

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

Central High student honored

Victoria Vasquez shares club values with siblings and peers

THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Boys & Girls Clubs of Pueblo County announced that Victoria Vasquez is the club's August Youth of the Month. The Youth of the Month honor is earned by a member each month, in recognition of his or her strong leadership ability, good character and commitment to service. Youth of the Month is sponsored by Legacy Bank and the Center for American Values.

Vasquez, a 14-year-old freshman at Central High School, has been a member of the club for 8 years. In that time, she has matured a great deal. She participates in numerous activities and programs and takes great pride in being a member of Boys & Girls Clubs of Pueblo County. Vasquez is very open about sharing how the club has been a great experience for her. She has been a wonderful mentor for her younger family members, all of whom are coming up through the ranks, and her peers look to her for advice. Vasquez is proof of all the club can provide a child as they are growing up. She is an ambassador of the Sprague Clubhouse, and when a staff needs help with sharing what the club can do for a child, Vasquez is the perfect spokeswoman. She is also a leader on the volleyball court and believes there is no 'I' in the word team. Vasquez said she believes the mentality of each player can affect the whole team, so they all need to be on the same page.

Vasquez is a jokester and a prankster. However, when it's time to be serious, she gives her undivided attention. Vasquez has a loving heart and believes in tough love. When it comes to caring for her family and friends, she believes in being honest.

**Victoria Vasquez**

Vasquez says she feels you can truly help someone if you are simply honest with them and offer to help guide them in the right direction.

Over the years, Vasquez has completed numerous hours of community service with projects such as Rake Up Pueblo, Tom & Louie's Cupboard Food Drive and spending time with residents at local nursing homes. She is currently the Torch Club vice president and is leading the charge for the Social Action Project, a campaign against drugs. Vasquez and her peers are working diligently on a plan to incorporate stronger drug resistance education into schools.

"The club is my home away from home," said Vasquez. "Whenever I need someone to talk to, I know I can come to the club and have a member of the staff to inspire me to move in a positive direction."

As a Youth of the Month honoree, Vasquez is eligible to compete in Boys & Girls Clubs of Pueblo County's 2017 Youth of the Year competition, which provides several scholarships and leadership opportunities.

The August Youth of the Month was selected by Michelle Gjerde and Kevin McCarthy.

Notes of congratulations can be sent to Vasquez at club@bgcpueblo.org.