The National Catholic Committee on Scouting is pleased to announce that a total of $20,000.00 will be awarded this coming spring by the Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scout Scholarship to deserving Scouts. This represents an increase in both the number and amounts offered. A total of seven scholarships will be offered. The top award will be a $5,000 first-place scholarship. Additional scholarships include $4,000 for second place, $3,000 for third, and four additional $2,000 scholarships.

This represents a 67 percent increase over 2018 award amounts. Additional scholarships are being made available due to the generous support of the Doerr Scholarship endowment and continued annual charitable giving.

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting established the Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Distinguished Scout Scholarship to be awarded to outstanding Catholic high school seniors who are Scouts in a BSA program having earned the top Catholic religious award and their Eagle Scout award. Candidates must be continuing their education in college. The requirements are listed in the eligibility requirements section found on the NCCS website at http://www.nccs-bsa.org/index.php/college-scholarship.

Sixty-seven Scouts have been awarded the Emmett J Doerr Memorial Scout Scholarship since its inception in 2005. The scholarships are merit-based awards given to Scouts for their outstanding service to their church, community, school, and Scouting. Applications are due to the NCCS office by March 1st.

Fr. Michael Hanafin, along with Bishop Daniel Conlon, Fr. Kevin Smith, and Fr. Joe Powers delivered presentations to bishops attending the USCCB General Assembly in Baltimore, Maryland, November 12-14.
Scouting in the Catholic Church at the Philmont Training Center

The Scouting in the Catholic Church training is scheduled for June 16-22, 2019 (Week 2) at the Philmont Training Center in Cimarron, New Mexico.

Registration is now open!! For information about the Training Center, conferences, family programs and registration please visit the Philmont website at http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/ptc.aspx. For further information or questions, please contact Course Director John Anthony, at jacatak@gmail.com or email NCCS@Scouting.org

Scouting in the local Church conference for Florida Sea Base

Come experience balmy weather in the Florida Keys and enjoy a week of fun, faith and fellowship with Catholic Scouters from around the country. NCCS’s Scouting in the Local Church Development conference will be held in the conference center at Florida Sea Base in Islamorada, Florida from March 5-9, 2019.

Course materials and activities will help participants learn strategies for improving the operation of their local Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting.

This year we hope to offer tours of the local area on Wednesday and Friday for spouses and other family members. Information will be posted on our website as soon as it is finalized.

For more details, please visit nccs-bsa.org and the link under “What’s New,” or contact the Course Director Kathy Polowski at kpolos55@gmail.com or at 480 244-6806.

In the last two issues of “The Bridge” I have stressed the importance of relationships especially between the Bishop, the parish priest and the local Boy Scouts of America council. Developing a strong family relationship is another. How can we nurture our Catholic faith through Scouting and at the same time strengthen our family? The National Catholic Committee on Scouting has developed resources to help families grow strong spiritually.

The NCCS Religious Activities are structured for families to explore together. The Rosary series walks the family through the history and meaning of the Rosary, explaining the importance of each mystery. The Marian series gives the family a better understanding of Mary, the Mother of God, and how and why the Church has honored Mary for more than 2,000 years. The Faith series helps our families learn more about the universal faith-based practices and traditions. Our Saints series, both American and modern, gives our families examples of men and women who have devoted their lives to the glory of God. Our Religious emblems program helps the individual Scouts in their life long faith journey.

There has been much discussion regarding girls being members of Scouting. The fact that girls and young women will be able to partake fully in the program of Scouting provides us with an outstanding opportunity to utilize Scouting as Youth Ministry to a whole new group of members. Think of the young girls who will be able to strengthen their faith through Catholic Scouting by utilizing our programs and activities. Today we count the number of Priests and Bishops who were Scouts in their youth. Twenty years from now we will be counting the number of young ladies who are members of religious orders, who were Scouts. Scouting is Youth Ministry we need now more than ever.

The Bridge is an authorized publication of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting® (NCCS). It is published quarterly to provide news and information to members of the NCCS, diocesan Catholic committees, youth ministry personnel and Boy Scout councils.

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To submit items for future editions of The Bridge please contact Mike Gannon at scouttrain@aol.com. Photos are acceptable and should be in a jpeg format. Please ensure all people in photos are identified and the subject matter is fully described.
In October 2018 I had the honor of representing NCCS at the International Youth Protection Symposium, hosted by the Boy Scouts of America and held at the Atlanta Area Council headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. The symposium was organized by Michael Johnson, Director of Youth Protection for the BSA. Prominent experts in the areas of Child Abuse and Neglect and Youth Violence shared their expertise with representatives of a variety of youth-serving organizations (YSOs) from within the United States and Canada. The goals of the symposium were to learn about and discuss practices, training programs, policies and initiatives that affect youth programs; to learn about the latest research on preventing and addressing child abuse, including the topics of bullying and online predators; to discuss prevention programs of YSOs that are based on experience, research and evidence; to develop strong relationships with other YSOs facing these difficult issues, all with a deep desire to keep the young people entrusted to them safe and healthy.

