



## Piedmont Community Service Crew Newsletter - Mar 2026

Upcoming events outlined in purple

Past events in blue

important info

### Crew Retreat

Crew leaders, our yearly retreat is coming up from April 17-19 and all aspiring leaders and crew officers should attend! This is a weekend centered on team building and strengthening friendships, and includes an annual review of the crew's progress and improvements, cooking and eating meals together, time for hanging out at the venue, and a leadership training course by peers that's interactive and fun! Elections will be held on Saturday night, the 18th, followed with a candidates debate, Q&A, and finally the vote!

Watch for the line up of officer candidates and voting rules. You must be an active member to vote, and if you're eligible, DO vote for people who you think will support the crew the best. If you cannot attend the retreat, we plan to live stream via Zoom on Saturday night so that you can "meet" the candidates and ask them questions to help determine who is the best suited for our crew.

### Native Plant Nursery

Our big event is back! A huge thanks to everyone who attended the last one, and we hope to get an even bigger turnout! It will be on March 21st from 9:30-12:30 at the Native Plant Nursery in Joaquin Miller Park. Our goal is for this event to be incredibly fun as well as promoting a high sense of community between members. Even if you could not attend the last one, we highly encourage you to come to this one. Prepare to get your hands dirty, along with your clothes as we build together.

**After our volunteering we will have some fun games and lunch**, catered and donated generously by crew family owners of [Chef's Experience China Bistro](#) in Hayward!

Spread the word because it's always better to go to things like this with friends and family to get the most out of it!!!

### Congratulate Stephanie Lee & Yoko Ichikawa!

Each spring, within Piedmont Council, Scouting America (of which PCSC is a part), we have the potential for one of our leaders to be recognized with the William Peterson Award for their exemplary demonstration of how our crew program is all about youth leadership development.

This year's Peterson Award goes to Stephanie Lee, whose performance as co-President has been exemplary.

Also, PCSC has the option to recognize one of our crew adult leaders who has committed to go through the Scouting America registration, leader training, and to help in the success of the crew. Yoko has not only come to many events, but has attended service trips, and helped behind the scenes on recruiting.

Both awards, for Stephanie & Yoko, will be presented at the *Annual Recognition Dinner on April 16, 6pm-9pm*. Please join us at the dinner event so you can cheer for our honorees! PCSC typically has two tables of friends of the recipients: one for crew youth and one for crew adults.

[Tickets](#) are on sale now.

## **Summer Camp Staff Needed**

Piedmont Cub Scout Day Camp is going to be the afternoons of June 15-18 (Mon-Thur), in Dracena Park, staffed by local Troop Scouts and PCSC Crew members. If you like working with elementary school kids, this is a great opportunity.

We are especially looking for organized youth who would like to help plan the camp activities in advance, and organize the staff to run the camp. For more info, and to sign up, contact Crew Advisor Ken Li <Ken.i.Li@sbcglobal.net>, and Camp Director Rebecca Fisher <[rebmfish@gmail.com](mailto:rebmfish@gmail.com)>. There will be meetings to plan, and for training.

## **Friday dinner event - cook at home**

On March 27th, our Friday dinner event will take a new twist! We usually cook and serve Friday dinners for 100 hungry people at the kitchen of College Avenue Presbyterian Church, but their kitchen was recently damaged by flooding. Connor Paige and his mom agreed to be the event leaders and will plan the menu; however, we need several crew 'families' to host mini work parties to make smaller portions of this meal. Please volunteer with a couple friends or recruit family members to make, for example, the main course for 25 servings.

This prep work / cooking could also be done in advance and then heated up on that Friday afternoon in time for the 5:00 drop off in central Piedmont.

Watch for the event posting which will list the menu and [signups](#).

## **Teens "adopting" local Elders.**

We have a new exciting service opportunity! Local social entrepreneur Gloria Lee is launching a new organization called "Weavers" to facilitate intergenerational connections, and PCSC is

partnering on this. We are looking for teens to join our pilot this spring! PCSC is recruiting member pairs who would be matched with elder “Silvers” in nearby Piedmont or Oakland, then visit your “Silver” at their home once a week for 6 weeks to do household tasks (e.g. change a high lightbulb, troubleshoot a printer, move patio furniture), and also talk about them and their lives. Elders get a little help with tasks, so they can stay independently in their homes. Teens would receive a “transcript” that includes both verified service hours and confirmation of job skills (e.g. problem-solving, empathy). Both get the benefit of a new intergenerational relationship! We hope that our youth members will also gain a longer term “friend”.

Because this is a start-up, our Crew gets the chance to advise the founders on the design of the program! This is a great opportunity for anyone who is looking for flexible service hours, hear some wisdom and stories from older adults in our community, and work with seasoned social entrepreneurs at the earliest stage.

If you're interested, contact Allyson Huynh, Luca LaFort or Crew Advisor Ken ASAP! We are looking for members who want to be part of the program planning and/or be a participant.

## **PCSC Presidents on the value of serving as a crew officer.**

### ***From Elena O'Connel:***

As crew co-Presidents for almost two years Stephanie and I have been able to soak up as much experience and growth as we can from the crew. We started as freshmen who didn't know much about the crew or about community service for that matter. But throughout our four years Stephanie and I together have been able to learn how to lead and plan a summer service project in Medford Oregon for three years, make large community events possible through publicity and outreach, and learn smaller lessons like how to use a jigsaw or woodwork or how to properly plant a plant. PCSC can truly be whatever you want it to be, and you can get as little or as much as you want out of it. Having put so much time and effort into the crew we have really been able to learn a lot about leadership and about ourselves. We've learned how to work as a team, delegate, plan, see things through, and even how to take control when necessary.

