



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®  
SILICON VALLEY MONTEREY BAY COUNCIL



# 16<sup>th</sup> Annual **Character Awards**

Thursday  
September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Congratulations to our 2021 Honorees!**

To benefit Scouting Programs of the Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council, Boy Scouts of America



# About the Character Awards

The Character Awards spotlight community leaders who have been selected by their peers because of the impact they've made in their community, which personifies what Scouting stands for – good citizenship and service to others.

Proceeds from the Character Awards benefit the delivery and growth of Scouting in our local community through our four programs: Cub Scouts (for youth Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> grade), Scouts BSA (11-18 years old), Venturing & Sea Scouts (14-20), and Career Exploring (14-20).

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# 16<sup>th</sup> Annual **Character Awards**

## **HONORING**

Lissa Kreisler  
Mark Schroeder  
Edith Ramirez  
Bob Wedig  
LaDoris Cordell

Wednesday, September 29th, 2021  
Blanco Urban Venue

***"The real way to gain happiness  
is by giving it to others"***

– Lord Robert Baden-Powell,  
Founder of Scouting



# 2021 Executive Message

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*Thank you for joining us tonight as we celebrate our five deserving honorees with the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Character Awards.*

We are thrilled to come together to celebrate five deserving honorees with the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Character Award. Lissa, Mark, Edith, Bob, and LaDoris embody the very essence of strong character, community service and dedication toward positive growth and change. We are excited to share their stories with all of you. They have each paved the way for today's youth, our future leaders. Some have served in the spotlight, others behind the scenes; and each of them is a voice for those without one; always putting others first. We gather tonight for them, and to acknowledge the need for positive role models for the youth in our community.

The Character Awards Event plays an important role for our council as it raises funds and awareness for our diverse set of programs that instill character and life skills in youth from age 5 through 20. Scouting's unique partnership with families, community organizations, schools, and public agencies draws on all corners of the community to use the Scouting curriculum to help every child to become the best version of themselves.

While the last couple of years have been a challenging time for our community and world, Scouting was an opportunity for kids to stay connected, to serve their community and shape the future. The 10,129 youth and nearly 4,000 volunteers that participated in Scouting locally in 2020 are the face of our community who follow in the footsteps of role models like our Character Award Honorees.

For 16 years, the Character Awards event has raised awareness and provided necessary resources for outreach programs, Career Exploring, and grass-roots efforts to bring Scouting to all youth with a focus on diversity, equity and inclusion. We are proud to be a leader in the nation in recruiting girls to the traditional Cub Scout and Scouts BSA programs. Since these programs became available in 2018 and 2019 to girls, our local council has doubled the percentage of females in Scouting. These young ladies now have the same

opportunities their male peers have had for a century to experience adventure and leadership skills through teamwork. Many have, or will soon, earn and carry with them for life, the Eagle Scout rank.

Locally, the Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council, Boy Scouts of America provides adult role models for youth, much like tonight's honorees, who provide an ideal learning experience for youth. Preparing young people for life, Scouting makes the most of right now. It builds positive character and provides youth a foundation they can stand on to embrace opportunity, overcome obstacles, and make new discoveries.

Now, more than ever, is our opportunity to instill in all young people the character traits of confidence, resilience, trustworthiness, courage and resilience.

As we prepare the leaders of the future, we applaud tonight's leaders – Lissa, Mark, Edith, Bob, and LaDoris – as they are leading the way for our community and especially our youth.

Thank you for joining us in the celebration.

**Sincerely,**



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark Lazzarini".

**Mark Lazzarini**  
Council President



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Carmen Fuller".

**Carmen Fuller**  
Council Commissioner



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jason Stein".

**Jason Stein**  
CEO/Scout Executive

# 2021 Program

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## **5:30 - 6:30 PM**

Dinner & Cocktail Reception on the Rooftop & Mezzanine

## **6:30 - 8:00 PM**

Character Award Program in the Great Room  
(with limited outdoor screen viewing on the Mezzanine)

### **MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

Cindy Chavez,  
*Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors*

### **SCOUTING UPDATE**

Mark Lazzarini  
*President, Board of Directors*  
*Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council, Boy Scouts of America*

### **YOUTH SPEAKER**

Mariana Ryder  
*First Class Scout, Troop 117*

### **AWARDS AND RESPONSES**

Lissa Kreisler  
Mark Schroeder  
Edith Ramirez  
Bob Wedig  
LaDoris Cordell

## **8:00 - 9:00 PM**

Dessert under the stars on the Rooftop

# Master Of Ceremonies

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## Cindy Chavez

### **Supervisor, District 2 County of Santa Clara**

Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez represents more than a half million people in East, Central and South San Jose. She has held this public office since August 2013 and been re-elected twice to full terms.