A particularly interesting panel discussion took place that involved Michael Johnson (BSA), Deacon Bernard Nojadera (Director of the USCCB Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection), Janet Shealy (Director of Campus Advocacy Response and Education at the Citadel in SC) and Dr. Thomas Kelly (Head of School at the Horace Mann School in NY). These panelists represented organizations that have been at the center of child abuse scandals in recent years and have responded by developing policies, procedures, and training with the aim of keeping youth in their programs safe. All BSA volunteers should be aware that BSA has developed a new Youth Protection training program which was to have been completed by September 30, 2018. If any volunteers have not yet completed the new YPT training, I urge them to do so. This new training is excellent and incorporates much of what has been learned about childhood abuse/neglect and other adversity in recent years.

Of greatest interest to me, and the primary reason I was excited to attend this symposium, was a panel discussion involving representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta who spoke about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Opioid Abuse, and Suicide. Twenty years ago, a landmark article was published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine which connected adverse childhood experiences (abuse, neglect, household dysfunction) to an increased risk of adult physical and mental illness and risk-taking behaviors. The findings of that study have been reproduced in hundreds of thousands of additional adults. Children, too, have been shown to have an increased risk of physical and mental illness, as well as behavior disorders, if they are exposed to ACEs and other types of community, historical, and multigeneration-adversity. The underlying mechanism is related to “toxic stress.” ACEs are not rare; they affect at least two thirds of the population. The CDC has identified toxic stress and the related physical/mental/behavioral health issues that result from it as the greatest public health crisis of our time.

The response to this public health crisis must be an all-out effort for communities to become “trauma-informed,” to understand the role of childhood adversity and toxic stress on the physical and mental health and behavior of children and adults, and to develop strategies that will decrease the incidence of adversity while increasing resilience factors which have been shown to overcome the deleterious effects of toxic stress. It will require the cooperation of diverse community groups…health care providers, mental health professionals, behavioral specialists, educators, justice and law-enforcement, social services, faith-based organizations, and youth-serving organizations such as ours.

Last April, I attended the American Academy of Pediatrics course “The Trauma-Informed Pediatric Provider,” then traveled to Minneapolis for the NCCS Biennial Meeting. Following the keynote address by Fr. Chad VanHoose on “Effective Youth Ministry in the New Evangelization,” we were asked in a breakout session to name one thing we were going to do differently in our Catholic Scouting Ministry. My response was “ACEs”…which required a bit of explanation since no one knew what I was talking about! It is my hope that the NCCS will move toward becoming a “trauma-informed organization” to better serve our Catholic Scouts and their families, as well as to better support our adult volunteers.

Catholic Scouting can be a powerful way to build resiliency in young people who are facing unprecedented challenges in today’s world. More information on ACEs is available at www.acesconnection.com. In the meantime, let me leave you with a final thought…the next time you are faced with someone whose behavior is annoying, frustrating, or perplexing, instead of thinking “What is wrong with you?” think “What happened to you?” I promise that small shift in thinking will change your perspective and make you more effective in your Catholic Scouting ministry!

Sincerely,

Dr. Carroll Brennan
Diocese of Palm Beach

www.acesconnection.com
Halfway around the world, Eagle Scout James Havey puts what he has learned in scouting to good use. Havey, who achieved his Eagle in October 2004, has been working as a Maryknoll Lay Missioner in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, since 2013. He is currently helping Cambodian children and adult survivors of human trafficking lend their voices to advise lawmakers and social service providers on programming and policy.

Havey is the project advisor for an unprecedented 10-year research study of Cambodian survivors of human trafficking, exploitation, and/or abuse called the Butterfly Longitudinal Re/integration Research Project. It is a project of the Chab Dai (“Joining Hands” in the Khmer language) Coalition, a Cambodian anti-human-trafficking organization charged with serving vulnerable populations, victims, survivors and service providers alike.

“We are following the lives of 128 children and adult survivors as they have gone through an aftercare program and subsequently re/integrated back into the community,” he explains. All of this information is then fed back to grassroots organizations, law enforcement and policymakers so that their work can be informed by the needs of the survivors of this modern scourge. patience, simplicity in lifestyle, and planning ahead—or, as the Scouts put it: ‘Be prepared.’”

