

## PSATS Youth Awards Contest

40<sup>TH</sup>  
YEAR!

BY **BRENDA WILT** / ASSISTANT EDITOR

Four groups have won recognition in PSATS' 2018 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 — 40 years ago — 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 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](mailto:bwilt@psats.org). Townships may also go to [www.psats.org](http://www.psats.org), choose the "Programs & Services" tab, and click on "PSATS Award Programs."

Highlights of the winning projects follow. ♦



### **Kutz Elementary QUEST Team Doylestown Township, Bucks County**

The group of 4th- and 6th-grade students wrote and produced a documentary to commemorate Doylestown Township's bicentennial. The students conducted research and scouted the community for shooting locations. The work included:

- identifying historical sites and milestone events to create a timeline;
- selecting community leaders for on-camera interviews;
- developing storyboards and green screen backgrounds;
- writing scripts and selecting B-roll footage and township images; and
- filming and editing the finished product.

To view the video, go to <https://youtu.be/BWnTXNGrXwc>.



**Boy Scout Troop 310  
Brady Township, Butler County**

The troop, led by Eagle Scout candidate Jackson Novak, painted the township office, which is housed in a 19<sup>th</sup>-century one-room schoolhouse. The project involved:

- using a pressure washer to clean all exterior surfaces;
- scraping loose paint off the old wood siding; and
- painting the exterior walls and trim.

The project not only spruced up the township office but also helped preserve a historical landmark in the community.



**Girl Scout Troop 24142  
Salem Township, Westmoreland County**

Silver Award candidate Rebecca Shissler

created a veterans memorial garden at a local cemetery. The memorial includes a granite bench decorated with a design that Shissler drew, a 25-foot flagpole, inscribed pavers, a decorative garden, and an outdoor bulletin board/information kiosk. The project included:



- meeting with local government officials, business owners, veterans groups, and the cemetery board for approval and advice;
- soliciting community donations of more than \$3,700;
- working with the cemetery director to identify the graves of 243 veterans and create a color-coded map of the gravesites for the information kiosk; and
- helping to plan a dedication and invocation ceremony for the completed memorial, with the whole troop in attendance.



**Boy Scout Troop 284  
Fairview Township, York County**

Led by Eagle Scout candidate Travis White, the troop installed a split-rail fence and four bluebird houses at a township park. A meeting with the township engineer alerted White that the park needed a fence to protect park visitors when part of the park is used for overflow parking during large events. Project activities included:

- setting posts in holes that had been excavated by a contractor and then leveling, bracing, and centering the posts;
- securing the rails to the posts;
- backfilling the holes with dirt;
- building four bluebird houses and mounting them on posts; and
- seeding and mulching the disturbed areas around the fence and birdhouse posts.



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