



SCOUTING FOR FOOD HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

It was that time of year again! Scouts were out in Piedmont Neighborhoods collecting food for Alameda County's low-income families. Food collection bags were distributed by Cub Scouts on Saturday, November 11 and a week later Boy Scouts came by to pick up the bags full of generous donations. Close to 5,000 lbs of food was collected for the Alameda County Food Bank and distribution to families in need.

The Food Bank was founded in 1985 to serve as a clearing-house for donated food to a network of 300 organizations, including food pantries and soup kitchens. It provides monthly assistance to 120,000 people in need.

Here are some recent statistics from the Alameda County Food Bank regarding the people they serve:

- 40,000 people go to local soup kitchens and food pantries each week.
- 35% of emergency food recipients are children under the age of 18.
- 18% of all emergency food recipients are seniors age 50 or older.



Above: Piedmont Scouts (front left) Mark Bublitz, Jake Pacheco, Ryan Lofstrom, Zachary Curliano, (back) Tim Campbell and Chase McVeigh-Walker helped to sort the collected food in barrels.

- 38% of clients households have at least one employed family member.
- 61% of client households have incomes below the federal poverty line.
- The median monthly income for food bank client households is \$800; the median monthly income for all Alameda County households is \$5,144.

CALLING ALL PIEDMONT STUDENTS!



Now's the time to sign up for the Boy Scouts! If you enjoy epic adventures such as river rafting, hiking, beach camping, rock climbing and spelunking then you'll love the Scouts!

For those in 1st through 5th grade, Cub Scouts is for you! This program is a wonderful introduction to the great outdoors and features field trips, hiking and other fun activities! For boys in 6th through 12th grade, the Boy Scouts is calling! Get ready for serious fun and adventure that will leave you breathless for more! The Boy Scout program emphasizes leadership and teamwork and prepares you for a lifetime of outdoor enjoyment. Earn Merit Badges for a variety of accomplishments and become an Eagle Scout! And for boys AND girls in high school, check out all the programs that Venturing has to offer! In this co-ed program students can explore a variety of passions, including river-rafting and kayaking in the High Adventure Crew, rowing for the national-championship Oakland Strokes, performing in the Bagpipe Band, exploring computer science in the Web Design and Computer Crew and more! Whatever your passion may be, the Boy Scouts can help you further it. Join today by contacting Jason at the Council Office via phone, 547-4493, or e-mail: jasonz@piedmont.bsa.org!

Photo: Members of Piedmont's Youth Bagpipe Band, from left, Alex Guidici, Neal Farmer and Rachel Collins. Photo by Cathy Farmer.

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



In 1933, my father attended the World Scout Jamboree in Austria. While there the pride of Nazidom was on display. My father observed Scout-aged, brown shirted youths militaristically marching with guns, and actually shook hands with Hitler and Goerring. He also made friends with a young Hungarian Jewish Scout. Afterwards, they corresponded. At one point my father's friend confided that his parents wanted him to find a business sponsor which would allow him to immigrate to the USA. He asked my father to help. So he and my grandfather worked diligently towards this goal. After a long struggle, they were finally successful. Happily, they cabled the boy with the good news. Shortly thereafter they received back this reply. It said, "Thank you for your work, but you are too late by a day." My father never heard from his friend again. Needless to say, having a *sense of urgency* is an attribute of high value in our family.

Today the Piedmont Boy Scout Council hopefully marches with the same sense of urgency about getting things done. There are times, however, when privately we worry that we will have a perfectly working, wonderful Scout program, but no boys with which to work. We need all of your help to get the word out to young families in Piedmont. There is a place for children in Piedmont which cares about values, character, leadership qualities and personal growth. Experience shows that most boys not involved in Scouting simply have never been asked. And just for good measure, call us and get involved with boys and girls at their unit levels. Today, in addition to traditional Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Explorers, we are deeply involved with the Bagpipe Band, the Fencing Club, a Computer Club, the Pinewood Derby, the Bike Rodeo, Career Day at PHS, High Adventures, hikes, summer camps, Oakland Strokes and the Piedmont Language School. There is no better way to invest your time.

- J. Robert Coleman, Jr., Council President

Hey Piedmonters



Jason Zeledon

I'm Jason Zeledon, the new Program Coordinator for the Piedmont Council. Born and raised in San Diego, I left home to attend UC Berkeley and graduated last May with a double major in History and English. American History, particularly the Revolution and the Founding Fathers, is my passion and I ultimately aspire to earn a PhD and become a college professor. I also am married to the most beautiful woman in the world, Aurora, and we celebrated our two-year anniversary last August.

I've a wealth of experience working with kids and in recruitment and event organization, having been a Middle School track coach for the Piedmont Recreation Department the past two years and having held the offices of RUSH Chair (twice), Vice-President and Chaplain for my Christian Fraternity, Alpha Gamma Omega.

As for my hobbies, I boast one of the largest and most complete collections of Nintendo (the original 8-bit) games in the United States. Last year I started my own business, Icarus Games, which sells used retro video games and systems. Since that time, I've become one of the preeminent sellers in the Bay Area and have earned the title of "eBay Powerseller." I'm also a merit badge counselor for Entrepreneurship and look forward to helping some kids start their own businesses!

Please always feel free to use me as a resource. I work full time at the Scout Office, so drop in and say hi. And, of course, Go Bears!

Piedmont Council
Boy Scouts of America
Piedmont, California

It's finally here! The long-awaited Piedmont Council website (www.piedmontbsa.org) arrived last August with much acclaim. Made possible by a generous grant from the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation and expertly designed by Jessica Gore of Gore Creative, everything pertaining to Piedmont Scouting is now available 24/7 at your fingertips! Families of Cubs, Scouts and Venturers, rejoice as all your wildest internet fantasies come true- you can now stay up all night devouring the very latest breaking news from the Piedmont Council!

