Joseph Bowers Awarded $2,000 Scholarship

Joseph Bowers of Silver Creek, NY, has been awarded a $2,000 scholarship by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting® (NCCS) through the Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scout Scholarship Fund. He is a member of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church in the Diocese of Buffalo. 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.

When asked why he volunteers, Joseph responded, “Community service is an important part of my life. It is an important way to give back, to help others, and to live in God’s way. I have always greatly enjoyed the opportunities I have had to serve others, and I seek out ways to assist the community as often as possible.” At his church, Joseph has been active as an altar server, usher, lector, a Youth Group leader and Vacation Bible School teacher. He served as Master of Ceremonies for the Diocese of Buffalo’s Catholic Youth Convention and was a Youth Ambassador for the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis. Joseph has received the NCCS Ad Altare Dei Award.

In his community, Joseph volunteered with several service organizations including Key Club and the Knights Against Cancer. He assisted with Veterans and Memorial Day ceremonies and local environmental cleanup projects. One of his favorite places to help has been the Silver Creek Food Pantry, especially at Christmas time preparing and distributing food baskets. This has become a tradition for Joseph and his family. Joseph earned American Red Cross Lifeguarding, CPR and First Aid Certification and used these skills to work for the Silver Creek Schools.

Throughout his high school years, Joseph has been involved in Student Government, serving as president and treasurer and was a member of National Honor Society and Key Club. Joseph participated in peer tutoring, Spanish Club, Ski Club, was president of the Audio/Visual Club, a member of band, chorus and science club. In addition, he played varsity sports in soccer, golf, and cross country. Joseph also participated in a Genetic Annotation Project in association with the University at Buffalo as a researcher.

Joseph has held almost every leadership position in his troop including senior patrol leader and is now a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. He is a member of the Order of the Arrow, BSA’s honor society and served on staff for BSA’s National Youth Leadership training program. Joseph was selected as Chautauqua County American Legion Boy Scout of the Year in 2017. For his Eagle Scout Project, Joseph and other Scouts, improved accessibility to his church through installation of specialized handrails and an automated door. The project required raising funds of over $6500. Joseph plans to attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

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 Joseph Bowers, are certain to enrich our future.