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## Gold Awards – Girl Scout Troop 32153

Submitted by Nancy Crawford

On May 8th, 2011, members of Lafayette Girl Scout Troop 32153 gathered to honor and celebrate six members receiving Girl Scout's highest award, the Gold Award. In addition to 40 hours of career exploration and 30 hours of leadership prerequisites, each scout had to design and lead a significant service project. Nationwide less than 5% of all Girl Scouts reach this level of distinction.

### Troop 32153 Scouts receiving Gold Awards:

**Hannah Borosky** led the ICE community awareness campaign. ICE stands for In Case of Emergency. To improve emergency response,

individuals were taught to add a new cell phone contact titled ICE listing their top emergency contacts. Hannah is a senior at Acalanes High School and plans on attending Santa Clara in the fall.

**Chelsea Crawford's** project involved a book drive and gift of books and reading for a local elementary school. Chelsea is a senior at Campolindo High School.

**Megan Langner's** project "Keep the Bees" included community awareness on the environmental benefits of bees and she helped four families set up and maintain hives. Megan is a

senior at Acalanes High and plans on attending UC Davis in the fall.

**Alexa Wash** created an educational project called Lafayette Creeks – Caring for our Waterways. She taught the importance of waterways and water preservation to Lafayette students. Alexa is a senior at Acalanes High School.

For her project, **Emily St. Pierre** coordinated the 5 day "R,R,R,R You Aware" environmental awareness program at the Lindsey Wildlife Museum focusing on Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rot. Emily is a senior at Acalanes High and will attend Puget Sound University.

The troop is proud of its dedication to stay together and committed to Girl Scouts through the years, and of all ten seniors completing their scouting journey and advancing to Adult Scouts. In addition to the six Gold Award scouts, other dedicated members include Acalanes seniors Katie Barton, Maddy Cimino and Gabrielle Zoger, and Campolindo senior Anne Finne. The girls entered scouting in kindergarten at their respective Lafayette Elementary Schools; the various troops merged when they became Cadette Scouts at Stanley Middle School and have stayed together throughout high school.

## Gold Awards – Girl Scout Troop 30215

Submitted by Linda Lim



Pictured from left: Alexa Smith, Andie Nishimi, Valerie Su, Kanani Okamitsu, Kate Cooper and Marissa Cunha. Photo provided

Troop leaders Lori Edelstone and Dayle Okamitsu of Girl Scouts Troop 30215 are proud to announce the following Ambassador Girl Scouts have completed the requirements for the Gold Award, the highest award given by the Girl Scouts of America. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, and commitment to excellence as each girl scout develops skills and values to meet present and future challenges. Each of the girl scouts previously achieved the Silver Award, the second

highest Girl Scouts award.

**Kate Cooper:** To earn her Gold Award, Kate developed a project to assist families at the Monument Crisis Center in Concord. She also contributed to the Blue Star Mom's Operation Pillowcase which sends patriotic pillowcases, cards of appreciation, and other items to U.S. troops overseas in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations. Kate also received the U. S. Presidential Award for Volunteerism during her junior year and the U. S. Congressional Award for

Community Service and Personal Growth in her senior year.

**Marissa Cunha:** Marisa's Gold Award was for making "Buddies" for children undergoing surgery. She organized a group of people to sew 100 dolls for a local hospital. The dolls had embroidered faces and yarn for hair. The project goal was to make children happy when going through very difficult times. A child getting surgery is often in pain and emotionally hurting. The doll can make the child feel like they have a friend alongside them and help them feel more comfortable and secure when facing their tough situation.

**Andie Nishimi:** Andie earned her Gold Award by leading a collection drive of toys that were donated to Oakland Children's Hospital. She drew her inspiration for "Project Emily" from a five-year-old girl diagnosed with Beckwith-Weidemann Syndrome who undergoes periodic diagnostic tests at the hospital's radiology department to scan for potential diseases. With strong support from Brownie and Junior Girl Scout troop members from Moraga, and local students, Andie collected a large number of toys that were organized into gift bags for the hospital's young patients.

**Kanani Okamitsu:** During the summer of 2010, Kanani and friend Valerie Su completed a project called Einsteince Camp. They went to Contra Costa Interfaith Housing (CCIH)—a housing complex for families who would be homeless if

this place did not exist—for a week to teach the children living there science through experiments. Each day they provided 3 simple, exciting experiments on a different science subject.

**Alexa Smith:** Alexa completed her Gold Award project for the Contra Costa Interfaith Housing Apartments in Concord. She ran a weeklong dance class for the children living in the apartment complex. She taught them a dance routine and other fun dance activities over the course of the week. At the end of the week, the children performed their routine for their parents in costumes that Alexa collected from her dance studio, California Academy of Performing Arts, and donated to the children. Alexa also left the Apartment Complex recreation room with two boxes of dance costumes and every child took home a CD of dance music as well as a costume.

**Valerie Su:** Valerie worked with girl scout friend Kanani Okamitsu on their Gold Award project, a science camp for disadvantaged children. The camp, dubbed "Einsteince Camp", took place at the Contra Costa Interfaith Housing Development in Concord for a week. Nearly everyday over the summer, the girls met to plan the camp, deciding that each day would have a certain theme: Physics, Chemistry, Weather, Environment, and Food. They determined that the goal would be not only to educate the kids, but also to show them that learning can be fun and rewarding. They planned hands-on projects, ranging from making straw towers to making ice cream.

## Eagle Scouts – Troop 303

Submitted by Kim Wolfe



Austin Wolfe (left) and Chris Perry Photo John Wolfe


Boy Scouts of America Troop 303 in Orinda is proud to induct two new Eagle Scouts. Chris Perry, a Miramonte senior, and Austin Wolfe, a Miramonte freshman, earned the highest advancement rank in Scouting by fulfilling requirements in the areas of leadership, service and outdoor skills. In addition an Eagle Scout must have completed at least 21 merit badges and organized and led a service project benefiting his community. Chris and Austin each led a project benefiting the elementary school where he began scouting as a Tiger Cub.

Chris's Eagle Scout Project provided Del Rey Elementary School with a reconstructed and safer sandbox in the main playground area. Chris tore down the existing splintered wood structure and replaced it with a cement structure that included a water drainage system. He then added synthetic wood panels on top of the walls for a comfortable and aesthetic place to sit, and new sand. New sand was poured into the sandbox, replacing the rock and dirt originally found.

Austin designed and led members of Troop 303 in the construction of an attraction for the Sleepy Hollow Elementary School Pumpkin Patch Carnival. The attraction, a twenty-one foot race track and fleet of sixteen Halloween-themed race cars, was designed to provide the youngest members of the school community an opportunity to be successful in an exciting non-skill based competition against older students. Austin donated the race game to the Sleepy Hollow Parents' Club for many years of enjoyment.

For over 45 years, Orinda Boy Scout Troop 303, chartered by the Rotary Club of Orinda, has been providing boys with a variety of hiking, camping, community service and leadership opportunities.

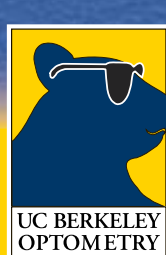
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