Here's just a sampling of what's available: a master calendar with events for the entire upcoming year, links to training sites, downloadable forms and resources, descriptions of the many Cub Packs, Scout Troops and Venturing Crews, photo galleries of events and even a special blog about how to sell even more popcorn annually (just kidding).

Never be confused, confounded, bemused or befuddled again. Forget the time or location of tomorrow's hike? No problem- just check the calendar. Want to RSVP for a training session but don't have the contact info of the leader? You're just a few clicks away. Interested in finding out which Venturing Crew is right for you? Just peruse through the lavish bios of each group. All this and more! Your lives will never be the same again.

Just think of all the benefits...save on your phone bill, become more computer-savvy, reduce the stress in your life and have a fun time while doing so. If you haven't already checked it out, what are you waiting for?

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

by Greg Andreas



"Don't leave the outing out of Scouting!"

That's an old and prudent admonition for every Scout leader regarding outdoor experiences. For the novice Scout camping and backpacking presents a wide variety of personal challenges and self-testing. They overcome the initial apprehension of sleeping outdoors and develop self-reliance and confidence to overcome unknown adversities. As the Scout becomes experienced the challenges continue to grow. They are expected to provision and, in some cases, plan an outing with the entire troop depending on their preparations. Older

Scouts take on more difficult physical challenges on trips that are harder, longer, more remote and otherwise more demanding.

Beyond learning the skill and craft of outdoor living lies the fun and adventure that attracts youth to the outdoors and frequently to the Scout program itself. I often attend Eagle Scout Boards of Review and Courts of Honor and I am struck by the frequency that a Scout will assert how important nature and the outdoors has become to him as an inspiration, sustenance or a thrilling source of adventure and risk-taking.

Piedmont troops have supported a wide range of outings from car-camping to backpacking. Even young Scouts in Troops these days have the opportunity to camp in the snow, kayak in the Bay or raft down one of the Sierra rivers. Every troop has at least one 50-miler every summer and we frequently send a contingent to Philmont for a week of rigorous backpacking in the mountains of New Mexico.

This year there are exciting extensions to outings in the Piedmont Council in two directions. Our Cubs are embarking on a regular monthly series of hikes in the East Bay Regional Parks called Highlander Hikes. These hikes are led by able adults and, as often as possible, Boy Scouts. They are scaled to suit the abilities of all Cubs. Additionally we are starting a High Adventure Venturing Crew advised by Heidi Faison and Brian Kelleher. The Venture Crew welcomes 14 to 18 year olds who are attracted to demanding outdoor experiences. Their adventures are designed by the Venturers themselves and may explore possibilities beyond those offered in Scouts. I look forward to seeing accounts of their pursuits in future newsletters.

Despite the urbanity of our immediate surroundings we are fortunate to have a wide range of outdoor environments from the Bay and East Bay Parks to the western Sierra and beyond. It's very exciting that Scouting in Piedmont offers our youth from age 7 to 20 many opportunities to form a lifelong affinity to the outdoors.



PIEDMONT CHRISTMAS TREE LOT TRADITION CONTINUES

by Chris Lee

The Piedmont Council, Boy Scouts of America, is pleased to announce that it is sponsoring the Christmas Tree Lot again this year. Long a tradition for Piedmont residents, the Tree Lot opened for business on Saturday, November 25, 2006. Scouts are offering the highest quality Noble Fir, Douglas Fir, and Silvertip trees. Accessories such as tree stands, netting for transporting trees, and fire retarding will be offered as well as a delivery service within specified boundaries.

The lot will be open Monday - Thursday from 4:00 to 8:00 pm, and on Fridays from 1:30 to 9:00 pm. The hours for Saturdays and Sundays will be from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm. The Council will also staff the barbecue lunch stand on weekends offering Aidell's sausages and a variety of sodas.

All families are encouraged to support the Scouting program by patronizing the Tree Lot - it's a Piedmont tradition!

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Piedmont Council News

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Raking Leaves and Escalators; Cub Scouting in Piedmont

As I rake leaves, I like to let my mind wander about the Boy Scout program. Autumn is a time of great activity for Scouting, so there is much for me to reflect upon. In recent weeks, I have enjoyed seeing many Cub Scouting families across the Council reset themselves within the new school year. There in support of this process, I have heard a wide variety of questions from Cub Scout den leaders. The queries vary depending on the age of the Scouts concerned.

For example, from a newly trained Bobcat/Wolf den leader, I heard: "What happens when a Cub Scout meeting does not go according to plan?"

From another mom of a Bear Cub, I heard: "How do you know when it is time for dads to become more involved in den activities?"

From a mother of a 5th Grade WeBeLo, I heard: "What do I do with a den of WeBeLos that has already accomplished most every badge in the book?"

These are excellent questions, and please know that I was quick to honor each with detailed, opinion-filled (and hopefully empowering) answers. And, if you are curious about my responses, please do not hesitate to query me for them (rtoddk@comcast.net, tel 510.547.9800). In the meantime, I want to reflect on the bigger picture that I see across this set of questions.

What I see is parents as den leaders learning how to be with Scouts as they grow. Boys being boys, it is a rare occurrence when a Cub event goes according to plan. (Can you hear my chuckle?) Even so, being prepared for the instance when the plan fails is critical. That is, because it will be at that very moment when boys are receptive to the greatest learning. In that moment, a leader will emerge to restore order, assure safety, what have you. In this way, we as leaders demonstrate (without much thought) our values to our boys, who model the behavior or not – depending on their own maturity level.

