Benjamin Rawald Earns $ 5,000 Scholarship

Benjamin Rawald of Del Rio, Texas has been awarded a $5,000 scholarship by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) through the Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scout Scholarship Fund. Ben is a member of both St. Francis Catholic Community at Laughlin Air Force Base, Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA and Sacred Heart Church, in the Archdiocese of San Antonio, TX. 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.

Benjamin truly embodies the ideas of service and leadership. When asked why he volunteers, Ben says, "If you can volunteer for it, sign me up! Why do I do all these things? Because my head and my heart tell me to do so. A Scout pledges an oath to serve his God, His country, other people, and himself. I am just following my version of the Scout Oath and I know that I am doing the right thing."

As a member of two parishes, Ben has served as a Youth Group Leader, altar server, Vacation Bible School teacher, and lead usher.

Passionate about conservation, Ben has brought national recognition to his community. He completed five conservation-based community service projects totaling thousands of hours involving hundreds of volunteers. His projects included recycling plastic bags and printer toner cartridges, butterfly migration, wetland refurbishment, and studying the effects of invasive species on his city’s local creek. These projects helped him earn BSA’s prestigious Silver Hornaday Award, scouting’s highest conservation award. The butterfly migration project earned the 2020 Texas Environmental Excellence Award.

Ben is dual enrolled at Brackett High School and Southwest Texas Junior College. Along with National Honor Society and being a Student Council Rep, he participates in Future Farmers of America, varsity weightlifting, and marching band. At Southwest he is on the Student Activities Board and in STEM Club. Tentatively, Ben plans to attend Lake Washington Technical Institute followed by the University of Washington’s Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science and Engineering.

At such a young age, Ben’s accomplishments are formidable. Since he started Scouts, he has volunteered over 5,000 documented hours of community and conservation-based service and not only achieved the rank of Eagle but was the first to earn the Summit Award in his Venture Crew. In 2019, he was recognized by Scouting and Boy’s Life Magazines for receiving every earnable rank, merit badge, award, and medal in both the Scouting and Venture Programs, including the Hornaday Conservation Award and the Dr. Albert Einstein Supernova Medal. He was the Texas VFW Scout of the Year, received the 2020 Texas Environmental Excellence Award, and 2019 Operation Homefront’s Air Force Military Child of the Year for scholarship, volunteerism, leadership, extracurricular involvement, and other criteria while facing the challenges of military family life.

For his Eagle Scout Project, Ben researched, created, and developed a one-hour DVD documentary for the Laughlin Heritage Museum LLC in Del Rio, TX to preserve the local military heritage. To complete the
1,906-hour project, he raised $5,000, and trained 15 retired military adults with the computer skills needed to finish the project. He has also assisted thirty-two other Scouts with their Eagle Scout projects.

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](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 Benjamin Rawald, are certain to enrich our future.