

*Eagle Scout*

**Court of Honor Resource Booklet**

**Edited by**  
**Carl Roy Gullans, Sr.**  
*Pequott District*  
*Theodore Roosevelt Council*  
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# INTRODUCTION

The Eagle Scout Award represents many years of dedicated effort. It is a firm demonstration of how people, working together through the years, can truly help mold a young man with a solid sense of leadership, citizenship, character, and responsibility.

The Eagle Scout Court of Honor is a very personal event in both the life of the Eagle Scout and the lives of his family and friends. Thus, in situations where many Eagle Scout Awards are to be presented, it is essential that adequate recognition be given to each INDIVIDUAL young man. Far too often there are so many boys receiving awards at a given Court of Honor that the individual Scout is lost in the shuffle. It is a tremendously important moment for the Eagle when he receives his badge. Attention *should* be focused solely on him when the big moment arrives!

Appropriate planning can insure a memorable Eagle recognition ceremony and award presentation, one that will not soon be forgotten by key participants. Be careful that the ceremony is well planned and rehearsed so that it runs smoothly and on time. Time? Be extra careful that the ceremony does not go on too long. Nothing ruins an impressive ceremony more than dragging it on for hours. Limit planned and impromptu presentations to a few minutes--- advise the presenters to not read their citations, proclamations, *etc.* in their entirety but highlight key points. Do not read letters and cards received - put them in a suitable book for display (if the Eagle Scout candidate wants one particular letter read---that's fine).

This booklet has been prepared to assist Scoutmasters, troop committee chairmen, advancement committeemen, parents, and others in the planning of a dignified court of honor. Recognizing that variety is an important feature of successful courts of honor, several different ceremonies and other materials are included. In addition, helpful comments are given regarding general prearrangements, features of a good Eagle Scout award ceremony, and the Eagle Scout charge. Above all, let the ceremony be what the young man desires, even if that means a very simple presentation. This is **his** moment, let **him** have it his way! Good luck!

# PREFACE

This *Eagle Scout Court of Honor Resource Booklet* has been edited and is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Boy Scout Leader Wood Badge course (NE-II-72) . . . *I used to be a Bobwhite!* I have taken a great deal of the material for this workbook from others; *i.e.*, the Internet, copies of dog-eared ceremonies from throughout the council,

Carl R. Gullans, Sr.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many resources were utilized to compile this booklet. I regret any omissions or errors that may have occurred; my sole purpose was to provide a useful resource to all concerned. Much credit is due to R. Gary Hendra *the MacScouter* (A... I used to be an antelope) whose *Eagle Court of Honor Handbook* was a source of many ideas and ceremonies. He listed his affiliation as an assistant Cubmaster with Pack 92 and a committee member with Troop 92 both of Milpitas, CA. Resources cited in his work include:

Don Demers' *Eagle Scout Ceremonies Handbook*, a compilation of material from:

- Coastal Empire Council, GA
- Columbia Pacific Council, OR
- Katahdin Area Council, ME and Troop 189
- National Eagle Scout Association
- Northeast Illinois Council, IL and Troop 55
- Northern Lights Council, ND
- Okefenokee Area Council, GA and Troop 223
- Order of the Arrow
- Pine Tree Council, ME and Troops 118 & 171
- San Mateo County Council, CA and Troop 137
- Tidewater Council, VA and Troop 209

Fred Rogers' *Eagle Scout Court of Honor Scripts FAQ*, a compilation of material from:

- National Eagle Scout Association
- Rec. scouting news group on Usenet
- Scouts-L Youth Groups Discussion List on the Internet
- Woods Wisdom*

Steve Aberle, [saberle@olympic.brigadoon.com](mailto:saberle@olympic.brigadoon.com)

Scott Drown

Jack L. Eidson

Greg Gough

Ben Parker, [bparker@interaccess.com](mailto:bparker@interaccess.com)

Ed Schmitt

Paul Sweeney, [sweeney@mdc.net](mailto:sweeney@mdc.net)

Joe Ulrich, [julrich@cdcj089.cnp.cldx.com](mailto:julrich@cdcj089.cnp.cldx.com)

Mike Walton -- Settumanque! the Blackeagle

Jack Breen X troop 92

I wish to acknowledge the contributions from Anthony Eagan, Matinecock Chapter, Order of the Arrow; Buddy Meyer, and from both Edward Fabian and Mark Eisenberg of the Arthur R. Eldred Chapter, National Eagle Scout Association, without which, this work never would have been completed. Also I wish to thank all those whose authorship of the various contributions is unknown.

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# PREPARING FOR THE EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR

## ***General Pre-arrangements***

As soon as the Eagle Scout Presentation Kit arrives, if not before, the Scoutmaster or troop committee chairperson with the parent(s) should begin serious preparations for the Eagle Scout Court of Honor. (**NOTE:** it is unwise to make **any** definite preparations until the national Eagle Scout Service has certified the Eagle Scout's credentials. Many an embarrassing moment has occurred when a court of honor has had to be postponed or worse canceled because of problems with an Eagle Scout's application. No unit should hold a court of honor until it is assured that the application process has been successfully completed!) The Eagle Scout candidate and his family should be invited to designate an award presenter who should then be contacted and his/her participation firmed up. If a hall or other facility is to be used for the ceremony, the necessary arrangements should be made with the owners or other responsible group as soon as possible.

In order to obtain letters of recognition and congratulations from government officials, celebrities, *etc.* the requests must be mailed a minimum of four weeks prior to the date of ceremony (six weeks or more is preferred). Local dignitaries, political leaders, and organizational people usually like at least four weeks as well.

When the *who*, *what*, *when*, and *where* have been established, those who will actually plan the Court of Honor should be brought together (*how*). This group of people will usually include representatives from the troop committee, the patrol leaders' council, and the troop ladies auxiliary (if the troop has one). Don't forget the parents and the Eagle candidate himself! Coordination should be established concerning such details as:

- X Other advancement recognition - this should be for the Eagle candidate only; *e.g.*, an Eagle Scout palm
- X Ceremony details, including any special props (*e.g.*, candles, Eagle display board), public address (PA) system, and the movements of the participants
- X Decorations
- X Refreshments - decide if the troop will help contribute with this or not
- X Invitations to guests and possible presenters
- X Printing of the programs
- X Publicity with special emphasis on photographs in newspapers (this can include pre-post ceremony coverage that should always include a brief description of the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project)
- X Coordination of any religious leader's participation

When the planning is complete, it is essential that all key people understand their roles in the arrangements and in the ceremony itself. Periodic rechecking to make sure that preparation in all assignment areas are progressing on schedule is a good idea. The presenter and any other guests who will have a speaking part in the award presentation should be contacted directly. It is helpful if these people have a thorough understanding of their individual duties as well as some general information concerning Scouting history and the

significance of the Eagle Scout Award (if unfamiliar). It is always a good idea to give those with speaking parts (*e.g.*, during a recognition ceremony) a script so they can become familiar with the wording and can practice its delivery.

As the day of the ceremony draws near, those who will participate should be well prepared. They should know precisely how the entire Court of Honor is to take place. In summary, everyone should understand where, how, and why they fit into the scheme of things.

## ***Features of a Good Eagle Scout Court of Honor***

Here are a few things to keep in mind while planning an Eagle Court of Honor:

- X The ceremony should have a definite opening.
- X A proper introduction of the Eagle Scout candidate should be made by someone or some group the Scouts in the troop respect.
- X A complete and easy to understand explanation should be made regarding what must be accomplished to attain the Eagle Scout rank (explicit mention should be made of the candidate's Eagle Scout Leadership Service project).
- X The Eagle Scout candidate's parents should be escorted to the front of the room and should stand or sit near him (if neither of the parents is able to attend, a guardian, close relative or friend should join him). Be sensitive to the desires of the candidate if there are two sets of parents or other areas of concern.
- X The Eagle Scout candidate should reaffirm his belief in the ideals of Scouting by either reciting the Scout Oath or participating in the Eagle Scout Pledge.
- X The presenter should be someone of special significance to the Eagle Scout candidate. The presenter should be given a few moments to speak concerning the individual Scout or the Eagle Scout Award.
- X Either the presenter, assisted by a troop committee member, the Scoutmaster, or the Scout's parents, should pin the badge on the Eagle candidate. (Many troops elect to have this important function performed by the Scout's mother.) **Note:** it is advisable to have the Eagle medal ready for pinning to prevent unnecessary fumbling during the ceremony. Another unique idea would be to present the Eagle medal attached to a red-white-blue drape (ribbon).
- X Both the mother and father should receive some recognition from the Eagle Scout himself. The Eagle Scout Presentation Kit will include an Eagle Scout mother's pin and an Eagle Scout father's pin. Some units will have the mother presented with a bouquet of flowers as well.
- X There is a MENTOR pin in the Eagle Scout Presentation Kit which the scout should present to whomever advised or helped him on his path to Eagle Scout. If you need additional Mentor pins they are available at your local scout shop.
- X The Eagle Scout should receive congratulations from all people involved. Some of the letters of congratulations may be read to those present as desired but to read them all would tempt boredom and the ruination of an otherwise good ceremony...
- X The Eagle Scout should be given the opportunity to say a few words if he is inclined to do so - this would normally be just before the closing. He should speak from prepared notes as this makes the best presentation and a lasting impression. Encourage the Eagle Scout to do more than just say thank you. He should state what impact Scouting has had on his life, his best memories, his future, *etc.*
- X Because the Eagle Scout Court of Honor is a **Scouting** event, Scouters who are invited to the ceremony *should* go first before other presenters.
- X A nice addition to any ceremony is a gift membership in the National Eagle Scout Association. This will encourage contact with the Boy Scouts of America even after leaving the unit for college or for career opportunities. Eagle Scouts are a great resource for Scouting's future. Let's try to avoid as many lost Eagles as possible!
- X The ceremony must have a definite closing.

## ***Pitfalls To Avoid***

In Eagle Scout ceremonies, as in so many other areas of life, it is often the small things that cause the problems and ruin the big things. The following are small items that are often overlooked and are potential pitfalls that can ruin a young man's special day:

1. When using candles for the ceremony, get a supply of fresh candles. Don't try to get by with candles that have previously been used. The Eagle Scout ceremony is a big enough event to warrant fresh candles. Light them beforehand briefly, it'll make lighting them during the ceremony easier. Save the candles for other purposes (*e.g.*, use them to make troop fire starters)...
2. Make sure you have matches or a working lighter available. Many people have given up smoking and it is more difficult to ask a group of people for matches and get a positive response these days. Consider how the match (if used) will be extinguished and disposed of properly (a glass or cup of water out-of-sight or a fancy candle snuffer are good ideas).
3. Check the public address (PA) system immediately before the start of the ceremony. Check volume. Be sure any wiring is not going to pose a safety hazard. Inform those who will use the PA system on its proper operation (if practical).
4. Check all props before the start of the ceremony. This includes the lectern, any lights being used (spare bulbs available?), the candles, *etc.* Is the script available at the lectern?
5. Remind the parents of the Eagle Scout that their son will be pinning awards on them also. They should dress in a way to facilitate this. The mother should wear a dress or suit with lapels or a blouse with a collar. This makes life for the Eagle Scout much simpler than with a turtleneck sweater. The father should wear a tie or, at least, a jacket with lapels.
6. The Eagle Scout Presentation Kit will be delivered to an appropriate individual in the troop by an executive, advancement person, commissioner, *etc.* as soon as the National Eagle Scout Service approves the Eagle Scout application. These kits are almost always available at the Scout Service Center and made available in the Theodore Roosevelt Council through the efforts of the Arthur R. Eldred Chapter, National Eagle Scout Association. Make sure that the kit has been picked up or received and available at the ceremony!
7. **PLEASE** rehearse the ceremony. Stumbling over words detracts from the quality of the ceremony. The young man worked hard to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout; make the ceremony appropriate to his achievement.
8. Have someone assigned at the door to receive guests and presenters. It's a good idea to let the Master of Ceremonies (MC) know who has arrived and for whom they are representatives. Go over the correct pronunciation of names as well. The MC at the conclusion of presentations should always ask if anyone is on hand for a presentation who was not yet called. **Remind all presenters to keep their remarks short!** This is not the time and place to plug their organization or themselves. The night belongs to the Eagle Scout!

## ***Other General Thoughts***

- X A guest book that can be signed by everyone who attends the Eagle Scout Court of Honor makes a wonderful memento of the occasion for the new Eagle Scout. Other ideas that work are animal hides or colorful banners (*e.g.*, the Eagle Scout banner available from the Scout shops). A separate sign in sheet or book may be considered for the presenters.
  
- X Some of the ceremonies in this booklet include the presentation of a membership in the National Eagle Scout Association (NESA). Such a presentation can be added to any of the ceremonies. Consider presenting a NESA membership to the new Eagle Scout (this is often paid for by the parents or the troop). Whether a NESA membership is presented or not, invite a member of the Arthur R. Eldred Chapter, NESA, to attend the ceremony and to say a few words as part of the ceremony. The Chapter will make a presentation of a handsome, colorful certificate acknowledging the occasion. A special white NESA Eagle Scout neckerchief is also available for presentation (this is different from the blue Eagle Scout neckerchief).
  
- X All of the Courts of Honor in this document assume that the Eagle Scout comes from the "traditional family": one mother and one father. This is not always the case. Be prepared to handle the exceptions by modifying the ceremonies, as appropriate. Some Eagle Scouts will be part of a single parent family while others will involve multiple sets of parents. Be sensitive to individual situations.
  
- X Finally, a word of advice to the mother (and father) of the Eagle Scout: enjoy the ceremony! Let someone else do the work of providing refreshments and decorating the hall. This day belongs to a wonderful young man; make it a day that he and his parents will remember fondly.
  
- X Make sure all are in **full** uniform. This is a public occasion and all efforts must be made to show Scouting (and the troop!) at its best.
  
- X If the troop is affiliated with a Cub Scout Pack, encourage the Scouts to attend if they would like especially the second year Webelos. Wet their appetite!

## ***Eagle Scout Court of Honor Execution***

Keep in mind that the purpose of an Eagle Scout Court of Honor is **first** to honor the Eagle Scout. If the Court of Honor is executed well, it will inspire other Scouts to follow the adventurous and rewarding Eagle Scout trail. **Second** a dignified and meaningful Court of Honor will also show the community the result of the Scouting program so they will direct other boys into Scouting and support the movement.

Some things to think about while planning the event:

1. **Keep it simple, make it fun (KISMIF).**
2. The Master of Ceremonies (MC) sets the tone and the pace of the ceremony.
3. Keep the aisle space clear for parading the colors.
4. Use props with candles; Scout spirit candle, *etc.*
5. Make sure the candidate's parents sit in a special place.
6. An Eagle Ceremony should be held separately from regular troop courts of honors.
7. Master the lighting and sound system before the ceremony. This will include knowing which switches control which lights; where the dimmers are (if any), *etc.*
8. Have the principal speakers sit close to the front to reduce program lag time in traveling to the podium. While it may not always be practical, some troops have been known to seat presenters *in the order* that they will be called forth!
9. Have the troop march in with patrol flags and sit together for colors. This will mean that sufficient spaces will have to be reserved for troop members.
10. It is appropriate to let humor in and to expect the unexpected but nothing must be in the *grey* area please!
11. Have the Eagle Scout speak from prepared notes!
12. Daytime window light may affect slide programs
13. Have extra scripts of the program on hand .... just in case.

## ***Eagle Scout Publicity Plan***

There are basic steps to follow in publicizing any Scouting event. The following suggestions will help unit leaders develop a media plan for the Eagle Scout Court of Honor (or any other troop event!).

**CONTACTS:** Prepare a mailing list of the newspapers in the council, district, and unit area. These should be daily, weekly, religious, and school newspapers, business, church, organization, council and district newsletters. *Pequott District*, for example, has prepared such a listing and it is made available to all units in their program launch kits each August.

**BIO:** Obtain detailed biographical material from the Eagle Scout candidate and a 4"x 5" (or larger) glossy photo. Today, photos will almost always be color prints; black and white prints, while preferred by editors, are not normally available. Editors do not like to deal with slides, however. Most newspapers do not want photos sent that have been cropped by the sender (*i.e.*, cut to size), editors would prefer to crop themselves. Some newspapers may send a photographer to take their own photos, it can't hurt to ask if that would be possible. Include Scouting honors and leadership positions, education, church, civic and school activities, and include the troop number and the Scoutmaster's name in any news release. Above all include a brief description of the service project and whom it benefited.

Prepare a one page double-spaced news release from the biographical material. This should be typed on a standard 8 1/2"x 11" sheet of white paper. Be brief, use short words, always use exact dates, give age of the Scout, name the chartered organization, and above all spell every word correctly. A word processor or a computer is a convenient method of preparing a news release especially if it includes a spell checker.

When preparing a news release, six points are important to remember: *Who ... What ... When ... Where ... Why ...* and *... How*. Get all these points into the first two or three sentences. Then go into the details of the story.

Address and mail (or fax) all news releases to the editor of the local newspaper and newsletters at least a week in advance of the presentation (some require two or more), or as soon as possible after the ceremony. Because of space limitations, most large newspapers deal exclusively with photos and captions of Eagle Scout ceremonies. Smaller suburban newspapers welcome photos and longer articles and are more likely to use them as submitted. Be sure to include sender's name, address, and telephone number in case there are any questions on the article. If a photo(s) is submitted, don't expect the editor to return it by mail. Some editors may do this but as a courtesy one should make some provision for the photo's return to the sender.

## ***Eagle Scout Invitation List (suggested)***

- \* 1. President of the United States
- \* 2. Vice-President of the United States
- \* 3. United States Senator (2)
- \* 4. United States Congressman (1) - from local congressional district
- \* 5. Governor of the State of New York
- \* 6. Lieutenant Governor of the State of New York
- \* 7. State Senator (1) - from local district
- \* 8. State Assemblyman (1)
- 9. Nassau County Executive
- 10. Nassau County District Attorney
- 11. Presiding Supervisor, Town of
- 12. Supervisor, Town of
- 13. Nassau County Legislator (1)
- 14. Nassau County Comptroller
- 15. Nassau County Town Clerk
- 16. Mayor and/or Board of Trustees (if living within an incorporated village)
- 17. Scout Executive, Theodore Roosevelt Council
- 18. Council Commissioner, Theodore Roosevelt Council
- 19. District Chairman, \_\_\_\_\_ District (candidate's district)
- 20. District Commissioner, \_\_\_\_\_ District (candidate's district)
- 21. District Executive, \_\_\_\_\_ District (candidate's district)
- 22. District Eagle Board Chairman, \_\_\_\_\_ District (candidate's district)
- 23. District Advancement Chairman, \_\_\_\_\_ District (candidate's district)
- 24. National Eagle Scout Association representative (district or council or both)
- 25. Police Chief or Police Commissioner of local precinct
- 26. Chief or Commissioner of local fire district
- 27. Superintendent of school district

28. Principal of school and/or favorite teachers
29. Chartering Organization Executive Officer and/or Organizational Representative
30. Key people associated with Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project
31. Scoutmasters of local troops
32. Former and/or current Cubmaster of pack graduated from (if applicable)
33. Former Den Leader and/or Webelos Den Leader
34. Appropriate clergy
35. Relatives and friends of candidate
36. Close personal friends who are in another Scout unit or not in Scouting
37. Former members and families of unit whom Eagle candidate desires to invite
38. Current families in home unit
39. Commander of local American Legion Post
40. Commander of local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post
41. Commander of local Jewish War Veterans Post
42. Commander of local Vietnam Veterans of America Post
43. Commander of local American Veterans Post
44. Grand Exalted Ruler of local Elks lodge
45. Grand Knight of local Knights of Columbus (if applicable)
46. Catholic Committee on Scouting (specify whether Catholic or not)
47. Jewish Committee on Scouting (if applicable)
48. Protestant Committee on Scouting (specify whether Protestant or not)
49. President of local Kiwanis Club
50. President of local Lions Club
51. President of local Rotary Club
52. Commander of local Knights of Pythias
53. Representative of local Mason's Society
54. President of local historical society
56. U.S. military (army, navy, marines, air force) representative
57. Other individuals or organizations deemed appropriate to the Eagle candidate

\* Always include a stamped, self-addressed RSVP card; others may receive same card as desired. Always include an RSVP in invitation with contact's telephone number. Contact person may be family, Scoutmaster, committee chairman, or other individual assigned to coordinate the invitation list.