Across the population of den leaders in this Council, I see the organic nature of this learning. Certainly, it is not managed or dictated by the Boy Scouts of America. Instead, it just happens...den-by-den...year after year...for families of every shape and size, color and creed. When describing this aspect of Scouting to other parents – especially newer den leaders, I often refer to this phenomenon as the "escalator." I guess because, getting to the next level is virtually automatic...once you commit yourself to the program.

Gosh knows I have a ways to go being with my own Scout, so...I will see you on the Escalator. - R. Todd Kerr



Photos on this page were taken at various 2006 Highlander Hikes and Day Camps provided by Todd Kerr and Dan Thomas.



HIGHLANDER HIKERS – A SUCCESS!



When the Council Board met earlier in the year, they sought to create a family-oriented program that would introduce Cub Scouts to the great outdoors and give them a foretaste of the adventure that Boy Scouts offers. The result, the extremely popular Highlander Hikers series, has been an enormous success.

Once a month, families from each of the four Cub Packs explore one of the Bay Area's many beautiful parks. Led by parents or Cubmasters and aided by numerous Order of the Arrow Boy Scouts, this year's trips have included Land's End, Huckleberry, Inspiration Point, an overnighter at Coyote Hills, the Lafayette-Moraga Trail and, most recently, a hike at Little Yosemite.

These hikes are gorgeous and ideally suited for the first through fifth graders in the Cub Scout program. The boys learn to identify flora and fauna, get to explore on their own, become more comfortable with the outdoors and, most importantly, have fun! And, after they attend their fourth hike, they earn a commemorative patch.

While most trips run smoothly, even the occasional wrong turn lends itself to fun. On the Inspiration Point trip, for instance, we took the wrong trail for about half an hour, but, along the way, saw a fallen beehive swarming with ferocious bees. The Cubs loved it!

And another strong virtue of the Highlander Hike program is the involvement of the Boy Scouts. Order of the Arrow Boy Scouts help lead and facilitate the hikes, much to the enjoyment of the younger Cubs. It is clearly evident how much the Cubs admire and strive to emulate the older Scouts; for instance, for a school project one Webelos Cub wrote that the highlight of the Coyote Hills trip was the time spent with the Boy Scouts.

For those who haven't yet attended a Highlander Hike, it's not too late! We'll be enjoying an overnight on the USS Hornet, a World War II aircraft carrier, on January 19-20th. This has been a very popular event in the past and spots will fill fast!

If you'd like more information about the program, please contact Jason at the Scout Office (547-4493).



Thank you Ben Newcomb and Todd Kerr for these Highlander Hiker photos.



PIEDMONT SCOUTS WILL CELEBRATE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SCOUTING IN ENGLAND AT THE 2007 WORLD JAMBOREE

World Jamboree Troop 415 is forming! It is one of the Western Region troops whose mission is to travel to the 21st World Scout Jamboree in England in July 2007, immerse themselves in the wide range of cultures represented by 34,000 youth from more than 100 countries, and revel in the adventure and activities offered by their United Kingdom hosts.

The first World Jamboree was held in England in 1920 and organized by Scouting founder, Lord Robert Baden Powell. Subsequently, they have been held every four years in different nations around the world. 2007 is the 100th anniversary of Scouting and it is exciting and fitting that it should be celebrated by returning home to England.

Twenty one Piedmont Scouts will join Scouts from neighboring Alameda and Mt. Diablo Councils in a troop of thirty-six boys and four adults. This is a remarkably high level of participation for a Council and indicates the degree to which Scouting in general and this event in particular has captured the imagination of our youth. Troop 415 will be having several organizational meetings in the forthcoming months, including a campout in April, before their departure for Hylands Park, Chelmsford.

The theme of the 21st World Jamboree is "One World One Promise"; it captures the hopes and aspirations of our young people for a better future time in an uncertain present. It's remarkable that the Scout program is 100 years old. It has survived two World Wars and a multitude of other international adversities. It has grown into the largest youth organization in the world and is vigorously supported in 156 countries: much reason for celebration.

Our Piedmont Scouts in Troop 415 will experience a wide range of Scouting as it is implemented by each country: different approaches to membership, including coed troops, different levels of affluence including some countries where Scouting is only possible through the quiet support of wealthier programs including the Boy Scouts of America. Despite differences Scouts will observe a common commitment to Character, Citizenship and Personal Fitness across all the programs. I am sure these experiences will enrich our Scouts' idea of Scouting and they will bring home a fresh understanding of its value.

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PCC BASEMENT

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WILDWOOD SCHOOL

VENTURING CREWS & EXPLORER POSTS

Post 1
Clausen House
Peter Brooks (925) 934-5501
CLAUSEN HOUSE

Post 911
Piedmont Police Dept
Tom Kincaid 420-3000
POLICE DEPT

Crews 8, 9, 10
Rowing
Pam Bluhm 763-1758
BOAT HOUSE

Crew 12 Group 11
Junior Bagpipe Band
Sally Reddick 594-2611
PMS/PHS

Crew 21
Fencing
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Barbara Caruso 655-2292
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Crew 26
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Newspaper
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Ship 16
Sea Exploring
Karsten Hazelett 547-4493
MARINA

For further information, please call the
Piedmont Council Service Center at
547-4493, visit our website at www.piedmontbsa.org,
or email us at info@piedmontbsa.org.

NEWS IN FROM THE TROOPS



TROOP 1 - JAMES MEAGHER

Troop One has had two trips and several meetings this year. Our first trip was a hike in Sunol. Our second trip was a camp out at Dillon Beach. The weather was great and we played with rockets and jumped off the sand dunes. Troop one also had our fall court of honor during which many of our new leadership teams were introduced.

