



THE BRIDGE

The Newsletter of The National Catholic Committee on Scouting®

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“Family and Scouting” chosen as theme for next NCCS Biennial meeting

By
Chris Murray

One of the major accomplishments from the recent NCCS annual meeting in Tulsa was the planning for the upcoming 2020 Biennial meeting scheduled for Chicago next spring. The training committee was charged with developing a theme for the sessions that would include a plenary speaker and workshops. After a brainstorming session the committee chose the theme of “Family and Scouting.”

Since that initial meeting they have begun to identify a prioritized list of speakers that could address family issues as they relate to Catholic Scouting. There are many elements that relate to family and the

Catholic Church that could be tied to Catholic Scouting that would be suitable for a general plenary and follow-on workshops.

The working concept for the meeting is that it would begin with the keynote speaker focusing on the main theme and that would be followed by numerous smaller workshops that would further develop and discuss the same theme.

The NCCS standing chairs have been invited to provide workshop sessions and a member of the training committee has been working with them, and outside entities as well, to fill a suite of workshops that could be presented. There is a potential for 16 separate workshops during the

meeting. Workshop formats will allow for a presentation, followed by general discussion. Participants will be invited to attend a variety of sessions, depending on their interests.

The training committee is also requesting suggestions for workshop topics based on the theme and ask if you have an input to please provide it to Chris Murray at chrismurray3@yahoo.com



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Troop 728G holds its first court of honor See the story of the troop, chartered by St. Paul the Apostle Church in Richardson, Texas on **page 7**.

United States, Canada, and Mexico host 24th World Jamboree at Summit Scout Reserve in W.V.

The 24th World Scout Jamboree will be at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in southern West Virginia. It is sponsored by Canada, the United States and Mexico. An expected 50,000 Scouts, volunteers and Scouting staff from around the world are expected to descend upon the Jamboree site for one big celebration of International Scouting.

The World Scout Jamboree is held every four years and is a chance to camp out with friends, meet new international friends and try out high-adventure activities, learn new skills and enjoy the out of doors.



The International Catholic Conference of Scouting (ICCS) is working with the Chaplains of various Christian faiths and other religions by providing Jamboree Chaplains to serve the International service teams, volunteers, International Scouts and Scouters.

World Jamboree Catholic Chaplain duties include celebrating Mass in the subcamps, hearing confessions, visiting the injured and infirmed providing the Sacrament of the Sick. The highlight of the World Scout Jamboree will be the camp-wide Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio of the United States, with an expected 10,000 Catholics participating.

Besides the Catholic Chaplains, the ICCS is providing a booth at the Faith and Beliefs Pavilion where participants can learn about the Catholic faith in a practical and fun manner. Phil Krajec of the NCCS is heading up the staff for the ICCS Booth.



National Catholic Committee on Scouting

FROM THE CHAIR

Jim Weiskircher



The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops has outlined five strategic priorities in its 2017-2020 Strategic Plan. They are Evangelization, Marriage and Family Life, Human Life and Dignity, Vocations, and Religious Freedom. Through Catholic Scouting, we will focus on three of those priorities. Over the next three years, Father Joe Powers' and my theme will be **Evangelization-Family Life-Vocations** through Catholic Scouting.

Our religious emblem and religious activities programs allow us to reach out and evangelize to our young people. It is important that they do their duty to God through Catholic Scouting. Most units are made up of non-Catholics and those that are non-church going people as well. Through the examples set by Catholic Scouts and leaders, the non-Catholic Scouts have the opportunity to see our faith in action.

Catholic Scouting is one of the few activities in the diocese that you can do as a family activity. It is important to strengthen our faith life within the family and Catholic Scouting allows us to do that. There are so many influences that are pulling families apart, and Catholic Scouting can help to bring the family closer together.

Vocations have always been a key part of Catholic Scouting. Each year the USCCB commissions the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate to study to track the backgrounds of the newly ordained priests. Over the past 5 years, 30-35% of the newly ordained priests were involved in Scouting as a youth. Every two years, the St. George Trek brings youth together from dioceses across the country to spend 16 days with priests, nuns, and seminarians to be open to the call of vocations in their life. In the off year, dioceses like Charleston and Savannah are offering week-long vocation experiences with priests on the trail or water to listen to God's call. Other dioceses are holding retreats and visits to seminaries to expose our young people to the vocation message. The Pope Pius XII emblem is one of the finest programs geared to high school students to help them to think of vocations and what they will do in the future.

Yours in Catholic Scouting as a youth ministry,

Jim

The Bridge is an authorized publication of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting® (NCCS). It is published quarterly to provide news and information to members of the NCCS, diocesan Catholic committees, youth ministry personnel and Boy Scout councils.

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To submit items for future editions of *The Bridge* please contact Mike Gannon at scouttrain@aol.com. Photos are acceptable and should be in a jpeg format. Please ensure all people in photos are identified and the subject matter is fully described.

NCCS Awards \$20,000 of Scholarships in 2019

by
Julie Doerr
Scholarship Chair

Congratulations to the seven exceptional Scouts who have been awarded Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scholarships this year. Each winner demonstrated outstanding leadership and service in four areas: Church, Community, School and Scouting. We thank all Scouts who applied, they are all remarkable and inspiring individuals.

This year the number of scholarships increased to seven with a total of \$20,000 being awarded. Since 2005, NCCS has awarded \$151,000 in scholarships to 74 Scouts nationwide.

The 2019 Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scholarship Recipients are:

\$5,000 - **Patrick Villaseñor**, Diocese of Orange, Coto de Caza, Calif.

\$4,000 - **Christopher Boken**, Diocese of Oakland, Fremont, Calif.

\$3,000 - **Matthew Stevenson**, Archdiocese of Portland, Clackamas, Ore.

\$2,000 - **Keegan Benfield**, Diocese of Salt Lake City, Salt Lake City, Utah

\$2,000 - **Declan Coster**, Diocese of Metuchen, Pittstown, N.J.

\$2,000 - **Evan Herchek**, Diocese of Victoria, Columbus, Texas

\$2,000 - **Joseph Lepak**, Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, Alexandria, Va.

Be sure to read about the 2019 top recipient, **Patrick Villaseñor**, on **page 5**. We will feature other recipients in upcoming issues.



Background

Applications are due to the NCCS office by March 1 of each year.

Purpose of Scholarship:

To honor Mr. Emmett J. Doerr, who was a dedicated Catholic Scouter and a very active member of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS). He was the first recipient of the Brother Barnabas Founders Award. His other honors include the Silver Antelope, Silver Beaver and the St. George medals. The Doerr family and the NCCS are continuing his legacy by offering this scholarship in his name to seven (7) distinguished Catholic Scouts.

Scholarship Awards:

- Seven separate scholarships are awarded: 1st place \$5000, 2nd place \$4000, 3rd place \$3000 plus four additional \$2000 scholarships.
 - Must be used for the year awarded unless approved by Scholarship Committee.
- Disbursement from the scholarship fund will be made directly to an accredited institution of higher learning at the beginning of the enrollment period.
- The scholarship may be used to defray necessary costs of the awardee's tuition, room or board, books and/or fees.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a practicing Catholic.
 - Be a full time High-School Senior.
- Be a registered young man or woman actively involved with a Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, Venturing Crew or Sea Scout Ship.
- Earned the Ad Altare Dei or Pope Pius XII Religious Award.
 - Earned the Eagle Scout, Summit Award or Quartermaster Award.
 - An application with four (4) letters of recommendations. One letter from each of the following: Religious institution, Community, School, and Scouting Unit.

2018 QUALITY DIOCESE RECIPIENTS



* *Indicates Quality Diocese Gold Winner (Increase in membership from past year)*

Indicates Quality Diocese Silver Winner (No membership loss from previous year)

Region 1: John V. Meakin, Region Chair/Rev. Leo LeBlanc, Region Chaplain. Archdiocese -#Hartford, Conn., #Burlington, Vermont, Manchester, N.H., Norwich, Conn., #Providence, R.I., Springfield, Mass., #Worcester, Mass.

Region 2: Ronald Derway, Region Chair/Rev. James Lang, Region Chaplain. Archdiocese-New York, N.Y., Albany, N.Y., Brooklyn, N.Y., Buffalo, N.Y., Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, Rochester, N.Y.

Region 3: Fred Shetter, Region Chair/Rev. Michael Santangelo, Region Chaplain. Archdiocese-Philadelphia, Penn*, Allentown, Penn., #Camden, N.J., Pittsburgh, Penn., Paterson, N.J.

Region 4: Pat Berney, Region Chair/Msgr. John B. Brady, Region Chaplain. Archdiocese-Baltimore, Md., Archdiocese -Washington, D.C., #Archdiocese -Military Services, Arlington, Va., #Wilmington, Del., *Wheeling-Charleston, W.V.

Region 5: Paul Bell, Region Chair/Rev. Michael Weglicki, Region Chaplain. Archdiocese -Louisville, Ky., Archdiocese-New Orleans, La., *Covington, Ky., Houma-Thibodaux, La., Knoxville, Tenn., Lafayette, La., Lake Charles, La., # Lexington, Ky., #Memphis, Tenn., # Nashville, Tenn., Owensboro, Ky.

Region 6: Jim Cordek, Region Chair/Msgr. James Kolp, Region Chaplain. Archdiocese -Cincinnati, Ohio, Archdiocese -Detroit, Mich., Cleveland, Ohio, Columbus, Ohio, Grand Rapids, Mich., Kalamazoo, Mich., Lansing, Mich., *Youngstown, Ohio.

Region 7: Chris Brandt, Region Chair/Rev. Mark Augustine, Region Chaplain, Archdiocese -Chicago, Ill., Archdiocese - Indianapolis, Ind., Archdiocese - Milwaukee, Wis., Belleville, Ill., Evansville, Ind., # Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind., Gary, Ind., Green Bay, Wis., Joliet, Ill., La Crosse, Wis., Lafayette, Ind., Peoria, Ill., Rockford, Ill., Springfield, Ill.

Region 8: Mike Fratto, Region Chair/Rev. Andrew Michels, Region Chaplain. Archdiocese -St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minn., St. Cloud, Minn.

Region 9: Kevin Hennessey, Region Chair/Rev. Mark Spring, Region Chaplain. Archdiocese -Dubuque, Iowa, Archdiocese -St. Louis, Mo., Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo., Davenport, Iowa.

Region 10: Charley Raimond, Region Chair/Rev. Pat Garrett, Region Chaplain. Archdiocese -Galveston-Houston, Texas, Archdiocese -Oklahoma City, Okla., Archdiocese - San Antonio, Texas, Brownsville, Texas, Corpus Christi, Texas, Dallas, Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, Laredo, Texas, Tulsa, Okla.

Region 11: Lito de los Reyes, Region Chair/Rev. Norm Supancheck, Region Chaplain. * Archdiocese-Los Angeles, Calif., Fresno, Calif., # Las Vegas, Nev., Oakland, Calif., Orange County, Calif., San Bernardino, Calif., San Diego, Calif., San Jose, Calif.

Region 12: Scott West Region Chair/Rev. Leo McDowell, Region Chaplain. *Archdiocese -Portland, Ore.

Region 13: Nancy Welton, Region Chair/Rev. Dennis O'Rourke, Region Chaplain. Archdiocese- Santa Fe, N.M., Colorado Springs, Colo., #Phoenix, Ariz., Salt Lake City, Utah.

Region 14: Phil Krajec, Region Chair/Rev. Jason Adams, Region Chaplain. Archdiocese -Atlanta, Ga., Charleston, S.C., # Raleigh, N.C., # St. Augustine, Fla., # Savannah, Ga., * Venice, Fla.

Patrick Villaseñor recipient of \$5,000 Doerr service scholarship for 2019

by
Julie Doerr

The recipient of this year's \$5,000 Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scholarship is Patrick Villaseñor of Coto De Caza, Calif. in the Diocese of Orange. Patrick says, *"The most important thing I have taken away from Scouting is about giving service to others and giving back."*

Patrick Villaseñor's passion for serving others has been evident throughout his Scouting years, especially through his Eagle Scout Project, "Building Awareness of the Water Crisis in Uganda". Patrick led a team in building a hand water pump to demonstrate and educate the community about the lack of clean water in Uganda. His goal was to encourage people to get involved by building water wells through the organization Wells of Life. "Patrick, through his dedication and hard-work over several years, has earned the esteemed and impactful role of Wells of Life Water 'Ambassador'. In this role he has championed the people and poorest villages of Uganda, East Africa, and through his influence, he has created awareness...by raising over \$6,000 to fund a clean water well...", stated Nick Jordan, the CEO of Wells of Life.

Patrick's love of service includes organizing book drives for charity, including one for Camp Pendleton Marine Base, to initiating and planning the first "Walk to Defeat ALS" in his community, raising \$30,000 for the cause. Every summer, for the past five years he has volunteered as a Cub Scout day camp youth leader to give back. In addition to his Eagle Scout award, he has earned six Eagle palms, 48 merit badges and been elected to Order of the Arrow.

He is committed to his community and has volunteered as a tutor, a peer court volunteer and Spanish translator, provided food for the homeless and gifts to the underprivileged. In 2018, Patrick received the community service award from the mayor of Rancho Santa Margarita. At his church, San Francisco Solano, Patrick has been an altar server for over eight years and volunteers at an additional parish to help with Lenten fish fries. When eligible he plans to join the Knights of Columbus.

At Santa Margarita Catholic High School, Patrick, a member of the National Honor Society, not only excelled academically, but also earned the Coeur a Coeur

(Heart to Heart) school service award by providing more than 120 hours of service in addition to the schools required hours. He was chosen to represent his school at Model United Nation Conferences in Berkeley, Calif., Philadelphia, Penn. and Prague, Czech Republic and served as Chairperson of the South Orange Conference. He has been a peer tutor and is co-founder of the Cinema Culture club. He plans to attend either the University of Exeter or Durham University in the United Kingdom.

A complete list of eligibility requirements and application information can be found online at <http://nccs-bsa.org/index.php/college-scholarship>.



Patrick Villaseñor



Three long-serving, dedicated NCCS members were recognized with the Silver St. George award at the NCCS Annual Meeting in Tulsa. Flanked by National Chair, George Sparks, and Bishop Liaison, His Excellency Daniel Conlon, are (l-r) Mark Kramer, Jim Cordek, and Mark Hansen.

2019 SILVER ST GEORGE RECIPIENTS

Mark Kramer (Diocese of Arlington) was cited for his chairmanship of the Training Committee which developed and delivered the *Scouting in the Local Church* course. **Jim Cordek** (Diocese of Youngstown) was cited for his past work as a vice chair, a committee chair, faculty member for the *Scouting in the Catholic Church* course, and currently, as chair of Region 6. **Mark Hansen** (Diocese of Arlington) was cited for his leadership in the development and maintenance of the *Religious Emblems Reference Manual*, his participation in the recent update to the Ad Altare Dei program, and his authorship of the *Parent's/Mentor Guide for the Parvuli Dei Religious Emblem Program*.

A VOCATIONS REFLECTION

By
Fr. Rodolfo Casals, SJ
Vocations Chair

As the assistant vocation director for the Society of Jesus; I spend lots of time hearing stories. Young men call me with the deep desire to respond generously to God's call in their lives. They wonder if the Jesuits may be part of that response. Many are attracted to religious life because they think they want to live in community, but most have no idea what it takes to forge this type of Christian unity. So, I listen to their experiences of relationship. Some might find it strange when I ask if they had been in the Boy Scouts or on a sports team. The point is that no one does these things alone, teammates and Scout troops provide opportunities for community. Even if the answer is no, as I hear them talk, I wonder "How would this man do around a campfire?" "Can he engage in the casual, but deliberate conversation that often happens at the end of the day on a camping trip?"

Jesuits work around the world in a variety of positions. Storytelling and story-listening are some of the ways we build community. While technology has multiplied our means of communication with each other, this has not translated into an increased ability to reflect and communicate with each other. No one is more vulnerable to this deficit than this generation that has been born into this technological world. A campfire still provides a space to engage with one another face to face. I can still remember some of the campfire stories and conversations I had as a Scout. I could never have imagined how important they would become to me as an adult and as a Jesuit priest.