Regionally, she serves as Chair of Bay Area Air Quality Management District and is a member of the CalTrain Board of Directors, playing a leadership role in the electrification of Caltrain and planning for high-speed rail. She is also a commissioner representing Santa Clara County on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and serves on the Valley Transportation Authority Board of Directors.

Her policies include getting Covid vaccines into the arms of all Santa Clara County residents, improved services for physically and sexually abused children under one roof at the new Children's Advocacy Center; more comprehensive help and resources for our foster youth; expansive, structural changes to digital and broadband services for Santa Clara County's school children in disadvantaged areas, and health care for all children.

In August 2020 our country celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's right to vote. During the last three years Board President Chavez mobilized women to use the anniversary as an opportunity to register women to vote and get accurate Census 2020 numbers. Before the pandemic hit, she organized a march through downtown to bring attention to the importance of the anniversary now including women of color and the inequities that still exist.

Board President Chavez along with many of our non-profits in Santa Clara County led an unprecedented movement to get a 400 percent increase in funding for survivors of sexual assault, human trafficking and gender-based violence. The goal is for the services to help change the trajectory of women's lives in the areas of affordable housing, mental health, job training, education and child care.

She worked tirelessly with the district attorney, the crime lab and law enforcement to expediate the process of rape kits to 30 days.

She is responsible for much of the affordable housing in Santa Clara County by getting a \$950-million affordable housing bond passed in 2016 with several already open or under construction. Next month the affordable housing units for seniors will open in San Jose.

Cindy received the Character Award from the Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council, Boy Scouts of America in 2019. She and her husband Mike Potter live in the Naglee Park neighborhood of San Jose where they raised their son who is now in college.

# From a Scout's Perspective

Mariana Ryder

**First Class Scout, Troop 117, San Jose, CA**

Mariana Ryder is a sophomore at the Harker School. She is active within the musical theatre program, currently playing the role of Ursula in *Much Ado About Nothing*. When she is not playing or teaching the violin and guitar, she is enhancing her debate skills or studying her sixth language. Mariana joined Scouts BSA as soon as they started welcoming girls in early 2019. She is a founding member of Troop 117 chartered by the Rotary Club of San Jose. Currently, she is the Senior Patrol Leader.

She joined because she was seeking to broaden her experiences and challenge herself in new environments. She had always loved the outdoors and hoped to gain proficiency in the non-academic realm.

Some of the adventures she's been on with her troop include backpacking trips, canoeing, and Camp Hi-Sierra.

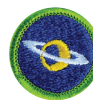
Recently she discovered the Personal Finance Merit badge and says it teaches scouts about planning and money management, necessary life skills she estimates one might not learn in school.



A few of the other areas Mariana has had the chance to explore through the Merit Badge program include: Music, Orienteering, Painting, Swimming, Art, Astronomy, Citizenship in the World, Communications, Energy, Fingerprinting, Metalwork, Kayaking, and Leatherwork.

She hopes to show her gratitude to her school and community, both of which have given her countless opportunities, by contributing to their numerous accomplishments.

After high school, Mariana's ambition is to pursue an education in public policy, law, and international affairs while continuing in her language studies.



# 2021 Character Awards Dinner Committee & Champions

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Suzanne Wolf

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## Special Thanks to our Black Shirt Crew

**This group of volunteers provided audio  
and visual technology for tonight's program.**



David Rigmaiden • Neal Osborn • Mark Fisher  
Stephen Fisher • Stan Searing • Ron Salvasser

Not pictured: Randy Christensen, Noah Lerner

# 2021 Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council Boy Scouts of America

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*\*District Chairperson*

*\*\*Local Council Representatives to the National Council*



# Council Highlights



**10,129 youth** served in 2020 in Scouting programs across four counties: Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey.

**4,240 boys and girls** ages 5-10 participated in **Cub Scouts** in 132 Packs with their families. They made friends, went on adventures, discovered new skills and experienced the joy of serving others.

**4,842 girls and boys** ages 11-18 participated in **Scouts BSA** in 163 Troops. They developed as leaders, served their community, went on adventures with friends and honed life skills.