While the foregoing list is quite long, the Eagle candidate and his family should plan carefully who is to be invited taking care not to exclude anyone whose feelings may be hurt and not to so overload the program that it drags on too long and ruins its effect.

## **Invitations.**

The Eagle candidate should send out invitations to VIPs about six weeks before the actual ceremony. This allows time for busy political and business leaders to respond to the candidate's invitation. Local Scout leaders, friends, *etc.* should be given at least four weeks but preferably six weeks advance notice.

### ***A Sample Invitation Letter:***

123 Main Street  
Somewhere, NY  
\_\_\_ Month 19

The Honorable  
U. S. Senate  
Washington, DC. 20510

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_:

I would be honored if you could attend my Eagle Scout Court of Honor on 13 July 1998, First Banquet Hall of Fame at 2 PM in Mill Valley, Illinois. Your presence would add to my receiving the Boy Scouts of America's highest honor, the Eagle Scout Award. A stamped self-addressed envelope and response card is included for your convenience. I hope you will be able to attend my Eagle Scout Court of Honor.

Yours in Scouting,

Sample Scout  
Tel: 287-0099

*R.S.V.P.* 28 May 1998

### ***Sample Address Formats***

When writing to a member of Congress, use the address below:

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
The United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable  
The United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

When writing to the President or Vice-President of the United States, use the addresses below:

Mr. Who Ever  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. Who Ever's Assistant  
Vice-President of the United States  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Other key leaders are invited using the leading address formats below:

**Mayor:** The Honorable  
Mayor of \_\_\_\_\_

**State Reps:** The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_ **or** The Honorable  
The State Senate House of Representatives  
State Capital State Capital

**Governor:** The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_ **or** The Honorable  
Governor of New York Lieutenant Governor of New York  
State Capital State Capital

**Others:** Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms.  
(Title)

If doubt exists on how to send an invitation, refer to a good dictionary or secretarial handbook. These will also advise on proper salutations.

## ***Eagle Commendation Letters***

It is common practice to write to a variety of government officials, celebrities (*e.g.*, movie/television stars, sports figures, *etc.*) and others to request letters of commendation for a new Eagle Scout. Congratulatory letters will often be sent and are a nice keepsake for the Eagle Scout. These should be presented to the Eagle Scout at his Court of Honor, usually in the form of a scrap book. Clear polypropylene top-loading sheet protectors are a convenient way to display letters, notes, and mementos in a three-ring binder. If these are to be kept permanently, then archival grade sheet protectors are recommended. (A list of possible addresses of invitees can be found at <http://www.macscouter.com/eagle/addresses.html>.)

## ***Sample Eagle Scout Ceremony Preparation List***

[This list was adapted largely from one originally prepared by Buddy Meyer in 1983. Buddy was Chairman of the former Reckou-Acke District at the time.]

### **BEFORE CEREMONY.**

1. Set date of ceremony with Eagle Scout candidate and sponsor (if necessary); reserve room or hall to be used for ceremony if it is a different location, date, *etc.* than used normally by the troop.
2. Make up a guest list (see above list of suggested invitees).
3. Purchase blank Eagle invitations (BSA cat. W2571, fifty cards/envelopes; or BSA cat. W2569, twenty-five light blue cards/envelopes) from local Scout Shop. Print or have printed up invitations well in advance of ceremony date. Check invitations to make sure they are correct (*i.e.*, date, time, spelling of candidate's name, *etc.*). Mail invitations. Desktop publishing permits original invitations to be printed as well or stock blank announcement papers are becoming popular (*e.g.*, BSA cat. W3232).
4. Purchase blank *Eagle Scout Court of Honor* program covers (BSA cat. W2573, one hundred small covers, light blue; BSA cat. W34569, fifty small Eagle badge embossed covers; or BSA cat. W34566, fifty large Eagle badge embossed covers) from local Scout Shop. Print or have printed the programs. Check for correctness of information.
5. Arrange for refreshments after ceremony. If using a caterer allow sufficient time to make preparations; be prepared to give close estimate of numbers attending. Consider a special sheet cake with picture of Eagle badge or another appropriate symbol.
6. If an Order of Arrow ceremony is being used, contact local OA chapter for assistance.
7. If other Scouts will take part in ceremony, rehearse their parts with them.
8. Assign Scouts to color guard. Rehearse processional and recessional with them.
9. Have Eagle Scout candidate select the Eagle and VIP escorts.
10. Assign Scouts who will be ushers and who will hand out programs.
11. Assign someone to check in guests and presenters and give list to Master of Ceremonies (MC).
12. Arrange for a photographer with still camera and/or camcorder to be present.
13. Eagle Scout candidate should select who will present him with the Eagle Scout Award and who will give him the Eagle Scout Charge (may be two different individuals). If an Order of the Arrow ceremony is being used, only the one giving the Charge is selected.

14. Assign a Master of Ceremonies for the Court of Honor.
15. If *Taps* are to be sounded, arrange for a bugler.
16. Arrange for a clergyman or an appropriate layman to give an invocation and benediction. Different individuals (even of different faiths) may be used.
17. Have a display of the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project. Have a book of letters, notes, *etc.* available for display.
18. If unit is to show a slide presentation of the Eagle Scout candidate's accomplishments, check that a projector and screen is available and in working order. See that a spare projector lamp is available. Review slides so they are in correct order and right side up.
19. If flowers are to be presented to the candidate's mother, arrange that they arrive an hour before ceremony or are kept in a suitable environment to prevent wilting.
20. Prepare the guest and presenter list. It is suggested that political leaders, service clubs, Scouters, *etc.* be grouped together. Political leaders often have limited time and would prefer to be put on early in the program often as a group.
21. Make sure Eagle Scout Presentation Kit has been received.
22. See that a suitable table is near the stage to place the plaques and other mementos that will be given to the Eagle Scout. If possible, have someone available to pass the presentations, gifts, plaques, *etc.* to this table. This is a great job for a new Scout!

#### **DURING CEREMONY.**

1. Before the Eagle Scout Award is presented (or after the Order of the Arrow ceremony) an appropriate introduction of the candidate should be given.
2. Make sure **all** guests in the audience are introduced. Many will prefer to stand and be recognized only and will not make presentations.
3. **DON'T** read every letter and note received! Just mention those received and that they are available for review after the ceremony.
4. Depending upon the number of presentations being made, a definite consideration would be for the Eagle Scout candidate to sit during all or part of the ceremony. Make sure that the parents can sit during parts of the ceremony as well.

#### **AFTER CEREMONY.**

1. Be sure to thank everyone for attending including those who helped setup and clean the hall afterwards.

## Sample Eagle Scout Court of Honor Instructions/Work Sheet

[This is an example of a set of instructions for the Eagle Scout candidate and his family together with a worksheet that can be adapted by a troop. This example was adapted from one used by troop 16 from Hendra's *Eagle Scout Handbook*.]

TTTTT

Dear .....

The committee of Troop \_\_\_ sends our sincere congratulations on your son achieving Scouting's highest honor, the rank of Eagle Scout. Every Eagle Scout is constantly looked up to as a special example of leadership and service. It is indeed an accomplishment!

Because of the significance of the Eagle Scout Award, we invite you as the parents of the Eagle Scout to assist in planning (with your son's input) the Court of Honor, so it will always be a special memory for him. This guide has been prepared to help you in your choices. While there is an organized plan to the ceremony, there is also a good deal of flexibility to accommodate any special people or events that you want to be part of the ceremony. If you want to make changes, please do so, and let us know what you would like to do. The Troop Committee will appoint someone to work with you throughout this process. Please note that it takes 6 to 8 weeks to make all the necessary arrangements, select teams and rehearse them, print invitations, *etc.* While a ceremony can be planned in less time why rush planning what should prove to be one of the more important days in your life and the life of your son?

### General Information:

The date, time, and place of the Court of Honor are basically up to you to decide. You should, of course, be cognizant of holidays, school, church and Troop schedules. This will allow a maximum opportunity for other Troop members to attend. It may be done at our meeting room, at your own church, or at another location that has special significance for you in your son's achievement. You should also give thought to whether or not a reception afterward will be held and if suitable facilities are available for it.

[Please note we are a large Troop and the number attending the Court of Honor and reception can easily be 100 or more people. So plan the location and reception accordingly. This will depend upon each individual troop]

Once a date, time and location have been determined, please notify us and the Troop will print invitations on standard BSA Eagle stationery or invitations of your choice. We will give these to you for addressing and mailing. The members of the Troop will all be invited by an enclosure in a regular Troop mailing. You may also have your own invitations printed if you prefer. [**Note:** troops will have to decide what, if any, support they will give to the family of an Eagle candidate; *e.g.*, will the troop pay for the invitations? will they make a monetary contribution towards the reception? *etc.*]

The Troop will also make the printed programs for the Court of Honor, based on the Program

Worksheet enclosed, again on standard BSA stationery, unless you choose to provide your own. The Troop will provide Scouts to serve as the Master of Ceremonies, ushers, and the color guard. The Troop will of course provide the Eagle Scout Presentation Kit which includes the Eagle Scout medal and ribbon, cloth badge, mother's pin, father's pin, and Scout's pin, as well as a framed Eagle Scout certificate. Additionally, the Troop will prepare a binder for the Scout which will include (mounted in plastic sleeves) all congratulatory letters and a copy of the ceremony. The Troop will also pay for the Scout's initial membership in the National Eagle Scout Association. [Again these are optional items for the troop to consider. In the Theodore Roosevelt Council, all Eagle Scout Presentation Kits are provided courtesy of the Arthur R. Eldred Chapter, National Eagle Scout Association, as a service to the units.]

You should know that once your son's Eagle Scout application has been processed by the National Office, you will receive various solicitations directly from National for various Eagle mementos, stained glass windows, plaques, and other forms of recognition. The choice to purchase of any of these items either by yourself or as suggestions to family relatives is of course up to you.

### **Court of Honor Program & Ceremony:**

In planning the location and time, please remember the Troop needs to have access to the location a minimum of 1 hour before the ceremony, for setup and rehearsal by the various teams that will be performing. There is a worksheet attached which outlines the principal parts of the ceremony. Many items are indicated as optional. You may include them or not as you choose. The choice to include any kind of music, such as a hymn or a camp song is optional. If you want a organist or other musician for accompaniment of music you will need to ask them yourself. The Master of Ceremonies will usually be the Senior Patrol Leader of the troop, but you may select another Scout/Scouter/other individual to perform this important task if you choose. The color guard will usually be composed of Troop members, but you may select other Scouts if you desire. The *Call of the Eagle* is an audio or video tape special presentation. Its use is optional.

The choice of speakers is up to you or we will help with suggestions. The main purpose is for various adults, in different aspects of the Scout's life, to briefly tell of the effort and accomplishment of the Scout in the area of experience they know him. The speaker representing the BSA may be a Scouter from another troop, the district or council. Someone from your son's religious experience is recommended. Your son may have another personal or Scouting mentor, a person from the OA Lodge perhaps, or a relative of significance to his achievement. Lastly, the Scoutmaster will relate your son's record of accomplishments and Scouting history in the troop.

The Eagle Scout Challenge is a statement in the responsibilities expected of an Eagle Scout and all other Eagle Scouts present will participate with this. The Eagle Scout Charge is the actual *oath of responsibility* and immediately precedes the presentation of the Eagle Scout Award. You the parents will be a part of this ceremony. Your son will then receive his award and he, in turn, will present miniature awards to both of you.

The Scoutmaster or Master of Ceremonies will then mention the various letters of congratulations and recognition from political figures or others unable to attend. The Eagle Scout is expected to say

a few words in acceptance of his award, perhaps thanking particular people who have been of special help along his trail as well as inspiring others Scout's still working the Trail to Eagle. This may be followed by an optional closing hymn and then the closing flag ceremony.

### **After the Court of Honor.**

Since the location of the Court of Honor is your choice, the place of a reception afterwards is also yours. Whether or not to have a reception, what kind of refreshments, how much to have, *etc.* are all up to you. If asked, any members of the committee will help with these arrangements, but the principal direction and decisions must be yours. The troop will pay for a decorated flat cake for the reception [**Note:** again this is for the troop to decide].

The reception is a good time and place to present any additional family recognitions, and also to display a “memory board” of your son's involvement with Scouting as well as the book detailing his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project.

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For the Troop Committee

## Troop Eagle Scout Court of Honor Work Sheet for Eagle Scout Candidate

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested Program Outline (ver# \_\_\_\_\_)

Greeting & seating by ushers. Who?

Call to Order (SPL or \_\_\_\_\_)

Opening Flag Ceremony (color guard). Who?

Invocation (optional). Who?

Opening Hymn (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Re-dedication of Eagle candidate to Scout Oath & Law (troop team)

Speakers: (minimum of three)

For the Boy Scouts of America: \_\_\_\_\_

For the church or synagogue: \_\_\_\_\_

For the community or school: \_\_\_\_\_

For the Scout \_\_\_\_\_

For the Troop (Scoutmaster or \_\_\_\_\_)

The Eagle Scout Challenge (SM or \_\_\_\_\_)

(incl. all other Eagles present)

The Eagle Scout Charge (SM or \_\_\_\_\_)

Award Presentation (Eagle Scout & parents)

Acceptance & Recognition (Eagle Scout & SM)

Closing Hymn (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Closing Flag Ceremony (color guard)  
(w/Scout Benediction)

[-- Thanks to Ben Parker, bparker@interaccess. com, (Oak Park IL) ASM T-16 Oak Park, IL]

**Eagle  
Scout  
Recognition  
Ceremonies**

## **EAGLE SCOUT RECOGNITION CEREMONIES**

The ceremonies in this booklet are dignified, and if well conducted, should be very impressive. A troop can combine various elements of different ceremonies to fit their needs or can follow a ready made ceremony. In some, emphasis has been placed on the important role the parents have in their son's success. The Scout's relationship to his Scoutmaster is also recognized as is the importance of the Eagle Scout as a citizen in his community and his country. Troops are encouraged to write their own ceremonies using the ideas and elements presented herein. There is no need for each Eagle Scout Court of Honor to be exactly identical, this becomes too ordinary and can become monotonous.

A Court of Honor for an Eagle Scout should be simple enough to be readily understood, yet inspirational enough to make a lasting, memorable impression on all who attend. Let every Eagle Scout Court of Honor be the best it can be!

# BADGES OF SCOUTING CEREMONY

**SETTING:** Across the front of the room are located a set of full-color poster cards representing each of the ranks in Scouting. In front of each is a candle to be lighted as the words are spoken about each rank. The light of Scouting, which would be by itself in the middle of the whole table arrangement, is used to light each one in turn.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Master of Ceremonies           Eagle Candidate  
Tenderfoot Scout                            Second Class Scout  
First Class Scout                            Star Scout  
Life Scout                                    Eagle Scout  
Parents

**PROPS:**                                   Candles: white (7), red (1), blue (1)  
  
Matches or lighter  
Set of Scouting rank posters with stands

**MC:** Upon my chest I proudly wear,  
A badge of gold with which I dare  
To challenge you to aim so high,  
Your life will be where eagles fly.  
Five million strong, the boys and the men  
Stand up for Scouting . . . salute . . . and the  
Hark to the tale of one who knows,  
As onward . . . onward . . . Scouting grows.

(First candle is lit at Tenderfoot badge, then a Tenderfoot Scout reads his respective part. Proceed similarly for other badges.)

- 10 I am the **Tenderfoot Scout**. My three points stand for the three parts of the Scout Oath. You find me on the mariner's compass, forever pointing the way to the North Star and a safe journey in life. On my face are two stars representing truth and knowledge, a shield that is the emblem of a nation molded together in justice, and an eagle to guard the freedom of my land.
2. I am the **Second Class Scout**. The ends of my scroll are turned up in the willing smile of the Scout. On my face is our motto, "Be Prepared," and suspended from me is the knot, tied there to remind you of the slogan of the Boy Scouts of America, "Do a Good Turn Daily".
3. I am the **First Class Scout**. I was Tenderfoot and I laid my course by the stars of truth and knowledge and girded myself with the righteousness of justice and freedom. I added a smile that I might be a friend to all and bound myself together with the knot of duty to others.
4. I am the **Star Scout**. Now that I can stand alone, I have earned the right to improvement on my own. To me goes the honor of choosing my field. Before me lies a horizon of endless opportunity.

5. I am the **Life Scout**. I have shown the world that Scouting is in my heart. I have mastered knowledge of subjects that will benefit my country and my fellow man. I am ready to reach for my wings to fly.
6. I am the **Eagle Scout**. It has been a long, hard but wonderful road. I have mastered my goal. With deep humility I now stand as a representative of the best that Scouting can accomplish in the lives of boys. May I now pass on to my younger brothers a portion of my knowledge.

**Eagle Scout:** The red candle, like the red of my flag, is the lifeblood of brave men ready to die or worthily live for our country.

The white candle, like the white of my flag, is for purity: cleanliness of purpose, thought, word, and deed.

The blue candle, like the blue of my flag, is for faith and loyalty, like the eternal blue of the star-filled heavens.

**MC:** Scouting is no doubt one of the greatest organizations in the world to foster the highest ideals of citizenship. It is little wonder then that so many of our nation's greatest leaders had some of their earliest leadership experiences in Scouting. Now Scouting is changing, but one thing remains constant, and that is that the total development from boyhood to manhood depends upon physical, mental, and moral growth expressed in the Scout Oath. The skills are so demanding and the challenges are so great that it is not surprising to learn that only about four percent of all boys in Scouting achieve the rank of Eagle Scout each year. When most boys enter Scouting they picture themselves as some day becoming Eagle Scouts, but as you know, there are just too many activities and interests clamoring for their attention and the flames that were burning aspirations dim to ashes and flicker away and they stop short.

What does the Eagle badge represent? It means that a Scout has set a goal and worked to achieve that goal. The Eagle Scout badge stands for strength of character. The Eagle Scout badge is a symbol of what a boy has done, but, more important, it represents what the boy will be in the future as he grows to manhood.

(At this time, the Eagle Scout candidate is introduced to the Court, and the presentation ceremony continues as in other examples in this manual.)

[-- Thanks to George Crawl]

# The Challenge Ceremony

**SETTING:** The Eagle Scout Candidate is presented at the front of the room to the Troop Committee Chairman (or Master of Ceremonies) by an Aide (here an Eagle Scout escort could be used to bring the candidate to the front).

