



Piedmont Community Service Crew Newsletter

March 2020

Please familiarize yourselves with PCSC's plans during these uncertain times. In the coming weeks, please remember that homeless and low-income Bay Area citizens need your help more than ever before. PCSC is having an extensive fall program, so read more below!

Green = upcoming event

Orange = past even

PPE Kits (bring home a kit to complete with others!)

"The PPE Kits are such a fantastic and simple way to help out during COVID. I had felt so accomplished finishing my first 3 face shield kits that I am planning on ordering more as soon as I can! I really recommend this amazing program to anyone who has a few hours to spare and wants to do some good as the work is so easy but so important. Big thanks to Eva Swei for all of the work she has done leading this fabulous project!" -Isabel Szerdy



"I really liked being able to help out the healthcare workers who have been so working hard to keep us safe this past year. Making PPE was something simple I could do at home to not only keep myself safe, but help out those who risk their lives for us everyday. The final outcome was rewarding, and knowing that the few hours I spent working on the shields really helped was a great feeling."

-Kyra Dang

Bring home a PPE kit to complete with friends or family! There are many options available ranging from 2-6 hours to complete. This is an ongoing event, try to sign up whenever you can! Check out the event with more details here:

<https://fb.me/e/iYDbUjosK>



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RTO 2021

Coming Up!!

In the midst of covid-19 last year, PCSC canceled the annual Rebuilding Together Oakland project in order to keep crew

members and our lovely RTO

recipients safe from the virus. However, now that we can get vaccines and covid numbers are going down, PCSC will be holding multiple socially distanced RTO events with limited attendance later this school year and into the summer. The crew will be renovating the home of Ophelia Adams, the same RTO recipient from last year. After owning her house for 50 years and raising 10 children, Ophelia is thrilled to receive a much needed home renovation. Ophelia's home needs a variety of work, and if you would like to help Ophelia and her family, please look out for RTO events in the Facebook group. The project planning team met today to start the project back and hopes to hold the first work day May 1. We anticipate 10 to 15 work days running into the Summer, mostly on weekends.



Crew Elections

PCSC is a youth led venturing crew. We always hope to emphasize the value of youth leadership. Crew elections and officer positions are just one of many ways that PCSC cultivates youth leadership. Any member of PCSC is welcome and encouraged to run for an officer position. Contact Crew Advisor Ken Li if you are interested! He will coach you on what's expected and how to be successful. Bridget Bentley, president PCSC, encourages all crew members to run because "there is only good that can come out of running for a position. PCSC elections are very low stress and everyone is encouraged to participate in elections. !" If you want to run this year, please read the descriptions of each VP position posted on Facebook by the current leaders. Here is also a [link](#) to a recording of the crew officers panel with more information.

PCSC's annual meeting & Leadership Training:

Because we are unable to hold a Crew Retreat this year, we are hosting ILSC training locally in someone's backyard on May 8th. If you are interested in becoming a crew leader, this training is essential. Through this training, you will be learning new skills such as how to set goals, delegate, and communicate in order to



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volunteer hours. Typically, it is important to see this sheet towards the end of the crew/school year in order to put them in TrackItForward,.

Here is the [link](#) to the spreadsheet if you need the information. Find your name and see all that we have accomplished thus far!

Updated Member Tiers:

Starting this year, PCSC has begun ranking member hours through a tier system as a way to commemorate the more active members and motivate less active members.

Members will be ranked as:

diamond (120+ hours)
gold (60+ hours)
silver (30+ hours)
bronze (15+ hours)
active (<15 hours)
inactive (0 hours)

Levels are based on total hours over each crew year (May 11 - May 10), and members who have achieved a new level will be recognized each month in the newsletter!

Here is a [link](#) to the new updates to the member tiers this month!

Friends of Scouting:

As a venturing crew, we are a part of the scouting program, meaning we are reliant on the support from the Piedmont Council. So, every year we support the Friends of Scouting campaign to raise money for the Piedmont council, that ultimately benefits scouts and venturing programs directly. In each of our newsletters we are going to start highlighting families who have supported the campaign. We want to recognize the following people/families:

Lisa Ashton, Eric Bentley, Sheila Bhatia, Craig Broscow, Sandra Gross, Keiko Hayashi, Esther Hill, Paul Jahn, Midori Lambert, Dana Lung, Ken Li, Maria Lloyd, John McWeeny, Elizabeth Nixon, Gabriel Sanchez, Ray Schnitzler, Jennifer Stahl, William Steimle, and Valerie Xiong.
(Thank you!)

(Note: We haven't received our latest report, so for those who supported this past month, we weren't able to get you into this issue of the newsletter)

For those able and willing to support, please pay by credit card [HERE](#), to make a donation, that may be tax deductible. (select affiliation to Venturing and mark Unit as PCSC; you can set up a recurring monthly payment too if you want to spread out your obligation)

Writing a check payable to "Piedmont Council, BSA" and note that you are a



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PCSC parent, then mail or drop off to the council office at 10 Highland Way, Piedmont 94611.

