

University of Arizona Freshman Already Living His Dream Job Says Scouting Led Him to Work with US Justice Department Lawyers



Pictured from left to right is Andrew Pongratz, Dev Ramdya, and Annamaria Pongratz (one of the first female Eagle Scouts in southern Arizona) at the first awards ceremony that girls were allowed into Scouting.

TUCSON, ARIZ (January 3, 2023) – With a dream to be a lawyer, Andrew Pongratz, a University of Arizona freshman, is already assisting attorneys on cases for the US Department of Justice. At 18-years-old, and a semester of college under his belt, the PPEL major – \Philosophy, Politics, Economics, and Law – attributes much of this opportunity to his experience as an Eagle Scout, where he learned valuable leadership and organizational skills. Eagle Scout is the highest honor in Scouting achieved by only 3 percent of all Scouts.

“I have been able to take my skills learned in Scouting and apply them to the real world. From college life to work life, to understanding our changing world, Scouting has given me the abilities to lead with compassion and understanding, and to always put my community and my country before myself,” said Andrew Pongratz.

Pongratz has contributed over 392 hours to philanthropic activities through Troop 007 of the Catalina Council, BSA—not only toward his Eagle Scout service project where he built and installed new shelves for the BASIS Tucson North school theater—but to countless other initiatives working with various nonprofits and food drives. For the last few years, he has volunteered to help Catalina Council, BSA with event marketing and web maintenance for their website, catalinacouncil.org.

Accomplishments run in the Pongratz family; Andrew’s sister, Annamaria (20), made history in 2021 when she became one of the first female Eagle Scouts in southern Arizona. She contributed 253 hours to her service project where she led a team that built a shade ramada out of ocotillo and mesquite along the Arizona Trail. She now studies Landscape Architecture at the University of Arizona’s College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (CAPLA) and works for their main office. “My whole family does Scouting, so it’s something that’s always been very important to us,” said Pongratz.

About Catalina Council, BSA

The Catalina Council, BSA is a nonprofit organization that has been serving youth in Southern Arizona for over 100 years and offers development programs for young people from Kindergarten to age 21. In 2022, 92 Scouts reached the highest rank in Scouting (Eagle Scout), 92 different service projects were completed for 79 different beneficiaries within the Tucson community, 16,692 hours were contributed, and 1,974 volunteers participated. For additional information, visit catalinacouncil.org.

The Catalina Council, BSA is looking for sponsors for the Eagle Scout Recognition event on February 11, 2023 at the Pima Air & Space Museum. If you would like to support the recognition of these young Eagle Scouts for their volunteer work in the community, please contact Tracey Smalling at tracey.smalling@scouting.org.

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