**PARTICIPANTS:**

Eagle Scout Candidate	Chairman
Aide	Life Scout
Tenderfoot Scout	Scoutmaster
Eagle Scout #1	Eagle Scout #2
Eagle Scout #3	Eagle Scout #4
Eagle Scout #5	Eagle Board Chairman
Parents	

**PROPS:** An Eagle badge light box can be used effectively in this ceremony; *i.e.*, with separate bulbs behind the red, white, and blue colors.

**CHAIRMAN:** We come now to that part of our court of honor where we are to give recognition to the candidate for the rank of Eagle Scout.

**AIDE:** Sir, I have the honor to present Life Scout [Scout's name] for the award of Eagle Scout.

**CHAIRMAN:** Awarding the Eagle Scout Badge of rank is an important and serious matter. It is the goal toward which this Scout has been working for several years. It is the culmination of effort by his parents and Scout Leaders. It is an occasion for pride and for joy, but, it is also a time for serious contemplation. The Eagle Scout Badge of rank is the highest and most coveted award in all of Scouting, and it is the last major step in the advancement program. If at this point, Scouting has not achieved its purpose of building character--then it probably never shall. These thoughts, which are the basic code of Scouting, are well summed up in the pledge that is taken by every Scout in the Theodore Roosevelt Council upon advancement to the Eagle Scout rank.

(To Eagle Scout candidate) I will read the pledge so that you will know that which you are about to promise, and then I will ask you to repeat it after me.

I (give your name) believe in the Boy Scouts of America as a movement, which has as its goals and purposes, character building, citizenship training, physical development. I believe it to be a movement that helps a Scout become master of his own powers, helps him get along with others, and helps him find worthy use for his powers. I believe it is my duty to do my best to obey the Scout Oath and Law. I hereby renew my faith in Scouting and promise to do what I can in service to other Scouts who have not advanced this far along the Eagle trail.

Having heard the Eagle Scout Pledge and are you willing to adopt it?

**CANDIDATE:** I am.

**CHAIRMAN:** Raise your hand in the Scout sign and repeat after me.

(A Life Scout in the audience interrupts.)

**LIFE SCOUT:** Stop! I challenge the right of this Scout to be awarded the rank of Eagle.

**CHAIRMAN:** Who are you and by what right do you challenge?

**LIFE SCOUT:** I am a Life Scout and my esteem for the Eagle rank gives me the right to so challenge.

**CHAIRMAN:** On what grounds do you challenge?

**LIFE SCOUT:** Has this Scout achieved the requirements in Scoutcraft and Life Interest?

**CHAIRMAN:** His application was verified, and indicates that he has satisfactorily completed the required 21 merit badges in the various fields of endeavor. Are you satisfied Life Scout?

**LIFE SCOUT:** I am.

(A Tenderfoot Scout in the audience interrupts.)

**TENDERFOOT:** I, too, challenge the right of this Scout to be awarded the rank of Eagle

**CHAIRMAN:** Who are you and by what right do you challenge?

**TENDERFOOT:** I am a Tenderfoot Scout, and the respect that I have for the uniform that I wear gives me the right to so challenge.

**CHAIRMAN:** On what grounds do you challenge?

**TENDERFOOT:** Does his Scoutmaster certify that this Scout has actively participated in Scouting in his troop. Has he demonstrated leadership and done his best to help in his home, school, church, and community?

**SCOUTMASTER:** As Scoutmaster of Troop \_\_\_\_\_, I certify that for more than 6 months since attaining the Life rank, this Scout has held leadership positions in his troop. Also, he has been active in school, church, and community activities.

**CHAIRMAN:** Are you now satisfied?

**TENDERFOOT:** I am.

(Eagle Scouts in the audience interrupt.)

**EAGLE #1:** I too challenge the right of this Scout to be awarded the rank of Eagle.

**CHAIRMAN:** Who are you and by what right do you challenge?

**EAGLE #1:** I am an Eagle Scout, and the pride that I have in this badge that I wear over my heart

gives me the right to so challenge.

**CHAIRMAN:** On what grounds do you challenge?

**EAGLE #1:** Has this Scout, nearing the end of the Eagle trail, demonstrated his Scouting Spirit? Has his ability to live and act in accordance with the ideals of Scouting, as exemplified by the Scout Oath, Law, motto, and slogan been noted?

**EAGLE #2:** (Recites the Scout Oath)

**EAGLE #3:** (Recites the Scout Law)

**EAGLE #4:** The Scout motto is *Be Prepared*.

**EAGLE #5:** The Scout slogan is *Do a Good Turn Daily*.

**EAGLE BOARD CHAIRMAN:** As chairman of the Eagle Scout Board of Review that reviewed this Scout's record, I certify that, after investigation, interview, and examination the board is of the opinion that this Scout has demonstrated that he has held to the spirit of Scouting in his daily living. The board has recommended his advancement to Eagle.

**CHAIRMAN:** Are you now satisfied?

**EAGLE #1:** I am still not satisfied. I believe that this candidate should understand that the Eagle Rank is a big responsibility. As well as an honor, and I respectfully ask that this candidate be informed of the responsibilities of an Eagle Scout before continuing further.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Eagle Scout. I agree with your feelings and suggest that none are more qualified to impart this than those who wear the Eagle Badge. I invite you and your fellow Eagles to the platform.

**EAGLE #2:** The first responsibility of an Eagle Scout is to live with honor, which to an Eagle is sacred. An Eagle will live so as to reflect credit upon his home, church, school, friends, upon Scouting, and upon himself. May the white of your Eagle badge always remind you to live with honor.

**EAGLE #3:** The second responsibility of an Eagle Scout is loyalty, for without loyalty, character lacks direction. An Eagle is loyal to his ideals. May the blue of your Eagle badge always remind you to be loyal.

**EAGLE #4:** The third responsibility of an Eagle Scout is courage. Courage gives character force and strength. Trusting in God and with faith in his fellow man, the Eagle faces each day unafraid, and seeks his share of the world's work. May the red of your Eagle badge always remind you of courage.

**EAGLE #5:** The final responsibility of an Eagle Scout is service. He extends a helping hand to those who toil up the Scouting trail he has completed, just as others helped him in his achievement of

the Eagle rank. The habit of the daily Good Turn must take on new meaning and blossom forth into a life of service. The Eagle protects and defends the weak and the helpless. He aids and comforts the oppressed and the unfortunate. He upholds the rights of others while defending his own. His code of honor is based upon the belief that leadership is founded upon real service.

**EAGLE #1:** Mr. Chairman, if this Eagle candidate is willing and eager to accept the mantle of responsibility, as well as the honor of the badge, then I will be satisfied and request that you proceed to administer the Eagle Scout pledge.

**CHAIRMAN:** (To Eagle candidate) Are you ready and willing to accept these responsibilities and to adopt the Eagle pledge that I read to you at the beginning of this ceremony?

**CANDIDATE:** I am.

**CHAIRMAN:** Raise your hand in the Scout sign and repeat after me.

I, (give your name), believe in the Boy Scouts of America as a movement, which has as its goals and purposes, character building, citizenship training, physical development. I believe it to be a movement that helps a Scout become master of his own powers, helps him get along with others, and helps him find worthy use for his powers. I believe it is my duty to do my best to obey the Scout Oath and Law. I hereby renew my faith in Scouting and promise to do what I can in service to other Scouts who have not advanced this far along the Eagle trail.

**CHAIRMAN:** Now, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, I hereby award the rank of Eagle Scout to you (states full name of candidate). Since the parents of this Scout and his Scoutmaster have been so instrumental in his attaining the Eagle rank, I will ask that they come to the platform at this time.

(Proceed with presentation of award and certificate.)

# Citizenship Ceremony

[**Note:** this Eagle Scout ceremony is ideal for more than one candidate.]

## **SETTING:**

(In the VIP area or on a stage or platform are seated the Mayor of the city, the chairperson of the court of honor, and the Master of Ceremonies. Also, the commissioners and other distinguished Scouters and guests. The Commissioner rises and calls the roll of honor. Each Eagle Scout candidate rises when his name is called and advances to the platform where they all stand at attention.)

<b>PARTICIPANTS:</b>	Eagle Scout Candidate(s)	Mayor
	Master of Ceremonies	Commissioner
	Chairman Court of Honor	Parents

**PROPS:** Citation

(The MC of the evening delivers the Eagle Scout Charge to the Eagle Scouts. The Mayor then calls each Scout by name, congratulates him, and presents to him his personal citation in an attractive folder. The Mayor reads the first citation in full. He calls the names of those which follow. At the close of the presentation, the Scouts about face, give the Scout sign and repeat the Scout Oath.)

**MC:** I have the honor to give you the Eagle Scout charge on the occasion of your elevation to the highest rank in Scouting. AThe Boy Scouts of all nations constitute one of the most wholesome and significant movements in the world's history and you have been chosen worthy of this high rank in the Boy Scouts of America. All who know you rejoice in your achievement. Your position, as you well know, is one of honor and responsibility. You are a marked man. As an Eagle Scout, you have assumed a solemn obligation to do your duty to God, to country, to your fellow Scouts and to humanity.

As you live up to your obligations you bring honor to yourselves and to your brother Scouts. Your responsibility goes beyond Scouting, to your country and your God. America has much to give you and your children after you; but it depends for the most part on the quality of her citizens. Our country has had a great past. Your challenge is to make the future even greater. I charge you to undertake your citizenship with a solemn dedication. Be a leader, each of you, but lead only toward that which is the best. Lift up every task you do and every office you hold to the high level of service to God and to your fellow citizens. So live and serve that those who know you, will be inspired to better living. We have too many who use their strength and their brains to exploit others and for selfish ends. I charge you to be among those who dedicate their skills and ability to the common good. Build America on the solid foundation of clean living, honest work, unselfish citizenship and reverence for God. Whatever others may say or do, you will leave behind you a record of which every Scout may be proud.

**MAYOR:** I shall read the following citation being presented to each of our Eagle Scouts today:

CITATION TO EAGLE SCOUT ... [name(s) may be omitted here so as not to single out only one Eagle Scout]

You joined Troop \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Theodore Roosevelt Council, Boy Scouts of America, on \_\_\_\_\_. You were awarded the Tenderfoot rank on \_\_\_\_\_. You advanced to Second Class rank on \_\_\_\_\_; to First Class rank on \_\_\_\_\_. You earned six merit badges and because of your character and good citizenship, you achieved Star Scout rank on \_\_\_\_\_. You received an additional five merit badges and were awarded the Life Scout rank on \_\_\_\_\_. You have earned the following badges: (list the badges here.)

In addition to these badges you were recommended by your parents, your teachers, your Scoutmaster and others upon whom we rely. This Court of Honor believes you will be a first class citizen, always worthy of your Eagle Scout badge of rank.

On behalf of the Theodore Roosevelt Council, Boy Scouts of America, and with the high hope that you will always represent the finest of character and citizenship, we welcome you to the Eagle Scout rank and congratulate you, your parents, and Troop leaders.

This statement is signed by the Council President, Council Commissioner, Scout Executive, District Chairman, District Commissioner, chairperson of this Court of Honor, and your Scoutmaster.

Officially presented by: \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor of the city of \_\_\_\_\_

[Proceed with presentation of Eagle Scout badge and other awards.]

# A Simple Eagle Scout Ceremony - I

[This script was contributed to the Scouts-L Youth Groups Discussion List on Internet by Mike Walton of Greenwood, KY. It was originally used for an Eagle Court of Honor at an army base in Slitter, OK.]

<b>PARTICIPANTS:</b>	Eagle Scout	Eagle Scout's Mother
	Eagle Scout's Father	Scoutmaster
	Commissioner (or Executive)	Scouter
	Eagle Scout escorts (four Eagles)	Presenter

**COMMISSIONER:** At this time, on behalf of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, I hereby convene this Court of Honor for the purpose of presenting the Eagle Scout badge to Eagle Scout [ Scout's name ]. Will everyone please stand and will the escorts please bring forward the Eagle Scout to the front of the room.

[Eagle escort brings the Eagle Scout forward to the assembled group.]

**COMMISSIONER:** The Eagle Scout badge is the highest youth award which may be earned by a member of the Boy Scouting program. It represents another step forward by the Scout toward the BSA's goal of developing citizenship, of imparting character development, and enhancing personal fitness. While the Eagle Scout badge is one of seven badges which the Scout earns, the achievement of the Eagle Scout badge is indeed the highest honor that a Scout may achieve.

Eagle Scout [ Scout's name ], will you please face the audience, raise your right hand in the Scout sign and please repeat the Scout Oath.

[Eagle Scout repeats the Scout Oath.]

**COMMISSIONER:** Thank you, Eagle Scout [ Scout's name ]. At this time, I wish to call upon your Scoutmaster to wish you well.

**SCOUTMASTER:** Eagle Scout [ Scout's name ], I wish to congratulate you upon this achievement on behalf of the boys and adults of Troop \_\_\_\_\_. We are all extremely proud of your achievement and equally proud of your progress along the Scouting trail. As a small token of our pride in you, it is my honor to present this special neckerchief, emblematic of all Eagle Scouts everywhere, to you. Please wear this with pride in our program and with pride in your personal achievement.

[Scoutmaster removes old neckerchief and replaces it with the silver and blue Eagle Scout neckerchief. This is different from the white neckerchief of the National Eagle Scout Association bearing the NESAs Eagle Scout logo. The NESAs neckerchief may be presented in addition to or in lieu of the silver and blue one.]

[Scout master then expresses his or her own personal good wishes for the new Eagle.]

**SCOUTMASTER:** Just like your past progress along the trail, you did not go it alone. Your fellow

Patrol and Troop members assisted you greatly. Your friends and those in your community supported you while you completed the service projects in the Troop. But your parents supported you throughout and it is at this time I ask them to please join us here. Will the Eagle Scout escorts please bring Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ forward to join their son.

[Eagle Scout escorts bring the parents of the Eagle Scout to the front.]

**SCOUTMASTER:** At this time, I wish to present \_\_\_\_\_ who will address all of us but particularly the new Eagle Scout and his parents. Ladies and Gentlemen, \_\_\_\_\_.

**PRESENTER:** [says personal greetings and other comments relating to the achievement of the Eagle Scout badge. Then, states the following:]

I have the honor of giving this Eagle Scout Presentation Kit and certificate on behalf of the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America to your Scoutmaster for presentation to you.

[Presenter presents the presentation kit and certificate to the Scoutmaster, who then holds it while the presenter gives the new Eagle Scout the Eagle Scout Charge.]

[A suitable Eagle Scout Charge is now made. See examples in this book.]

**PRESENTER:** (To the Scoutmaster) Will you please assist me in presenting the Eagle Scout badge to Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_, who will pin her son with this high honor?

[Scoutmaster opens the kit, gets the medal out and gives it to the mother, who then pins her son's badge on the left side of his uniform centered above his left pocket.]

**PRESENTER:** \_\_\_\_\_, because your mother gave birth to you, nurtured you, and gave you solace, comforted you and assisted in your development, I ask you to please present to her the Eagle Scout mother's pin, a outward symbol of your achievement which she may wear with pride.

[Scoutmaster gives the pin to the Eagle Scout, who then turns and pins it on his mother.]

[At this time, the Scouter stands and faces the Eagle Scout and his parents.]

**SCOUTER:** \_\_\_\_\_, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. It is my honor to read to you a special message sent to you from the National Office of the Boy Scouts of America. However, before I read this, I wish to call upon anyone present who is a holder of the Eagle Scout badge to please stand.

[Eagle escorts and any other Eagle Scouts present stand at this time. The Scouter reads the letter sent to the Eagle Scout from the National President and the Chief Scout Executive. Afterwards, the Scouter presents the letter and the Eagle Scout registration card to the father of the Scout.]

**SCOUTER:** At this time, the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, hereby recognizes [Scout's name] as an Eagle Scout of Troop \_\_\_\_\_. We ask that Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ present his son with his Eagle Scout card and the letter from the National Council.

[Father presents card and letter to Scout.]

**PRESENTER:** [ Scout's name ], because your father raised you, taught you important lessons, gave

you solace, comforted you and assisted in your development, I ask you to please present to him the Eagle Scout tie tack, a outward symbol of your achievement which he will wear with pride.

[Scoutmaster gives the tie tack to the Scout, who then turns and pins it on his father.]

**COMMISSIONER:** On behalf of the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America, I hereby declare this Court of Honor closed and join with all assembled in greeting the new Eagle Scout.

**NOTE :** Depending on time and circumstances, it is possible and desirable to add a place for the new Eagle Scout to insert his own personal touches and for someone to list his achievements and his progress toward Eagle Scout. Also, it is possible to add a presentation of a membership in the National Eagle Scout Association.

[-- Thanks to Mike Walton, Settumanque! the Blackeagle for this ceremony.]

## Simple Eagle Scout Ceremony - II

**SETTING:** In a brief opening ceremony. the colors are posted in the front of the room. Other appropriate candles and Eagle Scout paraphernalia are in place. Scoutmaster, ceremony participants, and family of the Eagle candidate are seated in the front row. Visiting Scouts and Scouters are also near the front.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Eagle Scout candidate  
Parents  
Master of Ceremonies  
Scoutmaster  
Honor Guard  
Chaplain (or Aide)

**MC:** Tonight we have the honor and pleasure of bestowing the rank of Eagle Scout on a member of our troop. This presentation takes on added significance when one considers the tempo of the times. Democracy is a fresh conquest for each generation. This is an important and serious matter and a cause for concern of every true American.

In full awareness of the challenge of the times, the parents of this young man and his Scout leaders have labored long and faithfully through the Boy Scout program to develop him toward alert and participating citizenship. Their efforts will culminate tonight in the presentation of his Eagle Scout Award.

The success of these efforts will be manifest in the way that this and every other Eagle Scout sets a social pattern for all those lives they touch.

(The candidate is escorted to the front of the room by an honor guard in the usual manner.)

**CHAPLAIN:** (*PRAYER FOR SCOUTING*) Heavenly Father, we thank you for the interest in the Scouting movement that has brought this group together tonight. We thank you for the success of the Scouting movement in the United States since 1910. We are grateful for the influence that Troop \_\_\_\_ has had on the lives of boys since it held its first charter in 19\_\_\_. We pray for continued blessings on this troop, its leaders, its troop committee, and its sponsor through the years ahead -- that Troop \_\_\_\_ may continue to turn out leaders for tomorrow, prepared as good citizens.

**MC:** The Scouting movement constitutes one of the most wholesome and significant developments of our day. You have been deemed worthy of high rank in its membership. All who know you rejoice in your achievement. Your position, as you will know, is one of honor and responsibility. You are now a marked man. As an Eagle Scout, you will be asked to assume a solemn obligation to do your duty to God, to your country, to your fellow Scouts, and to your fellow citizens. As this is a great undertaking, it is therefore right and proper that a board of review make a careful examination of each candidate prior to the presentation of an Eagle Scout Award. This candidate has presented a record of merit badges earned and these have been carefully checked against council records and certified by duly appointed merit badge counselors. The board of review has carefully checked the record of this candidate as to leadership in his troop, school affairs, religious affiliation, in his community, and in the conduct of his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project. This candidate has demonstrated his capacity and willingness to exert leadership in activities that are constructive and worthwhile. It has been satisfactorily established by the board of review that

this candidate is putting into daily practice the principles of the Scout Oath and Law. In light of the inquiries made and the favorable results in each case, the board of review has found this candidate qualified and has authorized the court of honor to bestow on \_\_\_\_\_ the rank of Eagle Scout.

