



Piedmont Community Service Crew Newsletter November 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 event

Starting Out in PCSC - By Eva Swei

I had heard of Piedmont Community Service Crew through friends all throughout my freshman year. I finally joined the crew at the end of freshman year, in May 2020. At first I was a little intimidated, but eventually I went to a few events and realized how fun it was to participate. It always feels great to give back to the community, especially alongside friends. Since I joined during quarantine, I started out cooking from home events. I love cooking, so I was drawn towards the cooking events. Cooking events are always fun, even if you are not a talented cook! PCSC is a great way to meet new people, all while helping out the community.

At the start of the pandemic, my aunt started an organization called It Takes A Village for people to make PPE to donate to health care workers serving communities in the Bay Area (<https://www.it-takes-a-village.org>). Over the summer, I sewed masks, assembled N95s, and cut elastic and wires for masks. I thought other crew members would be interested in helping out front line workers by making masks and face shields. So, for the past few months I have been running the PPE kits program(<https://fb.me/e/36JNZCSn4>).

I love being able to bring my personal interests to PCSC so everyone can enjoy this experience. This was my first time leading a major event, and I learned a lot along the way. It was intimidating at first, but eventually rewarding. I take requests from crew members, receive the kits from It Takes A Village, and distribute the kits to volunteers. Leading this event also means publicizing it on Facebook, through the monthly newsletters, and directly to members. This is an example of one of the many ways you can show leadership in the crew. Now I know that being a part of PCSC is not just attending events, but helping to lead them also.





Piedmont Community Service Crew Newsletter November 2020

Celebrate the New Year with PCSC!

PCSC is holding a New Year Awards event on January 24th 5pm (via zoom). Crew families are invited to attend our hour of recognizing notable members and parents, presenting a recap of PCSC's first semester accomplishments, and a silent auction! We encourage you to participate in our auction and donate any items you may be able in an effort to support our crew's success and future prosperity. Parents and/or their crew members may be receiving recognition, and we'll strive to make this a fun and interactive event, so save the date! Please register in advance with this [invite link](#). Hope to see you there!

If you have further questions, please email VP Parent Engagement eleanorhoffpauir20@gmail.com.

Mask PPE Events:

PCSC is hosting an ongoing event where crew members will make PPE at their homes to donate to health care workers. There are three PPE activity options: sewing cloth masks, assembling face shields, and refurbishing N95 masks. Crew members need to request a kit with materials to make the PPE. Mask kits have material for 30 masks and will take approximately 4 hours and a sewing

machine to complete. Face shield kits have enough material to make 100 face shields and will take approximately 4 hours to complete. To refurbish N-95's, crew members will need a hole puncher, and all other materials will be provided in the kit. The kit has about 200 masks and will take approximately 4 hours to complete. Please go to the [event](#) on Facebook for more information and links to signup.

Upcoming Events to Watch For

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. Talk to us to get involved! At the end of the newsletter 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) **Please take a look at the end!**



Piedmont Community Service Crew Newsletter November 2020

510 Food Rescue

Since the beginning of 2020, PCSC has been providing food to those in need while also reducing food waste under 510 Food Rescue. Volunteers deliver food donations from Acme Bread to the St. Vincent de Paul Society and from Arizmendi's Bakery on Lakeshore to the East Oakland Community Project every weekend. Volunteers often leave each bakery with a trunkload of bread, pastries, and sometimes even soup and pizza from Arizmendi's left over from the end of the day. Each delivery requires only one volunteer/family and a car to transport the donations. Annie Reilly, who has done Saturday deliveries multiple times, said that "It was an easy way to help, didn't take too much time to complete, and was a good way to make sure that the extra food could be delivered to those who need it." If interested, please Sign up for Saturdays, 3:30-4:30 pm for deliveries from Acme Bread in Berkeley [here](#), or sign up for Sundays, 2-3 pm for deliveries from Arizmendi's on Lakeshore [here](#).



Friends of Scouting: please donate ASAP!

PCSC operates under the guidance and structure of Boy Scouts of America in the Venturing program, and gets administrative support from our local Piedmont Council which stands out nationally for its excellence in many ways. To ensure this quality of support and the local control enabled by having our own Council in Piedmont, we need to all provide annual funding to Piedmont Council. One key way is to make annual donations to Piedmont BSA via the Friends of Scouting ("FOS") campaign. Donate now using [this link](#). Select affiliation= Venturing; unit = PCSC Send a note to the [crew advisor](#) to let us know that you did your part!

Crew Committee Meeting

Crew members and especially parents are invited to the January 19th Crew Committee meeting (5:00 to 6:00pm). The Crew Committee is a group of dedicated crew parents and adult volunteers that work to advise the Crew Officers (the elected teens that serve as President and VPs of the crew). The committee meets six times a year to discuss PCSC's upcoming events or decisions that require adult perspective and advice. All Crew Committee meetings are open to all interested parents and we hope that



Piedmont Community Service Crew Newsletter November 2020

many more of you will join us at the upcoming meeting, as a major goal of the crew this year is to increase parent participation in PCSC activities to ensure sustainability of PCSC's future.

If you are excited about how PCSC helps our local youth, interested in mentorship, crew advising, or simply expanding your volunteer efforts within our crew, I strongly encourage you to join us!

Volunteer Hours Sheet

For PCSC members who are interested in learning how to input their service hours, please click on this [link](#) where you can find the official PCSC record of all of the events that you have attended through the crew and how many hours you have completed. Note that each event leader is responsible for collecting volunteer hours and then reporting those to the Crew Advisor who makes this official hours record for all our members. We also have instructions for PHS students on how to enter your service hours on <https://www.trackitforward.com/>

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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Piedmont Community Service Crew Newsletter November 2020

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UPCOMING PROJECTS TO WATCH FOR!

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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. We are looking for some project leaders to plan a project where we design and construct a few planter boxes.

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 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.

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



Piedmont Community Service Crew Newsletter

November 2020

irrigation and new plants to their planter boxes which would make their yard greener. We could run a clothing drive for these kids and build storage for those items.

YSA (Youth Spirit Artworks): You've seen how PCSC has built a 2nd tiny house for this organization, and many have worked on their new Tiny House Village which is about to open for 26 homeless youth. The village still needs help to finish all the houses and add the infrastructure to support the village residents. Please let us know if you want to help with the ongoing construction work at the village. If we have interested members, we'll set up workdays.

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. Tell us if this is something that you are interested in.

Do you like working with little kids, being a camp counselor, babysitting? CAMP CREW is another Piedmont Council crew that plans events for little kids. 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.