TROOP 1- MARK BUBLITZ

Over the summer Troop 1 went to Camp Cherry Valley on Catalina Island. We learned a lot about marine biology and wildlife. On another trip some of the older Scouts went on a high Sierra hike. The first trip we went on this year was backpacking in Sunol. I personally didn't go but I heard that it was very fun and they saw a lot of wildlife, including a calf being born. The second trip we went to Dillon Beach. We got to slide down sand dunes and had fantastic food. The third trip is to Yosemite where we plan to do a six hour service project for the Park. We are off to a great start this year!



TROOP 4 - BRENDAN KELLEY

My favorite thing about Troop 4 is our monthly camping trips. But I also like the speed at which our troop earns merit badges and ranks. We still have fun but we work hard enough so everyone can get to be an Eagle Scout if they want to.

TROOP 6 - GERALD MCPARTLAND

Summer camp was, again, at Marin Sierra, and all of the Scouts who attended had a great time. As you've seen, lots of merit badges were earned along with Liam Zari winning the Mile Swim. For those of you who know him, Tyko joined us for the second half of the week, which made it even better. On top of all the merit badges, the Troop entertained itself in other ways. One day, we had to do an orienteering course around the lake up there, and later on, we played polo in the kayaks on the lake with an apple. Luke and Dan had a golf tournament encircling the lake, and the astronomy campout was fun for all of the guys who attended, while Patrick woke up with make up smeared all over his face. As you can see, we all had a fantastic time and we're looking forward to camp again next year.



TROOP 11- MICHAEL DUKAS

In October Troop 11 drove to Yosemite to hike to the top of Half Dome. We left camp very early, took a drive to Curry Village and at 6 a.m. began the hike from Curry Village to Happy Isles, the trailhead for the Half Dome hike. Then we hiked across Little Yosemite Valley. From there, more trails, and switchback steps lead up an exposed rock face. The final ascension to Half Dome is a set of cables that hikers held onto as they climbed up the steep rock face to the top of Half Dome. From the top the Scouts enjoyed great weather and amazing views of the magnificent landscape of Yosemite National Park. The crest of Half Dome rises to 8,836 ft of elevation, of which all 13 Scouts made it. The hike took a full day to climb, about ten hours round-trip! Though Troop 11 has camped in Yosemite before, this was the first time they hiked Half Dome in a number of years and it was a success!



TROOP 15 - MAX BENNETT

Troop 15 Scouts continued their longstanding tradition of hiking in the High Sierra range during the summer. Nine scouts and adults undertook a 60 mile backpacking adventure in the John Muir Wilderness. The group started the hike from the shores of Lake Edison. They traversed lush green meadows and crossed a high running stream enroute to Graveyard Meadows where they spent the first night. The next day the Scouts crossed the summit of 10,997 foot Goodale Pass, and proceeded to Peter Pande Lake for a day of fishing and relaxation. The hike continued down through Fish Creek Valley to it's junction with the Silver Creek Trail. Following the Silver Creek Trail the Scouts climbed back up to the Margaret Lakes area and then finally finished up with a hike out to the Onion Springs trailhead.

SOMETHING VENTURED, SOMETHING GAINED



The **Piedmont Youth Bagpipe Band** is preparing to have its newest members graduate to bagpipes from the chanters on which they have been learning for the past year so they can join the ranks of the performing members. Since a piping band would not be complete without drummers, the band is welcoming new students (from 4th grade and higher) to join them for either piping or drumming lessons to be part of a Piedmont tradition dating back to the 1930s.

Our **Community Service Crew** spent the past spring and this fall on a major recruitment campaign: they've doubled in size to reach a membership of 24 and still gaining! The Crew meets monthly to pick dates when members are available and plan out their events a few months in advance. Typical events include cooking and serving food for the hungry with the Hot Meals program at St. Mark's Church in Berkeley, helping at the City of Oakland's annual Thanksgiving dinner for homeless and needy, planting marsh native plants and fundraising for Save The Bay, and adopting a family for holiday gifts.

Fencing Crew members range from middle school through high school age and are generally experienced with basic fencing skills. Many have taken several Piedmont Recreation Department fencing classes from head coach Cracraft prior to joining the Crew. On Oct 15, several Piedmont Fencing Crew members competed in a Youth -14 boys foil event at Halberstadt Fencing Club in San Francisco.

Our **High Adventure Crew** kicked off the new school year with it's first day outing: an attempt to ascend and repel from a 4 story rock outcropping located near the top of the Berkeley skyline ridge. With the help of a certified climbing instructor, 3 youths challenged the rock from many approaches. The Crew is looking forward to the next event- overnight camping and a morning sea kayaking paddle of Tomales Bay!

The **Oakland Strokes** are off to a busy new season after a very successful 2006. Among the Strokes' accomplishments this past year: the Women's Varsity Eight Crew missed its third straight junior national championship by a mere three seconds to take the Silver. They went on to win a second consecutive Peabody Cup at the Henley Regatta in England and half its members were selected to join the U.S. junior national team at Lake Placid, N.Y. In addition, two boys from the Men's Varsity Eight Crew were also selected to join this team.

Ship 16, Piedmont's youth sailing club recently journeyed on the 57 foot wooden sailboat, The Nehemiah, with a group of new members who were given their first opportunity to learn nautical skills. They plan to organize an overnight sailing event for which members will build up to by becoming really familiar with the operation of the boat through practice sails, cooking on board, water rescue, life saving, CPR, small boat sailing, racing. Support of the Ship's activities and the cost of access to sailboats would come from fundraising activities which could include community car washes and member staffed charter cruises on the Nehemiah. They may also learn to sail smaller racing boats, tour US Coast Guard Vessels, naval ships, and visit boat yards where maintenance and repair work is done.



