

23 Apr 2012

The Core Values of the United States Marine Corps are: **Honor, Respect and Commitment**

I was raised in a family where both my parents were on active duty in the United States Navy and they gave me first hand insight into what it means to live with the core values of Honor, Respect and Commitment. I grew up watching my dad deploy on submarines for months at a time and my mom deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan as a trauma flight nurse. Their duty was to not think of themselves, but to serve others, and protect the freedoms of America. Their unselfish actions began to mold my character as I matured throughout the years and observed the work ethic of my parents. Maintaining a sense of integrity within my life, while putting others ahead of myself are two strong principles of which I abide by every day.

**Honor:** As an active Eagle Scout in Venture Crew 226 I am incessantly dedicated to helping those around me. In Scouting the eagle stands for strength of character and represents an understanding of one's community. The Boy Scouts of America program has taught me to live my life with a sense of integrity, honor and lend a helping hand to others in need. I have demonstrated how people, working together, helped to mold me, a young man, with a solid sense of leadership, citizenship, and responsibility. My personal character is reflected in my attitude toward God, the ideals of Scouting, my cooperation and service to others in church, my home, my school, and my community.

**Respect:** I have aspirations of entering the Health Care profession and after earning a Bachelor's degree in the Sciences I plan to attend Medical School and continue my family tradition of giving back to my community and my country. I hold the highest respect for our men and women in uniform. One avenue I am interested in pursuing is Medical School within the military. I would love the opportunity to continue to study medicine while caring for the same Sailors and Marines that my mom and dad served with for a combined total of 52 years!

**Commitment:** A local community organization I am currently involved with is Faith in Action. My participation as a member of the Faith in Action team is called "neighbors feeding neighbors". We gather weekly to ensure the underprivileged people in our community have at least one hot, home cooked meal and clean clothes to wear. We strive to welcome these individuals into our community and embrace the diversity that they bring. This is a great opportunity which has provided me with a lot of personal growth and dedication. I am committed to the idea of making a difference.

Thank you for reviewing my Navy League Scholarship application.

Sincerely,



Mitchell C. Cross