

Piedmont Community Service Crew Newsletter

Upcoming events outlined in purple

Past events in blue

important info

Reminders:

Our VPs Member Engagement created this form to learn what's important to each of you! **Everyone:** Fill out this [member interest survey](#) soon.

Did you know that events are now posted on the crew website, where you can sign up, in a private [events section](#). Create your own personal log in (notify crew advisor Ken to get approved for access). Bookmark that link and check often for updates.

Follow our instagram for updates on upcoming events! Our username is [@pcservicecrew](#) and we post every week.

Fall Kickoff Party!

The PCSC annual kickoff to start off the 25-26 school year will be hosted on **Saturday, August 23 (4 - 6pm)!**

This festive event acts as an open house where crew advisor Ken Li and the fourteen youth leaders share their experiences and great plans for the upcoming crew year. This will be a great opportunity for prospective non-members to learn about joining PCSC and for current members to reconnect with the crew community! All parents, middle, and high school students regardless of whether active in the crew are welcome to attend.



If interested in attending, please complete this event registration [form](#). A response with the location (in Piedmont) will then be sent.



Desert Auction at Kickoff

By Lila Schwab & Xia Snyder

There will be desserts up for sale at the Piedmont Community Service Crew kickoff, so make sure you come and bid on your favorite goodies! (Bring cash, PayPal, or Zelle) Members: If you can help, create a special dessert to donate, then get service hours for your time. You can contact one of the VPs Fundraising for more info. Watch for event posting soon on the [Piedmont Community Service Crew Website](#) or our Facebook group. More details are coming!

Get Your Hours for Honor Society!

Join PCSC and volunteer at our events to collect your [Honor Society](#) community service hours! Honor Society is a recognition open to all high school students that celebrates students who display leadership, service, and dedication to their academics. Eligibility to join requires a GPA above 3.60 and community service hours that vary by grade (listed below). Piedmont High School has **recently updated their honors society** requirements starting with the Class of 2028 that require more hours than before. Sign up for [events](#) to collect your hours and achieve this honor!

Check the [hours sheet](#) to see the officially approved hours recorded by crew advisor Ken.

Community service requirements by grade:

For Class of 2026 and 2-27:

10th grade: 10 hours

11th grade: 15 hours

12th grade: 20 hours

New requirements starting with the Class of 2028:

25 hours/year for each of the three years.

Richmond Tiny House Village:

donate to fund the Welcome Center build fund

By Mira Sen & Olivia Bailey

For nearly three years, the Piedmont Community Service Crew has been working in collaboration with the Richmond Tiny House Village, Farm, and Garden. The Village aims to support unsheltered Richmond youth from ages twelve to twenty-four, and the hope is that it paves the way for similar projects to be created in surrounding areas.

To aid in this cause, PCSC has built a few tiny homes for the Village, and we were recently asked to construct its Welcome Office. Work on the new project started a few months ago, and we've been able to pour the concrete foundation, build the subfloor, and construct the framing for the walls and roof.

Many members of our crew have participated in the Tiny House Project, and some have put in incredible amounts of time and effort. Two of the main contributors are Yiyu Fang and Noah Sukeforth. Noah says that as a younger child, he really enjoyed building things and was passionate about engineering. The Tiny Houses provided a great activity to use those interests. He also explained how he has "found great meaning in those experiences" like the Tiny House Project, and community is a very important aspect of it.

We hope to be able to put up the windows next, and reinforce the roof and walls with exterior plywood, but it has already taken a considerable amount of PCSC's financial resources, and the final cost is estimated to be close to \$20k. Therefore, we are putting out a call for donations and support. Every contribution means a lot, and your help will give us the best chance of finishing construction on the office this fall.

The sooner we complete this project, the sooner we can help get the Tiny House Village up and running, so please consider donating!

PARENTS: PLEASE DONATE GENEROUSLY TO THIS FUND

TO DONATE:

- 1) Scan the GoFundMe QR code
- 2) Include a note "PCSC Office Project" to help us earmark your donation to support our project at the village.
- 3) Forward the acknowledgment to Ken.i.li@sbcglobal.net so we can track our progress



Photos: Feb 2025: welcome center foundation



July 2025: roof in place



Ethiopia Service Trip

By Nathan Bekele (edited by VP Comms)

In June, a team of high schoolers led by crew member Nathan Bekele embarked on a three-week journey to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, partnering with St. Paul's Hospital and Melu'e Foundation, one of the country's few autism centers. The group's goal was to

raise awareness, deliver supplies, and provide hands-on support for children with developmental disabilities.

The trip began with strong community support, centered around the “Taste of Ethiopia” at Lemat Restaurant in Berkeley. It raised \$35,000 through ticket sales and a lively art auction featuring Ethiopian artists. Reflecting on the challenge and growth of volunteering abroad, Piedmont High School student Kidus Yalew shared, “Going to Ethiopia was a hard challenge, but it showed me that even far from home, friendship can feel like family. We spent our days helping out at the hospital and spending time with autistic kids. I saw how just being there for others can bring hope, even on the tough days.” The trip concluded with a final ceremony, where Bekele, local hospital leaders, and nonprofit directors emphasized the ongoing commitment to autism advocacy. This initiative demonstrates how young people can foster meaningful change through cross-cultural partnerships, compassion, and perseverance—lessons that will continue to inspire all involved for years to come.

4th of July Pancake Breakfast Recap

By Samantha Huynh



With over 250 attendees, the annual July 4th Pancake Breakfast was a success! The event, hosted by PCSC with major donations from Piedmont Grocery and Village market, consisted of two parts: preparation and service. Preparation started the previous day, grilling sausages, cutting fruit, wrapping utensils, and decorating the Veterans Hall Building with patriotic decor. On the day of, volunteers arrived at 6:30 AM to set up coffee, start on pancakes, and serve the food.

Overall, the event was a great fundraiser for PCSC, raising over \$4,000 to support PCSC initiatives such as the Tiny House project, cooking events, and much more. Thank you to the community for attending the event and supporting our efforts, and to the volunteers who made it all happen!

New member highlight: Nick Tam



Nick Tam, 10th grade, recently joined PCSC after settling into freshman year at PHS. He had a couple conversations with crew advisor Ken Li and seems to be “all-in”, attending every available crew event in the first month after joining. Ken was interested in hearing about his early impressions of the crew and what motivated him to get so involved so quickly. Here are some of Nick’s comments:

When I first heard about PCSC, I thought it was more about building homes for the homeless and the tutoring of kids. However, I realized lots of our work involves seniors who we cook for and look out for, which I thought was unique. I also didn’t know we had trips for PCSC either...

PCSC is more than just the hours because the more people that help, the more people we help.

The “value” of this crew isn’t just the hours and the leadership opportunities. It’s to truly help people and make a difference in the world.

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

Sincerely,
Claire Aubrecht & Chloe Koh, co-VPs 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!

- Ken Li, Crew Advisor, (510)-410-4283,
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- Stephanie Lee, Co-President
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