If you like community service or are passionate about making change in our community even if you have little to no leadership experience we strongly encourage you to try running for a position. **Crew elections** are coming up in April and we hope to see new, fresh faces who want to learn how to be leaders in their community. This process starts in the **Crew Retreat**, April 17-19, where we bond as a crew and learn integral lessons on how to be an involved crew member.

It is so important as teenagers to develop these skills so when you leave high school and get more opportunities to lead and work as a team you have the necessary skills to do so. It starts now, in a safe supportive environment where you can learn with your peers how to accomplish your own goals.

***From Stephanie Lee:***

Since our sophomore year, Elena and I have served in leadership positions in PCSC, first as VPs, and later on, as co-Presidents. Initially, leadership felt scary and daunting— learning how to command the attention of a room full of people, how to delegate action items among peers, and how to plan and lead community-wide events was no easy task. It required resilience, organization, and drive, all traits that being in the leadership position helped me learn. Serving as a crew officer for PCSC has shown me that leadership isn't binary: it's not always about knowing the right thing at the right time. Rather, being an effective leader is having the passion and the effort that you can extend to your fellow crew members: making them remember and discover their passion for service by showing them yours.

Running to be a crew officer was one of the best decisions I've made: yes, it has taught me how to manage my time better, how to organize projects more efficiently, and how to communicate and collaborate more effectively. But more importantly, it's helped me find my voice and deepen my passion for volunteerism.

## **April Break Service Trip - coming up**

Hey everyone! Our April Service Trip is fast approaching and we anticipate having 8 members attending. It will take place at Willow-Witt Ranch near Ashland, OR and it's from April 5th-11th (Spring Break). It will be so much fun including hands-on activities; construction, helping out at the barn (on the property), cooking together, and spending quality time with fellow crew members! It's such a great way to spend meaningful time on your week's break by giving back, but in a vacation-like setting.

PCSC has a history of youth initiated service trips, so if you missed out on this trip but want to help organize a future service trip, speak to crew advisor Ken soon!

## **Upcoming Events**

We have many upcoming events for PCSC so go check the website! Things like the Tiny House Village, Saint Mary's Center Lunch, Christian Layman Church landscaping , and another great opportunity back at the Native Plant Nursery! Additionally, our bakesale for the PEBCC fundraiser is in a few weeks and if you're interested in baking desserts, make sure to sign up (on the website)!

Other than these events we also encourage anyone who wants to lead an event should do it along with coming up with more event ideas. Your input and feedback is appreciated and we are always looking for ways to improve your experience here at PCSC!

The program team would like to know when you are available to help us schedule. Save [this link](#) and regularly update to show when you have time for PCSC events.

## Event Reflection

*By Claire Aubrecht*

Hello! My name is Claire Aubrecht, a Junior at Piedmont High and current co-VP of Communications.

PCSC has had many large scale events which are intended for socialization and bonding, and up until this point I haven't been able to attend one. In that lack of experience, I had no idea what the Native Plant Nursery was, so I went in a little apprehensive, assuming it was just going to be a light bit of chatter then silent digging for a few hours. We ended up splitting into two groups after a filling lunch with plenty of genuine conversation, with my group choosing to play imposter over soccer, and there were many rounds of laughter and chatter (now everyone knows geckos live in deserts). In the nursery, we were quickly educated on the delicate ecosystem set up in the nursery to ensure plant health, and it was fascinating to hear about how local plant shops worked together to combat various invasive diseases plaguing native trees that I didn't even know about. I'm happy to say I'm far more educated on native plant species now than I used to be.

The atmosphere once we got to work was relaxed, and the work was a nice, earthy (literally) break from the mania in our lives as busy students. I started by repotting iris sprouts in oblong pots, but was quickly drawn to the racket being made by the demolition crew near the entrance tearing apart an old, rotting bench to send off to be used elsewhere. It ended up being a wonderful substitute for a rage room, and getting to whale on a bench with a hammer completed the spectrum of therapy I experienced at this event.

Overall I think this is a wonderful, relaxing event to bring a group of friends or family to. Manual labor is absolutely optional, and there are so many things a volunteer can do that provide much needed help. PCSC has another upcoming event at this nursery, as well as a kiosk building event happening over the four day weekend! I would strongly urge signing up on the website, you get relaxation, fun and service hours wrapped in a bundle!

## Request instruction manual

Over the past few weeks, we've had several people ask how to request that events happen within PCSC. There seems to be some confusion about the process, so here's a clarification.

**If you have an idea for an event and you would like to lead it, the next step is to reach out to Ken.** He has asked that anyone who wants to organize something text or email him directly with the details. That includes what the event is, when you're hoping to hold it, and any other relevant information he would need to know. Once he has the details, the conversation can move forward from there.

You don't need a super complicated plan, just an idea, and you can work from there. So if you've been wondering how events get added or how to take initiative within PCSC, that's the process: **text or email Ken with your event idea!**

## **REMINDER to Crew Members: Check the PCSC Website!!**

You'll find lots of valuable information, including:

- [Events page](#) for members and parents to sign up for events
- [Events calendar](#) to view long term event plans
- Links to our social media
- PHS students: logging your service hours
- Meet our crew leaders
- How to join and renew your membership
- Newsletter archive. Read old issues to get important info!

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

Sincerely,

Chloe Koh & Claire Aubrecht, co-VPs of Communications  
Jaden Jones & Mira Sen, VP Communications Assistants

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

- Stephanie Lee, Co-President  
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## **PHOTO GALLERY**

PCSC at (tbd):