

## **Eagle Scout Blood Drives: Lend an Arm, Save a Life!**

*By Dominic Andrilla, Eagle Scout Candidate, Troop 582*

An Eagle Scout blood drive through the Puget Sound Blood Center (PSBC) is one of the least noticed but most needed service projects an Eagle Scout can do!

“Lend an Arm, Save a Life!” was the theme of the blood drive I held in partial completion of my Eagle Scout rank. The Puget Sound Blood Center needs volunteers to donate their time and effort to hold community blood drives.

My grandmother recently had cancer and needed transfusions at two separate times. Each one saved her life. This was my inspiration for running an Eagle Scout blood drive.

There are rumors that Eagle Scouts cannot do blood drives as a service project, but nothing could be further from the truth. Actually, in comparison to normal blood drives, Eagle Scout blood drives are seen as the pinnacle of excellence.

The requirements for an Eagle blood drive are substantially higher than that for a regular blood drive. The Eagle candidate must get a minimum of 50 donors, which is almost double the size of a regular blood drive. There is also an added requirement that 30% must be first time donors.

Eagle candidates who do blood drives as their service projects receive extensive training in HIPPA rules, computer registration, and inner workings of the PSBC. They show leadership by directing a team of scouts to do donor recruitment, calling, as well as taking scouts on a tour of the PSBC blood processing facility.

These are all useful skills for any scout with an interest in a career in medicine, and these are issues regular blood drive organizers are not required to do.

Since each unit of blood saves 3 lives, an Eagle Scout Drive at the bare minimum saves 150 lives! Imagine saving 150 lives for your Eagle project, and eating free cookies! Now that's how you do a good turn daily!

### **For more information in King County call:**

1. Madeline Haydon (N. Recruitment Team) - 425-462-4394
2. Cecily Nagel (S. Recruitment Team) - 206-444-2959
3. Other counties, call the PSBC at: 1-800-Donate-1

I am happy to talk to any scout considering an Eagle Blood Drive, my home phone is 425-486-4251.

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