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## New Eagle Scouts for Troop 237

Submitted by Greg Ansel



New Eagle Scouts from Troop 237 are Griffin Ansel, John Novogradac, Ian Livingston, Carter Fife and Jack Jorgensen. Photo Michael Novogradac

Boy Scout Troop 237 of Orinda honored five new Eagle Scouts, **Ian Livingston, Griffin Ansel, John Novogradac, Carter Fife and Jack Jorgensen** on March 20 at the Orinda Community Church. Troop 237 is chartered by the Orinda Community Church and has served the community for over 60 years with 225 scouts earning the highest rank of Eagle Scout.

Ian is a sophomore at Miramonte High School and his Eagle Project reflected his keen interest in the outdoors and the environment. Ian built nursery houses for bats and mounted them at the park rangers' station at the Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve. The four-chamber bat houses can hold up to 1,000 bats and will benefit the environment by spreading seeds, pollinating flowers and eating insects.

Griffin is a junior at Miramonte High School. Griffin, a varsity football player, wanted his Eagle Project to benefit Miramonte and incorporate his love of sports. He worked closely with the head football coach to design, build and organize storage cubbies at Miramonte to hold the shoulder pads and helmets in the off-season. The enhanced storage facilities will store the equipment without damaging them and will extend both their life expectancy and effectiveness.

John is a sophomore at Head-Royce School. John, a varsity baseball player, met and brainstormed with leaders of the Oakland Girls

Softball League (OGSL) and cleaned, organized and built shelving to store OGSL softball equipment in a secure Oakland location. As part of his project he led young people, including scouts, to clean, inventory and organize the OGSL equipment.

Carter is a senior at Bentley High School. Carter, an avid reader, wanted to find an Eagle project that would allow him to share access of quality books with readers from Oakland to Africa. Carter's Eagle Project collected unwanted books door-to-door by personal solicitation and then led a team to sort the books according to type and condition. The books most relevant to African readers were shipped to Books for Africa with the rest donated to the Oakland Library.

Jack is a senior at Miramonte High School and wanted to give back to the community. Jack's Eagle Project was to create navigational aids for First Responders to be able to navigate their way around Miramonte High School efficiently in the event of an emergency. His project included positioning and painting Compass Rose directional markers throughout the campus as well as painting classroom numbers making the campus easier to navigate for emergency medical service, fire and police responders in the case of an emergency.

For more information about Troop 237, please visit [www.troop237orinda.com](http://www.troop237orinda.com).

## Community Service

### Troop 224 Eagle Scouts Honored

Submitted by Shelley Smith



From left: Peter Candell, Riley Smith, Colin Smith and Joshua Douglas. Photo provided

Four scouts from Troop 224 in Lafayette were honored at a March 26 banquet for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Scoutmaster is Kyle Blocker.

For his Eagle Scout community service project, **Peter Joseph Candell**, the son of Brian and Susan Candell, worked with John Eaton, a board member of the Lafayette Community Garden, to build two "Creek Viewing Areas."

During his scouting career, Peter earned more than a dozen merit badges, and the National Youth Leadership Training certificate of achievement. He hiked with scouts to the top of Mt. Whitney last summer, attended Philmont Scout Ranch High Adventure Camp in New Mexico, and attended many scout camps and adventure trips. He currently serves as a New Scout Patrol Leader, leading the youngest scouts just entering the troop as fifth and sixth graders.

Peter, 17, is a junior at Acalanes High School in Lafayette.

For his Eagle Scout community service project, **Riley Noel Smith**, the son of Brad and Shelley Smith, coordinated with church represen-

tatives to design, plan and build a labyrinth at the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Pleasant Hill. A labyrinth is a circular walking path that leads to the center and back out. It is used for personal meditation and reflection.

During his scouting career, Riley earned two dozen merit badges, the National Youth Leadership Training certificate of achievement and attended several scout camps, including the Philmont Scout Ranch High Adventure Camp in New Mexico where he backpacked more than 75 miles in 10 days. He currently serves as the Senior Patrol Leader for the troop – the senior scout in charge of directing troop activities.

Riley, 16, is a junior at Acalanes High School in Lafayette.

For his Eagle Project, **Colin Wade Smith**, the son of Brad and Shelley Smith coordinated with the Peter Pan Preschool and their sponsoring organization, the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Pleasant Hill, to design and build a new sandbox and pergola. This project replaced an old, open, plas-

tic sandbox and provides the children a better experience with shade and a storage box for sand toys.

During his scouting career, Smith earned more than two dozen merit badges, the National Youth Leadership Training certificate of achievement, and attended several scout camps, including the Philmont Scout Ranch High Adventure Camp in New Mexico where he backpacked more than 75 miles in 10 days. Beginning with Cub Scout Pack 200 in first grade, he has completed 12 years of scouting.

Colin, 17, is a senior at Acalanes High School and is planning to attend the University of Colorado, Boulder, in the fall.

For his Eagle Scout community service project, **Joshua Singer Douglas**, the son of Jill and David Douglas, helped the shot put and discus program of the Acalanes Track and Field team by building a practice shot put ring athletes can use to practice their form. It will last years and be used by all who visit the Acalanes shot put area.

