

## PSATS Youth Awards Contest



BY **BRENDA WILT** / ASSISTANT EDITOR

Four groups have won recognition in PSATS' 2019 Youth Awards Contest, established 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.

PSATS created the 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 flyers about the 2020 contest next spring to county associations, member townships, Boy and Girl Scout councils, Future Farmers of America, and 4-H Clubs through the Penn State Extension Office.

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

Highlights of the winning projects follow. ♦

### Girl Scout Troop 28842 – Adams Township, Butler County

The fourth-graders in Girl Scout Troop 28842 wanted to complete a community service project during camp. The idea of renovating a butterfly garden in Adams Township Community Park seemed doomed when the troop learned that a new right of way would displace the garden. Undeterred, the scouts decided to relocate the garden in the park and reinvent it at the same time.

After the township cleared the grass from a spot the scouts chose next to an existing walking path, the troop got to work.

The project involved:

- consulting with a landscaper to design the garden;
- soliciting donations from area businesses;
- installing new plants and transplanting others from the original butterfly garden;
- enlisting the help of parents to build a fence; and
- watering and mulching the new plants.

In addition to the PSATS Youth Award, the troop also received the Butler County Youth Conservation Award for the butterfly garden.



## Boy Scout Troop 360 – West Hanover Township, Dauphin County

Senior Boy Scout Wyatt Zimmerman wanted to do something in his home township of West Hanover for his Eagle Scout project. After consulting with the township’s parks and recreation director, Zimmerman decided to construct horseshoe pits to replace those that had previously existed in a local park.

After receiving some basic skills training from his carpenter father, Zimmerman set to work organizing troop members and other volunteers to create regulation horseshoe pits.

The project involved:

- soliciting donations from local businesses;
- creating a work schedule for the participants;
- leveling the ground for the horseshoe pits;
- measuring, cutting, and building wooden boxes; and
- installing the new pits.

“Since I have completed the horseshoe pits,” Zimmerman said in his contest submission, “residents are using them and seem to be glad they are back and better than ever.”



## Mifflin County Junior High School Conservation Club – Derry Township, Mifflin County

The club members partnered with the Mifflin County Conservation District to plant trees along Kish Creek in Derry Township to help control erosion. Twenty students worked in the pouring rain to plant roughly 75 trees and install other forms of erosion control on the stream-banks.

The work included:

- creating work groups to speed up the planting;
- digging holes for trees and trenches for shrubs and other plants; and
- mulching around the new plantings.

“We learned what a healthy stream looks like,” the group’s contest submission explained, “and how the work will continue to benefit many for years to come.”



## Mahoning Valley Community 4-H Club – Mahoning Township, Carbon County

The 4-H Club partnered with the Mahoning Valley Lions Club to put on the annual low-cost rabies vaccine clinic for residents at McCalls Farm in Mahoning Township. Pet owners were able to have their animals vaccinated for just \$10. Proceeds from the event are donated to two local animal shelters.

Club members helped perform various tasks before and during the clinic, including:

- setting up tents, tables, and chairs and roping off parking areas;
- helping residents complete registrations and handing out tags;
- assisting owners with multiple pets by carrying cages or holding leashes;
- distributing chew toys; and
- providing water to keep the animals hydrated.

“This event is important to many area families who need to update their pets’ rabies vaccinations but are on fixed incomes,” read the group’s contest submission. “We have families from Carbon, Monroe, and Schuylkill counties coming back year after year.”



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