

## Dr Bash Essay

Our nominee has demonstrated courage and passion for children and their families throughout his career. Dr. Bash is a pediatric cardiologist at the Children's Hospital of Illinois, which he helped open in 1986. He specializes in cardiac catheterization and interventions in children and adults with congenital heart disease. Dr. Bash has dedicated himself to treating patients who are born with a defect or malformation in one or more structures of the heart or blood vessels.

His profession is a powerful demonstration of scouting values. Every day, Dr. Bash meets with parents and discusses how he is going to help their child, who will have a heart condition for the rest of his/her life. In a short time, he has to demonstrate he is a courteous, kind, trustworthy and optimistic individual. It is unimaginable to most people to hand over their sick child to a complete stranger. Dr. Bash exudes the fortitude and bravery needed for people to trust him with their children. It is intense situation when the life and heart of a child is in his hands. Dr. Bash's demanding profession can put him under unimaginable pressure, yet he deals with it on a daily basis.

Dr. Bash exemplifies a direct relationship between his life in Scouting and his life now, as a pediatric cardiologist, Vigil Scout, and grand-father of two Scouts. When Dr. Bash became medical director of Camp Ingersoll for five years, he integrated his medical career with Scouting and performed a service for Scouts as a gesture of gratitude for the foundation Scouting instilled in him. He attributes his self-sufficient and disciplined nature to being "the small guy" in a physically rigorous, but supportive Scouting class. He was taught to never give up, which is a powerful philosophy, whether it is referring to the inconspicuous aspects of life or the moment when a doctor is put on the line to save a life.

In his endeavors, Dr. Bash advises others to keep their problems in perspective. He says whenever you think your issues are too difficult to deal with, take a waltz through any hospital and look at the people, particularly the children, and, suddenly, you'll find your problems really aren't that bad.

