



## Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Association

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## THE 58th ANNUAL GARDEN GROVE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL HONORS 19 LOCAL SPORTS HEROES

GARDEN GROVE, CA (May 16, 2016) – The theme of the 58th Annual Garden Grove Strawberry Festival is *Celebrating Our Local Sports Heroes*. Nineteen celebrated athletes from Garden Grove and surrounding communities will ride in the Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup> parade. Among them are five Olympians and 14 top boy and girl athlete from each of the seven Garden Grove high schools. The festival will be held Memorial Day Weekend Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> through Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

### OLYMPIANS TO BE HONORED

Highly revered 96-year-old two-time gold-medal-winning Olympic diver, Dr. Sammy Lee will be joined in the parade by Shirley Babashoff, one of the world's most decorated Olympians. She holds eight Olympic medals and is recognized as one of the greatest freestyle swimmers of all time, receiving the Olympic Order, the highest award of the Olympic Movement. Cliff Meidl was the 2000 USA Olympic Flagbearer. He won gold, silver and bronze medals in kayaking events at the U.S. Olympic Festival in Denver and made two U.S. Olympic teams, a feat few Olympians accomplish. Swimmer Bruce Furniss broke ten world and nineteen American records, and won 11 AAU and 6 NCAA Titles over a seventeen year period. He also won two Olympic gold medals in the 200-meter freestyle and two gold and two silver medals in World Championship competitions. Another celebrated local swimmer, Lance Larson received a gold medal at the 1960 Summer Olympics for swimming the winning U.S. team's butterfly leg of the men's 4×100-meter medley. .

### LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES TO BE HONORED

**Bolsa Grande High School** has nominated swimmer and water polo players Hannah Jones and Joshua Baird. Hannah is a four-year member of both the school's water polo and swim teams with three years as a varsity member for each. She also has been recognized as a scholar athlete, has been a member of the second team and first team all-league water polo, and was a water polo all-star selection. Joshua is a four-year member of both the water polo and swim teams with three years as a varsity water polo player and four years as a member of the swim team. He was named Athlete of the Month, was a first team all-league member of the water polo team, and qualified to CIF for the 50 freestyle event.

**Pacifica High School** is honoring catcher and outfielder Dejah Mulipola and three-sport athlete Thomas Mercurio. Dejah is a four-year varsity starter, four-time national champion, and Division 1 CIF Champion. She was also named to the 2015 OC Register All-County Team and accepted a softball scholarship to the University of Arizona. Thomas excels at football, soccer and baseball.

**La Quinta High School** is proud of the achievements of runner and track and field athlete Alexander Nguyen Janbo and of outstanding soft ball and volley ball player Camryn Hohneker. Alexander is the fourth fastest runner in his school's history and was captain of the cross country and the track and field team. He was named the school's Cross Country Runner of the Year, as well as the City of Garden Grove's Cross Country's Most Valuable Athlete, its Undefeated Cross Country League Champion, and Cross Country First Team All-League. He also was awarded La Quinta Athlete of the Month and Athlete of the Semester. Camryn has played on the varsity softball team her freshman year and played

volleyball all four years. In softball, she was named Aztec of the Year for two years and was team captain for two years. In volleyball, she earned Best Offense her sophomore year and played Second Team All-League her senior year.

**Garden Grove High School** has selected football player Jordan Antunez and soccer player Giselle Bettencourt to be honored in the festival parade. Jordan was a two-time First Team All-League player and First Team All CIF football player. He was the league MVP in football and was named to the All County and All State team. Along with a CIF championship, Jordan broke three school records for rushing and scoring. Giselle was a four-year varsity soccer player and a three-time First Team All-League selection. She was First Team All CIF during her junior year and a Senior Orange County All Star during her senior year. She was also a Scholar Athlete Award winner for three of her four years on the varsity team.

**Los Amigos High School** has chosen three-sport varsity athlete Brianna Lewis and two-sport athlete Dylan Lee as their sports heroes. Brianna excels in volleyball, softball and track and was named the Garden Grove League Female Athlete of the Year. She will attend Aurora University in Illinois on an athletic scholarship. Dylan is a two-sport varsity athlete (basketball and volleyball) and was named to the All Garden Grove League.

**Santiago High School** has nominated three-sport athlete Jonathan Luna and volleyball and soccer star Stephanie Briseno. Jonathan has played football, basketball, and competed in track and field for three of his four high school years. He was captain of the Varsity football team and a leader in the school's Cavalier student government, earning good grades in multiple AP courses. Stephanie garnered her school's Athlete with Character and Honor Award and was honored at the Orange County Athletic Directors Association. Considered a leader on the field and in the classroom, she was awarded First Team All-League for soccer, was captain for both volleyball and soccer teams and has taken multiple AP and honors courses.

**Rancho Alamitos High School** is proud of baseball and football player Victor Lopez and Cross Country, Basketball, and Track star Gabrielle Carbajal. Victor was voted Athlete of the Year for the Garden Grove League. Gabrielle earned Team MVP and All-League honors for cross country, basketball, and track while maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.49.

## **ABOUT THE FESTIVAL**

The four-day event, which is the second largest city festival in the Western United States, will be held at the Village Green between Main Street and Euclid Avenue in downtown Garden Grove. Friday hours are 1:00 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Monday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Last year's attendance was over 300,000. Admission is free. Special one-price ride-all-day wristbands will be offered for all festival days at \$30 per wristband on Friday and \$35 each on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Tickets for individual rides can also be purchased at \$1 per ticket.

Highlights include the Friday evening official giant strawberry cake cutting ceremony at 6:00 p.m. at the Showmobile (Acacia & Main streets) when free strawberry shortcake is served to over 2,000 people. Saturday morning begins with the Garden Grove Sister City's second annual Strawberry Stomp 5K Run at 8:00 a.m. There's also an 8 a.m. VIP celebrity breakfast at the Garden Grove Community Center, with proceeds going to We Give Thanks, helping families in need. Next is a parade at 10 a.m. with floats, bands, equestrians and characters such as Knott's Berry Farm's Snoopy. Many film and TV celebrities will be honored in the parade. All four festival days will include 35 carnival rides, 5 contests, over 200 food and sales booths, games, music and live entertainment in the amphitheater and Showmobile. Contests, held in the festival's 550-seat amphitheater, are the Berry, Berry Beautiful Baby Contest, Redhead Roundup, Strawberry Idol Karaoke, and Tiny Tots King and Queen.

Sponsorship comes from Southern California Ford Dealers, Garden Grove Tourism Promotion Corporation, Great Destinations, Clear Channel Outdoors, McDonalds, Sam's Club, Garden Grove Hospital, Brandywine Homes, Knott's Berry Farm, Embassy Suites, Hilton Garden Inn, Hampton Inn and Suites and Casa Garcia. Media sponsors included Parenting OC, OC News and its Community Newspapers, OC Weekly, Korea Times, Nguoi Viet Daily News, El Panamericano, Farandula USA, Miniondas, and radio stations 103.4 MYfm, KOST, JACK FM, KABC, KLOS, KDAY-FM, KWVE, KSWB, KLYY, KSSE, 100.3fm The Sound LA, KWIZ, AIR1 Radio, Radiocentro 93.9, KEARTH 101 and The Wave.

For additional information, call (714) 638-0981 or visit [www.strawberryfestival.org](http://www.strawberryfestival.org). # # #