

# Lafayette Scout BSA Troop 402 welcomes 6 new Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Paul Espinas



Photo Provided

**New Eagle Scouts of Troop 402 (L-R): Rain Damon-Espinas, Maureen Kang, Fiona Markey, Sienna Jorgensen, Jenna Steele, and Grace Chehlaoui**

Boy Scouts of America Troop 402 of Lafayette proudly announces the remarkable achievement of six Life Scouts who

have recently attained the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. This distinction, earned by less than 6% of all Scouts BSA members,

is a reflection of their grit and leadership.

The Troop celebrated the following scouts at a recent Eagle Court of Honor:

Grace Chehlaoui, Senior at Acalanes High School. Grace's project team made fleece blankets which were donated to the Bay Area Ronald McDonald House. Grace writes "I am most grateful for Scouting giving me the ability to work with and guide younger Scouts and help them on their Scouting journey."

Rain Damon-Espinas, Senior at Campolindo High School. Rain's project team built a free-standing bulletin board at Joaquin Moraga Interme-

diated School. Rain writes "I am grateful for my family, my friends and my troop - they believed in me and supported me during this process, even when I didn't believe in myself."

Sienna Jorgensen, Junior at Campolindo High School. Sienna's project team assembled personalized mental health kits for families of hospitalized children. Sienna writes "I am most grateful for the Eagle scouts and youth leadership team of Troop 402, (who) are awesome role models of proud, bold, ambitious Eagle Scouts. I really do owe it to them for inspiring me to pursue the rank myself, in addition to

embarking on adventures in the backcountry that I will never forget."

Maureen Kang, Senior at Campolindo High School. Maureen's project team organized a book drive for the Children's Book project. Maureen expresses gratitude for "My family, who have supported me through my entire scouting journey, and my friends, who are always willing to lend a helping hand."

Fiona Markey, Junior at Campolindo High School. Fiona's project team made blankets for Project Linus, which supports hospitalized children. Fiona writes "I am grateful for all the support I received and

people I've met."

Jenna Steele, Senior at Acalanes High School. Jenna's project team ran a healthy lifestyle fair for participants of the Lafayette Reservoir Run. Jenna writes "I am most grateful for my parents who supported me throughout my scouting journey. I'm also grateful for my older brother who convinced me to join 402 in the first place."

The troop congratulates the newly minted Eagle Scouts and celebrates their journey of growth, camaraderie, and service to the community. More information about them can be found here: [troop402.org](http://troop402.org)

# New troop 224 Eagle Scout announced

Submitted by Steve Dietsch



Photo John Sakamoto

**From left: Keith Yamamura, Joshua Schmidt, Juzer Shipchandler, Dylan Potter, Braedon Christie and Nicolas Dietsch**

Scouts BSA Troop 224 of Lafayette held an Eagle Court of Honor at the Creekside Commons for six Scouts who achieved Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout.

For his Eagle project, Keith Yasumura made a "Little Shared Library" to help his high school, Fusion Academy, build more community. Yasumura created a unique design for the "Little Shared Library" as a small barn to provide an additional draw and novelty to users.

Josh Schmidt improved the composting system at his local community garden in Lafayette. A new compost bin was built from recycled wood and metal, which could hold up to 500 pounds of organic waste. A storage bin was also constructed next to the compost bin,

where gardeners can keep their tools and supplies. Additionally, the previously existing compost bin, which had been damaged by weather and pests, was repaired and updated.

Juzer Shipchandler designed and built a portable podium for the Monument Crisis Center in Contra Costa County. Shipchandler's project was designed to allow the crisis center to have the option of moving the podium to wherever needed, and to have enough space to hold handouts, check-in stations, a computer, and much more.

Dylan Potter chose to give back to Acalanes High School by refinishing the shot put ring, building a movable bench, and fixing the seat on an additional bench. The project took

several months to complete as a result of the required research, approvals, and necessary adjustments to scope and process.

Braedon Christie's project encompassed the installation of 21 Creek Signs near walking paths in Lafayette for the Lafayette Creeks Committee. His project included working with the Lafayette Creeks Committee liaison to determine the exact locations for installation by surveying and marking each site, obtaining all necessary signs, posts, and backings along with related supplies, and then installing each of the signs in a manner where they could not be removed and were firmly in place.

