



January 31, 2016

Dear Members and Parents of PCSC,

Piedmont Community Service Crew is starting strong in 2016, planning for big new events such as selling food at the White Elephant sale in March, taking inventory in exchange for funds at McCaulou's, and working on our Spring project with Rebuilding Together Oakland (RTO), where we refurbish the house of a low-income senior in Oakland. Members can sign up for these events on the [FB group](#).

Spring RTO Project

Congratulations to Eliza Lucas on being Youth House Captain this spring for RTO! Along with officers Will Reicher and Maya Guzdar, and crew advisor, Ken Li, Eliza went to scope out various houses for our project in April and have narrowed it down to two. Stay tuned! To sign up for RTO, mark Going on the Facebook event when it's posted, and fill out the waiver when it's emailed out. "Doing RTO was a really fun and rewarding experience. I felt like I was really helping someone and I could see the changes in the house happening along the way," Grace Foster, PCSC member, says. Join us this April and have the awesome, fulfilling experience as Grace did!

Spring RTO Donations & Fundraising

Donations from Members: To rejuvenate the house, we need lots of equipment, so help us reach our goal of \$7,500, and write a tax-deductible check written to Rebuilding Together Oakland, and mail to Treasurer, Colin Dixon, at 6861 Estates Dr in Piedmont.



McCaulou's: This Monday, volunteers attended our yearly McCaulou's event in Montclair to take inventory. McCaulou's donates a set amount per hour per volunteer, and we channel those funds to our Spring RTO project. Thank you all to all those inventory-taking volunteers, you're a huge help!

Venturing Officer's Association

Recently, Piedmont BSA has reestablished a Venturing Officer's Association to share ideas and strategies for success between venture crews, co-ed clubs off of Boy Scouts that include PCSC and [High Adventure Crew](#) (HAC). Nina Adarkar will serve as VOA president until May, and in that time the association will be searching for a president for the coming year, May 2016-April 2017.

This increases interactions between crews, such as when the Film Crew came on an HAC backpacking trip, or when HAC members attend trail restorations with PCSC. With more publicity, all crews will benefit and have more fun! If you'd like to share potential strategies or take advantage of these leadership opportunities, join by searching Piedmont BSA VOA on facebook, and joining the group.

Annual PCSC Retreat



VP of Program Ellie Coleman and member Henry Hopcraft eating breakfast at the May 2015 retreat

Save the date for the annual retreat this Memorial Day weekend, May 27-29. Most attendees will leave Friday



White Elephant Sale: The Oakland Museum of CA will hold their 57th annual White Elephant fundraiser sale on March 5th and 6th, 2016, where Bay Area residents donate old toys instruments, and more, and OMCA runs a giant garage sale. To raise enough money for RTO, PCSC will be selling food at the sale. You can help out by helping us sell or coming to buy food from us - and you can snag deals at the sale to support OMCA while you're there!

New Members: Try Your 1st Event

Members who have signed up and have not attended an event, or have been hesitant to sign up at all, we encourage you to attend your 1st event! If you're nervous about long-time members, know that everyone is



extremely supportive and inclusive. A great way to decrease your nerves is to bring a friend or two. Go to an event you'd all enjoy. If you like planning and strategizing, attend the monthly meeting on February 2; If you like bagging produce and assembling meal boxes, volunteer at the Alameda Food bank February 6; if you like cooking, help [WSWA](#) make tamales for their yearly fundraiser on

February 6. *Junior Alex Markowitz helps make tamales for WSWA.*

Website Updates

Check out the [PCSC website](#), maintained by Webmaster, Skyler Liu! This winter, she added a debrief on the recent Food Bank event by Carole Parker with photos. Also, if you ever want to access the monthly newsletters and don't want to sort through your email, go to the website and click the tab all the way on the right, labeled Newsletters, and click on the month you'd like to see. Keep checking the website for new photos, articles, and general updates.

evening, but members can arrange rides later in the weekend, and everyone returns Sunday afternoon. For the past two years, PCSC has gone to the Yeh's house in Groveland (near Yosemite), near a beautiful lake, but the location is still up for debate. On the retreat, members will bond with each other from watching movies, swimming in the lake, and cooking meals together. Attendees will also receive leadership training, a prerequisite to attend National Youth Leadership Training in the summer. Sign up on the FB event when it's posted.

2016-2017 Elections

Elections for the coming crew year will happen at the retreat (above), and anyone can run for any position. Saturday night, candidates will be asked to give a short speech, then will be interviewed by members, followed by a secret ballot vote. Officer positions are President, VP of Finance/Treasurer, VP of Communications, VP of Administration, and VP of Program. All members are encouraged to run and develop their leadership qualities, like Colin Dixon who reflects, **"It has taught me the value of planning ahead. I used to do things day to day, but things just can't get done if one doesn't plan ahead."**



Members at the 2014-2015 elections

Camporee

This May, PCSC will visit Camporee to cook and host a meal. Camporee is a regional camping event where Boy Scout troops meet and learn about wilderness survival, leadership, and land navigation. This will increase venture crews' importance and recognition in Boy Scouts.

Instagram

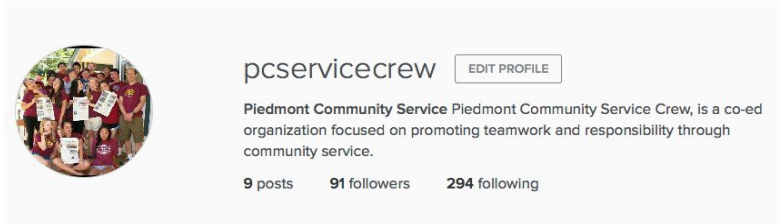
Follow Piedmont Community Service Crew on instagram



Tracking Service Hours

PHS has a new system to track community service hours called [Track it Forward](#). Students log their own hours online throughout the year, no authorization required, but are encouraged to still fill out the blue forms that can be picked up at the high school's College & Career Center, in case proof is ever needed. For PCSC members, instead of tracking each individual event you attend, you should log all your hours with the crew at the end of the year, so it's less of a hassle. So, at the end of the crew year, go to Track it Forward, click Log Hours, add Piedmont Community Service Crew as the organization if it's not already there, and type 30, 50, or however many hours were recorded as your total on the [spreadsheet](#), kept by crew advisor, Ken Li, from May 2015-April 2016. For the date of service, type the date of the day you log the hours. Contact VP of Communications, Nina Adarkar, at nina.adarkar@gmail.com if you're still unclear.

@pcservicecrew. Email or Facebook message a screenshot that shows you're following PCSC to Nina Adarkar and you'll get a piece of candy! Or, find her at school and show her that you're following @pcservicecrew to get your piece of candy.



Thank you for your interest and/or involvement in PCSC!

Sincerely,

Nina Adarkar (VP of Communications)

For further information or other questions, email any of PCSC's officers:

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