It’s that adaptability that helps him in Phnom Penh “when the rolling blackout cuts off the fan on a 110-degree night, or when the monsoon has flooded all the surrounding streets so wading is required to get to work.” As a Scout, Havey remembers, “I’ve weathered the greatest of thunderstorms while in a tent, so a monsoon while living with a family in their traditional Cambodian house on stilts among the rice paddies is a much drier place.”

In Scouts he also learned to eat whatever his older brother concocted from the troop trailer on their monthly campouts, and he recalls a former Green Beret Scout leader teaching him how to eat raw bugs. “That makes the pan-fried crickets around Cambodia a welcomed snack,” he laughs.

And even his adventure backpacking through the New Mexico scouting ranch Philmont prepared him for his current life in Asia. “It made it an easy ‘yes’ to an offer of spending a month backpacking throughout Nepal to work with Tibetan refugee beekeepers to create a market link to Follow the Honey, a human-rights honey shop in Boston.”

Living in a country where 97 percent of the population is Buddhist, Havey says, “Adaptability and its sister, humility, have allowed me to see the face of God in the Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu and atheist. We live in a beautiful world of diversity with others who have lifestyles and beliefs that are different from our own, and my background in scouting has given me tools and qualities to move through this world with compassionate joy for other people’s spirituality.”
Havey grew up in a Catholic Scouting family—his mother, Kathleen Havey, was a den mother in Cub Scouts, and his father, Dr. James ‘Pat’ Havey, an Eagle Scout and a troop leader in the Boy Scouts. In fact, his father helped found Troop 777 of the Tecumseh Council through St. Columbkille Parish in Wilmington. His two brothers, Raymond and Arthur, are also both Eagle Scouts.

During his Scouting career, Havey received the Parvuli Dei Award, was inducted into the Order of the Arrow and acquired 34 merit badges—his favorite being water skiing. “Learning to slalom-ski in one week at Tecumseh Council’s Camp Birch was a challenge,” James recalls with a smile.

Havey answered the call to be a Maryknoll Lay Missioner because “it is in the gratitude of serving others that I am able to practice the charge of an Eagle Scout to ‘dedicate their hearts and hands to the common good.’” He chose Maryknoll in particular because “this global community provides a network of formidable spiritual masters who provide the space and mentorship to challenge and grow my spirituality, morality and practice throughout my adult life. Becoming an Eagle was a foundational achievement in my coming-of-age story, but it was a beginning, not an end.” Maryknoll Lay Missioners first commit for three and a half years of overseas service. Havey is now in his sixth year with MKLM.

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To Havey, his work with survivors of human trafficking is about God’s “preferential option for the poor” and about our faith’s call to go out to the “peripheries,” the margins of the world. “Jesus listened to the cries of the poor and advocated their pleas to the Pharisees and the Romans,” he says. “It has been a profound commitment, but I am happy to be a Maryknoll Lay Missioner in service to the people of Cambodia and Asia. I would certainly encourage other Scouts who are dedicated to engaging with all of God’s creation to pursue the opportunities Maryknoll Lay Missioners provides—because, as they say, ‘Once an Eagle, always an Eagle.’”

Butterfly Team One— James Havey (left) and his anti-human-trafficking research team at a spiritual retreat in Kep, Cambodia.
Did You Know…?
By Bob Oldowski

How does your Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting (DCCS) measure up? Year-end approaches. This is the time to see if your committee has earned the NCCS’ Quality Diocese Award (QDA) for 2018. Qualifications are on the NCCS web site.

This award began in 2002. It is a good way to set goals and a year later review accomplishments.

The web site reports that the following seven (arch)diocesan committees earned this award in all 16 years:

- Arlington
- Atlanta
- Evansville
- Galveston-Houston
- Louisville
- St. Paul/Minneapolis
- San Jose

How is your DCCS doing? Will you earn the 2018 QDA patch?

Seven new Religious activities approved to help Scouts learn about their faith

By
Theresa Dirig
Religious Activities Committee

The Religious Activities Committee is excited to announce the approval of seven new Religious Activities. Watch for the new information on the NCCS website. The new activities include:

Marian Series

- Our Lady of Good Help – this as an exciting new Activity. Our Lady of Good Help is the first approved Marian Apparition site in the United States. The sight is in Wisconsin near Green Bay. The miracles that have occurred here are numerous and the devotion is sincere.

- Our Lady of Mount Carmel – this devotion to Mary helps us understand the meaning of the scapular and the power it gives the wearer. Entrusting our lives to Our Lady through the Brown Scapular is a strong devotion.

American Saint Series

- Solanus Casey – this humble priest struggled in school and was not allowed to say Mass or hear confessions, but he touched many people and led to the healings of many who sought out the blessings of this “doorkeeper”. Following Fr. Solanus’ example – we can all show kindness and understanding to others, no matter our education or status.