During his scouting career, Josh earned 22 merit badges, the Ner Tamid Award (a Boy Scout of America award overseen and bestowed by the National Jewish Committee on Scouting), and attended several scout camps, including the Philmont Scout Ranch High Adventure Camp in New Mexico where he backpacked more than 75 miles in 10 days. Joshua's father, David, also received his Eagle Scout rank from Troop 224 in 1980.

Joshua, 18, is a senior at Acalanes High School in Lafayette and will decide by May 1 where he will attend college in the fall.

### Troop 204 Celebrates New Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Courtney Anderson



Back row from left: Kai Watanabe, Ethan Kuan, Christopher Anderson, W. Payson Newman, Harley McKee, W. Coleman Cronk; front row from left: Christopher Fulton, Charles Price, Joshua Christian, Isaac Evans, Spencer Spiering, Matthew Mlynek. Photo provided

Lafayette Boy Scout Troop 204 honored 12 scouts who achieved the rank of Eagle Scout at a March 19 event at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. They are led by Scoutmaster Tom Steuber, who was just honored as Lafayette's Citizen of the Year.

**Christopher Anderson** is the son of Steve and Courtney Anderson and a junior at Acalanes High School. Christopher built an additional compost bin for Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center which included pouring a 7-foot by 7-foot concrete pad with a drive-up concrete ramp and constructed 3-foot cinder block walls with a wooden removable front door. Xenophon is a nonprofit organization located in Orinda that provides equine-assisted therapies for children with disabilities.

**Joshua Christian** is the son of Darrell Christian and Kathy Trost and a junior at

Campolindo High School. Joshua worked with the City of Lafayette to preserve the natural landscape around the Lafayette Community Center. He removed ivy from a number of trees to help reduce the spread of this invasive species. He also refurbished park structures including a park bench that had been destroyed by vandals, a sign directing visitors away from poison oak, and four bollards on the bridge that had been worn by weather.

**W. Colman Cronk** is the son of Jeff and Jamie Cronk and a junior at Campolindo High School. Cole renovated the outdoor entry area of a Shelter Inc. homeless shelter in Martinez. He built a bench and several planter boxes, planted some unique plants, installed special fence material to hide a cluttered storage area, and created a much more appealing, relaxing entry for the residents.

**Isaac Evans** is the son of Jeremy and Eleanor Evans and a junior at Acalanes High School. Isaac labeled, catalogued and organized Bay Area Girls Rock Camp's entire instrument inventory consisting of over 100 instruments and hundreds of pieces of equipment. He also created a digital database to help track their inventory.

**Christopher Fulton** is the son of John Morgan and Katie Fulton and a senior at Acalanes High School. Chris refurbished and improved the Birthright House in Concord, which included sanding and painting the front door, replacing all the light fixtures and blinds in the building, purchasing and installing a mirror for the mothers and organizing their closets.

**Ethan Kuan** is the son of Jose and Patricia Kuan and is a senior at Acalanes High School. Ethan organized a collection of art and drama supplies for Camping Unlimited. He collected 11 bags of supplies and created an online crowd funding campaign to raise money to purchase a much needed Automatic External Defibrillator for the camp. Camping Unlimited is a nonprofit organization located in Santa Cruz that provides outdoor and recreation programs to people of all ages with mental and physical disabilities.

**Harley McKee** is the son of Jim McKee and Amy Cummings and a junior at Acalanes High School. Harley worked with St Elizabeth's Catholic Elementary School in the Fruitvale area of Oakland to help clean, restore and repair its Garden of Learning back to usable condition after years of neglect. The garden has been restored to a place for the children to learn about plants and nature.

**Matthew Mlynek** is the son of John and

Marie Mlynek and a junior at Acalanes High School. Matthew built a message board for the Springhill Elementary School garden. The board will be used for posting messages and reminders, along with holding handouts with information about the garden.

**Payson Newman** is the son of Scott and Mary Newman and is a junior at Acalanes High School. Payson constructed a garden with drip irrigation and raised beds at Buchanan Field. This area is where families with underprivileged kids wait as their children fly with volunteer pilots as part of the national Young Eagles Program.

**Charles Price** is the son of Kent and Andrea Price and is a junior at Bentley High School. Charlie, in honor of a loved one, built a bench in their Garden of Hope at the Cancer Support Community in Walnut Creek. The bench will provide a place to sit for the patients to in the garden as they are on their road to recovery.

**Spencer Spiering** is the son of Mike and Carol Spiering and is a junior at Campolindo High School. Spencer assembled 25 new bikes donated by Bike for Tots and gave them to kids who have never owned a bike. He worked through Cambridge Elementary School in Concord in order to find the kids in need.

**Kai Watanabe** is the son of Yoshi and Mika Watanabe and is a junior at Acalanes High School. Kai created 15 knot tying kits for patients at Children's Hospital in Oakland. The kits, which include a board with rope and an instruction book, will provide hours of entertainment for bedridden children as they are being treated at the hospital.