



Piedmont Community Service Crew Newsletter

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. Many of our spring programs are being put off to summer. PCSC is going to have an extensive summer program, so read more below!

Green = upcoming event

Orange = past event

PCSC's Zoom Retreat and Elections

While PCSC could not hold its annual Crew Retreat because of COVID-19, the crew was able to hold both elections and the vital leadership training events which are usually presented at the retreat, online. Over the course of a week, crew members joined a daily zoom call to listen to the speeches given by the candidates running for the VP roles. The crew also hosted a time management and goal setting training event online to help the VP's and crew members learn leadership skills for the coming year. While PCSC could not host its important and exciting annual retreat, the crew still had a worthwhile and valuable online retreat.





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Crew Officer Bios: Who Won Elections?

Each year, the newly elected crew leader positions write short bios for the website's (soon to be updated) "[About](#)" section. Read below for a preview of the new crew leaders' bio.

Crew President: Bridget Bentley



Bridget: My name is Bridget Bentley and I am so excited to be PCSC's President this year! This is my fourth year in the crew and I could not have asked for a better experience. I have previously worked as Co-VP Fundraising and VP Administration which have both been such rewarding roles. Outside of PCSC, I hike with the High Adventure Crew, play sports, and participate in school clubs like mock trials! I'm looking forward to putting my leadership skills to work this year as crew President!

Crew Co Vice-Presidents of Administration: Alex Kjellen and Anne O'neil

Alex: Hi, my name is Alex Kjellen and I am a senior at Piedmont High School. I am so excited to be this year's VP Admin along with the amazing Anne O'Neil! Last year I was a co-VP Fundraising and it taught me so many valuable skills that I will apply to the admin position this year. Anne and I make an amazing team and together we hope to make the crew the best it can be! I joined the crew freshman year and have been in love with it since! When I'm not working on my PCSC duties, I spend my time playing water polo, swimming, and hanging out with my friends!



Anne: I'm a senior at Piedmont High School, and I'm co-VP of Admin with Alex Kjellen! I first joined the crew in freshman year, and have been involved ever since! PCSC has given me so many opportunities to make a difference in my community, meet new people, and gain leadership experience. When I'm not doing PCSC, I teach swim lessons, hang out with my dog, and spend time with my friends!



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Vice President of Program: Sofia Stahl



Sofia: I'm a senior at Piedmont High School and I've been involved in the crew since mid-freshman year! Ever since, I've been in love with the crew and our events and have collected over 300 total hours. When I'm not planning activities with PCSC, I'm probably helping the Piedmont Service Club, the Piedmont Venturing Officers Association, or other related Venturing Crews. I'm also a cheerleader!

Vice President of Communications: Toshi Troyer

Toshi: I am an incoming senior and the Vice President of Communications for PCSC this 2020/21 year! PCSC has been a major part of my life ever since I joined my freshman year, and for the past two years, I have been both a co-VP of Fundraising and the first VP of Parent Engagement. In my free time I play tennis, go outside, and hang out with friends. I am really excited to spend my last year in high school working hard for this role!



Vice President of Accounting: Nick Ormond



Nick: I'm a senior at Piedmont High School and joined PCSC in my sophomore year. Since then, I have fallen in love with the crew: I've poured hundreds of hours into the crew and I've loved every single event PCSC has held, but my favorites have been RTO, Tiny House, and Pancake Breakfast. I am very excited to be VP Accounting this year and give back to the crew as much as it has given me. Outside of PCSC, I participate in PFCC, debate, and play volleyball.

Co-Vice Presidents of Fundraising: Julia Banuelos and Sofia Prieto Black

Julia: I am a sophomore at Piedmont High School and I am beyond excited to be taking on the roll of co-VP of Fundraising!! Since joining PCSC, I have been able to participate in some amazing and impactful projects for my community. But I have also been able to grow as an individual to become a more organized and responsible person. Through PCSC, I have also been shown how to be an effective and successful leader. In my free time I enjoy fly fishing, playing softball and baseball with my little brother, and baking.





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Sofia: I am a sophomore at Piedmont High School and am thrilled to take on my first officer position as co-VP of fundraising with Julia Banuelos! I joined PCSC at the start of my freshman year and have been involved ever since! The crew has given me so many opportunities to gain leadership skills, allowed me to surround myself with many different types of people, make a difference in my community and has enabled me to grow as an individual! Outside of PCSC, I swim on the school's swim team, lifeguard, and hang out with friends!

