

Piedmont Community Service Crew Newsletter- Jan 2026

Upcoming events outlined in purple

Past events in blue

important info

New Year message from the Crew Advisor

by Ken Li, founder and Crew Advisor

Thank all of you for supporting PCSC, and I encourage you all to do more in the new year.

PCSC is in its 22nd year! Since last May, we've organized 98 separate events and performed 2,872 hours of service! These include many projects and events where PCSC provides funding to cover costs, from construction materials to food to address homelessness and food insecurity.

PCSC gives recognition to our members via our tiers system! In the official record of participation hours, note the first column shows tiers of participation.

120+ hours = diamond tier

90+ hours = platinum tier

60+ hours = gold tier

30+ hours = silver tier

15+ hours = bronze tier

Members: for this new year, set a personal goal of participation for this spring, eg, a modest 1 event per month. Aim to reach the silver tier - that's not too difficult!

We are a part of Piedmont Council, Scouting America, and operate under the guidance of the Venturing Program which provides a framework for youth leadership development which I implement by encouraging our members to step up and take on some part of running the crew. PCSC is about service, but also about learning to plan, organize and manage while building independence, confidence, and competence. All of you are invited to reach out to me directly to take advantage of my passion to work with the members to gain practical life skills in a way that fits the inclinations of each individual member.

Many of our members join to pad their high school records with service hours, but my hope is that more of you take advantage of the leadership development aspect of PCSC! Ask how: you can start off by suggesting new activities, or planning and leading an event; join the leadership team which currently includes 14 members who were elected officers last spring, plus numerous VP Assistants.

Finally, I want to thank parents for supporting your child in their membership, but also emphasize that I can't keep PCSC going on my own. We need parents to show up, and ask that you all attend a couple times each semester. You can come with your child, or select events that fit your own interests or availability. Remember to check the events page on our website.

New Year Message from PCSC Presidents

By Elena O'Connell & Stephanie Lee, co-Presidents



This year as Presidents our goal was to work on fostering a sense of community within our crew. We did this through our coastal cleanup event in September where we got over 40 volunteers!



On January 10th we will continue towards this goal by holding an event at the **native plant nursery** in

Joaquin Miller Park where we hope to have a big turnout to help on native plant propagation, and improvements to the nursery. Parents are encouraged to attend! We'll start the event by providing lunch and some organized team building games.

Going into the New Year, we hope to continue fostering leadership amongst our members. PCSC is not just a way to gain service hours or to meet new people: it is also an opportunity for students to learn how to be a successful and effective leader. PCSC is youth-led by elected presidents and six teams of VPs. VPs are always looking for new assistants, so please don't hesitate to reach out and express interest. Cultivating new leaders for future years is always part of our mission!

As Presidents we want to say thank you all for your continued involvement in PCSC and all your hard work volunteering and keeping this crew alive. We have lots of exciting events in the new year and we hope you continue giving back to the East Bay community! Let us know if you want to get more involved as an assistant to one of the VP teams (Accounting, Fundraising, Program, Member Engagement, Comms, Parent Engagement) or want to lead an event. Finally, thank you to our VP teams for all their hard work. We couldn't do it without you! And thank you to our crew advisor Ken for putting in the work to keep the crew running!

We are incredibly proud of how much PCSC has grown this year— not just in numbers, but also in enthusiasm, collaboration, and commitment to service. Every event, monthly meeting, service trip, and hour spent volunteering reflects the dedication and passion of our members, and we're excited to build this momentum in the new year!

Upcoming Cooking Events (Volunteers needed!)

Hey everyone! We have some cooking events coming up and are looking for people to sign up. Contact VPs Program or Crew Advisor to be an event leader.

January 18th at Saint Mary's Center: Join event leader Jaden Jones to cook lunch for 50 low-income seniors, then have the opportunity to sit and eat with them.



January 23 at College Ave Presbyterian Church FOR PARENTS!

This **parent-focused event** from 3:45 - 6:45 pm is led by our VPs of Parent Engagement to make dinner for 100 food insecure people. Parents will get to socialize and meet Crew Advisor Ken, other crew parents, while experiencing how your kid views this popular crew event, and gain appreciation for the PCSC way of youth development and doing service! **Parents please come!**

January 30 at College Ave Presbyterian Church, 3:45 - 6:45 pm: we will be cooking Friday dinner for 100 people. Volunteer to be the event leader!

There will be additional information on all these events on the [PCSC website](#), so make sure to check it frequently in case you want to sign up for any of these awesome experiences.

Native Plant Nursery

Jan 10th

Our big event is finally here! Join us January 10th at the Native Plant Nursery in Oakland to help do construction work, plant, and hangout as a crew while giving

back to our environment. Lunch & games will be at 12:00 before the service work which begins at 1:00. If construction or gardening is an interest of yours, even if you have little experience, this is the perfect way to test out your skills with an easy, friendly introduction. Bring your friends and family as we hope to make this our biggest event yet. We hope you can make it and Happy New Year!!



VP Comms is Looking for More Assistants!

The role of VP Communications is such a great one, but it's only as successful as it can be with its assistants. We're reaching out to anyone who might be interested in getting involved a little, with low priority commitment. A way to ease yourself into the program without tough deadlines, and tons of work. Our many goals of VP Comms include encouraging attendance to events which is just like what this newsletter is trying to accomplish. Getting the word out to our Piedmont Community to gain their support in our fundraisers, and getting people

on board to join now or for their children to join in the future. But most importantly giving awareness about what PCSC does and its benefit to this community. Remember to check the website or reach out to any of the people below if you have any questions!

Member Shout-out

By Toby Tsai, VP Member Engagement Assistant

This month we are giving a shout out to Milo Stevenson who attended his first PCSC event with alacrity, wasting no time getting his hands dirty unloading 12 foot trees in the tree lot. Despite the cold, he had a blast and is looking forward to attending more events in the future.



PHS students: Submit your service hours by Jan 10!

Check out our [crew website](#) for information on how to track and submit your service hours. PHS students: fall hours (May 11 - Dec 19) must be submitted by Jan 10th via your MobileServe account. Crew members can review your official PCSC hours on [this sheet](#). If you have any questions about this, contact crew advisor Ken.

**Thank you for reading and
for your continued involvement in PCSC!**

Sincerely,

Chloe Koh & Claire Aubrecht, co-VPs of Communications
Jaden Jones, Assistant of Communications

Listed below are the emails of all of the PCSC leaders, feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns!

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PHOTO GALLERY

PCSC at the Food Bank, Nov 2025:



