

My name is Cameron Corbin and I'm an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Anderson Township. I am a very organized person and I love to learn. I stand up for what I believe in and am not influenced by my friends. I enjoy helping out where I can at school. I help my teachers, Ms. Coyle and Ms. Benvie, with any heavy lifting they need and with special projects. I "loan" supplies (pencils, paper, glue) to kids who need them knowing that that they will not be returned. I volunteer to lead class group projects and classmates see me as an organizer and leader. For the second year in a row I have received the Christian Student Award. Teachers and classmates make nominations for this award based on your example of living your life according the Golden Rule and living out the Gospel teachings. I just try to be a nice person and to be helpful to others.

We have a First Grade Buddy program at our school, and I am trying to make a difference with my little buddy, Raymond. Raymond does not have any brothers. We attend mass together every Thursday morning and I show Raymond, through my example, what it takes to be a prayerful person. I answer his questions about what is taking place in mass and the greatest thing is when he leans his head on my shoulder as we listen to Fr. Howard speak. I know that he is comfortable with me because of this. I always say hello to him when I see him in the halls or after-school when he goes to After-Care. You should see the big smile that lights up his face when he sees me! Since I don't have any brothers I enjoy being able to make a difference in another boy's life.

I am a Life Scout in our parish Boy Scout troop and on the Patrol Leadership Council. When new boys bridge over from Cub Scouts each winter, I am the first to help them with their knots and camping skills. The younger scouts look up to me and many have stayed in the troop because of me. This is a hard thing today when so many people

try to make us feel like we are strange or ‘nerds’ for liking scouting. For me, Boy Scouts has been a place to learn new things, experience taking care of myself, and to enjoy the natural world.

Through scouting and volunteering, I have made a difference in many areas of the Anderson Community. I have helped with cleanup and running booths at our summer Parish festivals. I have worked for two years at the annual “Tri 4 Joe” triathlon at Coney Island that benefits the Downs Syndrome Association of Greater Cincinnati. I have worked at a water and warning station on the running course and cheer on the runners as they race by.

I have also volunteered at my local branch of the Public Library. I love to read and have spent many hours with my mom and sister at the library over the years. I started to volunteer for some Scouting service hours during my 7<sup>th</sup> grade school year. The librarians liked my work and asked me to come back last summer to help them with their summer reading contest for kids. I volunteered every week for two months, helping them with the contest and prizes as well as shelving audio-visual materials. I even got a volunteer badge! I loved helping the little kids pick out their books and answering questions that the adults might have. Some people thought I was a real employee!

Scouting has given me a chance to become a leader and to affect those around me. I used to be very quiet and shy; not even raising my hand in class when I knew the answers. Participating in Scouting has given me the self-confidence that I need to go on

to be the best person that I can be. Helping others and being a good example for the younger boys is something that I want to continue doing.

That is one of the reasons that I chose St. Xavier for high school next year. St. Xavier is known for creating “men for others” following in the way of St. Ignatius and I am looking forward to making a difference in the Cincinnati community with the service work that I do.