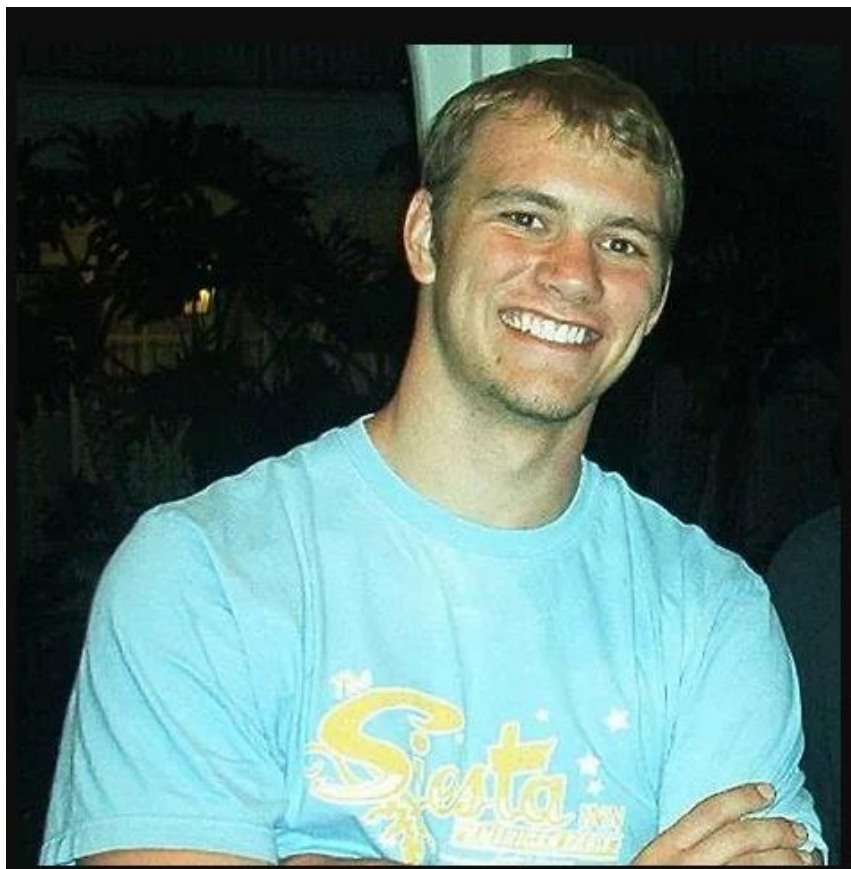




Justin Schroeder MCYSA Student/Athlete Achievement Memorial Award

In 2003, the MCYSA created a scholarship to recognize and reward young people who had participated in the tournament for academic achievement and service to the community. Justin played on the CL Babe Ruth host team and had applied for the award in its first year. He was a unanimous choice to receive a scholarship but tragically, Justin lost his life in a car accident before the awards were granted. The award was renamed the *Justin Schroeder MCYSA Student/Athlete Achievement Memorial Award*. While Justin is no longer with us, we hope that future generations will always remember what is most important about the event and what it means to the young people who participate in it as players, volunteers or home stay hosts.

On the page that follows is essay that Justin wrote in his scholarship application



Being fifteen years old was quite difficult for me. Starting high school and leaving one group of friends behind for another was among the worst of my memories. So much around me was changing, yet there seemed to be only one thing that never changed. That thing was the camaraderie I shared with the other players in the Babe Ruth Baseball league. In my time with the league, I learned many things, the most important of which was teamwork and respect.

First, participating in the MCYSA program taught me the value and importance of teamwork. A baseball team is made up of nine players, and all of them are necessary in order to achieve victory. For the team to function seamlessly, each player must be selfless and do what is best for the team, even though it may not be what is best for himself. Some are never given the opportunity to learn the value of teamwork, and I believe they suffer because of it. The ability to work with other people is an incredibly important asset. This lesson will remain with me throughout both my college and professional careers. Engineering is a challenging field, and most projects are completed in teams, since no project can be undertaken by a single individual. They are often multi-faceted, involving people from engineering, marketing, accounting, or anyone who may be employed by the firm. Teamwork is a lesson I will never forget.

The next important lesson I learned in the MCYSA program is respect. One must always respect those around him or her. It seems as though a common motto applicable to any sport is, "Fear no one, respect everyone," and in baseball it could not be more true, since it is the ultimate team sport. I learned this lesson the best actually when I noticed our team changing for the better. When kids started respecting each other, we seemed to perform better as a team. This respect is not only necessary between team members, however, teams also must respect opposing teams, officials, coaches, anyone who is involved in the game. This respect is also necessary in life, for one who respects no one receives no respect themselves. I personally believe that respecting everyone is an integral part to one's well being.

An old saying goes, "It's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game." This could not have been more true of my experience in the MCYSA program. Our team was not hugely successful with respects to wins and losses, but I learned a lot about myself and my peers the summer we were together. I feel that not only have the lessons I learned contributed to my overall well being as a person, I feel they will be invaluable to me in my future endeavors.

Justin Schroeder