

Good Works

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organization's highest honors, the Bronze, Silver and Gold awards, which are organized by age group as girls progress through school and are then awarded to a troop as a whole. "The troop chooses a problem to solve, they research a solution and then spread the word," says Stefanie Ellis, director of marketing and communications for Girls Scouts of Western Washington (girlscoutsww.org). "And the solution needs to be sustainable."

One Silver-award-winning troop from Bothell shares its story. "Some of our classmates worry about food," says Amelie, 14, of Troop 44043. "The problem to solve was access to healthy, organic food." The troop (which also includes members Chloe, Katie and Julie) researched options and ideas for a portable, effective and affordable self-build greenhouse design, one small enough for apartment dwellers



Girl Scout Troop 44043 debuts its greenhouse design

to use on a porch or near a window.

Using proceeds from selling Girl Scout Cookies and a grant from the Society of Women Engineers (swe.org), the girls were able to create prototypes, construct a final sample greenhouse, design and print how-to flyers, and conduct a final workshop for residents of an apartment complex.

Boy Scouts of America (Scouts BSA)

The Boy Scouts of America (which now welcomes girls, too) is a long-standing service-based organization for kids. Like Girl Scouts, Scouts BSA participants earn merit badges through service, the highest merit being the Eagle Scout badge, an award that is the result of many hours of service, not just a single project.

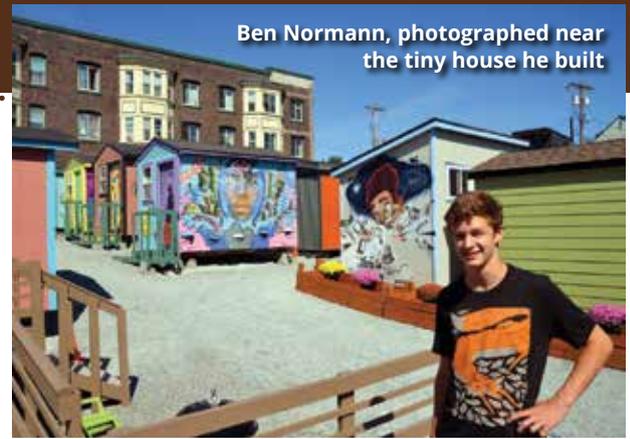
The experiences of two Seattle-area youths provide good examples of how scouts identify an area of need and work to find a way to provide a long-term solution. To

shelter a homeless member of our community, Ben Normann, 16, of

Troop 166, built a tiny house for installation in the Tiny Cabins Safe Harbor Interbay Village; the structure, which was constructed with the help of 32 volunteers and funded with nearly \$3,000 in donations, was completed this past January.

Finn Pettit, 17, of Troop 100, built a 50-foot boardwalk segment as part of a trail improvement project in Discovery Park.

Both scouts worked with adult mentors and local agencies to steward their projects. They raised money, procured material donations and organized volunteers. And how has this service changed their lives? "I hope to build another tiny house between my senior year and college," says Normann.



Ben Normann, photographed near the tiny house he built

National Wildlife Federation

For tweens and younger kids looking to start a sustainable service project, the National Wildlife Federation (NWF; nwf.org) offers a nationally recognized NWF Wildlife Habitat certificate through its Kids Garden for Wildlife program. "Certificates are their jam!" says Courtney Sullivan, senior manager for the organization's western regional education programs.

Children as young as toddlers can initiate (with help from a parent, caregiver or teacher) the planting and maintenance of a small habitat garden to attract wildlife to an urban setting. Not only does a certified space join the national registry of such critical corridors of urban habitat, but the child earns a plaque to display and credit for service hours, either through their school or NWF. ■



Gardens attract all kinds of wildlife — even children!

Bryony Angell loves nature, art and mid-century architecture, and can find a way to connect all three to parenting.

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