**229 high school youth** took adventure to the next level in **Venturing and Sea Scouts**. They planned and executed their own adventures, explored hobbies, and worked together to make an impact in their communities.

**818 young adults** ages 14-20 discovered potential careers in **Career Exploring**. In partnership with Public Service & Safety Agencies, Hospitals, and Engineering firms, students design their own program and work with adult mentors to explore many aspects of their future careers.



**327 youth** earned the highest rank of Eagle Scout, a distinction of a leadership and strong character that will stay with them for life.

**14 young women** earned the rank of **Eagle Scout for the first time in history**, joining the Inaugural Class of Female Eagle Scouts.

Scouts improved the community with **130,000+ hours** of service projects.

**1,650 Scouts** experienced summer or day camp after a year of pandemic isolation.

The quality programs and life shaping experiences were delivered by **3,986 dedicated volunteers**.



# Historical Honorees

## 2020

Nuria Fernandez\*\*

Chuck Reed\*\*

Marianne Salas\*\*

*\*\*These outstanding individuals accepted the honor of Character Awards selection during the pandemic.*

## 2019

Tom Bondi

Cindy Chavez

Cindy Faulkner

Jay Ross

## 2018

Raj Chahal

David Ginsborg

Tony Mirenda

Elizabeth Monley

## 2017

Brad Baron

Kelly Dippel

Pam Foley

Mark Lazzarini

Reverend Gerald Sakamoto

## 2016

Dan Bozzuto

Andrew Ratermann

Emily Ruvalcaba

Ernie Yamane

Fernando Zazueta

## 2015

Larry Kuechler

Michael S. Malone

Leah Toeniskoetter

Bernie Vogel

## 2014

Brian Adams

Ned Barnholt

Debra Figone

Connie Martinez

Richard M. Noack

*\*Deceased*

## 2013

Ed Chang

Dick Conniff

Dr. Gloria Duffy

Phil Sims\*

Yosh Uchida

## 2012

Steve Guerrero

Richard Lowenthal

Larry Stone

Kim Walesh

## 2011

Jennifer Andaluz

Rich Braugh

Rod Diridon, Sr.

Greg Jamison

Otto Lee

## 2010

Russell Hancock

Richard Holden

Sandra Moll

G. Jeffrey Moore

Adolph Quilici\*

## 2009

Pat Dando\*

Judge Leonard Edwards

Valerie Nicoletti\*

Peter Ziebelman

## 2008

Rich Brenner

Shirley Lewis\*

Julie Matsushima

Roland Pierre-Dixon

## 2007

Dennis Brach

Rob Davis

Rod Diridon, Jr.

David Heagerty\*

Larry Pederson\*

## 2006

Don Allen

Jose Esteves

John Hopkins

Henry Huong Le\*

Leigh Weimers\*

# Honoree

## Lissa Kreisler



Lissa was raised in Silicon Valley, where she attended San Jose State University, majoring in TV and journalism. Her broadcasting career started with an internship for KLOK while still attending SJSU. After graduating, she was hired on at KLOK to write the morning news and to edit the afternoon radio program. Her career expanded from this point on, and she worked with KLOK until they were sold ten years later.

After her stint at KLOK, she started her career with KBAY. She joined KBAY radio in 1988 and soon became the morning's most spirited wake up call for more than 300,000 daily commuters. She covered the daily news, decided the four-hour show content and wrote and voiced commercials with an emphasis on endorsement.

Lissa shared many wonderful stories about people she's had the opportunity to interview as well as historic event coverage (both good and bad).

In a recent interview, Lissa reflected:

"I was there for the most tragic of events...the Challenger explosion, the Loma Prieta earthquake, the Oklahoma City bombings, and 9-11. (I was) actually on the air when 3 of the 4 occurred. My on-air presence was always about "talking to a friend." I was very conversational and that's how I coped on the air. I never lost control, but I let my emotion show. I think listeners always knew how I felt whether I said it in words, or in expression or sometimes even with tears. I never hid my feelings. I always considered myself a friend of my listeners and thought of myself talking to them face to face. So, I covered these tragedies as if I was sitting with my best friend, sharing the news in a very personal way."