We remember Stan Williams, a devoted Scouter and resident of Piedmont for 40 years. He passed away August 25 in Fortuna, California where he had moved to be close to two of his children. Stan held nearly every volunteer job in the council including Troop 4 Scoutmaster and Council Commissioner. He also received the prestigious Silver Beaver Award, the highest award a council can make to a volunteer. The following gifts made in Stan's memory have been designated for the council endowment fund by Stan's family and Stan's name will be added to the permanent plaque in the Council office as our newest James E. West Fellow. Interest from these gifts will continue to serve the Council in the future in Stan's memory.



*Stanley Williams
1925 - 2006*

IN MEMORY OF STANLEY WILLIAMS



Ronald & Sue Bachman
Ray & Camille Doerr
Mr. & Mrs. L V Dos Remedios
Mary & Skip Dresel
Tom & Janet Elrod
Johnween Gill
Robert & Mary Kelly
Carol King

Earl & Shirley Knudsen
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Al Sciamanna
John M. Tsoi
Mr. & Mrs. Byron L. Williams, Jr.
Hobbs & Doris Williams
The Ken Williams Family
Thomas D. Williams

THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FRIENDS OF SCOUTING YEAR; *Our 2007 Campaign Has Begun*

by Paul Raskin

Last year's Friends of Scouting Campaign resulted in another successful year, thanks to the generous contributions from so many of you. Contributions totaled more \$80,000, contributing approximately 30% of the Piedmont Council's total operating budget. Without your support, the Piedmont Council could not offer such exemplary services to all our programs from Cubs, Boy Scouts and Venturing unit participants.

Like most other Scout Councils, the Piedmont Council supports itself – it gets no help from the National Organization. The dues parents pay to their units – Cub Scout Boy Scout or Venturer – goes, in part, to the National Organization for liability insurance and Boy's Life magazine. The other part stays with the unit for operating expenses. The Piedmont Council receives nothing from the unit dues payment.

So often, we take for granted all the services that the Council provides. Like municipal infrastructure which makes life easier for an entire community, the infrastructure and wide array of services the Council provides helps Scouting flourish for all. No Cub Scout Den, Boy Scout Troop or Venture Crew could survive without the organization and assistance offered through the Piedmont Council. The individual events we take for granted are made possible because the Piedmont Council is available to give advice, knowledge, assistance, and guidance. Without the support of a central organization, individual units would be on their own and the volunteer parents would spend a great deal more time figuring out how to get things done.

We all share the mutual goal of developing our young people into better citizens and future leaders of our country. This is one of the primary goals of the Boy Scout program.

The 2007 Friends of Scouting campaign has now begun as the school year begins this fall. Your contributions to Friends of Scouting makes Scouting in Piedmont possible. It is an investment in the youth of our community that every Scouting Family should participate in.

We are especially grateful for the gifts we receive year after year from other people in the community—individuals and families who have no children in the program but continue to support it. Their generosity makes Scouting in Piedmont the program it is!

*Gifts were received in honor
of Troop 15 Current and Past
Scoutmasters*

*Ned Bogie
Dr. Fred Byl
Roger Eliassen
Jim Gay
Jim Guitteau
Richard Smith
George Ong
Al Youn*

From members of Troop 15:

**Julia & Bruce Burke
Mark Davis & Noemi Alvarado
Jack & Cynthia Follick
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Phillip and Maile Matier
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PACK 3

Mr. Stephen Collins
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Docter
Mr. James C. Harrison
Mr. John C. Kerley
Mr. Bob S. McBain

PACK 4

Mr. Stephan O'Dell Dean
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Thomas

TROOP 1

Mr. Michael Bandrowski & Ms. Renee Scott
Mr. & Mrs. Maxwell Bublitz
Mr. Bruce Cumming & Ms. Barbara Addleman
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Fishel
Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Fisher, Sr
Mr. Michael Foreman
Mr. Gregg Hauser & Dr. Judy O'Young
Mr. Bob Hernandez
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Lam
Mr. & Mrs. Seamus Meagher
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Mirante
Mr. & Mrs. William Molmen
Mr. Jerry O'Connor
Mr. & Mrs. Jan W. Olsen
Mr. & Mrs. Mal Pacheco, III
Mr. Frank Ryan & Ms. Judith Levitan
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Seabolt
Mr. Todd Sotkiewicz & Ms. Mary Margaret Sinnema
Ms. Anne C. Stewart
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sweeney, Sr
Mr. Scott Swimley & Ms. Sharon O'Neil

TROOP 11

Mr. Stephen A. Collins

TROOP 4

Mr. & Mrs. Laurance Kelley

TROOP 15

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Andreoni
Mr. & Mrs. Lincoln Chu
Mr. Peter W. Craigie
Mr. Peter Drake
Mr. & Mrs. Erik Dryburgh
Mr. Hal Feiger
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Gandesbery
Mr. Jim Gay & Ms. Mary Liz Wardlaw
Mr. Jim Guitteau & Ms. Locky Todd
Mr. Henry W. Howard
Mr. & Mrs. James Musbach
Ms. Cynthia Penn-Duecker
David Riker & Rosie Newhall
Mr. Matthew C. Rogers
Mr. Paul Simonson
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffery Trowbridge
Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Walters, III

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Ms. Anne-Marie Lamarche & Mr. Mark Menke
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Pike

CORPORATE

Bay Alarm
Committee to Elect John Chiang
Clorox Co. Employee Giving Campaign
Piedmont Post #514
Tulloch Construction, Inc

TAX FREE IRA ROLLOVER GIFTS NOW AVAILABLE!