Did You Know...?

By Bob Oldowski
NCCS Historian

World Jamboree time! And it's here in the USA this time, at the Summit Bechtel Scout Reservation in West Virginia, from July 21 to August 2, 2019.

This is an event of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), held every four years in different countries. This is different from our BSA national jamborees. Almost all countries are no longer male-only. About half of the participants are girls and women. And there are so many different languages spoken by perhaps 40,000 participants from more than 150 countries. The focus at a World Jamboree is more on meeting people from different cultures and countries than doing high-adventure activities, although there will be plenty of both.

The Host Team is led by members from Scouts Canada, the Asociación de Scouts de México, and the Boy Scouts of America. The Catholic programs are coordinated through the International Catholic Conference of Scouting (ICCS). Our National CCS is providing much local support.

Eleven attend Philmont's Scouting in Catholic Church training

By John Anthony

The Philmont Training Center in Cimarron, New Mexico was the location for this year's training conference June 16-21. The faculty included Jim Weiskircher chair, Bishop Daniel Conlon, Ronda Molt, chair of the diocese of Austin Texas, Fr. Eric Groner SVD, chaplain of the diocese of Fort Worth, Texas and John Anthony course director. There were eleven participants including an area president, Jim Hamilton, and a retired Scout Executive, Joseph Daniszewski.

Next year's conference will be held in July near the same time as the Saint George Trek.

The conference is offered at Philmont Training Center in Cimarron, New Mexico as part of BSA Relationships Week and brings together religious and lay participants with varying experience in Scouting and the Catholic faith. The goal of the conference is to help the participants understand how Scouting is a Youth Ministry and how to use the information in their dioceses when talking with Scouters, priests, and youth ministers.



Bishop Conlon was one of the presenters during the Scouting in the Catholic Church training program and his discussion on youth formation as it relates to our religious awards was the keynote of the week. He also presented a mini session to all the training conferences at Philmont discussing the importance of the BSA charter partner concept.



Number of all-girl Catholic sponsored troops on rise— meeting needs of today's families

The Boy Scouts of America board announced its decision to gradually welcome girls into the Scout programs in October 2017. A Cub Scout program for girls was implemented in 2018. The Boy Scout program, for ages 11 to 17, officially opened to girls on February 1, 2019. The Scouting program in every country in the world is now co-ed.

The decision came after years of receiving requests from families and girls. Troops will be single gender, however, both male and female troops will receive the same program and enable both girls and boys to receive the Eagle Scout rank.

This approach allows Scouting to maintain the integrity of a single gender model while also meeting

the needs of today's families. This decision is true to the BSA's mission and core values outlined in the Scout Oath and Law. The values of Scouting – trustworthy, loyal, helpful, kind, brave and reverent, for example – are important for both young men and women,” stated Scouts BSA Chief Scout Executive Michael Surbaugh in the announcing the new program. “We believe it is critical to evolve how our programs meet the needs of families interested in positive and lifelong experiences for their children. We strive to bring what our organization does best – developing character and leadership for young people – to as many families and youth as possible as we help shape the next generation leaders.

Since the formation of female troops was authorized, numerous female Catholic troops have been formed and chartered by either a Catholic church or school. For example, in Richardson, Texas Troop 728G was formed in February with 13 girls and 10 adults. The troop is linked to a boy's troop and is chartered by St. Paul the Apostle Church. Scoutmaster Marie Baert states the troop has already been on three campouts and in June they held their first Court of Honor.

At that court all the girls received their Founders strip and seven of the Scouts were awarded their Scout rank. Another seven girls received their first merit badge for fishing. The troop is now preparing for summer camp and many other fun activities.

Trek scheduled for July 8-23, 2020

New leaders on board for St. George Trek as planning for next year's Trek continues

By Fr. Mike Santangelo
Director of the St. George Trek

As I write this article, I am sitting in the St. George Chapel of base camp at Philmont. There is a great deal of excitement as crews are finally arriving and Philmont is open once again. The events of the fires last year are now behind us and staff here at Philmont couldn't be happier. There are some new faces in management and they are eager to tackle the challenges presented to them. Please join me in praying for them as they continue to lead the recovery effort.