Lissa demonstrated her true character with courage and optimism when her career at KBAY unexpectedly came to an end. When asked about this in a recent interview, Lissa responded:

"I was about to start my 30<sup>th</sup> year there. KBAY was my second family, my life, and my identity. I had planned to retire at KBAY in 5 more years. I gave it my all every day at the station so there was no reason to think I wouldn't last 5 more years. I



was very active in the community. Thankfully I still am but up til then it was always 'Lissa Kreisler from KBAY.' People got both, the station and me. I wasn't sure how I was going to handle just being 'Lissa Kreisler.' And it was tough. I did a lot of crying (which I do anyway). I did a lot of 'poor me.' People told me that was ok. I deserved to feel bad.

Finally, one day I asked, 'What would Lissa Kreisler say to do?' And that was it! I pulled up my bootstraps. I started networking with anyone who wanted to see me. Coffees, lunches, wine. I eventually gained two pounds LOL. Then one day I met with Jim Reber, a lifelong community pal and he told me I had a story to share. He even named it: 'Decades of Sunny Mornings.'

I went on the talk circuit, talking to any service group that was interested. It was fabulous. I did it for a year. My son-in-law made me a website. I got business cards. KCAT-TV in Los Gatos called me in, and I now host 'Community Storytelling.' I have even returned to KBAY. Just wrapped up a commercial endorsement. Here I am today, as happy as can be!"

Lissa feels she has had—and continues to have—the best job ever. Lissa spent a collective 39 years in broadcasting; just 10 days shy of making it an even 40 years.

Lissa said that some of the best advice she received during her radio career was to go out in the community and work your hardest. She has been actively involved in her community for her entire career. Her service has included being on the Boards and Committees of American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, Presentation High School, Cancer CAREPoint, Happy Hollow Park and Zoo Foundation, Girl Scouts, and JW House.

In addition to her speaking engagements and work with KCAT, Lissa is currently a professional emcee for many non-profit events and galas.

Lissa is the mother of two adult daughters, and of course she was PTA president during their school years.

When asked about her hobbies and interests, Lissa says her grandchildren are her favorite special interests!

Lissa and her partner Jeff Blum reside in Los Gatos



# Honoree

## Mark Schroeder



Mark grew up in Fletcher Hills, CA—between El Cajon and San Diego—where he lived with his Mom, Dad, and younger sister, Suzanne. Mark joined Cub Scouts when he was in first grade and stayed in Scouting into High School. As a Cub Scout, Mark enjoyed making Pinewood Derby cars with his father. Mark also remembers a fun but unsuccessful snipe hunt as he transitioned from a Webelo into Scouting in Troop 360.

Mark achieved the rank of Life Scout at the age of 14 and thanks to his Mom, he still has all his merit badge cards and uniforms. As a Scout in Troop 360, he loved hiking, backpacking, float trips and white-water canoeing. Regular campouts were a big part of Troop 360. “The longer or tougher the hike, the better” seemed to be the Troop 360 motto. When he was 15, football, tennis, learning to drive and high school activities drew his attention away from Scouting.

Mark studied Mechanical Engineering at San Diego State University for two years before transferring to California State University at San Luis Obispo and earning a bachelor's degree in the field in 1987. While at Cal Poly, Mark and three other students designed, built and raced in SAE Mini Baja, winning 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 1987 SAE West competition as part of their senior project.

Mark's first engineering job after Cal Poly was with Watkins-Johnson in San Jose, where he engineered antenna systems. Then in 1990, he moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan for a position at Ford Motor Company. He left his mark with the design of bumper systems on two popular Ford models, the '93 Lincoln Mark VIII and the '95 Crown Victoria.

Mark's passion, however, was bicycles. In the summer of 1993, he left Ford to journey to Alaska where he and his best friend rode bicycles from Fairbanks, Alaska to Boulder, Colorado. At the end of 1993, he pivoted his engineering career to become a design engineer with Schwinn Bicycles at the newly relocated Schwinn headquarters in Boulder, Colorado. Mark eventually became the Engineering Director at Schwinn where—in addition to building and leading a small group of engineers—he engineered several iconic bike models of Homegrown, Sweet Spot, 4 Banger and Straight 6.

Mark moved to Specialized Bicycle Components to lead their Engineering Department in July 2002. As his colleague, Bob Margevicius, remembers of Mark on his first days in Morgan Hill (comments edited):





"Mark was Specialized when he walked into the building: smart, confident, engaging, and ambitious. Mark has approached his job with these qualities that describe his character. He is ethical, has integrity and personal values and morals, he is trustworthy and trusted. Mark is reliable. He is always there, on time and doing his best.

Mark is a great communicator. He is not afraid to speak up and express himself clearly. He is an outstanding listener. He is patient, waits his turn, listens, and reflects to others his points of view. Mark is cooperative and collaborative.

