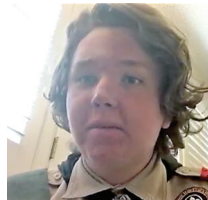


MOUNTAIN SUNRISE ROTARY CLUB

Providing for the needs of adaptive skiers

By **MARY-JUSTINE LANYON**
Editor



Liam Privette

Because Orange County resident Liam Privette started skiing with Jack Cooperman at Snow Valley Mountain Resort seven years ago, the 15-year-old Boy Scout is now planning his Eagle Scout project at the resort.

“As I was thinking of my project,” Liam told members of the Mountain Sunrise Rotary Club, of which Cooperman is the president, “I wanted something that represented everything about me. I wanted something connected to nature, to give back for the memories it has given me.”

Liam went on to say he wanted something ambitious, something that represents his extraordinary Scouting career.

“Knowing Jack over the years, I thought about his organization (Rim of the World Special Athletes Foundation). I had seen it grow over the years as I grew up skiing with him. I always wanted to help in some way,” Liam said.

In talking with Cooperman, the two came up with his project: a storage shed to store the special athletes’ equipment, which is currently stored in what also serves as the foundation’s office.

“It would give them more space and, potentially, allow them to get more equipment,” Liam said.

The shed, he explained, will be 20 feet long, 4.5 feet wide and about 8 feet tall. It will be suspended in the air

with four concrete piers and posts and will be built onto the side of the adaptive ski building. The shed will be painted to match the Snow Valley colors. It will have a metal door with a keypad for security and a slanted roof.

Liam – who is a sophomore at Santa Margarita Catholic High School – said his total budget for the project is \$4,633.75. He has set up a GoFundMe Account, which can be accessed by searching for “Liam Privette” on www.GoFundMe.com. Several Rotarians offered donations at the meeting, putting him at nearly the halfway mark.

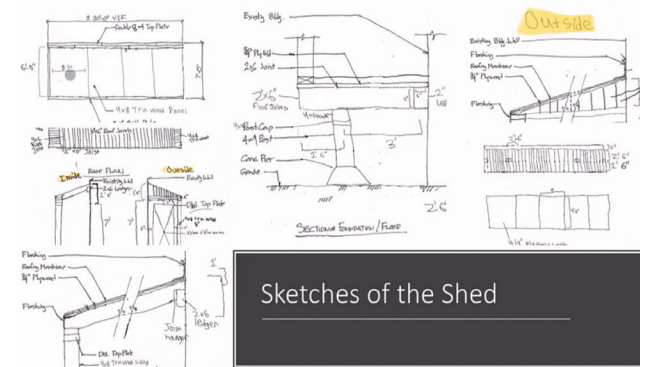
Liam said that any funds raised above what is required for the project will be donated to the Rim of the World Special Athletes Foundation.

The Rotarians were impressed with Liam’s sketch, which he said his architect uncle helped with, and his comprehensive list of materials, tools, supplies and transportation. He plans, Liam said, to purchase the majority of the supplies from Rim Forest Lumber and has found a door company that can build the custom door.

Because of the shed’s size, Liam said it will not require a permit, just approval from Snow Valley, which he already has.

He hopes to begin building the shed once ski season ends – perhaps in mid-April and be finished by mid-May.

Under Eagle Scout guidelines, Liam will not be allowed to do the labor himself. Instead, he is supposed to lead the group. His plan is to bring members of his troop – Troop 538 – to Snow Valley to do the work. The troop, he noted, has about 50 active Scouts, five of whom achieved Eagle rank last year.



The shed which Liam Privette plans to build at Snow Valley will store the equipment for the adaptive ski program. (Photo by Mary-Justine Lanyon)

“We are strictly boy-led,” Liam told the Rotarians. “All of the leadership stems from the Scouts, not the adults.” As the senior patrol leader, Liam is in charge of the troop.

Cooperman said that Rotarian Thacker Whyte has offered to bring in tools and will also advise the Scouts on construction.

“This was the best presentation ever done by a prospective Eagle Scout,” Davis Hopper told Liam. That sentiment was echoed by several other Rotarians.