Alexander LaRuffa, of East Falmouth, MA, has been awarded a $2,000 scholarship by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) through the Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scout Scholarship Fund. Alex is a member of St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in the Diocese of Fall River. This year seven service scholarships totaling $20,000 were awarded nationwide to recognize scouts for outstanding service and leadership in four areas: Church, Community, School and Scouting.

Alex is the first BSA Sea Scout to receive the scholarship and truly embodies the idea of servant leadership. When asked why volunteering is important to him, he responded, “Service is a large part of my life. Some of my earliest memories are helping with food drives for the local food pantry and placing flags on Veteran’s graves in the Church cemetery. As a Scout and a Catholic, I find volunteer opportunities everywhere.”

At his church, Alex is a music technology assistant, an altar server, and has assisted with Thanksgiving and Christmas basket collection programs.

Every month, Alex serves dinner at the Mason Lodge with his Troop or Ship. He has participated in his hometown ceremonies for both Memorial Day and Veteran’s Day as color guard and musician. He also volunteered at various community marathons and road races, collected Christmas trees for recycling, town clean up and collecting items for food banks.

Every morning at Falmouth High School, Alex directs the Morning News Television Program, a ten-minute broadcast in every classroom. He also filmed the school’s graduation for the past three years and tutors Math, Science and French. He is a member of several honor societies, including the National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society and Tri-M Music Honor Society. He received the University of Rochester Xerox Award for Innovation and Technology and was honored with both the Coach’s and Sportsmanship Award in Boy’s Cross Country and Ace Award in Tennis.

Alex has served numerous leadership positions in his troop, including Junior Assistant Scout Master and is Lodge Chief for Order of the Arrow, BSA’s honor society. He is a BSA Lifeguard and served on the National Youth Training Staff. Alex has not only completed his Eagle Scout Award but also earned the Quartermaster Award, the highest honor in Sea Scouts. His Eagle Project benefitted Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (WBNERR). He repaired the boardwalk, fixed birdwatching stations, installed trail markers and crosswalks at South Cape Beach in Mashpee, MA. Three years later, Alex returned to WBNERR to complete his Sea Scout
Quartermaster project. He built another boardwalk along the Sagelot Trail at the same beach. Alex plans to attend Worcester 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 Alexander La Ruffa, are certain to enrich our future.