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 (H.R.4) is now law. But it also includes a modified version of the CARE Act – the long-promised legislation that allows donors to consider tax free gifts from IRAs to Scouting and other charities.

Effective immediately, you may now withdraw money from an IRA – tax free – and use those funds to make your charitable gifts! Whether you're considering a Friends of Scouting gift or a large gift to capital or endowment, the new law offers some great gift opportunities.

Here are some specifics:

- You are limited to a total of \$100,000, per person, and distributions can be made from more than one IRA. So, a couple with separate IRAs can give a total of \$200,000/year.
- Tax free gifts must be made from traditional IRAs or Roth IRAs – not from pension plans, stock option plans, etc.
- A donor must be age 70 ½ or older at the time the gift is made.
- IRA withdrawals and gifts should go directly to the local council or charity from the IRA Plan Administrator.
- The IRA distribution to charity is not included in your income, but you will not receive a tax deduction for the gift.
- Rollover gifts to charity will count towards the IRA's annual Minimum Required Distribution requirements.
- Rollover gifts must be outright gifts to charity – you may not use them to create a gift annuity, charitable remainder trust, or other deferred gift.
- Tax free IRA rollover gifts can only be made in 2006 and 2007.

Who will most benefit from the new tax-free IRA rollover gifts? In general, these gifts are best for donors who:

- Do not itemize their deductions (about 75% of all taxpayers).
- Have “maxed out” their deductions for the year (you can contribute and deduct more than your normal 50% AGI limitation).
- Want to reduce their taxable income and also make generous gifts (IRA gifts aren't subject to reductions or “phase-outs”, and may also reduce tax on other income such as Social Security).
- Live in a state that doesn't credit you for itemized deductions on your state income taxes.

You may choose to make an IRA rollover gift, just because it's easy! Ask your IRA Plan Administrator to withdraw the amount of your gift and distribute it directly to Piedmont BSA council or other charities. Make sure he or she has a current address and/or bank transfer instructions for the council or charity. Also, give your Plan Administrator enough time to complete the transfer before year end. But it's that simple.

You should discuss these gifts with your own family and advisors. IRA assets left in an estate are potentially hit with double taxation – both estate AND income taxes. Your IRA assets may be your most costly estate assets to pass on to heirs. So talk to your family and financial advisors. They'll help you decide if IRA rollover gifts will meet your financial needs and objectives.

Thank you for your continuing support of Scouting. Talk to your advisors about these new gifts, and please call the council for more information about what your gifts can do for Scouting and the young people in your community.

HAVE AN OPINION? WE'D LIKE TO HEAR IT!

The Piedmont Council News welcomes letters from readers on topics of interest to the Piedmont Scouting community. (We reserve the right to edit any opinion pieces or letters submitted.) Direct letters to the Piedmont Council office at 10 Highland Way, Piedmont, CA 94611, or by email to info@piedmontbsa.org.

EAGLES' NEST

Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable by an active Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venture member. Since the Spring 2006 issue, 7 additional Scouts join the elite membership in the Piedmont Council's Eagles' Nest. The Council now boasts 1016 Eagles in the ranks since 1921, making Piedmont one of the leading Councils in the country for percentage of youth earning this highest honor attainable by an active Scout or Venture member.

Name: BRYAN CHIANG - TROOP 15

Years in Scouting: 9 years

High School/Year of Graduation:

Piedmont High School/2008

Recognitions: Den Chief, Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Ordeal Member of the Order of the Arrow, Council Service Award; Scholar Athlete, 4 Middle School Track Records

Project Information and Hours: Planned and coordinated the building of 6 portable bookshelves for the Sunday School Program at the Piedmont Community Church. (150 hours)

Comments about Scouting Experiences: "Scouting is unique because unlike others activities that only affect you for a short period of time, Scouting is a lifelong experience.....I know that by being a Scout, I am better prepared for life and its challenges."

Scoutmaster's Comments: "Bryan has an easy leadership style and ability to bring a group together for a common cause."



Name: JONATHAN WARDLAW - TROOP 15

Years in Scouting: 9 years

High School/Year of Graduation:

Piedmont High School/2008

Recognitions: Historian, Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Ordeal Member of the Order of the Arrow; Honor Roll throughout Middle School, First Place in Science Fair, Scholar Athlete, Varsity Tennis Team.

Project Information and Hours: Planned and coordinated the reconstruction of four tree-wells in the patio of the First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, with addition of new brick and Green Fescue plants to each. (119 hours)

Comments about Scouting Experiences: "Scouting has been one of the greatest experiences of my life....This has made me a much better person and has given me more skills with which to face adulthood."

Scoutmaster's Comments: "Jonathan is very outgoing, leads by example and makes learning new skills fun."



Name: RICHARD GRIFFITH - TROOP 15

Years in Scouting: 11 years

High School/Year of Graduation:

Piedmont High School/2006

Recognitions: Bugler, Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Senior Patrol Leader, Jamboree Troop Senior Patrol Leader, Troop 1 MacTavish Award & SPL Award; Cross Country MVP 2003 & 2004, & Team Captain 2005, Track Team MVP 2005 & Captain 2006.

Project Information and Hours: Planned and coordinated the installation of a permanent basketball hoop and painting of a half-court, hopscotch and four-square game areas, at the George Mark Children's House in San Leandro. (78 hours)

Comments about Scouting Experiences: "Reminiscing over my life, I think it is safe to say that joining Scouting was probably one of the best decisions that I have ever made. The organization has provided me with training, confidence and experience incomparable to anything that a different usage of my time could have produced."