(Here the parents would be recognized, the presentation made, and while the new Eagle is pinning the miniature Eagle on his mother, the poem "An Eagle Scout" is read to the audience. The poem is found in this booklet. The rest of the ceremony would proceed as other typical examples illustrate.)

[-- Thanks to George Crawl for this ceremony.]

## **History of the Eagle and Man Ceremony**

**SETTING:** Room is in darkness. Flags are still in place at the front of the room from the opening ceremony. At the front is a table with one lit candle representing the Light of Scouting. In front of this candle there are three unlit candles; one each red, white and blue. Behind the lit candle is the Eagle Scout badge light box, covered with a sheet. The master of ceremonies is at the front of the room, slightly to the side, behind a lectern. One Scout is standing by the table to light the three unlit candles with the Light of Scouting.

**PARTICIPANTS:**

Master of Ceremonies (MC)	Eagle Scout escorts
Scout	Eagle Scout candidate
Parents	Speaker (Voice of the Eagle)
Scoutmaster	Presenter

**PROPS:**

Eagle Scout badge light box	Red candle
Blue candle	White candles (2)
Table	Small sheet

**MC:** [As the Scout lights the red candle.] The red of my flag is the lifeblood of brave men ready to die or worthily live for this, our country.

[As the Scout lights the white candle.] The white of my flag is for purity, cleanliness of purpose, thought, word, and deed.

[As the Scout lights the blue candle.] The blue of my flag is for faith and loyalty, like the eternal blue of the star-filled heavens.

[As the Scout replaces the Light of Scouting and removes the sheet covering the Eagle Scout badge light box.] By authority vested in me as a representative of the Theodore Roosevelt Council and the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, I declare this court of honor to be duly convened.

**CANDIDATE RECOGNITION:**

**MC:** Tonight we have the honor and pleasure of recognizing [Scout's name] for the award of Eagle Scout.

The parents and Scout leaders of the Eagle candidate whom we honor tonight have labored long and faithfully to develop him toward alert and participating citizenship through the Boy Scout program. Their efforts culminate this evening in the presentation of the Eagle Scout award. The success of these efforts, however, will only be manifest in the way this Eagle Scout himself sets a social pattern for those whose lives he touches.

Honor guard, please escort before this court of honor, Eagle Scout candidate [Scout's name], where he will be prepared to receive the highest rank conferred by the Boy Scouts of America, that of Eagle Scout.

(The honor guard, composed of Eagle Scouts, will escort the Eagle Scout candidate to the front of the room, near the American flag, and will leave him facing the audience.)

## **VOICE OF EAGLE:**

[This speaker needs to be of a very high caliber. There are many difficult words and phrasings. The part could even be broken into several parts. In any case, the person or persons doing this part should practice until it can be delivered effectively.]

I am the eagle. Since the beginning of time, Man has used me and my brothers as a symbol of royalty, power, victory, authority, and valor. My strength and courage have inspired men throughout the ages.

Ancient man looked upon me as an inveterate enemy of serpents. They saw the battle between the sun and clouds as battles between an eagle and a serpent.

The ancient Assyrians associated me with Ashur, the great sun god. I was held in awe and worshiped for my majestic beauty. In the Assyrian myths, I was a symbol of storms and lightning and the god who carried souls to Hades.

In India and Babylon I was the symbol of fire, of wind and storms, and the bringer of immortality.

In the golden age of Greece, I was a symbol of victory and supreme spiritual energy. I was the sacred bird of Zeus, the ruler of all gods. The Greeks represented me with wings outstretched holding a serpent in my claws. Thus, I represented the triumph of good over evil.

In Rome, I was the symbol of Jupiter, the supreme god. The Romans saw me as the symbol of victory. As the Roman legions conquered the world, they marched under the standard of the eagle, with outstretched wings. The silver eagle was the symbol of the republic and the Roman Empire used the golden eagle as its symbol. I became the personal emblem of the Caesars, representing supreme authority.

In the Middle Ages, I became the symbol of Germany. As falconry flourished as a sport in Europe, only kings were allowed to hunt with an eagle.

The rise of Christianity brought me still more honor. To the early Christians, the eagle was the symbol of ascension. This was due to the strong flight of the eagle with its gaze fixed on the heavens. In early icons I was best known as the symbol of St. John the Evangelist.

In the nineteenth century, French troops under Napoleon conquered Europe under the symbol of the eagle. Many French soldiers gave their lives to protect the golden eagle which supported the French flag on the battleground.

On June 20, 1782, I became the symbol of a new country. Because of my courage and beauty, I was chosen to symbolize the new United States of America. The eagle became a prominent feature on the seal of state of the new republic.

From this early beginning, I have been used in many ways to symbolize the ideals of this

country. Several states have the eagle on their state flags. You can find me on the coins of America from the beginning to present day. I have a prominent place in America as in ancient Rome as a symbol of power and authority. The emblems of the President, vice-president, several members of the President's cabinet, and most branches of the armed forces center on the eagle.

From the god of the Assyrians to the symbol of the Caesars to the emblem of this country, it was thus fitting that the eagle should have a part in the most momentous achievement of man.

The Apollo 11 crew chose *Eagle* as the name for the lunar module which was to make history. With the words of Eagle Scout Neil Armstrong -- *Houston, Tranquillity Base here. The Eagle has landed* -- man was finally on the moon.

In 1911, following tradition as old as man himself, the Boy Scouts of America chose the eagle to symbolize the very highest in achievement. Through all of history, I have been the symbol of man's best; now the eagle is the symbol of Scouting's best.

### **PRESENTATION:**

**MC:** In a moment, \_\_\_\_\_, [name and title of guest speaker] will confer upon you the award of Eagle Scout. However, I am sure you will agree that some special persons should be accorded the privilege of standing with you and in some measure sharing these high honors.

Honor guard, please escort the parents of the Eagle Scout candidate to his side.

[Parents take their place on each side of the Eagle Scout candidate.] [Invite the Scoutmaster to stand next to the parents.]

As the special guest of tonight's Court of Honor, Mr.(Mrs.) \_\_\_\_\_ will present the Eagle Scout Award.

[Introduce presenter.]

**PRESENTER:** [He has the option of speaking informally for a few minutes about the Eagle Scout award or the Eagle Scout candidate. He speaks from a position near the candidate. He concludes his speech with the following sentence.]

[ Scout's name ], it is with distinct honor and pleasure that I present you with the Eagle Scout Award.

[He then pins it on or passes badge to mother to pin on her son.]

**MC:** No one will ever know the unnumbered acts of self-sacrifice and helpfulness from the mother of this Eagle Scout which have led us to this night. As the symbol of what this mother has made possible, the court now asks [Scout's name ] to present to his mother a miniature Eagle Scout pin.

[The presenter gives it to the Eagle Scout who then pins it on his mother.]

**PRESENTER:** [ Scout's name ], it is customary that you also give your mother an Eagle Scout kiss.

[The Eagle does so ... hopefully.]

**MC:** Your father has stood by you over the years and has offered his encouragement and assistance. As the symbol of what he has contributed to your attainment of this award, the court now asks you to present to him a miniature Eagle Scout Dad tie tack.

[The presenter gives it to the Eagle Scout who then pins it on his father's tie.]

**MC:** In recognition of his fatherly advice and guidance along the trail to Eagle Scouting, I now ask \_\_\_\_\_ to present his son with the Eagle Scout certificate and a personal letter from the Chief Scout Executive, Boy Scouts of America.

[The presenter gives them both to the Eagle Scout's father, who then reads the letter aloud and presents them both to the Eagle Scout.]

**MC:** The court thanks Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ for coming tonight and assisting in the presentation of the Eagle Scout award to [Scout's name]. I now would like to call forward \_\_\_\_\_ who is representing the Arthur R. Eldred Chapter, National Eagle Scout Association, for a presentation.

**NESA REPRESENTATIVE:** [Scout's name], by virtue of your earning the Eagle Scout award, you are now eligible to become a member of the National Eagle Scout Association. Your troop [parents, other] has enrolled you as a member in the association and I have the honor of presenting your membership certificate to you. Fail not your fellow Eagle Scouts, for your responsibilities are now greater than before. As you go forward in life, receiving other honors and awards, always remember this night when you became an Eagle Scout.

[He then gives him the NESA membership. In lieu of a membership certificate if the Eagle has not been enrolled as a NESA member, the Chapter will present a special certificate of appreciation. Both may be presented if requested.]

**MC:** [ Scout's name ], you are now about to join the ranks of Eagle Scouts. Before doing so, however, we ask you to recommit yourself to Scouting's essential principles. \_\_\_\_\_ [name and title of person to deliver the charge] will assist by delivering the Eagle Scout charge.

**SPEAKER:** Would all the Eagle Scouts in the audience please stand and form a line behind the new Eagle Scout.

[Scout's name], I have the honor to give you the Eagle Scout charge on the occasion of your elevation to the highest rank in Scouting.

The Scouts of all nations constitute one of the most wholesome and significant movements in the world's history. You have been judged by the Boy Scouts of America of being worthy of the highest rank in this great movement. All who know you rejoice in your achievement.

Your position, as you know, is one of honor and responsibility. You are a marked man. As an Eagle Scout, you have assumed a solemn obligation to do your duty to God, to country, to your fellow Scouts, and to mankind in general. This is a great undertaking. As you live up to your obligations, you bring honor to yourself and to your brother Scouts.

America has many good things to give you and your children. But these good things depend for the most part on the quality of her citizens. Our country has had a great past and you can help make the future even greater.

I charge you, [Scout's name], to undertake your citizenship with a solemn dedication. Be a leader, but lead only toward the best. Lift up every task you do and every office you hold to the high level of service to God and to your fellow man. So live and serve, that those who know you will be inspired to finer living. We have too many who use their strength and their brains to exploit others and to gain selfish ends. I charge you, [Scout's name], to be among those who dedicate their skills and ability to the common good.

Build America on the solid foundation of clean living, honest work, unselfish citizenship, and reverence for God; and whatever others may do, you will leave behind a record of which every other Scout may be justly proud.

*Scout's name*, you will now rededicate yourself by repeating the Scout Oath. Repeat it slowly, as you stand before the three lighted candles representing the three parts of the Scout Oath. Resolve to maintain the perseverance that has brought you this far.

**EAGLE SCOUT:** On my honor -- I will do my best -- to do my duty -- to God and my country -- and to obey the Scout Law -- to help other people at all times -- to keep myself physically strong -- mentally awake -- and morally straight.

**SPEAKER:** Your conduct along the trail has been excellent. You have rededicated yourself to the principles of Scouting, but one more thing is important: Your future.

As an Eagle Scout, you become a guide to other Scouts of lower rank. You become an example in your community. Remember that your actions are now a little more conspicuous and people will expect more of you. To falter in your responsibility would not only reflect upon you, but on your fellow Eagle Scouts and all Scouting. The torch you carry is not only yours, but is ours also.

*Scout's name*, I challenge you to enter this Eagle brotherhood, holding ever before you, without reservation, the ideals of honor and service. By the repetition of the Eagle Scout Promise before your fellow members, you will become an Eagle Scout. Though the words you use are similar to those by which you joined Scouting, they will mean more now than they could have meant at any time in the past. When you pledge yourself on your sacred honor, you will be sealing your eternal loyalty to the code of the Eagle Scout,

with the words which closed the Declaration of Independence. Scout, parents, and guests, please stand. *Scout's name*, Scout sign. Repeat after me:

"I reaffirm my allegiance -- to the three promises of the Scout Oath -- I thoughtfully recognize and take upon myself -- the obligations and responsibilities of the rank of Eagle Scout -- On my honor -- I will do my best B to make my training an example -- my rank and my influence -- count strongly -- for better Scouting -- and for better citizenship -- in my troop -- and in my community -- and in my contacts with other people -- to this I pledge my sacred honor."

Scouts, parents, and guests may be seated. By the authority vested in me by the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America, it is my privilege and pleasure to pronounce you an Eagle Scout. May the oath you have taken remain graven on your heart forever.

**CLOSING:**

**MC:** I now declare this Eagle Court of Honor closed. I ask the members of the court and all Eagle Scouts present to be the first to congratulate *Scout's name*, Scouting's newest Eagle Scout. Following this, everyone will have the opportunity to do so.

[Announce reception to follow.]

# The Light of the Eagle Ceremony - I

**SETTING:** The Eagle court of honor may follow a regular troop court of honor. The flags are in place, and the mood is set. The participants are seated at a table in the front of the room, or they may rise from the audience at their particular point in the program.

## PARTICIPANTS

Master of Ceremonies (MC)	Troop Committee member(s) (TC)
Honor Guard	Eagle Scout candidate
Parents	Eagle Scout
Voice #1	Voice #2
Voice #3	Voice #4

## PROPS:

Eagle Scout badge light box

**MC:** Welcome now to that part of our court of honor where we recognize a candidate for Eagle Scout. The presentation of the Eagle Scout award is an important and serious matter. It is the climax and the goal for which this Scout has been working for many years.

Honor guard, please escort before this court, Eagle Scout Candidate [Scout's name], so we may ensure that he has been prepared properly to receive this high honor.

(The honor guard, composed of Eagle Scouts, escort the Eagle Scout candidate to the front of the room, near the American flag, leaving him facing the audience.)

**MC:** The Eagle Award is a culmination of the effort of many leaders of this Scout. It is an occasion for pride and joy and a time for serious contemplation. It is the highest rank in Scouting and the most coveted of all awards in Scouting. It is the last major step in the Scouting advancement program. If Troop leaders have not achieved their purpose with this Scout in the building of character, in the training of leadership, in the practice of service, they probably never shall. It is, right and proper that this court make a careful examination of the applicant. In order that you may understand the completeness of our examination, I shall ask members of the Troop Committee to explain the inquiries made regarding the candidate. Will members of the troop committee please state how this Eagle Scout candidate accomplished the requirements established by the Boy Scouts of America. .

**TC #1:** The first consideration in the examination of this candidate, was his proficiency in the various crafts and skills prescribed in the requirements for the Eagle Scout award. The Eagle Scout candidate presented a record of the merit badges he earned and the advancement he has accomplished. These records have been carefully checked. The candidate has been certified by the merit badge counselors approved by the troop committee. The court finds that the candidate has completed all required merit badges.

**TC #2:** Another important consideration for the Eagle Scout Award is leadership. This court carefully reviewed the record of the candidate's performance in leadership positions. We found all positions held in the troop, school affairs, and his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project to meet the requirements of the Eagle Scout Award. We find that the candidate displayed his capacity and his willingness to exert leadership in activities that are constructive and worthwhile to this community. We believe that he is qualified to receive the Eagle Scout Award.

**TC #3:** Last, but certainly not least, is the Scout's character. We have interviewed teachers, his religious leader, neighbors, and many others regarding the candidate. It is the finding of the court that this candidate has put into practice, in his daily life, the principles of the Scout Oath and Law. We believe he will continue these habits after receiving the Eagle Scout Award.

**MC:** In light of these inquiries, this court finds the candidate qualified for the Eagle Scout Award. However, if anyone knows any reason why this Scout should not receive the rank of Eagle Scout, please inform this court now.

**EAGLE SCOUT:** [From the audience.] Gentlemen of the court, I represent all the Scouts who have received the Eagle Scout Award in the \_\_\_\_\_ District. We do not object to awarding the rank of Eagle Scout to this candidate. We believe, though, that he must understand that the Eagle Scout rank is a responsibility as well as an honor. We respectfully ask that this Eagle Scout candidate be informed of these responsibilities before the badge is awarded.

**MC:** The court concurs in your feelings. Let us hear the responsibilities of an Eagle Scout.

(The lights are dimmed. For dramatic effect, use recorded voices in corners of the room or behind drapes. If that isn't feasible, an older Eagle steps to the front to speak as the Voices. As Voice 1 begins, turn on the WHITE portion of the ribbon.)

**VOICE 1:** The first responsibility of an Eagle Scout is to live with honor. An Eagle Scout's honor is sacred. Honor is the foundation of all character. Character is what one is down deep inside, not what others think one is. An Eagle Scout will so live that he reflects honor upon his home, his church, his school, his friends, and upon himself. May the white of your badge remind you to live with honor.

(As Voice 2 begins, turn on the BLUE portion of the ribbon.)

**VOICE 2:** The second responsibility of an Eagle Scout is loyalty. Without loyalty, character lacks direction. An Eagle Scout is loyal to his ideals. To thy own self be true. It follows as the night into day, thou cannot be false to any man. Neither pain nor profit, pride nor personal loss shall swerve him in his loyalty. May the blue of your badge remind you always to be loyal.

(As Voice 3 begins, turn on the RED portion of the ribbon now.)

**VOICE 3:** The third responsibility of an Eagle Scout is courage. Courage gives character force and strength. Trusting in God and with faith in his fellow man, the Eagle Scout faces each day unafraid and seeks his share of the world's work. May the red of your badge remind you always of courage.

(As Voice 4 begins, illuminate the rest of the badge, the scroll and the Eagle.)

**VOICE 4:** The final responsibility of an Eagle Scout is service. He extends a helping hand to those who still toil up the Scouting trail, just as others helped him in his achievement of the Eagle Scout rank. The habit of the daily Good Turn must take on new meaning, blossoming in a life of service. He protects and defends the weak and helpless. He aids and comforts the unfortunate and the oppressed. He upholds the rights of others while demanding his own. His code of conduct is based upon the belief that real leadership must be founded upon service.

May the motto *Be Prepared* always be of service to others. May the eagle suspended from the ribbon always remind you to perform that service when the opportunity presents itself.

**EAGLE SCOUT:** Gentlemen of the court, if this candidate is willing, yes eager, to accept the responsibilities of the badge as well as its honor, we cordially welcome him into the ranks of Eagle Scouts.

**MC:** Eagle Candidate [Scout's name], are you willing to accept these responsibilities?

**CANDIDATE:** I am.

**MC:** By the authority vested in this court of honor by the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, and by recommendation of the persons who have investigated your credentials, your leadership practice and your character, this court hereby awards the rank of Eagle Scout to you [states name] \_\_\_\_\_. The Eagle Charge will be given to you by Mr. \_\_\_\_\_.

**CHARGE:** (Choose an Eagle Scout Charge from the rear of this booklet.)

# The Light of the Eagle Ceremony - II

## SETTING:

(The same as for *The Light of the Eagle* presentation ceremony preceding this section. The Eagle Scout candidate has been escorted to the front of the room and the lights are dimmed.)

**MC:** Presentation of the Eagle Scout award is an important and serious matter. For the Eagle Scout candidate before us tonight, the award is a climax of his Scouting efforts for many years. Let me point out that the attainment of this award is made possible through the assistance of those with the candidate tonight his Scoutmaster, troop leaders, his fellow Scouts, parents, family, friends, and members of our local community. This is an occasion for pride and joy as well as a time for reflection. Eagle Scout is the highest rank that Scouting offers. It's earned through the advancement program. Scout [Scout's name] has distinguished himself through his continued, active service in Scouting. He is trained and practiced in his leadership abilities, and he is marked by the character gained through an understanding of his citizenship and religious beliefs. It is important that we understand the meaning of the Eagle Scout badge.