The Eagle project for Nicolas Dietsch benefited the JF Kapnek Trust to provide educational supplies for preschool children in Zimbabwe. Nick led the effort to collect new and lightly used preschool toys and supplies from neighborhoods in the community, aggregating and sorting the donations, and then organizing and labeling the boxes for transport to Zimbabwe. The goal was to collect twenty boxes of materials to be sent overseas and the troop ultimately collected forty-one boxes.

# Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary presents award to local students

Submitted by Bob Marino



Photo Provided

**Pictured are 2024 Good Character Award winners, Sadie Ginestro, Heidi Vanhouten, and Elliot Wong (Joaquin Moraga Intermediate) Nyla Brustrein, Tyson Flournoy, and Bre Redding (Orinda Intermediate) and Ary Deepak, Tyson Flournoy, and Bre Redding (Stanley Middle School) Also pictured: Mr. Scott Parsons, President, Lamorinda Sunrise and Bob Marino, Youth Services Director**

The Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary recently recognized a group of young people for their exceptionally good character traits. The Good Character Awards, now in their second year, were presented to nine students from Stanley Middle School, Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, and Orinda Intermediate School.

Awardees included Sadie Ginestro, Heidi Vanhouten, and Elliot Wong from JM; Nyla Brustrein, Tyson Flournoy, and Bre Redding from OIS; and Ary Deepak, Bobby Ruhl, and Quinn Sousa from Stanley.

Nominees were selected by teachers and administrators for their sustained acts of kindness, truthfulness, fairness, and

service to others. The awards were presented by Mr. Scott Parsons, president of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, after a brief description of Rotary by Dr. Jamie Textor and the inspirational keynote address by Mr. Tren Kauser, long-time Campolindo science department member and current woodshop instructor.

The ceremony was held at the Campolindo High School library and attended by faculty and administrators from all three schools, district superintendents, and civic leaders. The school library was packed with proud parents and families. Claudia Windfuhr, a teacher at Stanley for 33 years, commented after

the event, "It is my pleasure to work with these students everyday. I know they will make a difference and will surely make the world a better place."

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary has several programs that focus on supporting projects that promote the wellness and mental health of young people in the Lamorinda area and beyond. Rotary members hope that the Good Character Awards will continue to inspire and encourage young people in the community.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Robert Marino summarized the importance of the event honoring those with good character with a quote from coach John Wooden: "Be more concerned with your character than your reputation because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are."

Commenting on the awards presentation, Mr. Scott Parsons, President of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, noted, "This is a great event which honors and promotes the outstanding young people in our community who give us hope for the future."

For more information on Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary and its programs, please visit their website at [www.lamorindasunrise.org](http://www.lamorindasunrise.org).

# Lamorinda Chapter of National Charity League honors class of 2024

Submitted by Linda Youn



Photo Provided

On March 3, the Lamorinda Chapter of National Charity League honored its 21 graduating seniors for their six years of service and leadership at a beautiful event held at the Contra Costa Country Club in Pleasant Hill.

Collectively, the girls have volunteered over 5,700 hours to the community, supporting organizations that provide services to those in need.

**Class of 2024, front row from left: Maddie O'Balle, Gracie Carberry, Avery Appleton, Jessica Youn, Janie Hollerbach, Callie Barber, Margaret Palmer, Abigail Palmer, Leyna Machtmes; back row from left: Olivia Roesch, Hanna Bjornson, Vivienne McCarthy, Gia Stassi, Mia Iams, Kate Bertenthal, Mina Lim, Katherine Leamy, Clara Grenning, Sarah Shepherd, Anna MacLeod, Kate Conner**

In February, the class partnered with Grateful Gatherings for their senior project, in which they collected large-scale donations and completely refurbished the Oakland home of a former foster care youth, her mother, and five children. Lamorinda NCL supports numerous local philanthropies including Food Bank of Contra Costa County, Monument Crisis

Center, Lamorinda Village, White Pony Express, and New Day For Children.

NCL is a mother-daughter philanthropic organization dedicated to community service, leadership and cultural enrichment. For more information, please visit National Charity League, Inc.

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