

SCVNews.com | SCVi Student, Historical Society Volunteer To Be Honored

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Jessica Boyer

[KHTS] – An SCVi Charter School student and Santa Clarita Boy Scout is making history and preserving it at the same time.

Evan Decker, who at 17 is also the assistant executive director of the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society, is being named Los Angeles County Youth Volunteer of the Year for his work on historic projects, such as St. Francis Dam and the Hart Park property.

The SCVi senior is the only youth to ever be nominated by William S. Hart Mansion officials for the countywide award, said Tina Decker, Evan Decker’s mom.

“I’m very humbled. I started volunteering in the eighth grade,” Evan Decker said. “All of these buildings are a part of our history and need to be persevered in such a way that future generations can enjoy them.”

Evan Decker has a lengthy list of projects he has worked on to preserve historic locations in the Santa Clarita Valley — from working on the St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Act to restoring historic homes in the William S. Hart Park Heritage Junction, the William S. Hart Mansion and Mentryville.

“I’m excited for him. He has a huge dedication for both the Historical Society and the Hart museum. He loves our city’s history and has been volunteering at both for several years now,” Tina Decker said. “He will be 18 years old in May. He has been volunteering with the museum since he was 16 and he’s been volunteering with the Historical Society since he was 14.”

Evan Decker is expected to graduate from SCVi in May, plans to continue his education at College of the Canyons and study museum collections and museum curating, Tina Decker said.

“He’s excited to go out and start pursuing his passions,” she said. “I know he’ll still be volunteering at both the museum and the historical society.”

Evan Decker’s latest project is part of his Eagle Project for Boy Scouts.

“My Eagle (Scout) project is working on the old Newhall Ranch House that used to be on the left side of Magic Mountain,” Evan Decker said. “I’m rebuilding the front stairs and making it match the building.”

“We at SCVi & iLEAD Charter Schools are incredibly proud of Evan Decker’s accomplishment and congratulate. He is a dedicated and passionate young man. We are grateful that our schools have been able to help him find his passion through some of our programs,” said Amber Raskin, Founder & Co-Executive Director, SCVi & iLEAD Charter Schools. “He began volunteering in 8th grade and then



Decker (on staircase) at the Hart Mansion.

really found his calling when he did his personal project in 10th grade to restore Mentryville. SCVi & iLEAD Charter Schools is dedicated to providing opportunities for students to discover their passion for making the world a better place.”

Tune in to KHTS AM 1220 to listen to Morning Drivetime DJ George Cummings interview Evan Decker at 7:10 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 20.



Mentryville ghost town in Pico Canyon, west of Stevenson Ranch.