

Acalanes DAR awards Good Citizen Scholarships to three local students



Christine Mlynek, Sofia Raja, Adriana Colón Photo provided

Revolution honored three high school students chosen by their schools as the 2021-22 Good Citizen winners. A High Tea and Award Ceremony was held on Saturday, Feb. 5, where the three students were awarded a scholarship, a U.S. flag that had been flown over the U.S. Capitol in their honor, and a certificate of recognition. The tea was hosted by chapter members who set the tables with their personal china and served delicious homemade tea sandwiches, cookies, fruit, and other sweets.

Christine A. Mlynek is Acalanes High School's winner. Mlynek also won the optional essay portion of the Good Citizen Scholarship program, and she read her essay aloud at the award ceremony.

Mlynek enjoys tutoring children of immigrants in English as a second language, she is president of the Acalanes Environmental Club, and she co-founded the all-girl BSA Troop #402. After graduation, Mlynek will attend either the Coast Guard Academy or the Naval Academy.

Sofia C. Raja is Bentley School's winner. During the pandemic, Raja worked after-school hours at her family's restaurant, and she launched a student newspaper, The Bentley Times, to keep students connected and informed while they studied remotely. Raja is also a counselor at her church's summer camp, and after graduation she hopes to pursue a career in science and technology.

Adriana E. Colón is Campolindo High School's winner. She is active in the National Charity League, is the president of the Women's Awareness on Campus Club, and is a peer tutor for an AP U.S. history class. After graduation, Colón hopes to attend the University of San Diego or Barnard College, and then follow in the footsteps of Ruth Bader Ginsberg to obtain her JD and practice law.

The members of the Acalanes Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution are delighted to reward these high school students for their leadership and good citizen qualities and wish them well as they embark on the journey into new adventure and follow their dreams.

Submitted by Louise Diracles

The Acalanes chapter of the Daughters of the American

New Troop 224 Eagle Scouts announced



Photo provided

Submitted by Elizabeth Dietch

Hird, and Zach Robb – for achieving Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout. To become an Eagle Scout, a candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges, demon-

strate leadership and Scout spirit, and successfully complete a community service project.

Dietsch, a senior at Acalanes High School restored a failing 12,500 brick courtyard for his church, Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church in Walnut Creek. He led a large group of volunteers to dismantle the old courtyard, clean and stack all of the bricks; 90% of the bricks were reusable. A contractor re-laid the bricks and Dietsch monitored the progress over two weeks. Everyone learned a lot about bricks! The courtyard is now used several times a week for outdoor services and other activities.

Goyert, a junior at Acalanes, designed and constructed two benches and came

up with a plan to solve the rodent issue at Jelly's Place. Jelly's Place is a no-kill animal shelter in San Pablo, California. Jelly's Place has a special place in Goyert's heart since his family rescued their dog, Elvis, from the shelter. He knew that for his Eagle project he wanted to help the shelter that has given so much to the community.

Acalanes junior Hird designed and led the construction of a Western-themed chicken coop for Animal Assisted Happiness, a nonprofit organization. This small therapeutic animal farm near San Jose focuses on enriching the lives of youth with needs and has a wide range of animals from guinea pigs to goats and llamas. Hird's chicken coop was the very first one constructed for the farm's Wild West Chicken Village and

is now home to a flock of happy chickens!

Robb, a junior at Acalanes High School, chose to support the Acalanes football program which he has been part of since his freshman year. He led over 20 scouts in building a 10'H x 12'W x 3"D, four-tiered storage system and added five additional shelves underneath a pre-existing workspace. These improvements have provided the coaches and players with a more accessible, organized, and clean equipment shed.

The Eagle Scouts were recognized for their achievement at an Eagle Court of Honor ceremony on Feb. 27 at the Contra Costa Country Club. Troop 224 is currently accepting boys and girls as new members. For more information visit www.troop224lafayette.com.

Troop 224 BSA of Lafayette honors four Scouts – Nigel Dietsch, Hunter Goyert, Benjamin

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