

Troop 219 honors six new Eagle Scouts



Photo provided

Troop 219 Eagle Scouts, pictured from left: Rhett M. Skvarna, Benjamin L. Braunstein, Jonathan D. Clark, Conner J. McPhail, Nicholas D. Eppinger and Luke R. Combi.

Submitted by Dave Srivanka

Troop 219 of Lafayette, California will hold a Court of Honor on Sept. 18 to recognize and celebrate six outstanding young men – Rhett M. Skvarna, Benjamin L. Braunstein, Jonathan D. Clark, Conner J. McPhail, Nicholas D. Eppinger and Luke R. Combi – who have achieved BSA's highest rank, Eagle Scout.

In addition to earning 21 merit badges to achieve the Eagle Scout rank, Scouts also completed the following community service projects: Skvarna completed a bench restoration and beautification project at Acalanes High School; Clark designed and built a cus-

tom bookcase for teachers at Burton Valley Elementary School; Eppinger collected over 1,400 books from Kapnek Trust USA for use in libraries and schools in Zimbabwe; Braunstein built a 9 Square game in the Air court for Happy Valley Elementary School; Combi built Wood Duck nesting boxes for Cal Farms located on Grizzly Island in the Suisun Marsh; and McPhail organized a landscaping and enhancement project at Acalanes High School.

These six Eagle Scouts will receive recognition and proclamations from the City of Lafayette and Mayor Susan Candell, local U.S. Congressman Mark DeSaulnier, California State Sen. Steve Glazer, The White House and Contra Costa County.

MHS presents final installment to Friends of Joaquin Moraga Adobe



Photo Debby Trotter

From left: Bobbie Landers (former Orinda Mayor and longtime FJMA and Adobe project supporter), Dave Trotter and Susan Sperry (Dave and Susan representing MHS), Kent Long, Tania DeGroot, Jeff Boero and Teresa Long (all with FJMA).

Submitted by Dave Trotter

Susan Sperry, the president of the Moraga Historical Society (MHS), presented a check for more than \$53,000 to Kent Long, the president of the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe (FJMA) at a ceremony held Aug. 24 at the Joaquin Moraga Adobe. This was

the final installment of MHS's commitment to raise more than \$100,000 from the Moraga community toward the \$500,000 purchase price of the Adobe property. The photograph celebrates the check and the partnership between FJMA and MHS which helped to make this accomplishment possible. (See the story about the Moraga Adobe on Page A6.)

Community Service: We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions may be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

Submit stories and story ideas to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

New Troop 224 Eagle Scouts



Alex Ariker, Kyra Ariker, Catie Bronte, Caroline Bronte

Photo provided

Submitted by Shanti Ariker

Scouts BSA Troop 224B and 224G are honoring four Eagle Scouts – Alex and Kyra Ariker, Caroline and Catie Bronte – for achieving the highest rank that Scouts BSA gives: that of Eagle Scout. Kyra Ariker and Caroline Bronte also achieved this rank in the Inaugural Class of Girl Eagle Scouts. Girls were first allowed in Scouts BSA as of Feb. 1, 2019. To achieve the rank of Eagle, a Scout must earn 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and Scout spirit, and successfully complete a community-service project.

Alex Ariker, a senior at Acalanes High School, directed a project to build two benches and a pergola for Temple Isaiah's preschool. He selected the plans, cut the wood and prepared materials for construction and led Scouts and volunteers through the construction process.

Kyra Ariker, also a senior at Acalanes High School, directed a pro-

ject to make 300 masks for the city of Berkeley to distribute to homeless shelters and elderly homes. The entire project was done during the stay-in-place lockdown in May through June 2020 and socially distanced. As a result, all directions were done via explanatory videos and charts using a complex supply chain for each step along the way until all tasks were completed.

For Campolindo senior Catie Bronte's project, she organized, funded, and oversaw the upgrade, modernization, and restoration of the stage lighting system at Campolindo High School, buying and replacing some 300 light bulbs.

Caroline Bronte, a junior at Campolindo High School, recorded 10 50-minute interviews with female veterans at the Lafayette Veterans Hall and sent them to the Library of Congress as part of their Veterans History Project. They were later adopted by the U.S. Army for training in its Reserve Officers' Training Program (ROTC).

Eagle Project adds reading nook at Hope Solutions' Garden Park Apartments



Photo provided

Jack Elder (standing), Henry Goodman (laying down), Braden Purcell, Alex Chang, Cole Hickey (sitting), Nolan Henwood

Submitted by Carrie Veurink

Braden Purcell from BSA Troop 246 completed his Eagle Scout Service Project this summer, and inspired hope and the love of reading. The beneficiary of Purcell's project was Hope Solutions, formerly known as Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, a nonprofit in Contra Costa County whose mission is to heal the effects of poverty and homelessness by providing permanent housing solutions and vital support services to highly vulnerable families and individuals.

Purcell brainstormed different project ideas with the staff at Hope Solutions and decided to create a new, permanent reading nook for the children living at Garden Park Apartments, where Hope Solutions provides permanent housing for 27 previously homeless families.

Purcell completed his project on Aug. 6, supported by five of his fellow Scouts: Jack Elder, Henry Goodman, Alex Chang, Cole Hickey, and Nolan Henwood. During their three-hour project at Garden Park Apartments they unloaded new shelves, chairs, rugs, pillows, and hundreds of books into the Community Room classroom. Purcell also led his team of Scouts to build a bookcase, sort books by age

group, label books and organize them on the brand-new shelves. Providing chairs, rugs, and pillows, they created a cozy place for the children at Garden Park Apartments to comfortably enjoy reading without distractions. The Sydney Paige Foundation donated hundreds of books toward Purcell's Eagle Scout Service Project.

As part of an Eagle Scout Service Project, a Scout should demonstrate leadership of others while performing a project for the benefit of their community. It is a life lesson in communication and leadership. Purcell says that he "learned a lot about how to lead a project and communicate with partners and peers. It was great to work with Hope Solutions and the Sydney Paige Foundation. They and my fellow Scouts helped me to keep this project running smoothly, which ultimately led to the project getting finished on time so the students at Garden Park could have their new library just in time for the school year."

Purcell chose to build a reading nook at Garden Park Apartments because reading is an activity that he has always loved to do and wanted to create a space that would encourage other readers. Purcell hopes that with the new books and comfy reading corner more kids will become fans of reading.