

North Pocono

For an Eagle Scout project, Matthew Smith constructed a permanent flag retirement incinerator at VFW Post 5207 in Daleville.

A member of Troop 132 in Spring Brook Twp., Matthew received bronze, gold and silver palms. For five years, he served as an assistant senior patrol leader for the Boy Scouts of America National Youth Leadership Training program, is a Vigil Honor member and chief of Lowwapanew Lodge No. 191 in the Order of the Arrow, the Boy Scouts National Honor Society. Matthew writes articles for the Order of the Arrow's National Communications Committee social media pages.

During the summer, Matthew was an intern for Lackawanna County Judge Margaret Bisignani-Moyle. He also was a fellow with the Pennsylvania Democratic Party during the election.

In school, Matthew is vice president of the National Honor Society and has earned high honors every quarter of high school; he is currently ranked in the top 20 in his class. He takes many Advanced Placement courses and earned 10 dual-enrollment credits.

Matthew is executive secretary of student council, president of Students Against Destructive Decisions, treasurer of the Science Olympiad team, captain of mock trial team, and a member of the marching and concert bands and the varsity track and field team.

He twice qualified for the National History Bowl in Washington, D.C.; competed in the VFW's Voice of Democracy Audio Essay contest, finishing fourth in the state in 2016; was sponsored by American Legion Post 274, Gouldsboro, to attend Keystone Boys State, where he was a Boys Nation nominee and member of the honor city of the week; and was a state finalist for the U.S. Senate Youth Program.

Matthew is a member and altar server at St. Catherine of Siena Parish and a second-degree Knight of Columbus in Council 6050.

After graduation, Matthew plans to attend Misericordia University to major in history, with certification in secondary education.

— KATHLEEN BOLUS

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