

# President's Volunteer Service Award



Recognition by City Council of Palo Alto  
Monday, April 22, 2024

Presented by:

Mora Oommen, Executive Director and  
Emma Cao, PVSA Recipient and  
Gunn High School Student



*elevates youth voice*

*to raise community connection and equity through service.*

- Founded in 1990
- Grateful for support from the City of Palo Alto
- Programs in San Mateo and Santa Clara County
- Support service learning in over 65 Bay Area schools
- Partner with over 250 local community organizations
- Join us for Summer of Service
  - High School Students
  - Free

GROWING OUR

**impact**

2022-23



**12,829**  
participants



**60,921**  
hours of service



**20,040**  
hours

**168**  
PVSA applicants

# Why should youth apply for the PVSA?



POINTS OF LIGHT



**AmeriCorps**

- To honor and recognize dedication to community service!
- Earning a PVSA shows future schools and employers that serving others and your community is one of your core values, as well as proves you will honor commitments and follow through as promised.
- Earning a PVSA encourages your friends and community members to also serve.
- Read more about the PVSA on the YCS website:  
<https://youthcommunityservice.org/presidents-volunteer-service-award/>

# Begin your PVSA Journey!

- ★ Service must be completed within any 12-month period, such as July 1 through June 30
- ★ Anyone age 5+ can apply

Awards are based on the student's age and the number of service hours completes, according to these specifications from the Point of Light Foundation:

## Hours Required to Earn Awards in Each Age Group

Age Group	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Kids (5–10 years old)	26–49 hours	50–74 hours	75+ hours
Teens (11–15)	50–74 hours	75–99 hours	100+ hours
Young Adults (16–25)	100–174 hours	175–249 hours	250+ hours
Adults (26+)	100–249 hours	250–499 hours	500+ hours



*elevates youth voice*

*to raise community connection and equity through service.*

## President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA)

Certified by Youth Community Service (YCS)

In academic year 2023-34

Youth living in Palo Alto or enrolled at PAUSD

The PVSA is a National Award program that honors individuals whose service positively impacts communities and inspires those around them to take action.

- 75 students in middle and high school are recognized by President Biden
- Dedicated over 11,700 hours of service
- 152 community organizations such as DreamCatchers, VA Medical Center Palo Alto, Palo Alto Humane Society, Magical Bridge and many more.

Let's Celebrate our Youth!



# Smriti

## PVSA Bronze Level

### Dream Catchers Tutor

Tutoring and working with the students taught me to approach problems from multiple perspective. I also loved building the personal connections.



Palo Alto  
Gunn High School / PAUSD  
Class of 2024



# Lucas Ji - PVSA Teen Gold

Messengers of Peace - BSA  
YCS Club

Getting the PVSA award put me through a lot of new experiences. I worked in food banks, worked backstage, taught others english, and even led my own project. Learning these new skills while impacting others for the better is truly something special.



JLS Middle School (PAUSD)  
Palo Alto, CA  
Class of 2028

# Angela - PVSA Gold & Bronze

## Volunteer Organizer for the “Peace Love Unity” Youth Art Contest

Seeing young children passionate for art in STEM-focused Silicon Valley has made all my paper cuts beyond worth it. I'm also glad that they have a chance to express themselves so much at a young age.

Los Altos Hills  
Gunn High School / PAUSD  
Class of 2024



Omniware  
Networks





# Hannah Vu

## PVSA Gold Level

GISSV Summer Camp Volunteer



German International School  
of Silicon Valley

MOUNTAIN VIEW | SAN FRANCISCO

Each kid had different needs so I learned how to be flexible and patient throughout my time at the camp. I had a blast helping out the teachers and even participating in some of the activities the kids were doing.

Palo Alto, CA  
Gunn High School / PAUSD  
Class of 2026

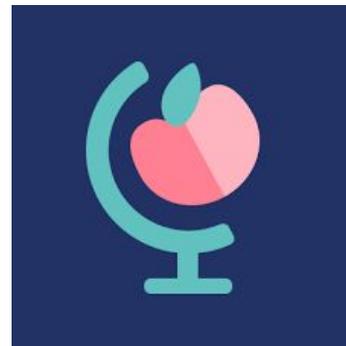


# Stephen

## PVSA Silver Level

Academic Center / SAT Tutor

The many peers I taught come from diverse backgrounds. Their resilience in the face of adversity inspires me to work harder. I feel honor and pride helping them achieve their goals and will continue to serve my community with my strengths.



Palo Alto, CA  
Gunn High School / PAUSD  
Class of 2025

# Tingrun (Rayla) C.

PVSA Teen Gold Level

Palo Alto VA Transport Department Volunteer



Palo Alto, CA

Henry M. Gunn High School/PAUSD

Class of 2026



It has been an honor to serve those who have served the country at the Palo Alto VA and I look forward to helping out more veterans and working with others in the future!

# Zander Rosenzweig

## PVSA Gold Level

Camp Edmo Leader In Training  
Experienced YCS Volunteer



Working so closely with kids, helped me become more emotionally and physically present as well as grow as a communicator and leader. Volunteering with a variety of other organizations gave me a broad perspective on the needs of our community.



Palo Alto, California  
Gunn / PAUSD  
Class of 2025



# Adi Sharma

## PVSA Gold Level

Manovikas Home of Hope

The volunteering I do is teaching. When I do these sessions it makes me feel very good in the sense that I'm helping others and not just to benefit myself for service hours. I was inspired by the mission of Home of Hope to help underprivileged kids, who were Indian just like me, become smarter people. Knowing I could be a part of that was a huge reason I wanted to join.



Palo Alto, CA  
Gunn High School / PAUSD  
Class of 2025



# Rose

## Youth Connect

Young Adult Bronze + Public Health +  
National Day of Service + Hear the Queer

Connecting with the larger bay area community through events and volunteering has enabled me to learn so much about others and in the process helped me find my voice. Now I understand the value of community engagement and taking direct action.



Palo Alto  
Notre Dame San Jose  
Class of 2025



# Krish

## PVSA Teen Gold Level

Jewish Community Center  
Counselor in Training team member

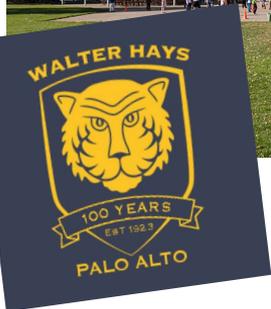
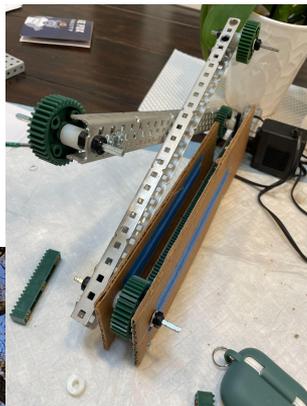
It was my privileged responsibility to ensure safety, lead team building, and facilitate fun and engaging programming for community kids. I learnt to manage tricky situations with good communication.



Palo Alto, CA  
Gunn High School / PAUSD  
Class of 2027

# Emma

*PVSA Silver Level*



**Walter Hays Summer School:  
Teacher-in-Training**



Palo Alto,  
CA

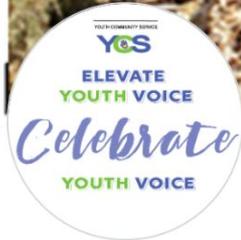
Gunn High  
School /  
PAUSD

Class of  
2024



**YCS Summer of Service:  
NDS Event Planning  
Track**





[www.youthcommunityservice.org](http://www.youthcommunityservice.org)