

PSATS Youth Awards Contest



BY **BRENDA WILT** / ASSISTANT EDITOR

Four youth organizations have won recognition in PSATS' 2016 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 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 2016 contest next spring to county associations, member townships, Boy and Girl Scout councils, school districts, 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. Townships may also go to www.psats.org, choose the "Programs & Services" tab, and click on "PSATS Award Programs."

Highlights of the winning projects follow. ♦



Kids Can Make a Change, Bucks County

The group initiated the "GO BLUE" project to support local law enforcement and honor fallen officers. Activities included:

- distributing more than 1,500 free blue lightbulbs to Northampton Township residents for display at homes during the month of May;
- designing a 4-foot by 8-foot banner reading "We Support You" that has been signed by members of the community and displayed at several locations in the township;
- promoting the Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) blue ribbon campaign in May; and
- designing and selling T-shirts reading "Back the Blue."



Boy Scout Troop 10, Chester County

Eagle Scout candidate Nick Dinsmore led the troop in designing and installing a rain garden next to the Franklin Township municipal building to collect and infiltrate the runoff from the building’s roof. The project involved:

- laying out the parameters of the garden, removing the sod, and tilling the ground to prepare it for planting;
- planting native perennials in the garden;
- creating a rock-lined trench to connect the downspouts from the municipal building to the rain garden; and
- constructing a bench, bluebird house and attached feeder, and an educational sign to teach visitors about how rain gardens help with stormwater control.



Boy Scout Troop 44, Chester County

Eagle Scout candidate Steven Yannucci spearheaded a project to create a playground in the multimunicipal Oxford Area Recreational Park. The work involved:

- clearing the site of sod and constructing a wooden perimeter;
- placing a weed barrier on the cleared ground;
- installing prefab playground equipment and constructing a tire “ladder;” and
- mulching the site.



Pittston Area High School National Honor Society/ Boy Scout Troop and Pack 316, Luzerne County

These two groups joined to participate in a community cleanup in Jenkins Township, which included:

- removing litter and debris from an area creek;
- picking up trash and litter along the road running adjacent to the creek;
- successfully disposing of 175 bags of trash, along with tires, scrap metal, and other large debris.

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