Vice President of Parent Engagement: Eleanor Hoffpauir

Eleanor: My name is Eleanor Hoffpauir, and I am going to be a senior at PHS for the 2020 - 2021 school year. Since my sophomore year, I have held three VP Positions with PCSC: VP Accounting, VP Communications, and now, VP Parent Engagement! I have loved the work I've gotten to do with PCSC - everything from feeding low income citizens to writing monthly newsletters. I have learned so much, and I owe so many of my leadership, organization, and time management skills to this crew. Outside of the crew, I have two jobs as a receptionist at the Piedmont Community Pool and The Dailey Method Barre Studio. In high school, I have played JV Cross Country and Varsity Women's Golf. I can't wait for what this year has in store!



PCSC would like to give a huge thank you to everyone who ran for a position, attended the zoom elections, and voted online.



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The Crew Vision

While the crew usually comes up with the vision for the following year at the annual retreat, this year, we unfortunately could not. However, Bridget Bentley, the new crew president, crafted the following crew's vision for 2020-21, and hopes to lead our officers to successfully achieving this vision.

"By the end of this crew year we will have raised awareness of PCSC and its benefits to our youth in our community. This will lead to higher member and parent volunteer participation in multiple aspects. (Events, leadership, Venturing awards, parent involvement, donations)."

Renew! Renew! Renew!

As we move into the summer, it's important to get renewals in as soon as possible. This year, the process has been streamlined, thanks to our updated website. To renew, please go to the renew page on our website and follow the steps on the page! It's especially important to get renewals in early this year, because our annual RTO project has been moved to the fall, and we are planning to have more events during the summer, and people need to be registered for the upcoming year in order to participate.

We are pleased to announce that (for this year only) graduating seniors do not need to renew and their membership will extend through August.

Please reach out to our VPs Administration with any questions or concerns about memberships. (contacts are listed below)

Summer will be Active!!

Although many of the crew's regular events have been postponed or canceled due to the current situation, we will be ramping up crew activity as we hopefully begin to move into stage 3 and 4. PCSC will continue to plan recurring events where crew members and their families cook at home and deliver the meals to food insecure people at the College Ave Presbyterian Church, St Mary's Center's transitional housing, and



Turning Point, a Tuff Shed village in the Fruitvale district. Each of these serves a slightly different demographic and is affiliated with an organization that PCSC has worked with for years.

The crew is also drafting a pen pal system between crew members and the



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elderly so that we can support them in this period of isolation. Finally, the crew is organizing a baking event where crew members will bake goods for essential workers. The events will begin to be posted on Facebook soon, and the crew would really appreciate the help. Crew members and parents are welcome to help out!

PCSC is youth led! Volunteer to lead an event - you will be able to pick the date and we will guide you on the process. It's rewarding to have the responsibility of leading crew events! If you want to lead or have any suggestions for new activities, please discuss with our VP Program and Crew Advisor.

Fall Plans

RTO, the crew's largest event, was postponed to the Fall, and we are very excited to renovate the home of Ophelia, an elderly low income Oakland resident. Once the crew is able to solidify when this is happening, signups will be posted on Facebook. For more information on what RTO is like, watch this video from our RTO 2019 project made by crew member Aya Troyer [here](#).

We are also planning on our 2nd Tiny House Project where crew



members will build a small house for a homeless teen in order to get them off the streets. Last year was the crew's first time organizing this event, and it was very successful. Our first challenge will be to raise an additional \$12.5k to fund this project, so set aside some extra donation money to support this effort!

Finally, PCSC hopes to be able to return to the Enchanted Hills Camp for the blind in Napa to make repairs and improvements. The crew has already gone to make repairs, but hopes to be able to stay overnight this time.

Cooking for the Homeless

While many of PCSC's events have stopped due to the shelter in place order, the crew is still offering safe yet important events. One event that is



occurring regularly is cooking for the homeless at College Ave. For the event, PCSC members cook from their

homes and then deliver meals to homeless people who stop by at the College Ave Presbyterian Church. Claire



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Lichty, a frequent volunteer of this event said that

“during quarantine, I have been looking for more people to cook for, because cooking is something that I normally enjoy. This past event, I signed up to make garlic bread, but because I had so much extra time, I took the opportunity to make garlic rolls from scratch. The event was really worthwhile, - - - and it felt really good to help people out during this time of need.”

We will continue to have many similar cooking for the homeless events over the coming months, so if anyone is interested in helping out, please check Facebook, the [crew calendar](#), or contact one of the crew leaders listed below.

Crew improvement Contest!!

In order to make our monthly newsletters more informative and engaging, we wanted you to fill out a quick survey. We will randomly pick one person who answered the survey within the next 2 weeks to be the winner of this contest. The winner will be recognized in the following newsletter, and may win a prize such as baked desserts made by crew members. We will continue these surveys in the future, so remember to look for them each month if you want to win. Thank you for the help and we invite both crew members and parents to fill this out! Here is the [link](#) to the newsletter survey.



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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:

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