## VOICE OF THE EAGLE:

1. (An older Eagle Scout) The appeal of the majestic eagle has been felt by individuals from prehistoric times to the present day. To the Egyptians, the eagle was the messenger to the gods and the sun, a symbol of eternal life. To the Romans, he was the carrier of Jupiter's thunderbolts and a sign of power. To the America Indians, he stood as the incentive to valor and the pledge of victory. For us today, the eagle is a living symbol of courageous and freedom-aspiring Americans. When the badge of rank for Eagle Scouts was designed in 1912, a small silver eagle was suspended from a tricolor ribbon of red, white, and blue. It remained so today (Light the Eagle on the light box.)

1. The foremost responsibility of an Eagle Scout is to live with honor. To an Eagle Scout, honor is the foundation of character. He knows that *a Scout is Trustworthy* is the first point of the Scout Law for a good reason. An Eagle Scout lives honorably, not only because of the infinite importance of doing so to himself, but because of the vital significance of the example he sets for other Scouts. Living honorably reflects credit upon his home, his troop, his church, and his community. (Light the white portion of the ribbon on the light box.) May the white of the Eagle badge remind you always to live with honor.

2. The second responsibility of the Eagle Scout is **loyalty**. A Scout is true to his family,

leaders, friends, school, and nation. His loyalty to his troop and brother Scouts makes him pitch in and carry his share of the load. All of these help build the loyalty that means devotion to community, to country, to one's ideals, and to God. (Light the blue portion of the ribbon on the light box.) May the blue of the Eagle badge always inspire your loyalty.

3. The third responsibility of an Eagle Scout is to be **courageous**. Courage is a quality by which men measure in themselves and others. To a Scout, bravery means not only the courage to face physical danger, but the determination to stand up for his rights. Trusting in God with faith in his fellow citizen, he looks forward to each day, seeking his share of the world's work. (Light the red portion of the ribbon on the light box.) May the red of the Eagle Scout badge always remind you of courage.
4. The fourth responsibility of an Eagle Scout is to be **cheerful**. To remind the Eagle Scout to always wear a smile, the red, white, and blue ribbon is attached to the scroll of the Second Class Scout rank, which has its ends turned up in a smile. (Light the scroll on the light box.)
5. The final responsibility of an Eagle Scout is **service**. The Eagle Scout extends a helping hand to those who still toil up Scouting's trail, just as others helped him in his climb to Eagle Scout. The performance of the daily Good Turn takes on a new meaning, when he enters an adult life of continuing service to others. The Eagle Scout stands as the protector of the weak and helpless. He aids and comforts the unfortunate and the oppressed. He upholds the rights of others while defending his own. He is always prepared to put forth his best.

**MC:** You are deserving of much credit in having achieved Scouting's highest rank. Wear your award with humility, ever mindful that the Eagle Scout is looked up to as an example. May the Scout Oath and the Scout Law be your guide for tomorrow and onward.

[At this point parents of the Eagle Scout are escorted to the candidate's side and the normal sequence of events would follow.]

# Lighting the Eagle Trail Ceremony

**SETTING** Two lecterns, with lights, placed on either side of the stage, will simplify the presentation. A single lighted candle is placed on a table in front of the moderator. Candles are set on a table to one side. Three large candles are set on a table on the other side. Lights are dimmed.

## PARTICIPANTS

Moderator	Eagle Scout candidate
Speaker #1 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)	
Speaker #2 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)	
Scoutmaster	Tenderfoot Scout
Parents	Second Class Scout
First Class Scout	Star Scout
Life Scout	Eagle Scout

:

**MODERATOR:** To earn the highest rank in Scouting, a Scout must spend a great deal of time and effort. Therefore, the occasion that recognizes his accomplishments should be memorable. Tonight, we shall follow Light the Eagle trail as we recognize the accomplishments of *Eagle Scout candidate's name*.

When a young man becomes a Boy Scout there is within him something that we call the spirit of Scouting. This single lighted candle before you represents that spirit. Because the spirit of Scouting embodies the principles of the Scout Oath and Law, it becomes a shining beacon of inspiration. Alone, this light may seem feeble, but when multiplied by the more than three and a half million boys in Scouting around the world, it is powerful indeed. After a boy enters Scouting, the Scout Law that he promises to obey begins to guide his life. One by one, using the flame from the spirit of Scouting, we shall light the symbols for each part of the Scout Law. There are twelve parts; each is an important foundation in the building of strong character.

(Twelve small candles are lit as the Scout Law is read.)

A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

(Three large candles are lit by a Scout as the Scout Oath is read.)

In the Scout Oath the young Scout promises upon his honor to do his best to do his duty, first to God and his country; second, to other people, by helping them at all times; and third, to himself, by keeping himself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight. You see how the light from the spirit of Scouting is now beginning to grow and become brighter.

**SPEAKER #1:** Now, in the distant, looms the hazy outlines of Eagle summit, flanked by the lesser peaks that represent the Star and Life ranks. To the new Scout they are very far away, but they will come a lot closer as the light from the spirit of Scouting continues to spread. The Scout begins as a Tenderfoot.

(A Tenderfoot Scout lights the candle in front of the Tenderfoot symbol.)

The Tenderfoot badge is the first rank a Scout receives. It stands at the foot of the Eagle Scout trail. Once inspired by the spirit of Scouting, he won't stay a Tenderfoot for very long. Putting a few simple achievements behind him, he will shortly climb to the rank of Second Class.

(A Second Class Scout lights the candle in front of the Second Class symbol.)

The requirements for Second Class become more difficult. A Scout must learn to be self sufficient in the outdoors and continue to render service to others. Now the Scout is ready for the challenge to attain First Class.

(A First Class Scout lights the candle in front of the First Class symbol.)

Although the requirements become more difficult, he keeps climbing until finally comes the day when he tops the first summit along the Eagle Scout trail. There he receives his First Class Badge.

(A Star Scout lights the candle in front of the Star symbol.)

**SPEAKER #2:** A broad field of merit badges awaits the First Class Scout. More than a hundred merit badges guide the Scout to explore careers, hobbies, and community interest items. The Scout needs but a total of six to conquer the Star Scout summit. Probably a lot sooner than he thought possible, the Scout finds himself standing on Star ridge. Thus, through leadership, service, and achievement, he conquers the first of three great peaks along the Eagle Scout trail.

(A Life Scout lights the candle in front of the Life symbol.)

The trail to the next summit, Life Scout peak, isn't easy. There is leadership to demonstrate, service to others, and plenty of hard work in mastering five additional merit badges and helping fellow Scouts. The higher the Scout climbs, the fewer travelers he meets along the trail. Yet there are no impossible barriers along the way. This Life Scout's goal can be achieved, but it takes real effort.

(An Eagle Scout lights the candle in front of the Eagle Scout symbol.)

While the rank of Life Scout is a coveted one, and deserving to all who obtain it, the Eagle

Scout trail does not end there; it leads on toward a higher summit. The pathway narrows and steepens considerably as it winds along ledges of personal achievement and mountain pastures of troop accomplishment. Mile by mile, the trail becomes more trying. Many challenges must be conquered in these last miles. Before the highest summit along the Eagle Trail can be completed, additional merit badges must be earned. Some of them are very difficult and leadership and service to others are not forgotten. Only with the greatest persistence and courage can the Scout gain the thrill of victory that comes while looking back down the trail, from the very top of the Eagle Scout summit.

**SM:** Eagle Scout candidate [Scout's name], you are to be congratulated for reaching the highest peak of the Eagle Scout trail; your diligence and hard work have paid off. If you, along with your mother and father, will come forward, your Eagle Scout badge of rank will be presented.

You have made Troop \_\_\_\_ very proud. May the qualities that inspired you to this achievement continue to lead you on to even greater success in your life.

As an Eagle Scout, the eyes of all Scouting -- yes, the eyes of the world, will be upon you. The traditions of Eagle Scout are high. May you live up to those traditions, always guided by the spirit of Scouting, represented by these blazing candles before you. The Eagle Scout badge that you are about to receive is symbolic of this spirit of Scouting.

(Eagle badge is presented to the mother to pin on candidate's uniform.)

**SM:** Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_, pin this Eagle badge on your son's chest so that the world may know that he is an Eagle Scout.

(Miniature Eagle badge is given to the Eagle Scout to pin on his mother.)

**SM:** Eagle Scout *Scout's name*, pin this miniature badge over your mother's heart in recognition of her love, encouragement, faith, and trust in your future. As an Eagle Scout, may you never disappoint her.

(Eagle Scout tie tack is given to the Eagle Scout to pin on his father.)

**SM:** Eagle Scout *Scout's name*, pin this Eagle Scout tie tack on your father in recognition of his love, encouragement, faith, and trust in your future. As an Eagle Scout, may you never disappoint him.

(Eagle Scout neckerchief is given to the father to place around the neck of his son.)

**SM:** Place this neckerchief around your son's neck to tell the world you will continue to support him as he grows into a man.

**MODERATOR:** Will the audience please rise and give *Eagle Scout's name*, a round of

applause?

Ladies and gentlemen, this concludes our Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Anyone wishing to congratulate

Troop \_\_\_\_'s newest Eagle Scout and his proud parents are invited to the reception immediately after our closing.

# The Living Law Ceremony

**SETTING:** The lights should be out. The Scouts selected to read each line of the Scout Law should be up front in either a line or a semicircle. They each should have an unlit candle. The narrator can be on the side or in the middle with a lamp. As each Scout reads his line he steps forward and lights his candle from the Scout before him.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Eagle Scout candidate  
Narrator  
Scouts (12)  
Parents

**PROPS:** Candles (12)

**NARRATOR:** Please repeat each line of the Scout Law after it is said.

**SCOUT #1:** A Scout is TRUSTWORTHY.

**NARRATOR:** A Scout tells the truth at all times. He keeps his promises. Honesty is part of his code of conduct. People can depend upon him.

**SCOUT #2:** A Scout is LOYAL.

**NARRATOR:** A Scout is true to his family, Scout leaders, friends, school, nation, and God.

**SCOUT #3:** A Scout is HELPFUL.

**NARRATOR:** A Scout is concerned about other people. He does things willingly for others without thought of pay or reward.

**SCOUT #4:** A Scout is FRIENDLY.

**NARRATOR:** A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts.

**SCOUT #5:** A Scout is COURTEOUS.

**NARRATOR:** A Scout is polite to everyone without regard for age or position. He knows that good manners make it easier for people to get along.

**SCOUT #6:** A Scout KIND.

**NARRATOR:** A Scout understands that there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated.

**SCOUT #7:** A Scout is OBEDIENT.

**NARRATOR:** A Scout follows the rules of his family, troop, school, and community. If he thinks the rules are unfair, he tries to change them through lawful and orderly means.

**SCOUT #8:** A Scout is CHEERFUL.

**NARRATOR:** A Scout always looks at the bright side of things. He tries to make others happy.

**SCOUT #9:** A Scout is THRIFTY.

**NARRATOR:** A Scout works to pay his own way and to help others. He carefully uses his time and resources.

**SCOUT #10:** A Scout is BRAVE.

**NARRATOR:** A Scout can face danger even if he is afraid. He has the courage to stand up for what he thinks is right even if that means going against the group.

**SCOUT #11:** A Scout is CLEAN.

**NARRATOR:** A Scout keeps his mind and body fit and clean. He chooses friends with the same ideals. He avoids those people and things that would sway him away from his true course.

**SCOUT #12:** A Scout is REVERENT.

**NARRATOR:** A Scout is always reverent towards God. He is faithful in his religious duties and obligations. He is ever mindful that he has been blessed by God with many gifts that he is to use not for himself but in service of God to others. These are the principles that are embodied in Scouting; they are the stones that form the foundation of every Scout. When we repeat these words let them live in our hearts and minds and let us give them their true meaning within our lives.

[Proceed with presentations, Eagle Scout Charge, *etc.*]

# Majestic Eagle Scout Ceremony

**SETTING:** Eagle Scout candidate is at front of room with the Eagle Scout speaker. A table is before them with one each white, blue, and red candles in the center.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Eagle Scout Candidate  
Master of Ceremonies (MC)  
Eagle Scout speaker (may use up to three)  
Parents  
Eagle Scout escort

**PROPS:** White candle  
Blue candle  
Red candle

**EAGLE:** Welcome now to that part of our Court of Honor where we are to recognize a candidate for the Eagle Scout award. The presentation of the Eagle Scout award is an important and serious matter. It is the climax and the goal for which this Scout has been working for many years.

The appeal of the majestic eagle has been felt by every great people from prehistoric times to the present day. To the Egyptians, the eagle was the messenger of the Gods and the sun, a symbol of eternal life. To the Romans, the eagle was the carrier of Jupiter's thunderbolts and a sign of power. To the Native Americans, the eagle stood as the incentive to valor and the pledge to victory. For us today, the eagle is a living symbol of all courageous and freedom-aspiring Americans. When the Eagle Scout badge was initially designed in 1912, it was decided to suspend a small silver eagle from a tricolor ribbon of red, white, and blue. So it has remained through the present.

The Eagle Scout award is the culmination of the various efforts of many leaders of this Scout; it is an occasion for pride and joy. We realize that this is the highest rank in Scouting and the most coveted of all awards in Scouting. It is the last major step in the advancement program.

I represent all those Scouts who have received the Eagle Scout Award in the \_\_\_\_\_ District (*or* Theodore Roosevelt Council). We believe that the candidate should understand that the Eagle Scout rank is a responsibility as well as an honor. These are the responsibilities of an Eagle Scout:

The *first* responsibility of an Eagle Scout is to live with honor. An Eagle Scout's

honor is sacred. Honor is the foundation of all character. Character is what one really is down deep inside, not what someone thinks one is. An Eagle Scout will so live that he reflects upon his home, his church (synagogue), his school, his friends, and upon himself. May the white of the Eagle Scout badge remind you to live with honor.

[A white candle is lit]

The *second* responsibility of an Eagle Scout is loyalty. Without loyalty all character lacks direction. An Eagle Scout is loyal to his ideals. To yourself be true and it follows that you cannot be false to any man. Neither pain nor profit, pride nor personal loss shall swerve him in his loyalty. May the blue of the Eagle Scout badge remind you to always be loyal.

[A blue candle is lit]

The *third* responsibility of an Eagle Scout is courage. Courage gives all character force and strength. Trusting in God and with faith in his fellow man, he faces each day unafraid and seeks his share of the world's work to do. May the red of the Eagle Scout badge remind you of courage.

[A red candle is lit]

The *final* responsibility of an Eagle Scout is service. He extends a helping hand to those who still toil up the Scouting trail he has just completed, just as others helped him in his achievement of the Eagle Scout rank. The habit of the Daily Good Turn must take on new meaning and blossom forth in a life of service. He protects and defends the weak and helpless. He aids and comforts the unfortunate and the oppressed. He upholds the rights of others while demanding his own. His code of action is based upon the belief that real leadership must be founded upon real service. May the motto *Be Prepared* always remind you that as an Eagle Scout you are among the best prepared to be of service to others. May the eagle suspended from the Eagle Scout tri-colored ribbon always remind you to perform that service when opportunity presents itself.

**MC:** Eagle Scout candidate (*state scout's name*) are you willing to accept these four responsibilities?

**CANDIDATE:** Yes, I am.

**MC:** By the authority vested in this Court of Honor by the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, and by recommendation of the various persons who have investigated your credentials, your leadership practice, and your character, this Court hereby awards the rank of Eagle Scout to you \_\_\_\_\_. Will those Eagle Scouts in the audience please come forward?

The Eagle Scout Charge will be given to this worthy Eagle by \_\_\_\_\_.

[THE EAGLE SCOUT CHARGE]

**MC:** Eagle Scout \_\_\_\_\_, you will now rededicate yourself by repeating the Scout Oath. Repeat it slowly as you now stand before the three lit candles representing the three parts of the Scout Oath. Scout sign. Scout Oath.

[SCOUT OATH]

**MC:** Now if the Eagle Scout escorts will bring your mother and father forward, your Eagle Scout badge will be presented.

As an Eagle Scout, the eyes of all Scouting and the eyes of the world will be trained upon you. Let me remind you that the tradition of the Eagle Scout is high. May you so live that this tradition always be guided by the Spirit of Scouting. As symbolized by these three candles before you, may the Eagle Scout badge that you are about to receive be symbolic of this spirit.

[Eagle Scout badge is presented to the mother who pins in on the shirt of her son.]

Pin this miniature Eagle Scout pin over your mother's heart in recognition of her love, encouragement, faith, and trust in your manhood.

Pin this Eagle Scout tie tack on your dad in recognition of his love, encouragement, faith, and trust in your manhood.

Congratulations! You are now an Eagle Scout!

# Order of the Arrow Ceremony I

[This ceremony is appropriate if the Eagle Scout Candidate is an active member of the Order of the Arrow.]

## SETTING:

A ceremonial campfire is the backdrop. Six Native Americans enter either in silence or chanting in a low voice from backstage or from the rear of the audience if no stage is available. The four winds stand on one side, Allowat Sakima is at center stage, and Kichkinet off to the side near the candidate.

## PARTICIPANTS:

Eagle Scout candidate	East Wind
Allowat Sakima (Mighty Chief)	West Wind
Kichkinet	South Wind
Parents	North Wind
Reader	Scoutmaster
Charger (preferably an Eagle Scout)	

## PROPS:

Ceremonial campfire  
Drums

**ALLOWAT:** I have led my braves to the summit of this mountain in a long journey from our camp to show you the rewards of your climb along the trail. When you began this trip as a young Boy Scout of many years ago you had this mountain top as your goal. You now have reached the summit, the realm of the Eagles. Before admitting you into honored membership, we must first hear the story of your long climb along the Eagle Scout trail.

**KICHKINET:** This Scout, after reaching the First Class rank, has worked diligently and has sought experts who gave him valuable counsel on many subjects. He has been given advice and encouragement along the trail by capable leaders.

**ALLOWAT:** Before admitting this Scout to the realm of the Eagles, I must have assurance that he has been faithful in serving his troop. Also, has he put into practice giving leadership to younger Scouts, and that he is entitled to wear the wings of the Eagle. Mr. Scoutmaster, has your Eagle Scout candidate met these qualifications?

**SCOUTMASTER:** Yes, he has.

**ALLOWAT:** Scout [Scout's name], you have worked hard to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, but listen first to the wisdom of the four winds.

**EAST WIND:** I am the spirit of the East Wind. I represent the common law, your duty to God and to country. *Trustworthy, loyal, and helpful*, are the qualities that a man must possess who lives by the laws of this land. See that you do not lose the great blessing of a lawful land.

**WEST WIND:** As the spirit of the West Wind. I represent the law of equity, your duty to country and others, *friendly, courteous, and kind* are the laws that breathe of conscience. They create the atmosphere that comes from within your heart; the desire for you always to be friends to those of all ages, young and old. Be courteous to those who pass along your trail. Cast away the harmful spirit of the unfriendliness and selfishness.

**SOUTH WIND:** I am the spirit of the South Wind. I represent civil law, your duty to others and to self. *Obedient, cheerful and thrifty* are the character of civility. A life of cheerful obedience is necessary for the development of a true citizen. Obedience is something we all must learn; to take orders and carry them out cheerfully. Real thrift means earning, spending wisely and saving, and to share with those less fortunate.

**NORTH WIND:** I am the spirit of the North Wind, the most powerful of all, I represent the divine law, your duty to be *brave, clean, and reverent*. To be brave is to be unselfish. To be clean in body and soul is to be pure in heart. Cast from your mind and body any evil spirits that try to weaken or destroy the divine law. Live a life of reverence. Be always brave, clean, and reverent.