- Pierre Toussaint – this Haitian slave followed his master to the United States and was given his freedom. He learned a new trade to support his family – a hairdresser! As a hairdresser he shared his love for God and lead many aristocratic people to the Catholic faith. Our profession should not limit our ability to do God’s work!

Modern Saint Series

- Chiara Luce Badano – this teenager’s love and devotion to God is a fabulous example for all our youth. During her struggle with cancer she offered her suffering to God. Her example led many of her friends to the Catholic faith. She died in 1990 at the age of 18. Chiara helps us realize that age doesn’t matter when we love God – our example is what is important.

- Maximilian Kolbe – this Catholic priest was interred in Auschwitz during World War II. His love for others and his faith, urged him to offer his life for a Jewish father who was to die. His example of love for others, regardless of faith or status, is something all of us can emulate.

Faith Series

- Bishop, Shepherd of the Flock – this activity will help our youth learn the steps necessary for a man to become a bishop. This activity also offers Scouts an opportunity to thank their Bishop for his support of Scouting.

The Religious Activities committee is hopeful that youth and adults that work through these new Activities will learn more about their faith and how they can do God’s will in their daily life!
Religious emblems now available to all youth in Scouts BSA, including emblems for Cub Scouts

The Boy Scouts of America opened the Cub Scout program to girls in 2018 and will be registering older girls in what is called the Boy Scout level in 2019. This initiative is now known as Scouts BSA.

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting seeks to sustain and strengthen the relationship between the Boy Scouts of America and the Catholic Church and to work cooperatively with the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) and various other groups involved in youth ministry in the United States.

Pursuant to this mission the NCCS Executive Board unanimously adopted the position of the NCCS to accept and work with the new membership policy of the Boy Scouts of America. Given this position, the Religious Emblems of the Committee committed at the 45th Biennial Meeting in April 2018 to ensure that all concerned understood that the Light of Christ and Parvuli Dei emblems would be available to Catholic girls who become members of Cub Scouting.

The Committee also decided to ensure that eligibility (already in place for female youth enrolled in Venturing) for the Ad Altare Dei, Light is Life, and Pope Pius XII emblems would include Catholic young ladies who join the new Scouts BSA program.

In another action the Committee also decided not to make out of cycle publication changes reflecting these clarifications of eligibility.
International Catholic Conference on Scouting serves as link between Church and World Scouting program

Most American Catholic Scouters know of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS), but how many are aware of the larger role represented by the International Catholic Conference on Scouting in the universal Church as on Scouting (ICCS)?

ICCS is also a representative organization with the Scouting movement. This requires the Conference to foster contacts and relations with different national and international institutions. Such as when organizations do not fully appreciate their rights and duties towards the movement or towards their local Church, at the national level. ICCS is not empowered to take up any position or take part in the decision-making processes of the Associations, but it offers them help to develop programs for education in the faith and respect for different religious views and practices.

THE PURPOSE of ICCS is, as Article 1 of its Statutes states, to contribute to the complete education of young people through Scouting from the point of view of the Catholic faith; to cooperate in developing and enhancing the spiritual dimension of Scouting in accordance with the unity and the diversity of the World Scout Movement; to ensure that Catholic Scouts are actively present in the Church and guarantee communication between the Catholic Church and the World Scout Movement.

THE MAIN BENCHMARKS for everything that ICCS does are the world Constitution of the Scout Movement and the Scouts' Catholic Charter which was approved by the Holy See in 1977. At the international level, ICCS is the institutional linkage or hinge between Scouting and the Catholic Church.

IN WORLD SCOUTING, ICCS has been given the status of a consultative body by the World Committee. Within the Catholic Church it has the approval of the Holy See and the status of a Catholic International Organization (CIO). ICCS actively cooperates with the Pontifical Council for the Laity and the CIO Conference.

The current ICCS World Vice-President is Gerard Scanlan of the Archdiocese of New York and long-time member of NCCS.

NCCS annual meeting set for April 25 - 29 in Tulsa, Oklahoma

The Conference Committee has announced the 2019 NCCS Annual meeting will be in Tulsa, Okla., hosted by the Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Diocese of Tulsa. The meeting dates are from April 25 to April 29 and will be at the Wyndham Tulsa Hotel on East 41st Street.

The rate has been set at $89 per night, which will be good for three nights prior and three nights after the official meeting dates. This rate includes complimentary hot full-breakfast buffet for all hotel guests. Free airport shuttle is available from the Tulsa International Airport. The airport is served by seven airlines: Allegiant, American, Delta, Frontier, Southwest, United and VIA.

Wishing you a joyous Christmas and a new year of peace and happiness