

Hudson Nuss – All Saints – Saint Xavier High School or Summit Country Day

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to apply for the Aubrey Rose Foundation Scholarship. I am excited to explain my diverse qualities for the scholarship. A person never really knows, but I would like to think that I have positively affected the people I am around in my life. I am, among other things, an honors student, an athlete, a leader, and a volunteer. I try to be a loyal, honest, and helpful friend, ready to assist anyone in need. I respect and value all good people, including their opinions and beliefs. I believe my easy-going, friendly interaction with others allows me to positively influence the people around me. I have learned these traits from the wonderful people surrounding me – my immediate and extended family, friends, friends' parents, teachers, leaders, and coaches – who have taught me by example what it means to help others. Volunteering to 'give back' is one of the activities that make me most happy.

My school, All Saints, not only supplies me with knowledge, but also the ability to give back to my community. Being an eighth-grader, I am a role model to the younger kids of the school. I try to be a positive role model by spending my time teaching or playing with the kids. I tutored 1st graders when I was in 6th and 7th grade, and now I tutor kindergartners. During my 6th and 8th grade years, I have been part of the Character Team, which is a group of junior high students who spread each month's moral focus (i.e. Respect, Gratitude, etc.). On Sundays, dozens of kids from all different schools gather in our Parish's Youth Group room. From time to time we participate in community services like fixing up someone's yard or working at parish events. Through Youth Group, I have learned a lot about my faith and how to follow the right path.

Outside of school, I am a tour guide for our school's Open House and at our New Family Pizza Party. Faith is an important part of my life and I try to influence everyone else to feel the same way. I have been accomplishing this goal by being an altar server since the 6th grade. Also, during the 6th grade I participated in the Bible Bowl. I have been part of my parish's Vacation Bible School since the 6th grade; my positions of leadership have changed from Crew Leader (1 year) to Station Leader (2 years). I work with my parish to help others by serving lunches at soup kitchens, giving to NEEDs, and filling and distributing Thanksgiving baskets. My sister and I volunteer at the Aubrey Rose Foundation fundraisers. Also, I volunteer at Montgomery Safety Village where we teach young children safety rules about their world.

Scouts has helped make me who I am today by teaching me to set a goal, work hard to achieve it, and to always help others along the way. Currently, I am working on my Eagle Scout project. My project's goal is to help spread knowledge and entertainment through reading. I hope to accomplish this by collecting gently used magazines in bins at libraries, then having them dropped off at lower income hospitals, retirement homes, prisons, and schools. I have participated in other Scout projects too, including: building compost bins, benches, and stands, moving books, and helping guests at a health presentation. Besides our Eagle Scout projects, Scouts has given me countless chances to help those around me. Our troop is our parish's "gardeners" because we are always taking down dead trees and planting new ones. We bus tables at the Fish Fry and clean up after the Parish Festival. Through all of this, I have learned from some of the best Scout leaders of how important service to others is.

My school and parish have given me many opportunities to help those who need it. In high school, I hope to participate in just as many and more worthwhile causes.

In addition to my extracurricular activities, I am the oldest of five children. Being the oldest child has given me the opportunity to influence my younger siblings in a positive manner, and being around them has positively influenced me too. I think having four younger siblings has helped make me who I am today. By being the oldest child, lots of responsibility was given to me to help take care of them and be a good role model. My siblings and I range in age from 14 to 3, and I can honestly say that I have loved to watch them grow up. This ongoing experience has made me more comfortable and knowledgeable around younger children. I love to spend time with my siblings and other young children, doing everything from reading and playing games to letting them use me as a jungle gym. I spend so much time with my siblings that I can usually tell who is who just by listening to their laugh, cry, or even how they walk! Some life skills my family has taught me are: how to be patient, to cherish the fun and crazy times, how to put others' needs ahead of my own, and most importantly...how to change diapers!

In closing, in all the activities and daily events I mentioned above, I always try to have a smile on my face. Hopefully no matter what my situation in life is, I will always have a smile to share with others. It is important to view the world with a 'glass half full' attitude, because a positive attitude will have a positive influence on others. Thank you!