**READER:** *The Spirit of the Arrow:* Listen, my brother, to the words of the past:

The tree that never had to fight  
For sun and sky and air and light  
That stood out in the open plain  
And always got its share of rain  
Never became a forest king,  
But lived and died a scrubby thing.  
The man who never had to toil,  
Who never had to win his share,  
Of sun and sky and air and light,  
Never became a manly man  
But lived and died as he began.  
Good timber does not grow with ease  
The stronger wind, the tougher trees,  
The farther sky, the greater length  
The more the storm, the more the strength  
By sun and cold, in rain and snows  
In tree or man, good timber grows.

[Pause ten seconds]

**ALLOWAT:** Through your climb up the Scouting trail, the badges have changed as your abilities grew. One pledge remained unchanged, the Scout Oath. Is there any reason why you as a new Eagle Scout cannot renew this promise which you first made as a new Scout.

**CANDIDATE:** No.

**ALLOWAT:** Then please stand and with the Scout sign, recite the Scout Oath (*or* Eagle Scout Pledge), slowly and clearly.

**CANDIDATE:** [Repeats the Scout Oath or Pledge slowly.]

**ALLOWAT:** Scouting has been a great influence in your life. It has supplemented the effect of your home, your church, and your school. You climbed through the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class.

**KICHKINET:** Then additional merit badges allowed you to be a Star Scout, while still more and harder ones found you wearing the heart of a Life Scout. More time and harder requirements found you adding to your qualifications until now you have reached the highest rank in the Scouting movement, the Eagle Scout rank.

**ALLOWAT:** Without the love and guidance of understanding parents, a young man is severely handicapped. Your parents have watched you grow and develop. They have worked with you in health, nursed you in sickness, guided your thoughts and actions, and helped you in untold ways. Your adult leaders throughout your Scouting journey have been a strength to lean on. Your home influence will last throughout your life. I ask your parents to stand beside you as a symbol that they will continue to help you to grow in the qualities of leadership and citizenship that a true Eagle Scout must have.

(The four winds escort the parents to the candidate's side.)

**KICHKINET:** As a token of your willingness to continue your support for this young Eagle Scout, I ask you Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ to pin the Eagle Scout badge on your son.

Eagle Scout [Scout's name], you have seen that your mother plans to standby you in the future. Do you now promise to do your best as an Eagle Scout?

**CANDIDATE:** Yes.

**KICHKINET:** Then you now have the honor to pin a miniature Eagle Scout pin on your mother.

To let everyone know you are truly a proud Eagle Scout, I ask your father to place the Eagle neckerchief around your neck.

Eagle Scout [Scout's name], you have seen that your father plans to standby you in the future. Do you promise to follow the Scout Law as an Eagle Scout?

**CANDIDATE:** Yes.

**KICHKINET:** Then you have the honor to give your father an Eagle Scout tie tack.

**ALLOWAT:** As Ceremonial Chief, I now call upon Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, to give the new Eagle Scout the Eagle Scout Charge.

**CHARGER:** [any of the many charges may be used.]

[When the charge is finished, the four winds step up to the new Eagle Scout, one at a time, and tap him on the right shoulder three times, as the Charger reads:]

Always remember Eagle Scout (*Scout's name*), the words of the east wind, to be TRUSTWORTHY, LOYAL, and HELPFUL. The words of the west wind, tells one to be FRIENDLY, COURTEOUS, and KIND. The words of the south wind urges one to be OBEDIENT, CHEERFUL, and THRIFTY. Finally, the words of the north wind, the most powerful of all admonishes, one to be BRAVE, CLEAN and REVERENT.

[Charger returns to seat in audience.]

**ALLOWAT:** I now welcome you, Eagle Scout (*Scout's name*), to the summit of your trail. The Eagle is strong and powerful, and flies unblinking into the face of the sun. He soars high and builds on a pinnacle. You must not swerve from your duties as an Eagle Scout.

Will the audience please rise.

[Kichkinet and the four winds raise both their hands.]

We now call upon the Great Spirit of all, for his blessing on this new Eagle Scout; may he always strive to attain the noblest and highest ideals of life. May the Great Spirit be his strength and his guide; may he cause him to follow a straight trail and to never be a reason for other Scouts to waver from their path; may he protect him for many moons to come. May the Great Master of all Scouts be with us until our trails cross again.

[The Native Americans walk back from whence they came and the Scoutmaster takes over to start the congratulations.]

# Order of the Arrow Ceremony - II

[May be performed by an Order of the Arrow ceremonial team.]

[Here is an Eagle Scout ceremony used in the Ventura County (CA) Council for a number of years with great success. Lou Leopold, Cubmaster, Pack 3804, Assistant .OA Advisor, Asuskawa Chapter; Topa-Topa Lodge #291, Ventura County Council, CA]

## **PARTICIPANTS:**

Allowat Sakima, the Mighty Chief	Kichkinet, the Guide
The North Wind	The East Wind
The South Wind	The West Wind
Drummer	Scoutmaster
Eagle Candidate	Parent (s)

## **PROPS:**

Drum	Eagle Board
Red candles (2)	White candle
Blue candle	Candle holder (s)

**SCOUTMASTER:** We have the honor and pleasure of recognizing (Eagle Scout candidate's name) for the award of Eagle Scout. The parents and Scout leaders of the Eagle Scout candidate whom we honor tonight have labored long and faithfully to develop him towards alert and participating citizenship through the Boy Scout program. It is, however, the candidate's personal efforts and achievements that culminate this evening in the presentation of the Eagle Scout Award.

Please escort Eagle Scout candidate (Eagle Scout's name) and his parents to the stage.

[Drummer starts drumming. Ceremonial team arranged with Allowat Sakima and Kichkinet in front, North Wind next, followed by the East and West Winds with candidate in the middle, followed by the candidate's parents, then by the South Wind, and drummer in the rear.]

[The four winds take their positions at the right of the Eagle board, Eagle Scout candidate in the center with parents behind the candidate, and Allowat Sakima, Kichkinet, and the drummer to the left of the Eagle board.]

**ALLOWAT SAKIMA:** I have led my braves to the summit of this mountain in a long journey from our camp to show you the rewards of your climb along the trail. When you began this trip as a young Boy Scout (*or* Tiger or Cub Scout) on the trail many years ago, you had this mountaintop as your goal. You have reached the summit, the realm of the Eagles. But before admitting you to this honored membership, we must first hear the story of your long climb along the trail. You first learned Scout skills as you climbed through the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class.

**KICHKINET:** After reaching the First Class rank, you have worked diligently, and have sought experts who gave you valuable counsel on many subjects. Then additional merit badges allowed you to be a Star Scout, while still more found you wearing the heart of a Life Scout. Many more moons have passed while harder requirements found you adding to your qualifications until you have achieved Scouting's highest rank . . . Eagle Scout.

**ALLOWAT:** You have worked to the point where you are about to become an Eagle Scout. Listen, first, to the wisdom of the four winds.

**EAST WIND:** I am the spirit of the East Wind. I represent the common law, your duty to God and to country. Trustworthy, loyal, and helpful, are the qualities which a man must possess who lives by the laws and rules of this land. See that we do not lose this great blessing of a lawful land.

**WEST WIND:** As the spirit of the West Wind, I represent the law of equity, your duty to country and to others, friendly, courteous, and kind are the laws that breathe of conscience. They create the atmosphere that comes from within your heart. The desire for you always to be a friend to those of all ages, young and old alike. Courteous to those who pass along your trail. Cast away the harmful spirit of unfriendliness and selfishness.

**SOUTH WIND:** I am the spirit of the South Wind. I represent the civil law, your duty to others and to self. Obedient, cheerful, and thrifty are the characteristics of civility. A life of cheerful obedience is necessary for the development of a true citizen. Obedience is something everyone has to learn X to take orders and carry them out cheerfully. Real thrift means earning, spending wisely and saving, and to share with those less fortunate.

**NORTH WIND:** I am the spirit of the North Wind, the most powerful of all, I represent the divine law. Brave, clean, and reverent. To be brave is to be unselfish. To be clean in body and soul is to be pure in heart. Cast from your mind and body any evil spirit that tries to weaken or destroy the divine law, live a life of reverence. Be brave and clean.

**ALLOWAT:** Throughout the climb up the Scouting trail, the badges have changed as your abilities grew. But one pledge remained unchanged, the Scout Oath. Now, Eagle Scout candidate, make the Scout sign and state the Scout Oath slowly and clearly to renew this promise which you first made many moons ago.

**CANDIDATE:** [Repeats the Scout Oath slowly.]

**SCOUTMASTER:** This court recognizes candidate [STATE NAME] as fully qualified for the rank of Eagle Scout. He should understand that the Eagle Scout rank is a responsibility as well as an honor.

**ALLOWAT:** You have reached the summit of the mountain, the highest rank in scouting. You may now soar with all the other Eagles, for you are truly an Eagle.

**KICKKINET:** To ensure that you understand that being an Eagle Scout is a responsibility as well as an honor, the four winds will now explain the responsibilities of an Eagle Scout before the badge is awarded. (Produces a red candle and hands it, unlit, to the candidate). This red candle represents the life blood of scouting . . . and its flame represents Scout spirit and the willingness to provide cheerful service to others.

[Drummer lights the candle held by the candidate.]

**EAST WIND:** [Places the white candle into the candle holder.] The first responsibility of an Eagle Scout is to live with honor. Please light this white candle which represents honor. [pause] An Eagle Scout's honor is sacred. Honor is the foundation of all character. An Eagle Scout will so live that he will reflect credit upon his home, his church, his school, his friends, and upon himself. May the white of your badge remind you to live with honor.

**WEST WIND:** [Places the blue candle into the candle holder.] The second responsibility of an Eagle Scout is loyalty. Please light this blue candle which represents loyalty. [pause] Without loyalty, all character lacks direction. An Eagle Scout is loyal to his own ideals. May the blue of the Eagle emblem remind you of loyalty.

**SOUTH WIND:** [Places the red candle into the candle holder.] The third responsibility of an Eagle Scout is courage. Please light this red candle which represents courage. [pause] Courage gives all character force and strength. Trusting in God, and with faith in his fellow man, he faces each day unafraid and seeks his share of the world's work to do. May the red of the of Eagle emblem remind you of courage.

[Kichkinet takes candle from candidate and extinguishes it.]

**NORTH WIND:** The final obligation of an Eagle Scout is service. The candle you used to light the other three candles represents the spirit of scouting and service to others. An Eagle Scout extends a helping hand to those who continue to toil up the Scouting trail he has completed, just as others helped him in his achievement of the Eagle rank. The habit of the daily *Good Turn* must take on new meaning and blossom forth in a life of service. His code of action is based upon the belief that real leadership must be founded upon real service. Even as an adult you can continue to provide service. An adult Eagle Scouter is entitled to wear a red, white and blue square knot to show that he has attained Scouting's highest rank and to signify his readiness to provide cheerful service to those still climbing the trail to Eagle Scout.

**KICKKINET:** All Eagle Scouts around the world will be honored to have you join us. Candidate, as you go forward in life, receiving other honors and awards, always remember this day when you became an Eagle Scout. The red, white and blue candles representing courage, honor, and loyalty will now be extinguished.

[Drummer extinguished the three candles.]

Even though the flames no longer burn, the ideals that they represent will continue to live in your heart. Listen to the wisdom of the winds.

**EAST WIND:** Remember the common law: trustworthy, loyal, helpful.

**WEST WIND:** Remember the law of equity: friendly, courteous, kind.

**SOUTH WIND:** Remember the civil law: obedient, cheerful, thrifty.

**NORTH WIND:** Remember the divine law, the most powerful of all: brave, clean, reverent.

**SCOUTMASTER:** We now present Eagle Scout (*Scout's name*) with the highest award of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout.

(Scoutmaster presents the medal to the recipient's parents who, in turn, pin the medal onto the left pocket flap of the uniform shirt. The Scoutmaster presents the new Eagle Scout with the mother's pin and the Eagle Scout pins the pin on his mother. The Scoutmaster presents the Eagle Scout tie tack to the Eagle Scout who, in turn, presents the tie tack to his father.)

We will now hear from our new Eagle Scout.

[The new Eagle Scout speaks.]

[After the Eagle Scout has spoken, the drummer begins beating the drum.]

**ALLOWAT:** I welcome you, new Eagle Scout, to the summit of your trail. The Eagle is strong and powerful, and flies unblinking into the face of the sun. It soars high and builds on a pinnacle. You must not swerve from your duties as an Eagle Scout.

[All proceed out in the same order as they entered.]

The above ceremony can be adapted for an Eagle Scout candidate who began his Eagle trail as a Tiger or Cub Scout. The following *Tiger to Eagle* poem can be read in the beginning after Allowat Sakima makes his opening remarks. [Adapted from a ceremony used by Matinecock Chapter, Buckskin Lodge #412, Order of the Arrow, W.W.W.]

**ALLOWAT SAKIMA:** [Steps forward after doing the Hailing sign] I have lead my braves to the summit of this mountain in a long journey from our camp to show you the rewards of your climb along the trail. When you began this trip as a young Tiger Scout you had this mountain as your goal. You have now reached the summit of that mountain, the realm of the eagles. Before admitting you to this honored membership, we must first hear the story of your climb along the trail.

**KICKINET:**

From Tiger Cub to Eagle Scout is a time of many changes.  
The growing and the learning: they come in stages.  
Bobcat, Wolf, Bear Cub too ...  
Don't give up now, >cause you're not through.  
Learn the Promise and Law of the Pack ...  
Keep moving forward, don't look back.  
Go to Webelos, get the Arrow of Light.  
Have lots of fun ... camp out at night.

Next comes the troop and bye and bye.  
High adventure for the fledging Scout to try.  
Patrol living is the rule, working together becomes the tool.  
To skillfully survive and *Be Prepared*  
For any Aold thing≅ that can be shared ...  
Cooking, camping, first aid too; knotty problems to work through.

Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class ... first Class too.  
Don't give up now >cause you're not through.  
You're almost there and it's for sure that you have merit.  
You've learned to follow and help others ...  
Now learn to teach and lead your brothers.

Next is Star and then comes Life ...  
The young Scout still advances.  
More merit badges and a project, too,  
Provides some leadership chances.

When once the Eagle rank is earned,  
And you are soaring with the others,  
Remember Eagle is for life,  
Reach out and help another.  
What the future holds in store only God can tell.  
Keep Him always in your heart  
And you will serve Him well.  
May the man you come to be one day  
Look back with pride and say  
*Thank you for preparing me by joining the BSA.*

# Parents' Ceremony

**SETTING:** After all the guests are seated, the MC makes a brief statement concerning the honor and significance of becoming an Eagle Scout. The MC then names the Scout or Scouts who are to be recognized at this ceremony and asks each to escort his parents to center stage.

## **PARTICIPANTS:**

Eagle Scout candidate(s)  
Parents  
Master of Ceremonies (MC)

**MC:** I recognize and commend the Scoutmaster(s) together with all other Scouters for their work in helping this (these) boy(s) to become Eagle Scout(s). I also congratulate the parents of these Scouts for making this high achievement possible for their son(s).

[Hereafter the ceremony is written for a single Scout but may be adapted for more than one.]

I commend and congratulate this Eagle Scout candidate for sticking to his purpose until his goal has been realized and for having parents interested in his success.

The Eagle Scout badge is a recognition of the National Court of Honor, presented through the local council and local court of honor.

Not every Scout can qualify for Scouting's highest rank of Eagle because:

1. The physical requirements are strenuous as set forth in the required merit badges.
2. Mental requirements are unusual and require much more than average intelligence. (Expound on the intelligent application of requirements for rank and merit badges.)
3. Perhaps an even more difficult and more important requirement for the Eagle Scout badge of rank is the personal character of the Scout. His attitude toward God, and the ideals of Scouting, reflected in his cooperation and service to others in his troop. Also in his home and in his community. The applicant must have a high degree of the spirit of cheerful service to others, which is the basis of good citizenship.

I am happy to report that our review reveals that this Scout has qualified in the requirements for personal character and good citizenship in addition to the technical requirements for the Eagle Scout badge of rank.

[Another Scouter or the same, may take over the rest of the program: He addresses the Eagle Scout candidate, secures an answer to each of the following questions from each candidate. Make it impressive.]

Do you realize that you will have a greater responsibility as an Eagle Scout?

**EAGLE:** Yes, I do.

As an Eagle Scout, this qualifies you for greater leadership responsibility. Are you willing to accept this responsibility for your brother Scouts, troop and others?

**EAGLE:** Yes, I do.

**MC:** As an Eagle Scout, those who know you will follow your daily personal conduct and live the spirit of the Scout Oath and Law. Will you do your best as an Eagle Scout to live the Scout Oath and Law?

**EAGLE:** Yes, I will.

**MC:** Then, are you now ready to recommit yourself to the Scout Oath?

**EAGLE:** Yes, I am.

[Here the Eagle Scout candidate moves one pace forward and gives the Scout sign.]

**MC:** Rededicate yourself by reciting the Scout Oath.

**EAGLE:** [Recites Scout Oath.]

[The Eagle Scout candidate's mother invests her son with the insignia of the Eagle Scout badge. The new Eagle Scout gives his mother the traditional miniature eagle and his father an Eagle Scout tie tack.]

**MC:** [Gives the new Eagle Scout the Scout handclasp with the left hand. Then he takes the right hand of each of the parents in his right hand and makes a statement like the following.]

May I congratulate you again and may I remind you that Scouting should now become an even greater tie between son and parents, binding you even more closely together as a family. To you, Eagle Scout [Scout's name], I am confident that you will honor Scouting with your life and service as tonight Scouting honors you. May God bless you and make you a blessing, in my prayer.

**MC [or other dignitary]:** By the authority invested in me by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, I now declare you an Eagle Scout.

[Close ceremony and adjourn for refreshments.]

# Picture Ceremony

**SETTING:** The Master of Ceremonies (MC) of the Court of Honor, explains to the audience that tonight he is going to draw a picture. The central figure in this picture is to be the Eagle Scout candidate. The candidate is directed to take his place on stage. Continuing to explain, the MC points out that the next step in drawing the picture is to fill in the background. For this purpose several persons are being asked to help with the presentation of the Eagle Scout badge of rank.

Whenever possible each of the following persons should be present and called upon for their part in the Eagle Scout ceremony. After the MC introduces them they take their places on stage, forming a semicircle in back of the Eagle Scout candidate.

## **PARTICIPANTS:**

Eagle Scout candidate	Parents
National Council representative	Council officer
District officer	Pastor/Rabbi
School representative	Scoutmaster
Master of Ceremonies (MC)	

**MC:** Introduces each representative as follows:

**[National Council Representative]** - Each council in the United States is allowed one representative for each 1,000 boy members in the council, to represent the council on the National Council. In this council, the Theodore Roosevelt Council, we have \_\_\_\_\_ individuals who are National Council Representatives. We are fortunate this evening to have one of these representatives with us, Mr./Mrs./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_. Since the Eagle Scout badge is presented directly from our National Headquarters in Irving, Texas, we are going to ask Mr./Mrs./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ to be the first person in this picture. Also later we will ask him/her to be the first person to start the Eagle Scout badge on its journey to the candidate.

**[Council Officer]** - The council officers are the council president, vice-presidents, treasurer, and the district chairmen, who represent their districts on the council executive board. Also members and council committee chairmen appointed by the council president. Our National Council Office forwards the Eagle Scout badge to the local council. We have asked Mr./Mrs./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ of our Theodore Roosevelt Council, who is the council's \_\_\_\_\_, to take his/her place in our picture next to the National Council Representative.