Planning has already begun for the next St. George Trek here at Philmont in July 2020 and we are encouraging all interested Scouts to consider applying to participate.

This year the St. George Trek program has had some changes in leadership. We congratulate Fr. Gerard Gentleman as he begins his service to the NCCS as our Associate National Chaplain.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve with him as the Associate

Director of Program for the St. George Trek. Fr. Gerard has set a high standard for the Trek and with God's grace I hope to meet that standard.

I'd like to welcome our new Associate Director for Program Fr. Jason Adams. Fr. Jason has served on previous treks as a Crew Advisor and brings that experience with him to his new role. Deacon Tommy Watts will continue to serve as the Associate Director for Logistics. I'm looking forward to working with them both as we strive to provide a once in a lifetime experience for those who participate in this year's St. George Trek.

The St. George Trek is the National Catholic Committee on Scouting's high adventure Catholic leadership program. It is a blend of leadership and vocation training with a Philmont Trek. Older Scouts have the opportunity to explore their vocations while hiking in God's country.

Each crew has a priest and seminarian (or women religious) as Advisors. This gives the participants a great and unique opportunity to explore their vocations and their faith more deeply.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and in order to participate the Scouts need Diocesan approval to attend the St. George Trek. Information about the Trek can be found on the NCCS website: nccs-bsa.org. Information is located under the Youth tab. For further information on upcoming treks or how to apply you can email stgeorgetrek@gmail.com.



Nine Scouters earn Jerusalem Cross and Saint Brendan the Navigator Awards



by
Mark Kramer, Vice Chair

At the NCCS Business meeting in April 2019, the Training Committee presented seven Jerusalem Cross awards to our Scouting in the Catholic Church participants.

To earn the Jerusalem Cross Award individuals must first complete Scouting in the Catholic Church at the Philmont Training Center. After completing the course participants will develop and deliver a mission project that serves the needs of their parish youth ministry or diocesan Catholic Scouting community. The focus of the mission project can be in the following areas:

Leadership Development, Advocacy;
Catechesis, Evangelization;
Pastoral Care, Justice and Service;
and Prayer and Worship, Community Life

Upon completion of the mission project the applicant provides the Training Committee:

A write-up of the mission project and its outcomes,
A signed letter from you evaluating yourself and your mission project,
A signed letter from an ecclesiastical representative of their parish or diocese, and
A signed letter from someone who benefited from their mission project.

This year's recipients are: **Fr. Eric Groner**, SVD, Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas, **Daniel and Joe Odom**, Archdiocese of Atlanta, Ga. **Charles Raimond, Jr.**, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Texas, **John Snider**, Archdiocese of Santa Fe, N.M., **Mary Stoner**, Diocese of Kansas City-Saint Joseph, Mo., and **Debbie Wickham**, Diocese of Paterson, N.J.

At the same meeting. the Training Committee also presented five Saint Brendan the Navigator Awards to selected participants in the Scouting in the Local Church - Diocesan Development training program.

To earn the Saint Brendan the Navigator Award individuals must first complete Scouting in the Local Church - Diocesan Development at the BSA's Florida Sea Base. After completing the course, participants will develop and deliver a mission project that serves the needs of their diocesan Catholic Scouting community. The focus of the mission project can be in the following areas:

Direction - DCCOS Mission and Vision
Ark - Structure and Formation
Shipwright - Recruiting Leadership
Navigation - Diocese and Unit Excellence

Those earning the **Saint Brendan the Navigator** were: **Scott West**, Archdiocese of Portland, Ore., **Kathy Polowski**, Diocese of Phoenix, Ariz., **Ed Flemming**, Diocese of Allentown, Penn., **Joseph Bouley**, Diocese of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Chris Murray, Archdiocese of Washington.

We encourage participants to work on their Jerusalem Cross Award or Saint Brendan the Navigator Award as soon as possible. In the end it is about returning home and applying what you have learned. If you have attended Scouting in the Catholic Church or Scouting in the Local Church - Diocesan Development conferences you are eligible to earn the Jerusalem Cross or Saint Brendan award respectively. We know every situation is different, so if you've not completed your mission project yet but want to let us hear from you!