Scoutmaster's Comments: "Ricky provides an environment which makes any task fun. He is very spirited and was tremendous in increasing Troop spirit."



Name: MICHAEL BANDROWSKI - TROOP 1

Years in Scouting: 10 years

High School/Year of Graduation:

Piedmont High School/2006

Recognitions: Den Chief, Camporee Staff, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Web Master (Troop Web Site); Varsity Football Team.

Project Information and Hours: Planned and coordinated the building of a sandbox, with storage areas at each end and matching wood cover, at the George Mark Children's House in San Leandro. (88 hours)

Comments about Scouting Experiences: "In a span of seven years Boy Scouts taught me the importance of responsibility, leadership, and respect."

Scoutmaster's Comments: "Michael works well with others. He has made a remarkable transformation from Tenderfoot to Eagle Scout."



Name: JEFF GARTENBAUM - TROOP 1

Years in Scouting: 10 years

High School/Year of Graduation:

Piedmont High School/2006

Recognitions: Den Chief, Camporee Staff & Camporee Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Camp Senior Patrol Leader; Baseball Team MVP 1998-2002; Honor Roll (2005).

Project Information and Hours: Planned and coordinated the building of benches at four AC transit bus stops in Piedmont. (137 hours)

Comments about Scouting Experiences: "Without scouting I wouldn't be the person I am today, and I feel that every Scout should involve himself in the "Scouting experience."

Scoutmaster's Comments: "Jeff is well organized, even tempered, and a great Scout."



Name: MATTHEW MATIER - TROOP 15

Years in Scouting: 12 years

High School/Year of Graduation:

Piedmont High School/2006

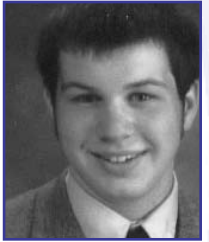
Recognitions: Den Chief, Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Camp Senior Patrol Leader; Honorable Mention in All League Water Polo, Captain of the Varsity Water Polo Team.

Project Information and Hours:

Planned and coordinated the removal of the non-native plant, French Broom from two locations in the Redwood Regional Parks, and the planting native Coast Live Oak trees in those areas. In addition, the project included the building of a rock wall for water drainage in the same general areas. (142 hours)

Comments about Scouting Experiences: "Everything that I went through in Scouts has taught me so much about life and how I can do whatever I set my mind to."

Scoutmaster's Comments: "Matt stepped up and helped the Senior Patrol direct help with the new Scouts."



Name: JOHN PAUL SBRAGIA-ZORICIC - TROOP 6

Years in Scouting: 11 years

High School/Year of Graduation: Acalanes Center for Independent Studies/2006

Recognitions: Patrol Leader, Brotherhood Member & former Vice-Chief in the Order of the Arrow; former Student Body President of the Saklan Valley School.

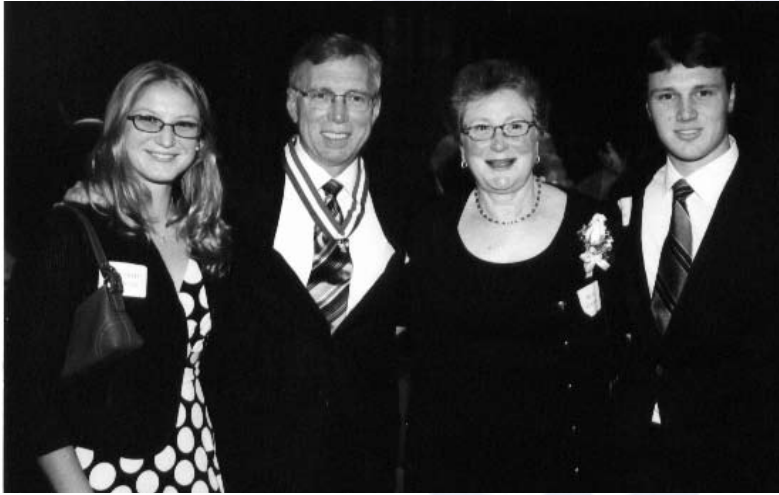
Project Information and Hours: Planned and coordinated the construction of two benches and a retaining wall at the meditation center at the Catholic Diocese of Oakland's Youth Retreat Center. (154 hours)

Comments about Scouting Experiences: "My experiences with Scouting have been fun and rewarding. I hope to be part of the Scouting program for the rest of my life."

Scoutmaster's Comments: "JP has a strong level of determination. He has demonstrated his ability to stay with the program, even when he was confronted with challenges that might have driven others away."

HONORING PIEDMONT'S 7TH DISTINGUISHED EAGLE SCOUT

After a hiatus of fifteen years, this year the Piedmont Council honored its newest Distinguished Eagle Scout, J. Robert Coleman, Jr. This national award is granted to Eagle Scouts who after 25 years, have distinguished themselves in their life work and who have shared their talents with their communities on a voluntary basis. The National Eagle Scout Association Selection Committee (also Distinguished Eagle Scouts), under the direction of the Boy Scout Division, National Office, Boy Scouts of America, selects the recipients of this award. Among the 1400 Eagle Scouts who have achieved this distinction since the award's inception in 1969 are Senator John Glen, Robert Gates and President Gerald Ford.



Bob Coleman (second from left) with his family: daughter, Meredith; wife, Diane and son, Scott.

