award, demonstrating the integrity and leadership that she displays on the court. Lisa's persistence and determination both in and out of the classroom are evidence of her ability to overcome challenges and achieve success in everything that she does.



Amir Zidan

Amir Zidan is a junior at STEM High School and is working to leave his mark on his community. He maintains a 4.0 GPA, taking primarily honors and AP classes. Amir balances all of these activities and academics with ease. Not only is he an exceptional student, he also cares about the well-being of others. Realizing that not everyone has the opportunities that he has, he started his own company: Ressells Supreme. In his start-up, he focuses on giving back. He creates and resells street wear, giving all the profits to local group homes for youth. The company's motto is "Flipanthropy" which means "flip for good" and he works hard to help others. Aside from his startup company, he also plays high level club soccer and leads on the Associated Student Body (ASB) at STEM. As a competitive soccer player, he has achieved a gold ranking with his team. He studied medicine at the Stanford Summer Medical program and hopes to continue his studies and pursue medicine in college.