CONGRATULATIONS!

Samantha Murphy 2010 California Youth Scholarship Winner

Sammy is an 18 year old student at Vanden High School in Fairfield, CA. She has been a member of the Vaca Valley Ramblers since January of 2009, and during that time has attended several festivals and was part of the 3rd place youth competition square at last year's National Convention in Long Beach. She's been an honor roll student and captain of her varsity Volleyball team. She participated in the National Young Leaders State Conference and been recognized by the President's Education Awards Program. Upon graduation she plans to attend Solano College in Fairfield, CA. We congratulate Samantha as our 2010 Scholarship Winner.

SAMANTHA'S SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY
"How the Square Dance Movement has Contributed to My Life."

I started square dancing in January of 2009 and today, one year later, it has become a large part of my life. I have met some fun and exciting people through square dancing, and it has taught me that just because something isn't "cool" doesn't mean it is not fun. Before starting square dancing, I thought that it was some crazy thing that old people like my parents did; now I see otherwise. Square dancing is the highlight of my week. I am always anxious to go and hang out with my crazy friends and have a fun filled night of square dancing. As a newer square dancer, I run into some issues sometimes with unusual calls, but others in the square dance community are very helpful in showing me how to do the tough calls. I enjoy the square dance atmosphere and the respect everyone has for each other. I have participated in numerous hoedowns and dances as well as a demonstration day at my high school in order to get more teens interested in square dancing. As the oldest teen dancer in my club, the other kids look up to me as a leader. I have to set an example for them and keep them in line. People are always surprised when I tell them I have only been dancing for one year because I know so much already. I enjoy square dancing so much now that I don't want to stop learning.