**[District Officer(s)]** - The district officers of \_\_\_\_\_ District are the district chairman, vice-chairmen, and members of the district committee, appointed by the district chairman. As the National Council forwards the Eagle Scout badge to the council for awarding, so the council forwards the badge to the district. We will therefore ask Mr./Mrs. /Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ District, who is the

district's \_\_\_\_\_ to take his/her place in our picture next to the council officer.

**[Eagle Scout candidate's Pastor (or rabbi)]** - The institution that helps all of us most is the church, (synagogue) from the cradle to the grave she is ever with us. We are proud that Scouting is privileged to help in her work. We have asked the Eagle Scout candidate's pastor (rabbi) to be with us for the awarding of this Eagle Scout badge of rank. Reverend (Rabbi) \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ church (synagogue), may we ask you to take your place next to the district officer.

**[School Representative]** - Another institution that helps us is the school. Many teachers have helped in the development of our candidate. We have asked one to represent them all, (Mr./Mrs./Ms.) \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ school. Will you please take your place in our picture next to the Reverend (Rabbi).

**[Scoutmaster]** - With the addition of the next individual, the background of our picture is almost complete. That person is the Eagle Scout candidate's Scout-master, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, of Troop \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. You must indeed feel somewhat exhausted at times for the many hours you have given voluntarily and cheerfully to the Scouts in your troop. Will you please take your place next to the school representative.

**MC:** The picture is now complete except for the two people who have done the most for the Eagle Scout candidate, his mother and father.

[He then asks the Eagle candidate to go into the audience and escort his mother and father to the stage. Place one on each side of the candidate.]

**MC:** The picture is almost complete. But there are two things to be asked our Eagle Scout candidate before the badge can be presented. The *first* is that the Eagle Scout candidate give a brief resume of what he did to earn the rank of Eagle Scout.

[Eagle candidate should read from a statement prepared in advance. Not more than 200 or 300 words.]

The *second* requirement is that the candidate rededicate himself to the Scout Oath. [Candidate gives the Scout sign and repeats the Scout Oath after the speaker.]

**MC:** [Addressing the Eagle Scout candidate the speaker informs him that it is a pleasure to have a part in the ceremony. Also that he is happy to issue the badge to the National Council representative for presentation to the candidate. The National Council Representative addresses the candidate and after a few personal remarks, he/she ends by saying he/she is happy to pass the badge to the council officer for presentation to the candidate. The council officer, district officer, pastor, school representative and Scoutmaster each passes the badge to the next person after a few remarks addressed to the candidate.]

[The Scoutmaster presents the badge to the candidate's mother, who in turn pins it over the heart of her son. The Eagle Scout receives a miniature Eagle Scout pin from the Scoutmaster and presents it to his mother. Flowers may be given to the

mother if desired. The father receives an Eagle Scout tie tack.]

**MC:** Ladies and gentlemen, this concludes the Eagle Scout ceremony. Anyone wishing to congratulate troop\_\_\_\_'s newest Eagle Scout and his proud parents are invited to do so now.

[Form a receiving line in front of the room. Follow with presentation of other awards, citations, and certificates and, if desired, a reception.)

# An Eagle Scout Rededication Ceremony

[A ceremony for Eagle Scout Rededication to the Scout Oath & Law]

[Thanks to Ben Parker {bparker@interaccess.com}, SA troop 16, Oak Park, IL]

## **PARTICIPANTS:**

Scouts (12) [may be Eagle Scouts if desired] - Scout Law Team  
Senior patrol Leader (SPL)

**PROPS:** Induction birch log candle rack\*  
Candles (16)  
Matches (lighter)

\*[Note: this is 3-tiered birch logs, mounted on a post; 1 candle on the highest log, 3 candles on the middle, 12 on the lowest]

**SPL:** [To audience] We are about to rededicate ourselves to the Scout Oath and Law.

[To team] Team members prepare yourselves.

[Pauses a moment, while Scout Law Team assembles in front of candle racks,]

[SPL steps behind center candle rack. When all is ready and quiet he says:]

My Brothers, once before you stood here with your fellow Scouts. I will now remind us all of our determination to always be true and faithful to the obligations of a Boy Scout.

[SPL lights sole candle in top tier.]

You see before you a single light, which represents the Spirit of Scouting. As we go through this ceremony, you will see this light grow until it shines in all parts of the world. In this way, the promises you make and the obligations you take, when in deed you live them, will make your whole life a shining light.

You see before you three candles, each symbolizing a part of the Scout Oath. The center candle represents your Duty to God and Country, and to obey the Scout Law.

[SPL lights center candle of second tier]

Service is the keynote of the second part of our Oath, and exacts a solemn promise: To help other people at all times.

[SPL lights the left candle on second tier.]

Character is the third part of our Oath, and is bound up in a pledge: To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

[SPL lights the right candle on second tier.]

Now the 12 points of the Scout Law will be presented to complete the true obligations of a Scout. May the virtues which they represent glow the brighter in our hearts and minds.

[First Scout comes forward, in front of candle rack, turns to face candidates, makes the Scout sign and says *A Scout is Trustworthy*. As he speaks, SPL lights 1<sup>st</sup> candle on bottom tier. REPEAT FOR EACH POINT OF THE SCOUT LAW. The SPL lights another candle in turn after each point of the Scout Law is stated. Then:]

**SPL:** Will Eagle Scout candidate (*Scout's name*) please come forward?

**SPL:** [To candidate] Eagle Scout Candidate (*Scout's name*). We, your fellow Scouts ask that you rededicate yourself to the principles of Scouting, and that you resolve to uphold these principles with the same ambition and perseverance that has brought you this far on the Scouting trail.

[To audience] Will all Scouts and Scouters please rise and raise your right hand in the Scout sign and say with us the Scout Oath.

[SCOUT OATH]

**SPL:** Two. You may be seated.

[Team and Eagle Scout candidate return to seats, audience sits.]

[At this point the Eagle Scout candidate may be presented with his Eagle Scout badge. Continue as for other ceremonies in this booklet.]

# The Voice of the Eagle Ceremony

## SETTING:

Pictures of the Scout ranks are arranged in a semicircle across the front of the room. They are spaced out far enough so that the candidate and his escorts have room to walk from one to the next. The Eagle Scout card is at the center and slightly to the rear of the others. The Eagle Scout candidate is escorted to the front of the room near the American and Troop flags. As the narrative for each rank is read, the Eagle Scout candidate and his escorts move to that card and stand behind it. Candles should be placed and lit in front of each card.

## PARTICIPANTS:

Eagle Scout candidate  
First Reader  
Third Reader  
Parents

Master of Ceremonies (MC)  
Second Reader  
Fourth Reader  
Scoutmaster

## PROPS:

Boy Scout rank placards  
Holders for rank cards  
Candles (6; 7 if Scout badge is used)

**MC:** This is the voice of the Eagle, the Eagle whose heights you struggled to reach. We remember well when you first came to the base of the cliff, and how you looked up with ambition and determination.

Look back for a moment, look back over the cliff you have climbed; look back at the experience you have encountered in your ascent. These experiences should not be forgotten, and you should profit by making sure that the adverse ones do not occur again. Experience is a valuable teacher if you heed its teachings.

**FIRST READER:** We remember when you took your first step upon the trail that leads upward. With your first step, you began living the Scout Oath and Law. While you were on the trail, we watched you study and then we watched you learn by doing. First you were only a candidate, building yourself physically, mentally, and morally. Then your brother Scouts called you a Tenderfoot and they were right, you were indeed a Tenderfoot.

**SECOND READER:** But not for long, for soon you reached the first ledge where you were greeted by a group of Second Class Scouts. Some, like yourself, were stopping to catch their breath before continuing along the Eagle trail. You began to study more, you worked harder, and almost before you knew it, you came to another ledge, the ledge where First Class Scouts dwell.

**THIRD READER:** There you found a tempting green meadow by a crystal clear stream, bathed by the sun. Here you were tempted to remain. Yes, you could have remained there to live in First Class glory, but your ambition stirred you on. We remember your progress to Star Scout. You found the trail from First Class had been an optical illusion, not as difficult as it had seemed. This spurred you on, and again you climbed higher.

**FOURTH READER:** Now the trail was steeper, it was less worn. Fewer Scouts seemed to be heading in your direction. You looked back and saw the crowds below you. You looked up and saw the few above you. With the same determination with which you started your climb, you continued on the trail.

So on it was, the badge of Life Scout, the heart badge that was placed on your uniform. You will never forget the thoughts in your heart. It has been experienced by most Scouts on reaching the ledge of Life. "Now I am close to Eagle. I will carry on." The trail became tougher, but more interesting. The original simple principles, the Scout Oath and Law, now had a fuller meaning. Your understanding of them was greater.

**MC:** Yes, we have watched your character unfold and become manly. We have watched your leadership ability expand into a valuable asset. We have watched your mind develop and your wisdom increase. We have watched all of these things in you. Now that you are at the threshold of your goal, we welcome you. For you have done your climbing in a true Scout-like manner.

Will Mr. (Scoutmaster)\_\_\_\_\_, please escort to the front Eagle Scout candidate [Scout's name] to receive his Eagle Scout badge of rank.

[Here follows the normal recognition of the candidate's parents, the actual presentation, *etc.* See the examples in this booklet for ideas.)

# A Closing Ceremony

**SETTING:** Room is darkened except for the red, white, and blue candles. One Scout is assigned to extinguish each of them.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Scouts (3)  
Master of Ceremonies (MC)

**PROPS:** Red candle  
Blue candle  
White candle  
Candle holder (3)

**SCOUT 1:** As I put out this white candle, representing purity, may we be ever mindful of the obligation that a Scout is clean. He is clean in body and thought, stands for clean speech, clean sports, clean habits, and travels with a moral crowd.

**SCOUT 2:** As I put out this blue candle, representing loyalty, may we be ever mindful of the obligation that a Scout is loyal. He is loyal to all to whom loyalty is due: his Scout leaders, his home, his parents, and his country.

**SCOUT 3:** As I put out this red candle, representing courage and sacrifice, may we be ever mindful of our obligation that a Scout is brave. He has the courage to face danger in spite of fear, and to stand up for the right against the coaxing of friends and the jeers or threats of enemies, and defeat does not down him.

**MC:** This Court of Honor is now closed.

# An Eagle Scout Charge

[This is a modification of one of the standard Eagle Scout Charges that flows better ---  
Carl R. Gullans, Troop 341, Pequott District, Theodore Roosevelt Council]

## CHARGE TO THE EAGLE

The Scouts of all nations constitute one of the most meaningful and significant movements in the history of the world. As an Eagle Scout and a ..... of the (enter here presenter's Scouting background, if applicable) Theodore Roosevelt Council, Boy Scouts of America, I have the distinct honor of giving you, [CANDIDATE'S FULL NAME], the Eagle Scout Charge on the occasion of your elevation to the highest rank in Scouting. You have been judged by the Boys Scouts of America as worthy of this honor. All who know you rejoice in your achievement.

Your position, as you well know, is one of honor and responsibility. You are a marked man. As an Eagle Scout, you have assumed a solemn obligation to do your duty to God . . . to country . . . to fellow Scouts . . . and to humanity. This is a great undertaking. As you live up to your obligations, you bring honor to yourself and to your brother Scouts.

America has many good things to give you and your children after you, but these good things depend for the most part on the character and leadership abilities of her citizens. You are to help her in all that she needs most. America has a great past; {CANDIDATE'S FIRST NAME}, you are here to help make her future greater.

I **charge you**, [CANDIDATE'S FULL NAME], to undertake your citizenship with a solemn dedication. Be a leader, but lead only towards the best. Lift up every task you do and every office you hold to the highest level of service to God and to your fellow men and women. So live and serve that those who know you will be inspired to the finest living. We have too many who use their strength and knowledge to exploit others and to gain selfish ends.

I **charge you**, [CANDIDATE'S FULL NAME], to be among those who dedicate their skills and abilities to the common good. Build America on the solid foundation of clean living, honest work, unselfish citizenship, and reverence for God; and whatever others may do, you will leave behind a record of which every Scout may be justly proud.

[A recitation of the Scout Oath or an Eagle Scout Pledge could be worked in as well. This charge has been tried - with everyone's permission! - with a gentle placing of the hands on the shoulders of the Eagle Scout candidate as he is **charged**. This makes for a great effect.]

# Eagle Scout Pledges and a Challenge

## Master of Ceremonies:

The Eagle Scout candidate will now take the Eagle Scout Pledge. As the candidate takes this pledge for the first time, will those Eagle Scouts who are present in the audience please stand and reaffirm their pledge with him? Will each of you please give the Scout Sign and repeat after me in unison?

[Use one of the pledges below]

## ***Eagle Scout Oath (Pledge) – I***

I reaffirm my allegiance to the three promises of the Eagle Oath.  
I thoughtfully recognize and take upon myself  
the obligations and responsibilities of the rank of Eagle Scout.

On my honor I will do my best to make my training an example,  
my rank and my influence count strongly for better Scouting,  
and for better citizenship in my troop and in my community,  
and in my contacts with other people.  
To this I pledge my sacred honor.

*Note: In the Theodore Roosevelt Council, Eagle Scout Oath I is given to each Eagle as a certificate, which can be framed. It is customary that the Scout Executive or his representative deliver the Eagle Oath to the Eagle candidate.*

## ***Eagle Scout Pledge - II***

I, [Scout's name], believe in the Boy Scouts of America as a movement that has as its aim and purpose, character building and citizenship training. I believe it to be a movement that helps a Scout become master of his own powers, helps him get along with others, and helps him find a worthy use for his talents.

I believe it is my duty to do my best to obey the Scout Oath and Law. I hereby renew my commitment to Scouting and promise to do what I can in service to other Scouts who are still on the Eagle trail.

## ***Eagle Scout Pledge - III***

I, (*Scout's name*) on my honor as an Eagle Scout, promise to work to better Scouting in my Troop and to influence all Scouts for greater advancement and participation. I will conduct myself in a manner fitting and proper for one of this high rank. I will do my best to give leadership in service whenever I can. This I promise to do always.

At this point the following may be added by the Master of Ceremonies:

The Eagle Scouts in the audience may now be seated.

I charge you to enter this Eagle Scout brotherhood holding ever before you, without reservation, the ideals of honor and service. By having repeated the Eagle Scout pledge before your fellow members, you have become an Eagle Scout. Though the words you used just now are similar to those by which you joined Scouting, today they mean more than they ever could have meant at that time, or at any time in the past. When you pledged yourself on your sacred honor you sealed your eternal loyalty to the code of the Eagle Scout.

[As one Eagle Scout to another,] by the authority vested in me by the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America, it is my privilege and pleasure to pronounce you an Eagle Scout. May the pledge you have just taken remain true in your heart.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Scouts and Scouters, I present to you Eagle Scout [Scout's name].

[Thanks to Steve Aberle, [saberle@olympic.brigadoon.com](mailto:saberle@olympic.brigadoon.com)]

## **Eagle Scout Challenge:**

The foremost responsibility of an Eagle Scout is to live with HONOR. To an Eagle Scout, honor is the foundation of all character. He knows that a *Scout is trustworthy* is the very first point of the Scout Law for a good reason. An Eagle Scout lives honorably, not only because honor is important to him, but because of the vital significance of the example he sets for other Scouts. Living honorably reflects credit on his home, his church, his troop, and his community. **MAY THE WHITE OF THE EAGLE SCOUT BADGE REMIND YOU TO ALWAYS LIVE WITH HONOR.**

The second responsibility of an Eagle Scout is LOYALTY. A Scout is true to his family, Scout leaders, friends, school. And nation. His loyalty to his troop and brother Scouts makes him pitch in and carry his share of the load. All of these help build loyalty which means devotion to the community, to country, to one's own ideals, and to God. **LET THE BLUE OF THE EAGLE SCOUT BADGE ALWAYS INSPIRE YOUR LOYALTY.**

The third responsibility of an Eagle Scout is to be COURAGEOUS. Courage has always been a quality by which men measure themselves and others. To a Scout, bravery means not only the courage to face physical danger, but the determination to stand up for the right. Trusting in God, with faith in his fellow man, he looks forward to each day, seeking his share of the world's work to do. **LET THE RED OF THE EAGLE SCOUT BADGE REMIND YOU ALWAYS OF COURAGE.**

The fourth responsibility of an Eagle Scout is SERVICE. The Eagle Scout extends a helping hand to those who still toil up Scouting's trail, just as others helped him in his climb to Eagle Scout. The performance of the daily *Good Turn* takes on new meaning when he enters a more adult life of continuing service to others. The Eagle Scout stands as protector of the weak and helpless. He aids and comforts the unfortunate and the oppressed. He upholds the rights of others while defending his own. He will always *Be Prepared* to put forth his best.

You deserve much credit for having achieved Scouting's highest rank. Wear your award with humility, ever mindful that the Eagle Scout is looked up to as an example. May the Scout Oath and the Scout Law be your guide for tomorrow and onward.

# Poems & Inspirational Pieces

## *It's Only A Pin*

[The following poem was contributed by Chess Martin, Scoutmaster of Troop 84 in the Blue Ridge Council of South Carolina. Chess shared this poem through the Scouts-L Youth Groups Discussion List on the Internet.]

Two fond parents [\*] watch their boy where he stands,  
Apart from his comrades tonight,  
And see placed on his camp-battered tunic, a badge . . .  
An Eagle . . . the emblem of right.

It seems just a few short months have passed  
Since he joined with the youngsters next door.  
How proud they were then of this Tenderfoot pin  
As he told of the message it bore.

But the years have gone as he struggled along  
To learn what the Scout Law's all about;  
He practiced them daily, the Oath and the Law,  
Until now he is an Eagle Scout.

You may smile in your worldly wisdom at this  
And say, *Why it's only a pin.*  
But I'll tell you, no honors he'll gain as a man  
Will mean quite as much to him.

The red, white, and blue of the ribbon you see  
Are the symbols of honor and truth.  
He has learned how to value these fine attributes  
In the glorious days of his youth.

And the out-flinging wings of the eagle that rests  
On the breast of this knight of today  
Are the wings which will lift him above petty deeds,  
And guide him along the right way.

Yes, it's only a pin, just an Eagle Scout badge,  
But the heart beneath it beats true,  
And will throb to the last for the things that are good;  
A lesson for me ... and for you.

[\*] modify according to family situation

## ***An Eagle Poem***

Fond parents watch their boy where he stands  
apart from his friends tonight,  
as they place on his camp-battered tunic, a badge,  
an eagle, the emblem of right.

It seems just a few short months have passed  
since he joined with the youngsters next door.  
How proud he was of his new scout badge  
as he told them the message it bore.

But the years have gone as he struggled along  
to learn what the Scout Law's all about.  
He practiced them daily, the Oath and the Law,  
until now he's an Eagle Scout.

You may smile in your worldly old wisdom at this  
and say, *Why it's only a pin.*  
But I tell you, no honors he'll gain as a man  
will mean as much to him.

The red, white, and blue of the ribbon you see  
are the symbols of honor and truth.  
He has learned how to value these fine attributes  
in the glorious days of his youth.

And the outflanking wings of the Eagle Scout badge  
on the breast of this knight of today,  
are the things which will lift him above petty deeds  
and guide him along the right way.