Bob was one of three Eagles selected nationally to receive this award in 2005 and the community celebrated his accomplishment at a dinner held in the Claremont Hotel on October 26. Some 190 friends, community leaders and Scouters traveled from as far away as New York to honor Bob on this very special evening co-chaired by Sue Smegal and Alan Dachs.

Bob's accomplishments and contributions are numerous. He is currently Executive Director, Private Wealth Management at Morgan Stanley & Co., Inc. In 2004 and 2005, he was placed number 8 on Barron Magazine's list of "America's 100 Top Brokers." He is a graduate of Wesleyan University and earned an MBA from Harvard University in 1974. From 1969 to 1972, he served as a USN Supply Corps lieutenant (j.g.), including a 13-month tour in Vietnam. He holds several military service decorations. Bob and his wife, Diane, have been married more than 30 years. They have two children: a son, Scott, a recent graduate of Pomona College, and a daughter, Meredith, a junior at Stanford University.

Bob's Scouting background actually goes back to his grandfather, Sydney Coleman, who was a 50-year Scouter and founded the first BSA council in the Buffalo, NY area. His father, James, his son and he are all Eagle Scouts. While in college, he served as a Scoutmaster for a hospital-sponsored troop of emotionally disturbed and mentally ill boys. In Piedmont, Bob began his Scouting activities as a den leader to eight cubs, five of whom became Eagle Scouts. He has served in many positions over the years and has been a member of the Board since 1997. In that time he has been Treasurer, Endowment Fund chair and now President. He and his wife, Diane, have also volunteered many hours of service to the Oakland Strokes, a venture crew, and were awarded its Distinguished Family Award in 2003.

In addition to Bob's Scouting career, he has extended his sphere of service to many worthwhile causes in his community and beyond. He has served as Board president of the Piedmont Language School; coached Little League baseball and youth soccer teams; served on the board of the Piedmont Educational Foundation; headed Wesleyan University's Northern California Endowment Campaign; is a Trustee of the Piedmont Community Church and a board member of the Massachusetts SPCA. In 1997, the Coleman family (including Bob's parents and children) was named "the Massachusetts SPCA Humanitarian Family of the Year."

Bob's interests and philanthropy have an international flavor as well. He and his family are passionate about the work of the American Fondouk Animal Hospital, which his grandfather founded in 1927. It provides free veterinary treatment (approximately 20,000 per year) to any animal in the city of Fez, Morocco. He has served on its Board since 1973, and his son, Scott, is now a full time fund raiser for this unique organization.

One of Bob's great contributions to the Piedmont council has been in his work with the Council Endowment Fund which experienced tremendous growth under his leadership, creating a stable and strong financial base for the council programs. In this spirit, he asked that proceeds from the dinner, which netted \$201,000 benefit the Endowment Fund.

Bob believes deeply that, "Of those to whom much is given, much is asked." The Piedmont Council is honored to now include J. Robert Coleman, Jr. as one of its Distinguished Eagle Scouts. A kind and generous man, Bob has distinguished himself professionally as one of the top financial advisors in the country, but has also given back to his local and extended international community many times over.



(L to R) Piedmont Council Executive Director, Jo Pegrum Hazelett, Bob Coleman and event co-chair, Sue Smegal

COUNCIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Scout Tree Lot

Opening Day - Saturday, Nov. 25th
Last Day - Saturday, Dec. 23rd

Tree Lot Hours

Mondays thru Thursdays - 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Fridays - 1:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Saturdays and Sundays - 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Highlander Hike

USS Hornet Overnight, Jan 19-20

Pinewood Derby

Practice Race Day - Saturday, Jan. 27th
Race Day - Saturday, Feb. 3rd

Annual Meeting - Wednesday, Feb. 14th

Annual Recognition Dinner - April 26th

STANDING MEETINGS

Eagle Board of Review

First Thursday, Scout Office 7:30 pm

Cub Roundtables

Please check web calendar for dates

Scout Roundtables

Third Thursday, Scout Office 7:00 pm

For calendar updates, check the Council website www.piedmontbsa.org

STAFF

Josephine Pegrum Hazelett, Executive Director
Lynn Fischer, Bookkeeper
Linda Tu, Administrative Coordinator
Paul Mayer, Consultant
Al Sciamanna, Volunteer
Jason Zeledon, Program Coordinator

OFFICE HOURS

M T W F 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Thurs 8:30 am - 6:00 pm (July/Aug 4:30 pm)

CAREER DAY

Coming to Piedmont High School in March, this half-day event will introduce high school students to a variety of careers. It has been a huge success in the past and we're proud to revive it again!

We're looking for people working in a variety of careers to talk to the students about their experiences. If interested, please contact Jason at the Scout Office at 547-4493.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP MERIT BADGE

Calling all Boy Scouts! Interested in starting your own business and making money? Then the Entrepreneurship badge is for you! Jason, the Program Coordinator, is also the Merit Badge Counselor for this exciting badge. On the side, he

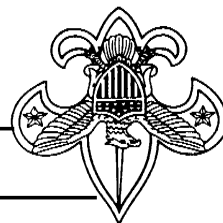
owns a video game business, Icarus Games, which sells retro video games and consoles (NES, SNES, N64 and Virtual Boy) and is one of the top sellers in the Bay Area.

The purpose of the badge is to introduce Scouts to the excitement and innovation of entrepreneurship that has been a foundation of America's vibrant economy. Scouts, with the guidance of the Counselor, will create a business plan, learn important marketing, negotiating and communication skills that will serve them throughout their lifetimes and run their business for three months.

If interested, please call Jason at the Scout Office at 547-4493.

(510)547-4493 Telephone • (510)547-4400 Fax
PIEDMONT, CA 94611
10 HIGHLAND WAY
Founded 1921

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



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