Elaine Smith Awarded $3,000 Scholarship

Elaine Smith, of Columbus, OH, has been awarded a $3,000 Scholarship by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting® (NCCS) through the Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scout Scholarship Fund. She is a member of St. Margaret’s of Cortona Catholic Church in the Diocese of Columbus and is the first female Eagle Scout to receive the Doerr Scholarship. This year eight service scholarships totaling $22,000 were awarded nationwide to recognize scouts for outstanding service and leadership in four areas: Church, Community, School and Scouting.

Elaine wants to make a difference in other people’s lives. When asked why volunteering is important to her, she responded, “Volunteering is just a way of life for my family and I. Service is the act of giving back to one’s community through acts of humility, kindness, and love. It is what everyone should do! ....Through acts of service, individuals can grow into leaders who will one day change the lives of others.” Elaine has earned both the Ad Altare Dei and the Pope Pius XII Religious Emblems offered by the NCCS and is a recipient of the Bishop’s Youth Award. She has been an altar server since third grade, a recipient of the Serra Club Altar Server Award and a Eucharistic Minister for four years. Elaine also volunteered at Vacation Bible School, served at church events and on the Catholic Camporee Staff.

Through community service, Elaine discovered that she loves working with children, especially Special Olympics participants. She also enjoys baking for others, particularly at the Ronald McDonald House. Elaine volunteers at Ohio Living Westminster-Thurber retirement center, Heart to Heart Food Pantry, Holy Family Soup Kitchen, 4-H Walk and Serve and Hilltop YMCA.

At Bishop Ready High School, Elaine has been a member of Student Council and National Honor Society. She enjoys the Fine Arts and has worked stage crew for Cinderella and performed in The Addams Family, as well as playing clarinet in Concert Band. Her other interests include four years on the Varsity Swim Team, including Captain senior year, Cheer, Chinese Club, and President of Country Blazers 4-H. Her leadership abilities standout as a Bishop Ready Ambassador and member of Future Business Leaders. Elaine received the President’s Gold Volunteer Service Award, the Sunny 95 “Rising Star” Award and The Prudential Spirit of Community Award.

Through Scouting, Elaine has excelled becoming one of the first female Eagle Scout recipients. This was after earning her Gold Award, the highest honor awarded by the Girl Scouts of America and being a member of the BSA Venturing Program. She served as Troop Guide, Chaplain and Vice President of her Venturing Crew. Elaine is a member of the Order of the Arrow, BSA’s Honor Society, a BSA Lifeguard, has attended National Young Leaders Training, 2017 National Jamboree and served as a Crew President at the World Scout Jamboree in 2019.

For her Eagle Scout Project, Elaine worked with the Brian Muha Foundation at “Run the Race” farm, which provides enrichment and leadership development opportunities to inner city youth in Ohio. She repurposed an old farm building that was used to house animals into a
multipurpose room where kids can do arts, crafts, and gardening. After interior demolition and cleaning, the space was transformed with new walls, paint, sealed floors, framed windows, roof repairs, new doors and light fixtures. Meeting the restrictions of COVID was a challenge but she worked through all the necessary precautions. Elaine plans to attend The Ohio State University.

To be eligible to apply for the Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scout Scholarship, the Scout must be Catholic, earned the Ad Altare Dei and/ or Pope Pius XII Awards and received either the Eagle Scout, Summit or Quartermaster Award. A complete list of award recipients, eligibility requirements and applications can be found online at http://nccs-bsa.org/index.php/college-scholarship. Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scholarship recipients have been chosen because they are committed to making a difference for good in the world through service and leadership. These young people, like Elaine Smith, are certain to enrich our future.