Mark has an exceptional sense of humor; he can relieve pressure with humor and make a difficult situation fun.

More than anything, Mark is passionate about everything he does. He has amazing energy and when you are around him, his passion is infectious.

Since joining Specialized Bicycles in 2002, Mark has built a global engineering team from an initial group of four to over 100 engineers and technicians. He led the entire global engineering team thru 2018 and he now focuses on directing the efforts of the Testing, Compliance, Quality & Manufacturing teams.

Mark has always played an active role in his community, and Scouting has been a big part of his life. He started as Den Leader for his son, Nils, in Cub Scout Pack 116, and he led the Den for 5 years.

When Nils joined Troop 116 as a Boy Scout, Mark attended Camp Hi-Sierra (CHS) as an adult leader and trained to become an Assistant Scoutmaster (ASM). He attended CHS for four years, leading the troop's efforts in the *Legends of Hi Sierra* program.

Mark has been Scoutmaster of Troop 116/117 for the past two years (2019-2021). He participated in the troop's first Philmont backpack adventure in 2019, a 50-mile backpacking trip in 2020, and another backpacking trip this past summer. Strict Covid protocols were in place.

During the Covid pandemic in 2020, Mark conceived and ran two new types of "socially distant" outdoor events: the downtown San Jose Mural hikes, and bike rides that involved multiple food stops! He recently stepped back to an ASM position where he continues to lead trips, advise on Eagle projects, and lead merit badge activities such as cycling and personal fitness.

Mark enjoys living in the downtown neighborhood of Naglee Park with his wife Sally, son Nils and daughter Meghan. They enjoy exploring San Jose for its growing collection of murals and bike trails, canoeing the Guadalupe River, and road biking in the nearby foothills. Mark supports many local community programs including Veggelution, Valley Verde, Second Harvest Food Bank, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, and Downtown Streets.





# Honoree

## Edith Ramirez



Edith Ramirez was born in Mexico City and immigrated to the United States at age 14, along with her mother and brothers, joining her father José Ramirez Carrillo who worked in the fields and canneries while the Ramirez family lived in Mexico. The 1980's amnesty program allowed her nine brothers and sisters to be reunited and pursue the American dream.

Edith graduated from Silver Creek High School and obtained a full scholarship to San Jose State University where she obtained a bachelor's degree in Political Science and later a master's in Public Administration from San Jose State University. While in college, Edith studied abroad in Bath,

England where she interned in the mayor's office, kickstarting her love for public service.

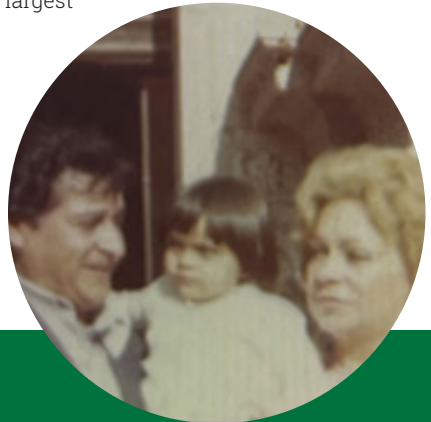
Edith has over 25 years of community, business and local government experience. She helps communities grow their economies by collaborating with businesses and generating or growing strategies to help create places where people want to work, live, and play.

Edith started her career in local government as a policy advisor and community relations manager for San Jose Vice Mayor Frank Fiscalini, who oversaw Council District 6, a community of 100,000 residents, 14 neighborhood associations and three business districts.

She spent eleven years with the San Jose Redevelopment Agency supporting Downtown Development, Project Management, and Industrial Development. Her experience at the Redevelopment Agency ranged from developing policies and regulations for the nighttime economy, to retail attraction and management of the largest business park in the city (home to more than 45 million square feet of business and many of the largest tech giants in Silicon Valley).

While in San Jose, Edith supported numerous efforts and participated in boards and organizations to support children's academic and sports programs at Lincoln High School, Horace Mann School and the Sangha at the San Jose Buddhist Church, Betsuin.

For the last ten years, Edith has shepherded the visioning and subsequent development of





the City of Morgan Hill's comprehensive economic development program to attract investment, leverage resources, create partnerships and raise awareness. Through skilled facilitation and the art of building community consensus, Edith has been a leader in the downtown renaissance that includes a Downtown

Placemaking Investment Strategy of \$25 million dollars, leveraging over \$100 million dollars of private investment in four years.

