



Ava Farrell
North Catholic HS, Grade 12

2021 *Honorable Mention Girl Scout of Distinction*

For her Gold Award, Ava wrote two books about Catholic mass to support children with autism and learning disabilities and their experience at church.

Mass is an essential part of Ava's Catholic faith and rich in meaning and Biblical origins. Ava, who is on the autism spectrum, understands firsthand how difficult it can be for those with autism to fully understand the many details and traditions.

Ava wrote one book for elementary children and a second, more detailed book, for teenagers. Both books include a section describing who the participants are on the altar, the purpose for the accessories used during mass and the significance of the clothing and liturgical colors worn. The books are intended to be taken to mass and used like a missal to help make their time in church more prayerful.

Ava is a senior at North Catholic High School. In addition to Girl Scouts, Ava is a varsity cheerleader, a member of drama club, and has performed in several productions at school. Ava has volunteered as a faith formation teacher's aide, participated in the Lambs Supper program and volunteers at vacation Bible school at Saint Richard Roman Catholic Church. She was awarded the 2020 Saint Joan of Arc Medallion for outstanding community service by the St. Lucy's Auxiliary for the Blind. Ava's favorite Girl Scout memory is the years she spent volunteering as a creek counselor at Girl Scout day camp.

Outside of school, Ava enjoys learning about wildlife and loves the time she spends gardening with her dad. She looks forward to studying horticulture after graduation and hopes to own her own greenhouse one day. She would like to thank Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania for providing her with so many learning and leadership opportunities. Ava also wants to thank Mrs. Contenta Schoenman for being an awesome troop leader. Finally, Ava thanks her parents for their support with her Girl Scout activities and especially her mom for being at all her Girl Scout events and nominating her for this award.

