



# Cascade Pacific Council graduates the first female Eagle Scouts

**Cascade Pacific Council/Boy Scouts of America just celebrated its inaugural class of female Eagle Scouts in February!**

**We spoke with Chris Bartell, Marketing and Communications Director and Scoutmaster with the Cascade Pacific Council/Boy Scouts of America about their recently graduated Eagle Scout class. The 362 graduates included eight girls, who were part of the inaugural class nationwide of nearly 1,000 female Eagle Scouts. The Scouts' accomplishments were honored throughout the month of February, celebrating their grit, growth, and perseverance.**

Make no mistake; it is not easy to become an Eagle Scout. As the highest rank a Scout can achieve, candidates are required to prove their skills, personal growth, leadership ability, and dedication to service in a variety of ways before they can graduate, and they must complete the full course before the age of 18 years old. Only 6 percent of Scouts earn the badge. How they reach this milestone is individual for each Scout, depending on the merit badges they choose (they need at least 21!) and the projects they opt to pursue, but each Scout has definitely demonstrated their determination and effort by the time they reach Eagle Scout rank.

Female Scouts are subject to the same rigorous requirements to earn the Eagle badge as male Scouts (though the Boy Scouts of America did make a few adjustments to the deadlines for everyone this past year to account for COVID challenges). While girls and young women have participated in Scouting for decades in various programs, Scouts BSA (formerly known as "Boy Scouts") opened to girls in February 2019. February 2021 was the earliest any of the girls could have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout journey culminates with a special project, which each Scout chooses and designs themselves. The project is one of the things that makes the Eagle Scouts so unique and special. In the Cascade Pacific Council alone, it is estimated that the 362 graduates in this year's class contributed more than 72,000 hours of community service in the course of completing their community-based projects — this is even with the restrictions placed on them due to COVID regulations.

## IMPACT FOR GENERATIONS. PREPARED FOR LIFE.

This is more than a motto. It is a manifesto. It is our promise to the community and to every parent and child who Scouts with us. By Scouting in the Cascade Pacific Council (CPC) of the Boy Scouts of America, every youth can learn to make an impact on the world around them and be more prepared for career and life.

"A project requires about 200 hours of work," Chris explains. "And it has to be something impactful." Scouts are required to do all the planning and budgeting themselves, and make the necessary connections to put their project into practice. Past projects have included service projects like food drives or constructing playgrounds at local schools and parks.

One of this year's female graduates, Anya Kramer (see the following page) completed a particularly unique project. She discovered that a local food bank was not able to provide feminine hygiene products. So she went to work acquiring a





## CPCBSA: Celebrating the first female Eagle Scouts!

donation of six months' supply of feminine products for the food bank, and then organizing to arrange an ongoing source that would make it possible for them to continue to provide that service going forward.

As Scoutmaster, Bartell has first-hand knowledge of the Scouting experience, and how profound it can be for young people. "There's just nothing else like it," he says, "The amount of leadership and personal growth they achieve is unparalleled, and add to that the adventure aspect. These are things they don't learn in school or sports. Scouts gain confidence and character that will last a lifetime." The Council likes to tell their Scouts: "Grit starts here, and grit lasts forever." He notes that there really isn't anywhere else that provides this level of service project combined with epic adventures. Along with the world-class outdoor properties available for summer camps and other adventures, Scouts have access to experiences they just won't find with other activities.

After summer camp, Bartell's Scouts BSA troop is planning a trip to take an overnight train trip to Glacier National Park

to go backpacking. He says the parents are as excited to take part as the Scouts. "Scouting is such a fantastic family adventure," Bartell says. "You can't get this time back with your kids. What better way to see them grow into incredible leaders and connect with them than in the great outdoors."

To learn more about **Cascade Pacific Council/ Boy Scouts of America**, visit <https://cpbsa.org/>. You can read all the names of the inaugural class of female Eagle Scouts at <https://www.scouting.org/bethechange/>

"Most everything that you will learn in Scouts will help you in your life. Whether it's for you or anyone else — especially the First Aid Merit Badge, which is one of the Eagle ones - you can save someone's life having that knowledge."

~ KayLee Murray, age 18, who collected toys and books for Providence Hospital Pediatrics



Anya Kramer, who gathered a donation of six months' of feminine hygiene products for the the West Linn Food Pantry, and then worked with Period Inc. to continue long-term fulfillment of feminine products for the food bank.



Elisabeth Becker is only 14 years old! She built a bridge across a creek to improve school safety.