In addition, she championed an economic blueprint that will anchor the city's land use and investment decisions to achieve economic prosperity and fiscal sustainability.

Edith is active with the Silicon Valley Economic Development Alliance, the Urban Land Institute (ULI) and International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC). She serves on the Spur San Jose Policy Board, the San Jose Fairgrounds Management Corporation, and the Visit Morgan Hill Tourism Business Improvement District board.

Today, Edith is the Assistant City Manager for Development Services in Morgan Hill, leading the Planning, Building, Code Compliance, Housing and Economic Development functions of the City of Morgan Hill. She has been instrumental in supporting business recovery efforts during the Covid-19 pandemic, and in championing policies and practices to survive and thrive during these uncertain times.

Edith is a change agent and trail blazer, and is particularly passionate about working with the community and making room for everyone to have a seat at the table. She makes time in her busy professional and personal schedule to support youth by speaking and sharing her story at Morgan Hill Unified School District's Rock the Mock, volunteering and mentoring at the Puente program, and helping Spanish-speaking families learn how to become civically engaged.

Edith is married to Jerrod Grant and is the mother of three: two small children at home (Vanessa and Nathan Grant) and her adult son (Justin Grant) lives in Sacramento.



# Honoree

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## Robert Gerard Wedig



Bob Wedig grew up the fourth of eight children in Cincinnati, Ohio. His path to character development started when he first joined little league baseball. He was the smallest boy on the team called the Big "O"s. He does not remember what the "O" actually stood for but he remembers everyone calling them the "Big Out-makers." Bob quickly found out that he did not like baseball primarily because it involved competition and it meant that if he won, the other team lost and so somebody was going to go home unhappy. Bob wanted everyone to play together, have fun and go home happy.

Having failed at sports, Bob's parents signed him up for something that was less competitive: Cub Scouts. Bob thrived in Cub Scouts and he made bird houses, learned how to whittle, and played games with his buddies. He had a great time and everyone was a winner.

After Cub Scouts, Bob became a Boy Scout and he continued in scouting through high school, becoming the Senior Patrol Leader of his troop at age 13, and then Eagle Scout at age 16. In scouting, Bob learned leadership by being the Senior Patrol Leader, he learned to associate hard work with accomplishment and recognition, he learned a variety of subjects by earning merit badges, and he learned problem solving by facing physical and mental challenges out on the trail. What Bob did not know was that scouting was helping to prepare him for his life's career.

Bob graduated from the University of Dayton with a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. Wanting to continue his education by earning a master's degree, Bob felt confident enough to move to Fullerton, CA, to work while pursuing his master's in Electrical Engineering at USC. In moving to California, he had to solve many problems and he had to endure the hardship of getting adjusted to a completely different environment. But scouting had prepared him for this.

In the same way that Bob completed his journey in scouting by earning Eagle Scout, he decided to complete his educational journey by pursuing a PhD in Electrical Engineering at Stanford University. With his PhD in hand, Bob's first post-graduate job was as an assistant professor at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA. Bob did this for three years before deciding to take another leap by joining







a start-up company in Silicon Valley. He moved back to the Bay Area, but he was never able to actually become an employee before the company ran out of money.

Because of the confidence Bob gained in scouting he was not deterred, and he quickly found what he thought was a temporary job as a consultant advising lawyers in a copyright lawsuit involving computers. Bob found the job interesting and rewarding. After that first consulting job, more lawyers called, and with that Bob continued working in the Bay Area for over 30 years. He spent years studying and reverse engineering computers and providing advice—and, if necessary, providing courtroom testimony on whether one company was using the patents or copyrights of another company.

Bob has always said that it was not difficult being an expert witness once you learn a few basic principles. First, you have to know the technology at issue. Second, you have to have the confidence to take a position and hold the position you know is right. Finally, you have to be sure to always, always tell the truth. Again, Bob's scouting background provided him the necessary training he needed to do his job.

Bob has always made sure he knew the area he was asked to investigate. Scouting gave him a strong work ethic and he was sure to be very thorough in his investigation and to "be prepared" for all forms of questions that he may get. Scouting also provided Bob the confidence he needed in court to be able to testify on what he had studied and maintain and defend the opinions he gave. It was scouting that taught Bob how to communicate clearly through both his written reports and oral testimony. Finally, it was scouting that taught Bob the first Scout Law: "A scout is trustworthy." In court, both sides have an agenda in order to win. It is the expert's job to speak the truth and make sure the facts are clearly stated, regardless of who benefits. This is what Bob learned as a scout, it is how he practiced his career, and it is how he lives his life today.

