

IMPROVING COMMUNITIES

PSATS Recognizes Youth Service Projects Through Annual Awards Program

BY BRENDA WILT / ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Four youth organizations have won recognition in PSATS' 2014 Youth Awards Contest and were selected from a total of 15 entries. PSATS established the program to honor the valuable contributions young people make to their communities.

Each winning group received a \$500 cash prize and a framed certificate, presented at the convention of their respective county association of township

officials. Highlights of their projects appear on the next page.

Recognizing youth service

PSATS created the Youth Awards in 1978 to honor the youth-oriented programs that improve the quality of life in townships and encourage youth involvement in local government. The Association will mail guidelines and entry forms for the 2015 contest next

spring to county associations, member townships, Boy and Girl Scout councils, school districts, and the Penn State Extension for distribution to 4-H Clubs.

For more information about the Youth Awards, call Brenda Wilt at PSATS at (717) 763-0930, ext. 123, or email bwilt@psats.org. Townships may also go to www.psats.org, choose the "Programs & Services" tab, and click on "PSATS Award Programs." ♦

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Collaborating for Youth Coalition, Hamiltonban Township, Adams County

This group completed a variety of projects focused on positive messaging and anti-drug and -alcohol awareness. Activities included:

- a high school campaign that encouraged students to identify individuals who “look out” for them;
- school bulletin board displays about fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and 4-D Awareness Month (*Drunk, Drugged, and Distracted Driving*);
- participation in campaigns urging parents to not provide alcohol to minors;
- presenting a media literacy workshop for 7th-grade females; and
- helping plan, promote, and implement an underage drinking awareness program at the Gettysburg campus of Harrisburg Area Community College.

◀ **The group hands out free T-shirts during a positive messaging campaign.**



Haine Middle School Purpose Program Students, Cranberry Township, Butler County

The school’s 5th-grade gifted students, who undertake several environmental programs each year, asked Cranberry Township officials if they could initiate a storm drain stenciling program. The students:

- developed a PowerPoint presentation to explain their idea to the township supervisors;
- chose a residential neighborhood as the site for the project;
- designed and created stencils to paint on 96 storm drains with such messages as “Dump No Waste; Let Our Fish Swim” and “Don’t Dump; Drains to River”; and
- formed six teams to paint the messages, under the supervision of two teachers, township personnel and police, and other adult volunteers.

◀ **Students paint an environmental message on a storm drain.**



Boy Scout Troop 95, North Coventry Township, Chester County

Eagle Scout candidates Robert Girard and Tim LaGreca initiated a troop project to create a disc golf course in a North Coventry Township park. The project required the Scouts to:

- solicit sponsorships to offset some of the project costs;
- construct tee boxes;
- determine and mark the locations for the “holes,” or baskets;
- clear brush and weeds from the basket sites;
- build connecting trails between the baskets; and
- work with adult volunteers, who used the power tools and helped the Scouts mix cement for the basket posts.

◀ **Eagle Scout Tim LaGreca and an adult volunteer assemble a basket for one of the disc golf “holes.”**



Northern Wayne Youth M.A.N.N.A. Team, Buckingham, Mount Pleasant, Preston, and Scott Townships, Wayne County

This group works with adult volunteers to cook and deliver meals to needy people in the area. In the past year, the young people helped plan, cook, and deliver the following to more than 100 people:

- apple pies for Thanksgiving;
- a ham dinner for Christmas Eve;
- a barbecue chicken dinner for Memorial Day; and
- a lasagna dinner and a soup, salad, and bread dinner on other occasions.

◀ **Members of the Youth M.A.N.N.A. Team learn to bake apple pies under the watchful eyes of experienced cooks.**