

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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National 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador Program

“**Keegan Hammond**”, named National 2007 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador from Colorado.

There are more than 300,000 youth and 45,000 adult volunteer leaders involved in the National 4-H Shooting Sports Program in 46 of the 50 states throughout the United States.

Each year at the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational, a group of determined, well disciplined youth leaders from various states throughout the United States, participate in a week long training and selection experience to serve as representative from their state as a State 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador.

This year, the 2007 National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational and Ambassador training took place on the week of June 24th – June 29th in Rapid City, South Dakota. Some of the following events took place to train and prepare these Teen 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassadors for a future role in serving to promote and encourage the 4-H Shooting Sports program:

- ✓ Professional speaking opportunities and leadership involvement before the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational participants.
- ✓ Presentation of written and impromptu speeches before the panel of instructors, fellow candidates, and selection panel as to demonstrate their ability to interact and react to situations professionally in promoting and encouraging the 4-H Shooting Sports program.
- ✓ Application/resume writing, followed by professional interviewing process to encourage good written and verbal presentation.
- ✓ Etiquette training at a select 5 star restaurant serving a minimum of a 4 course meal that focuses on the importance of public presentation.
- ✓ Professional training in presentation, introductions, and speaking to encourage good public relations at special events: donor/supporter functions, 4-H/extension activities, community service groups, schools and media contacts, etc.
- ✓ Involvement in activities that encourage leadership, citizenship, community service, public relations and teambuilding when working with fellow ambassadors, administration, youth, and adults at the county, regional, state or national level in promoting the National 4-H Shooting Sports program.

Conrad Arnold, Extension Educator University of Maryland Cooperative Extension, and National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee Member who served as lead instructor of the Ambassador training program states, “Through the 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador program, these young people are being trained to serve as spokespersons for the 4-H Shooting Sports program. The training they received will help them throughout their life in whatever profession they choose to pursue. These Ambassadors have become a very vital part of getting the message about 4-H Shooting Sports spread across America. We hope they inspire other 4-H members to get involved in the Ambassador program in the future, both in their State or at the National level”.

Four new National 4-H Shooting Sports Teen Ambassadors selected at this training include:

Keegan Hammond – Colorado; Justine McQueary – Nevada;

Eric Pribil – Oklahoma and Trent Pribil - Oklahoma

These four teens will join the following youth presently serving as Ambassadors for the 2007-2008 National 4-H Shooting Sports program:

Robert Hecox - Nebraska

Kyanne Krusi – Utah

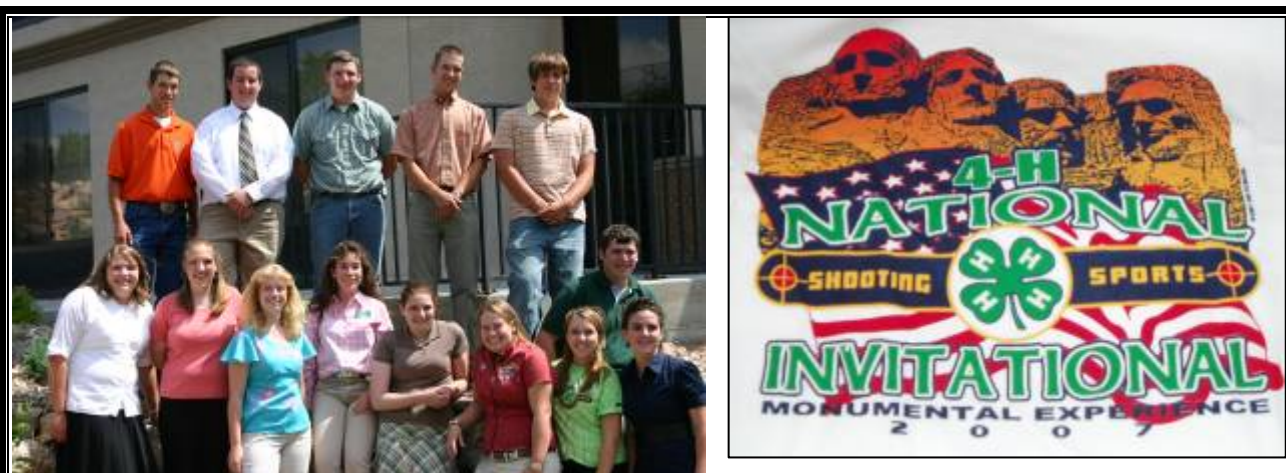
Matthew Pender - Maryland

Larissa Wimbs - Kansas

Matthew Gresley - Indiana

Kate Jewett - California

“Through the dedication and service of the Ambassadors serving on the national level, the vision is to establish and expand complimentary Ambassador programs at the Regional, State and County levels in the future; allowing teens the opportunities to demonstrate their skills in leadership, citizenship and community service through ambassador activities that promote and encourage the 4-H Shooting Sports Program”, says Jim Simms, Program Coordinator of the National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee.



State 4-H Shooting Sports Teen Ambassadors participating in the National Training included:

Front L-R: Sage Krusi, UT; Hannah Perking, AR; Angela Post, WV; Keegan Hammond, CO; Kristina Haskins, VA; Cameron Kolinski, VA; Collene Kiefer, CO; Justine McQueary, NV

Back L-R: Trent Pribil, OK; Chris Minyard, AR; Eli Wise, IN; Eric Pribil, OK; Harry Colton, ID; Eric Smith, LA

***2007 National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational
Rapid City, South Dakota
June 24-29, 2007***

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The National 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador program is partially sponsored by SCI (Safari Club International) and by National 4-H Shooting Sports.