Scouting has always been a big part of Bob's life, from the time he was very young. Now that he is retired, he is able to enjoy scouting even more by taking part in National and World Jamborees, and taking treks to Philmont, Northern Tier, and Sea Base. But more important than any jamboree or high adventure trek, Bob simply wants to help young people learn the same basic scout skills that have helped him to be successful in life.



# Honoree

## LaDoris Hazzard Cordell



LaDoris Hazzard Cordell, a 1971 graduate of Antioch College and a 1974 graduate of Stanford Law School, was the first lawyer to open a private law practice in East Palo Alto. In 1978, she was appointed Assistant Dean for Student Affairs at Stanford Law School, where she implemented a successful minority admissions program.

In 1982, Governor Jerry Brown appointed Ms. Cordell to the Municipal Court of Santa Clara County, making her the first African American woman judge in northern California. In 1988, Judge Cordell won election to the Superior Court of Santa Clara County.

After 19 years on the bench, she retired and began employment at Stanford University as Vice Provost and Special Counselor to the President for Campus Relations until 2009.

In November 2003, Judge Cordell, accepting no monetary donations, ran a grassroots campaign and won a four-year term on the Palo Alto City Council.

Judge Cordell has been an on-camera legal analyst for CBS-5 television and a guest commentator on Court TV and on MSNBC's "The Week with Joshua Johnson," and "The Mehdi Hasan Show." She has also interviewed several public figures before live audiences at the Commonwealth Club and at Stanford University. Her interviewees have included rapper Talib Kweli, reality TV star Kim Kardashian, *New York Times* columnist David Brooks, consumer advocate Ralph Nader, tennis star Billie Jean King, Professor Anita Hill, Amy Goodman of Democracy Now!, President Obama's Senior White House Advisor Valerie Jarrett, Lesly Stahl of "60 Minutes," Caitlyn Jenner, and Jesse Jackson.

Judge Cordell was the Independent Police Auditor for the City of San Jose for five years (2010-2015), having been appointed to that position after a national search. Under her leadership, the office gained national prominence.

In 2014, Judge Cordell chaired the Task Force on Racial Discrimination at San Jose State University in the aftermath of the racial bullying of an African American student. The Task Force made numerous recommendations to improve the racial atmosphere at the university.



In 2015, Judge Cordell was appointed Chairperson of the Blue Ribbon Commission that reviewed the conditions in the jails in Santa Clara County. Under her leadership, the Commission put forward several recommendations to improve the operation of the jails.

In 2015, Judge Cordell served on a Blue Ribbon Panel that reviewed operations of the San Francisco Police Department and made recommendations after the racist texting scandal involving several San Francisco Police officers came to light.

In 2020, Judge Cordell conducted an audit of the Public Safety Services Department of Santa Clara University in the aftermath of a racial incident that went viral, involving a Black female professor and campus officers. All of her recommendations to improve the Public Safety Services Department were adopted by the university.

In 2020, Judge Cordell was appointed to the San Francisco District Attorney's Innocence Commission to review cases of individuals who claim to have been wrongly convicted.

Judge Cordell and the ACLU of Northern California led the successful fight to lift the residents-only restriction for admission to the City of Palo Alto's Foothills Park. She is the co-founder of CA Parks for All (<https://www.caparksforall.org/advocate/>).

She was inducted into Stanford University's Multicultural Hall of Fame in 2016 and received the Chief Justice Earl Warren Civil Liberties Award from the ACLU of Northern California. In 2017, Judge Cordell was inducted into the Silicon Valley Black Legends Hall of Fame and received the Crystal Gavel Award from the California Association of Black Lawyers' Judicial Section.

Judge Cordell was featured in the February 2017 "Resistance" issue of *SF Magazine* (<https://medium.com/@sanfranmag/the-resistance-2716cbd2fa24#.1t1jifkdc>).

She is the co-founder the African American Composer Initiative, whose mission is to bring the music of Black composers, past and present, to the world ([www.aacinitiative.org](http://www.aacinitiative.org)). She is also a vocalist, pianist, and artist.

On October 5, 2021, Judge Cordell's memoir titled *Her Honor* will be released by Celadon, a division of Macmillan Publishing (<https://us.macmillan.com/books/9781250269584>).

