

STUDENT PROFILE

An Eagle Scout Project Brings Joy to Rescue Dogs by Barbara Sleeper

“Eagle Scout projects are more than milestones: they’re opportunities to transform lives,” says Jaishrie Bhattacharya.

She witnessed this transformation as her son, Rudransh Bhattacharya, worked to complete his Eagle Scout project this year titled *Recycled Tire Play Structures*. He dedicated his project to PAWS Lynwood for enrichment of shelter animals.

As a ninth grader at H.M. Jackson High School and a dedicated member of Scouting America Troop 49, Rudransh achieved the rank of Eagle Scout on May 1, 2025, at the age of 15, an impressive three years ahead of the national deadline.

“My project wasn’t just about becoming an Eagle Scout,” he explains, “it was about giving rescue dogs at PAWS the enrichment they needed while encouraging the community to open their hearts

to adoption.

“I fell in love with two dogs at PAWS who were awaiting adoption,” he explains. “Tang was a charismatic husky bursting with energy and Daphne the perfect companion for someone ready to welcome a loyal friend.

“I knew I wanted my project to benefit rescue animals like these, so after consulting with PAWS about their needs, an idea took shape.

“I would organize a team of people to construct play structures out of recycled tires to provide mental stimulation and physical exercise for shelter dogs awaiting adoption.

“Once my project was approved by PAWS, my troop committee, and the Scouting America Mount Baker Council, I started looking for community partner-



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Rudransh's project emphasizes the importance of adopting companion animals from local shelters and supporting organizations like PAWS.

ships. Les Schwab Tires generously donated old tires, thrilled to see them repurposed for a meaningful cause, and Dunn Lumber contributed by offering wood at a discounted rate."

But that was just the start. Bringing Rudransh's project to life required an immense effort.

"Over 350 hours of planning, construction, and teamwork went into my Eagle Scout project," he says. "A team of more than 30 volunteers including scouts, friends, and family members worked tirelessly to help construct the safe, durable play structures for the shelter

dogs to use."

As a special touch, Rudransh incorporated PAWS' official colors of blue and orange into the design to ensure that the new structures blended seamlessly with the shelter's identity.

"The moment the play structures were installed, Tang and Daphne eagerly explored their new playground with wagging tails and playful leaps. They climbed, jumped, and investigated every corner, their excitement undeniable."

According to his proud mom, Rudransh is a self-driven student whose favorite subjects in school are Physics, Mathematics and History. His academic goal is to take Mechanical Engineering in college.

Cross Country is his sport of choice which he has turned out for since Middle School. He's also on Jackson's Robotics Team where he's learned technical as well as interpersonal skills from his coaches, mentors and teammates, and regularly volunteers in outreach programs to introduce Robotics to elementary students.

This summer, Rudransh volunteered as camp staff at Fire Mountain Scout Camp near Big Lake where he taught orienteering and mountain biking.



Charismatic Tang happily sits on a pyramid made of tires donated by Les Schwab Tire Center to help Rudransh complete his Eagle Scout project at PAWS in Lynnwood.



Troop 49 of Lynnwood, WA is part of the Scouting America Mt. Baker Council based in Marysville.



Sweetheart, Daphne, showed real joy while exploring the new play structures for the first time.

How You Can Make a Difference

"While my project has brought joy to PAWS' rescue dogs, so many are still waiting for the chance to become part of a family.

Tang and Daphne have both been adopted, but so many still need loving homes.

"By sharing this project, I hope to raise awareness about the importance of adopting from local shelters and supporting organizations like PAWS.

"If you're considering adoption, PAWS is a wonderful place to find a four-footed companion. You can also support their efforts through donations or by volunteering.

"Please give these rescue animals the second chance they deserve," urges Rudransh. "Visit PAWS' official adoption page to meet rescue dogs (and cats) ready for their forever homes."

PAWS • 15305 44th Ave. W, Lynnwood, WA 98087
Paws.org • 425-797-2500