Please send us a reply to let us know you have donated and when so that we can track our crew's progress.

Thank you for your interest and involvement in PCSC!!

Sincerely,

Toshi Troyer, VP of Communications

For further information or other questions, visit our crew website, www.pcservicecrew.org

Please feel free to email any of PCSC's officers

- Bridget Bentley, President
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- Anne O'Neil, Co-VP of Admin,
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- Alex Kjellen, Co-VP of Admin,
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UPCOMING PROJECTS TO WATCH FOR! Volunteer to lead one of these...

PCSC is always exploring new organizations to work with, so that we diversify who we help, projects that we can do, and what types of members would be inspired. Often, the VP Program team and Crew Advisor are working on these in the background, but we want you members and parents to know that you are invited to join us in deciding which projects we take on.

Contact crew advisor Ken Li or VP Program Sofia Stahl for more information and to help us plan.

Here is a sampling of some organizations that we are talking to, the beneficiaries, and why you members might be interested. All of these are potentially viable with appropriate COVID mitigation plans! (we will cancel events if the infection rates are too high)

ALTENHEIM (A retirement community): senior citizens that live there want to have more planter boxes so more of them can pursue their hobbies of growing things. *New project leaders (Kyra D, Ava A, Siena R) have started this project where we've designed a planter box and expect to have about 2 more work days.* We will likely build another 4 boxes over the summer, so tell Ken if you want to help on this!

CLAUSEN HOUSE (for learning challenged adults): they teach these adults to live independently. They have residential homes and classes for their "clients". We would like to see PCSC helping to make improvements to the homes; host interactive events where our members share their skills (art, music, crafts, fun & games) with the clients. If you'd like to talk to this org to develop a plan for how PCSC can collaborate, talk to Ken.

CHO FAMILY HOUSE (where families of sick children can stay while their kid is in treatment at the hospital): We are looking for project leaders where PCSC could make improvements to their backyard: install pavers; refinish a bench; repaint the railings around a deck. We might do some electrical work to improve the lighting in some of their rooms.

ST MARY'S PRESCHOOL: Many of you know that St Mary's Center helps low income seniors - we cook for seniors in their residential transitional housing and we host meals for local seniors, but did you know that they also run a preschool for low income family kids? Sofia Stahl did her Summit Award project by constructing some reading chairs for the kids to be able to read independently in their yard. Their play yard could use some improvements such as adding irrigation and new plants to their planter boxes which would make their yard greener. They hope that someone will design a gazebo that our crew could build in their yard. They need a large easel for a few kids to do painting on.



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YEP (Youth Employment Partnership): We use the kitchen in this vocational school for at risk teens. We've been invited to help them to build their own dozen tiny houses which will be offered to some of their students. Let Ken know ASAP if you want to help! We'll set up small groups to work.

FOSC (Friends of Sausal Creek): Although this organization seems like they are closed due to COVID, PCSC's relationship with them allows us to set up small groups to help to improve the environment in the Oakland hills. Notably at the Native Plant Nursery where we can help them to propagate native plants which will help to restore our local ecosystem. We'd like to start a team that will be responsible to remove invasive plants and eventually plant native species at El Centro Trailhead. Lauren Quick is starting this in the next few weeks and would like others to help her to run this program.

Do you like working with little kids, being a camp counselor, babysitting? CAMP CREW is another Piedmont Council crew that plans events for cub scouts (including Cub Scout Day Camp). We're going to be hosting monthly Zoom activity meetings for cub scout girls and boys. Sign up to be the Zoom "host" that guides the kids through interactive, fun activities. After you do that, you can help to come up with future event activities. We are also looking for people interested in helping with the planning of Cub Scout Day Camp! Please contact molly.mcweeny@gmail.com or mollie.c.king@gmail.com. Thanks!

Rebuilding Together Oakland (RTO) and PCSC partner each year for our crew to select a deserving homeowner whose home we'll renovate. The plan to help Olivia Adams, an octogenarian, April 2020 was delayed by COVID, but we are just starting to revive our plans and hope to start weekly work days in May 2021. Watch for posted work days that will likely be every weekend (not before finals) and into June and possibly July. We hope to patch, prime and paint the interior and exterior walls, install new flooring and kitchen base cabinets, plus yard work and many little repairs.

Enchanted Hills Camp for the Blind is in Napa. We love working there because they need lots of help, the staff is really friendly, and their mission is heartwarming. We hope to set up a full day trip to work there, probably to install stairs on a steep section of a nature trail in their vast grounds. They've invited us to do a multi day trip where we could stay in their cabins overnight! Let Ken know if you're interested.

Are you into reuse and recycling?

- We just heard about the possibility to collect used books and sort and distribute them to underserved kids, homeless teens, homeless adults, prisoners, (got any more creative ideas?).



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- Do you like simple sewing projects? We could turn old towels into very practical wash cloths, and face towels by cutting up large towels and hemming them with your sewing machine. Homeless people really appreciate these.