Judge Cordell is the mother of two daughters and grandmother of five. She resides in Palo Alto with her partner Florence O. Keller.



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## Be Like Mark



Support these local organizations for San Jose,  
our environment, and our community



## Mama's Love

Our Mark seemed always to be able to go off to destinations "far away" -- and be able to accomplish the task he had gone for. Have to say -- he was raised "with much care" at home, along with his sister. These two were "the greatest joys". Went to Church every Sunday, and had good friends all along the way!!

Boy Scouts were a big part of his life, and seemed even more so as he grew older! They would take many wonderful trips! They had a wonderful one this summer!!

But....Mark seemed to have "a strength" that surprised and I was so happy about that for him!! He would call home from anywhere he traveled, and that was so great (I had no problem hearing him).



Mark,

You are the most fantastic big brother!! You have always supported me ... helping me with math homework when we were in school, coming home from college to take me to the Prom, planning special birthday celebration times, helping me move a couple of different times, being a wealth of information and just always wanting the best for me. Thank you for your kindness and love!!

Love,  
Suzanne

Thoughts from his Dad

What a fine son Mark has been! He always is working. I believe that makes him feel good. Mark always gave his parents so many things to be proud of. He is a person one can always depend on to finish his work.

Besides work, we've so enjoyed hearing him play his guitar and sing for us, when he visits. We so enjoy his barbecues when he visits now. Mark is so super, and I am so happy for him now. So love to hear his voice on the phone, great communicator! And, so much fun!



# CONGRATULATIONS TO EDITH RAMIREZ

The R.N.Little family and the City of Morgan Hill are excited and proud to congratulate Edith Ramirez for being a 2021 Boys Scouts of America Character Awards recipient.

Edith, your passion and commitment to the City of Morgan Hill, community, friends, and family are remarkable. We thank you for your leadership in creating a vision for tourism and placemaking efforts. Your ability to collaborate, create relationships, and attract businesses will enhance our community for many years to come.

We support your commitment to diversity, equality, and inclusiveness in our community and look forward to inviting everyone to the party, having everyone contribute to the playlist, and giving everyone the opportunity to dance.



# Thank You, Edith!

For Your Tireless Commitment  
to Our Community



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*From adventure to the red carpet, on this journey we call life, I'm so grateful to have you as my sister, partner and light.*



*Love you sister.  
Guisselle Nuñez*

***Congratulations Edith!***

*May your light  
continue to shine on all of us.*



*A special thank you to Ron Gonzales and Kelly Kline  
for their friendship to Edith and their support of this sponsorship.*





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*Congratulations Edith!*

Thank you for all you do to make our community thrive.

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Congratulations Bob!



From all your Scouting Friends

**With deep gratitude for all you have done  
and continue to do for Scouting,**

**Troop 582 congratulates Bob Wedig  
and all Character Award Recipients.**

*Madhu Bora*

*Ken Bower*

*Dave Holt*

*Camille Koch*

*Beth Leonard*

*Angel & Mike Maszy*

*Summer and Glenn Schiavo*

*Hongwei Wang*





# *Congratulations!*

# **BOB WEDIG**

*From your time in Cub Scouts to the National Jamboree, your dedication to Scouting at all levels has shaped the future of thousands of youth.*



*You are a treasured member of the Board of Directors and wise advisor to the future of Scouting.*



## ***Thank you for your service.***



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# MEMORANDUM

To: **Hon. LaDoris Cordell**

From: **McManis + Faulkner**

*You're the best!*

**Jim McManis**

Congratulations to the 2021  
Class of Character Award Honorees:

**Edith Ramirez, Lissa Kreisler, Bob Wedig,  
Mark Schroeder, and LaDoris Cordell**

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# Congratulations

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LaDoris Cordell,

for your lifelong commitment  
to opposing injustice, while  
breaking numerous race  
& gender barriers!



Sincerely,

*Larry Stone*  
Assessor



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2021  
CLASS OF CHARACTER AWARD  
HONOREES:

**EDITH RAMIREZ, LISSA  
KREISLER, BOB WEDIG,  
MARK SCHROEDER  
AND LADORIS CORDELL**

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### ► SCOUT OATH ◄

**On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God  
and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other  
people at all times; to keep myself physically strong,  
mentally awake, and morally straight.**

### ► SCOUT LAW ◄

**A Scout Is:**

**Trustworthy • Loyal • Helpful • Friendly • Courteous • Kind  
Obedient • Cheerful • Thrifty • Brave • Clean • Reverent**



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