Fox Melo Earns $5,000 Scholarship

Fox Melo, of Burbank, CA has been awarded a $5,000 scholarship by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) through the Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scout Scholarship Fund. He is a member of St. Finbar Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. 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.

Fox truly embodies the idea of servant leadership. When asked why volunteering is important to him, he responded, "Volunteering is part of my commitment to living out my faith and my oath as a Scout. I am committed to continuing my life of service to causes large and small, following God’s commandment to “love one another” and the Scout oath to “help other people at all times.”

Fox has earned all four religious emblems offered by the NCCS. Since the age of five, he has volunteered every year at the Church Fiesta Fundraiser and since sixth grade, has helped organize the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Fox has been an altar server, and a member of the Youth Group. He provided service at church events including St. Finbar’s Christmas Basket Program and Scouting for Food.

In his community, Fox’s love for the ocean has inspired him to provide over five-hundred volunteer hours at the Aquarium of the Pacific and to organize beach and park clean-ups. He also volunteered at 5K’s to raise money for cancer charities and supported the YMCA, the Burbank Tournament of Roses, Kiwanis, the Elks, and St. Vincent DePaul Society.

At John Burroughs High School, Fox is a member of the National Honor Society and a Life Member of the California Scholarship Federation. He is also a member of Key Club, Chess Club, Esports Club, and a tutorial mentor. A team player, Fox was a participant on the Junior Varsity and Varsity John Burroughs Boys Swim Teams and Water Polo Teams, where he received the Spirit Award. He is a Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership Ambassador, HOBY Academic All-Star and an AP Scholar Award winner.

In Scouting, Fox served numerous leadership positions including Troop Guide, Chaplain, Quartermaster, Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader. He attended National Youth Leadership Training which prepared him for his role as Junior Assistant Scout Master. He is a member of the Order of the Arrow (OA), BSA’s Honor Society, and over the past four years has served as OA Lodge Chief, Treasurer and Secretary. Fox attended the BSA National Jamboree in 2017 and then was selected as the only Scout in his Council of 2500 to attend the World Jamboree in 2019. He served on Camporee Staff for Verdugo Hills Council and as Youth Chaplain. He was chosen twice as one of the two Los Angeles Archdiocese participants for the St. George Trek, unfortunately, both times the Trek was cancelled, first due to wildfires and then COVID.

For his Eagle Scout Project, Fox envisioned and developed sustainable landscaping for his parish, St. Finbar, located in drought-stricken Southern California. He and his crew of 47 volunteers removed grass from twelve areas and replaced it with 300 native, drought-tolerant plants.
Through presentations and conversations, he inspired and educated the community about the importance of sustainable landscaping resulting in reduced water usage and cost savings for the church. Even Fox’s Lola (Filipino for grandmother) became involved in his project. To encourage everyone to work she provided lumpia (Filipino egg rolls) for the volunteers in addition to pizza that they ordered to feed the hungry workers. Fox says, “We had a small community that day. There for various reasons, people from different backgrounds worked together on a joint project to help the environment.” His vision to inspire and educate the community about sustainable landscaping became a reality.

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 Fox Melo, are certain to enrich our future.