

2020 St. Vincent's Youth Award Honoree

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Scouting is something that is near and dear to me. My involvement in scouting started when I was about two years old alongside my oldest brother. Growing up with two older brothers who were cub scouts and boy scouts really influenced me wanting to volunteer when I was old enough. When I was younger I went through the cub scouts program twice and really loved being involved and participating in all the different events and activities.

So when it came time for my younger brother to go through cub scouts, I knew that I wanted to be even more involved as an assistant den scout leader so that I could pass on all of my knowledge to a younger generation. As an assistant den chief, I would guide the boys through the weekly meetings - teaching them skills such as first aid to healthy eating and basic outdoor skills - that they would use for the rest of their scouting career and for the rest of their lives. With the boy scouts, I also do volunteer a lot and help out with most of their fundraising events as well as eagle scout projects.

Not only has scouting given me the ability to help and teach young boys through my volunteering but it has also taught me so much over the past 15 years. Yes it has taught me essential life skills but it has also taught me how to be a good leader, the importance of teamwork and the importance of never giving up. All of these lessons that I learned is what really inspired me to want to volunteer with the pack/troop that had done so much for me.

In scouting, a lot of what we do is to help others so in high school when I got the chance to volunteer to help others through Mission Outreach and being a breakfast run coordinator, I knew that it would be something that I would absolutely love to do. And I was right, seeing the pure joy on the faces of the homeless people in NYC who are very grateful for what we are giving them just gives indescribable feelings and such joy.