Yes, it's only a pin, just an Eagle Scout badge,  
but the heart that's beneath it beats true  
and will throb to the last for the things which are good,  
a lesson . . . for me . . . and for you.

[Thanks to Paul Sweeney, sweeney@mdc.net, ASM, T-7, Lowell, MA]

## ***An Eagle Mom's Poem***

It's every mother's dream to see,  
her son grow tall and strong.  
To teach him what is right to be,  
to keep him from the wrong.

Mom so loves that little boy,  
and uses all the skills at her employ.  
She teaches him the things she can,  
and hopes that he'll become a man.

He learns that words can hurt or heal,  
that words can change the way we feel.  
He learns that truth is right and good,  
to treat his fellow man the way he should.

He learns that where there's greatest freedom in this world,  
there also stands his Nation's flag unfurled.  
He learns to live by faith and love,  
to always trust in God above.

The years have passed and in their wake,  
a taller straighter lad there stands.  
And mother's pride is great indeed,  
her little boy is nearly a man.

An Eagle Scout.

[Thanks to Ed Schmitt]

## ***An Eagle Dad's Poem***

I saw a chubby little boy,  
in uniform of blue;  
A jaunty cap was on his head,  
His shoes were shiny, too.

His eyes were wide, expectant;  
he glowed fresh from the tub;  
His air said, "Let's get on with it!"  
this my son the Cub.

I saw a slightly larger boy,  
much taller, leaner, too;  
He stood up straight and proud,  
in garb of khaki hue.

He now has more determination,  
in his face there is no doubt;  
I'm pleased to see his confidence,  
this is my son, the Scout.

I know he'll strive to do his best,  
this bigger boy, not yet a man;  
Will grow in strength, in law and skill,  
for him, I'm sure, God has a plan.

God, guide his path, make straight his way,  
make his goal be high, his courage stout;  
That humbly, yet proudly, I will know,  
this is *\*MY\** son, the Eagle Scout!

[Thanks to Paul Sweeney, sweeney@mdc.net, ASM, T-7, Lowell, MA]

## ***The Law Of Life***

[The following poem was part of a package of Eagle Court of Honor materials which was distributed by the Bucks County Council Chapter of the National Eagle Scout Association. No author or source was given for the poem.]

The tree that never had to fight  
For sun and sky and air and light,  
That stood out in the open plain  
And always got its share of rain,  
Never became a forest king,  
But lived and died a scrubby thing.

The man who never had to toil  
Who never had to win his share  
Of sun sky and light and air,  
Never became a manly man,  
But lived and died as he began.

Good timber does not grow in ease.  
The stronger wind, the tougher trees,  
The farther sky, the greater length,  
The more the storm, the more the strength,  
By sun and cold, by rain and snows,  
In tree or man, good timber grows.

## ***Because of Our Son***

Because of our son, we found a job to do.  
We became Scouters, tried and true!  
We understand boys better, because of our son.  
It happened through Scouting, oh what fun!  
Because of our son, it was all worthwhile,  
Oh, what a reward, to see a boy's smile!  
It's endless, the pleasures gained from Scouting,  
Because of our son, we attended each meeting,  
And we've gained many friends beyond measure.  
It's indeed blessed to hold, such a wonderful treasure!  
Hours that were idle, are now filled to the brim.  
Because of our son, we enjoy life with him!  
Because of our son, we've a new way of life.  
We recommend Scouting for each Husband and Wife!

## **Eagle**

[by Greg Gough]

I dreamed of the Eagle,  
soaring high above.  
Majestic, graceful;  
free from it's Earthly tether.  
It's presence.  
shadowing and altering reality.  
All who see it,  
focus upon it.  
At times it becomes elusive  
as it dances in and out of the sun.  
Watch closely,  
do not turn away and  
miss your chance to share  
in it's spirit.  
The spirit of the Eagle can be found in  
each young Scout's eyes.  
It's presence can be felt  
by those close to achieving  
Scouting's highest honor.  
And it's essence  
is preserved and cherished  
by those known as  
Eagle Scouts!

## ***The Oyster and the Eagle***

When God made the oyster, he guaranteed him social security. He built the oyster a house, a shell to protect him from his enemies. When hungry, the oyster simply opens his shell, and the food rushes in. But when God made the EAGLE, he said, *The Blue sky is the limit. Go and build your house.* So the eagle went and built his house upon the highest mountain peak, where storms threatened him every day. For food, he must fly through miles of rain and snow and wind. The eagle, then - not the oyster - is the symbol of the United States of America, and Scouting's highest award.

## ***Eagle Scout***

The Scouts gave you a challenge,  
And you've met it faithfully my friend,  
But it's quite hard to understand  
Just all it will mean in the end.

An Eagle Scout, you've reached the top,  
Or have you only just begun?  
I'm betting that you will not stop  
With so much glory to be won.

For life holds out a challenge too,  
A mountain high for you to scale,  
And with the training Scouts gave you,  
There's really no such word as fail.

And so as you press on ahead,  
You'll find it's made much work like play,  
And as the tasks before you spread,  
They'll find you ready, so I'll say.

Congratulations Eagle Scout,  
The world before you now is spread,  
Scouts taught you much what life's about,  
Prepared you well for what's ahead.

## ***The Scouting Trail***

This is the trail that the Scout shall know,  
Where knightly qualities thrive and grow.  
The trail of HONOR, TRUTH and WORTH,  
And the strength that spring, from the good brown earth.  
The trail that Scouts, in their seeking blaze,  
Through the toughest tangle, the deepest maze.  
Till out of boyhood the Scout comes straight,  
To manhood's splendid and high estate.

## ***An Eagle Scout***

True to his God and his Nation's Flag,  
A boy whose loyalties never sag.  
An adventurous sort of a rough, tough lad,  
He'd share with anyone, all that he had.  
He's cheerful and good, and he's filled with fun,  
He always helps till the work is done.  
No loafer is he, this young man with skill,  
With his disciplined heart, mind and will.  
He camps and cooks, he hikes and climbs,  
He can sing a song or make a verse that rhymes.  
He's a splendid youth with a lifetime goal,  
He's the type of boy who's in control.  
There's no better young man in this great land,  
Than an Eagle Scout with a helping hand.

## ***Trail to Eagle***

[by Greg Gough]

Walk upon the trail,  
that links the,  
future with the past.  
Take the Oath,  
Live the Law.  
The pathway to Eagle,  
is steep and narrow.  
Your journey will require,  
skill and fortitude.  
Your reward:  
Knowledge and Understanding.  
Enough to base a lifetime on.  
Your challenge is to;  
Take the journey,  
Join the few and  
Soar with the Eagle.

## ***Trail the Eagle***

Trail the Eagle, Trail the Eagle,  
Climbing all the time.  
First the Star and then the Life,  
Will on your bosom shine, keep climbing!  
Blaze the trail, and we will follow,  
Hark, The Eagle's call;  
On brothers, on until we're Eagles all.

## ***A Prayer for Eagles***

And he will raise you up on Eagle's wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun and,  
Hold you in the palm of his hand.

[based on a song written by Michael Joncas]

## ***The Call of the Eagle***

(Optional program element: available as audio tape or video tape)

I am the voice of the Eagle.

I speak for The Eagles whose summit you have struggled so hard to reach. We remember well when you first came to the base of our mountain, and how you looked up with ambition and determination.

Pause for a moment, and look back over the trail you have climbed: look back at the adventures you have encountered on your ascent. These experiences are a valuable teacher if you but heed them.

With your first step you began to start living the Scout Oath and Law. You began to build yourself, physically, mentally, and morally. Your brother scouts then called you a Tenderfoot -- and they were right, for you were indeed a tenderfoot.

But not for long. For as you climbed, you soon reached a turning in the trail, and you were greeted by a large group of friendly Second Class Scouts.

Some, like yourself, were stopping to catch their breath, before continuing along the trail. But you studied more, you worked harder, you continued your climb, and soon came to another turning, the place where First Class Scouts dwell. There you found a green, flowered meadow close by a crystal clear stream, sparkling in sunshine. Many other Scouts rested beside the murmuring waters. You were tempted to remain. But your ambition spurred you and you continued your upward venture.

We next remember your progress when you turned the trail to become a Star Scout. You found the trail from First Class had been an optical illusion, not so difficult as it had first seemed. This inspired you to push onward, to climb higher. But now the trail was steeper and less traveled. Fewer Scouts seemed headed in your direction. You looked back and saw crowds below you. You looked up, and saw very few above. Yet, with the same determination as you started your climb, now enhanced by experience and firm resolve, you continued to push up the trail.

Soon you turned another corner on the trail and the Heart shaped badge of the Life Scout was placed on your uniform. You will always recall the thoughts in your heart at this moment, it has been experienced by all scouts reaching the ledge of Life: *Now I am close to the Eagle, I will carry on.*

But the trail now grows tougher and fainter, many seem to falter along the way. The original simple principles of the Scout Oath and Law take on a fuller meaning, as your understanding grows greater.

We, the Eagles, have watched your character unfold and become more manly. We have watched your leadership ability expand into a valuable asset. We have watched your mind develop and your wisdom increase. Yes, *WE* have watched all these things in you.

And now, that you are standing at the summit of the trail, in the glory of sunshine and wind and cloud at the threshold of your goal, WE, your fellow Eagles applaud you and welcome you, for you have done your climbing in a true Scout-like manner.

[Thanks to Ben Parker, bparker@interaccess.com, ASM T-16 Oak Park, IL]

### ***What's It Worth***

The Eagle Badge. The highest rank a Scout can earn. What is it worth? Well, in dollars and cents it is worth about \$18.15. Probably five and a half dollars in silver, seventy-five cents worth of ribbon, and the rest of it in manufacturing and handling costs. But, what is it really worth to you? Think back to the time when you first became a Scout. Remember the Scout skills that you learned for each rank? And the re-dedication to the Scout Oath and Law each time you advanced. Think of the service that you have given to your troop and to other people. Is your Eagle badge worth eighteen dollars and fifteen cents? Of course not! Your Eagle badge is priceless. It represents everything that you have learned, everything that you have done, to be prepared, to help others, and to help yourself. So now you stand on the peak of the mountain. As an Eagle Scout, now look ahead, look sharp. Way out there in the mist is another mountain, and there below is the trail to your future. It may be a long trail, or a short one, but it leads to that mountain far away. As you walk down the trail, and as the years roll by, and finally reach the end, we all hope that you can look back on the trail of life and be able and proud to say, *I have done my best!*

## ***I Am Old Glory***

I am Old Glory: for more than nine score years I have been the banner of hope and freedom for generation after generation of Americans. Born amid the first flames of America's fight for freedom, I am the symbol of a country that has grown from a little group of thirteen colonies to a united nation of fifty sovereign states. Planted firmly on the high pinnacle of American faith my gently fluttering folds have proved an inspiration to untold millions. Men have followed me into battle with unwavering courage. They have looked upon me as a symbol of national unity. They have prayed that they and their fellow citizens might continue to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, which have been granted to every American as the heritage of free men.

While men love liberty more than life itself, they treasure the priceless privileges bought with the blood of our forefathers. So long as the principles of truth, justice, and charity for all remain deeply rooted in human hearts, I shall continue to be the enduring banner of the United States of America.

## ***The Voice of Old Glory***

A great host of heroes with the help of God have kept me gallantly flying in the face of every threat and challenge to the democratic way of life that I represent. The blood spilled at Valley Forge, Gettysburg, San Juan Hill, Bataan, Korea, Vietnam, and now Kuwait and every other great battle fought on land, in the air and on the sea, is my red stripes. The shining light of sunshine is in my white stripes, penetrating the blackest night which, in the nation's darkest hours, is filled with radiant light. The vast infinity of the heavens is in my stars inspiring mankind to continue climbing courageously up the spiral staircase of history to a world of glowing promise. I am the emblem of man's finest dreams. I am the last hope for peace on earth. I am the American Flag.

## ***Scout Vesper Song***

Softly falls the light of day,  
As the campfire fades away.  
Silently each Scout should ask -  
Have I done my daily task?

Have I kept my honor bright?  
Can I guiltless sleep tonight?  
Have I done and have I dared?  
Everything to *Be Prepared?*

Lord, in this evening hour I pray  
That I have done my best today.  
Draw near to me that I may see  
The kind of man Thou'd have me be.

In helping others I may see  
That I am only serving Thee.  
Fit me, O Lord, in Thy Great Plan -  
That I may be a better man .

Amen

## ***The Symbol***

An honored symbol of a nation's unity, its hopes, achievements, glory and successes. The flag of the United States of America is such a symbol, of freedoms bravely fought for and toughly won. Of protection under the Constitution of the rights and privileges of all Americans. Promises of fulfillment of all their hopes, principles and ideals. It is also a symbol of the duty of all her citizens to serve in time of need, to speak out for what each considers right, and to help correct under the law that which is honestly believed to be wrong. Throughout the ages, man has developed character, courage, and strength by devotion to the symbols he believed in. That is the heritage this symbol has left us.

## ***Scouting Heritage: A Look At 100 Boys That Join Scouting***

Only rarely will one appear before a juvenile court;  
Twelve will receive their first time religious contact;  
Five will receive church-affiliated awards;  
One will join the clergy of his chosen faith;  
Eighteen will develop hobbies which will last a lifetime;  
Eight will enter a career based on merit badges work;  
Seventeen will become Scout leaders;  
One will save a life and one will save his own life;  
And through Scouting skills,  
Two of the hundred Scouts will attain the rank of Eagle Scout.

### ***The Method***

He strived with devotion in his work with youth,  
To show them joy and beauty and truth.  
He toiled and labored, but his work seemed in vain,  
He sensed in his soul there was little to gain.

He wondered why, as he tried to review,  
Had his plan been faulty, his bases untrue?  
Finally it came like a dawning light,  
He then saw clearly his faltering plight.

He'd been trying his best, unwisely no doubt,  
To pour goodness in, instead of drawing it out.

## **Scouting To Me - For Others**

[The following was taken from the program for the Eagle Recognition Breakfast for Jude A. R. Allegrucci of Troop 322 in Dunmore, PA. It was listed as AAuthor Unknown.]

To help the Scouts in our area feel the pride and love I have in our Scouting movement and the men to carry on when everything is against you for the good of the Scout.

Scouting to me is an idea which shall live on and on after I die. I live, eat, sleep and talk Scouting. This I do because I was shown by many men, when I was a young Scout myself, that the Scout Oath and Law is the way to happiness. Scouting has helped me in school, church and in the military. So, Scouts never be ashamed of your uniform or your Scouting.

Scouting is people who care. Some men cared enough to give it to me, planted the Scouting seed in me and saw it grow healthy.

I, in turn, want to give some of it back to others, boys of Scout age who will pass it on again. I feel I have a little bit of each man who helped me on my trail to Eagle and manhood. It is hard to express the love for Scouting in words and thanks to these men.

There are many awards men and Scouts can earn along the trail of life, but the award I seek and cherish is a *thank-you* from a Scout or Scouter I have helped or seen put into practice something someone learned from me that I have learned from someone else.

This is my thank you to the men who helped me and to their wives who let them.

## **What It Means To Be An Eagle Scout**

[by Greg Gough]

It means that I have the ability to be a leader. Not of a gang or criminal organization but a leader of like minded individuals that uphold a creed, a sacred oath. A passion for life and the principals that founded the United States of America. Patriotism is a loyalty I will never break. If called on I would voluntarily give my life for my country. But more importantly, I will work to make it better. Duty to God is an ongoing learning and incorporating of similar moral values that ensure that I will be a compassionate and productive citizen.

Eagle Scout is not a patch, an award or certificate to hang on the wall. It is a way to live your life. Although the trail to Eagle is hard work and fun; it is much more. The Eagle rank is an education. Each rank is a chapter. The conclusion is that by earning the Eagle rank the individual has the tools to be a responsible consciences citizen who would gladly advance the group before the individual.

# Prayers And Other Religious Materials

## ***Prayer For Our Country***

[The following prayer was contributed by Stan Krieger (smk@summit.novell.com) of Summit, NJ. It is a slight rewrite of the *Prayer for Our Country*, as translated in the *Siddur Sim Shalom* (the prayer book used in many Conservative Jewish congregations).]

Among the principles of Scouting are Duty to God and Duty to Country. These are expressed in the following reading:

Our God and God of our fathers, we ask Your blessing for our country, for its government, for its leader and advisors, and for all who exercise just and rightful authority. Teach them insights of Your Law, that they may administer all affairs of state fairly, that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, justice and freedom may forever abide in our midst.

Creator of all flesh, bless all the inhabitants of our country with Your spirit. Then citizens of all races and creeds will forge a common bond in true brotherhood, to banish all hatred and bigotry, and to safeguard the ideals and free institutions which are our country's pride and glory.

May this land under Your Providence be an influence for good throughout the world, uniting all men in peace and freedom. Amen.

## ***Prayer***

[by Greg Gough]

Thy song sings in my heart  
Thy voice whispers in the wind.  
Thy beauty is shown in all things.  
Magnificent & steadfast is your presence.  
Thank you for reminding us of How great you are.

## ***What Can We Give?***

[The following reading was contributed by Stan Krieger (smk@summit.novell.com) of Summit, NJ. It is from a compilation of readings used by the Sisterhood (the women's group of many Conservative synagogues).]

One of the objectives of Scouting, duty to others, is readily expressed in the following writing:

Our Friendship to those who need it.  
Our Love to those close to us.  
Our Thanks to those who deserve it.  
Our Encouragement to those who are unsure.  
Our Support to those who seek it.  
Our Respect to those who have earned it.  
Our Understanding to those whose views differ.  
Our Comfort to those who suffer illness.  
Our Consolation to those who grieve.  
Our Time to causes we deem worthy.

These are gifts we can all afford to give. None is beyond our means, none has to be gift-wrapped, and none needs to be exchanged for size or color preference.

A gift of oneself is precious not only to the recipient, but enriches the giver as well.

### ***A Hiking Prayer***

by Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav (1722-1811)

[The following prayer was contributed by Paul S. Wolf (aa854@Cleveland.Freenet.edu) who is Sysop of The Freenet Scouting Center and a member of the Greater Cleveland Council.]

Master of the Universe  
Grant me the ability to be alone;  
May it be my custom to go outdoors each day  
Among the trees and grass, among all living things.  
And there may I be alone, and enter into prayer,  
To talk with the one to whom I belong.  
May I express there everything in my heart,  
And may all the foliage of the field  
(All grasses, trees, and plants)  
May they all awake at my coming,  
To send the powers of their life into the words of my prayer  
So that my prayer and speech are made whole  
Through the life and the spirit of all growing things,  
Which are made as one by their transcendent source.

### ***Benediction for Court Of Honor***

[The following was contributed by Ted Brown, District Chairman of Tioga District, Baden-Powell Council. Ted indicated that he had gotten it from someone else and it had originally come from a New York City Committee on Scouting and Religion.]

**SETTING:** Twelve Scouts or Scouters in a line, each with a white candle. A center candle (possibly a different color) is used to ignite the first of the twelve. Each participant in turn lights his candle from the one before him. Each recites a point of the Scout Law while lighting his candle and then recites or reads the short description. The closing statement can be given by the last person, the leader, or all twelve in unison.

### **A SCOUT IS TRUSTWORTHY**

Please give us the guidance and insight to love and to trust one another and help us be good Scouts and always worthy to *Do a Good Turn Daily*.

### **A SCOUT IS LOYAL**

May we keep in mind our families, whose time we have often sacrificed to help make a difference in our communities. Please support them in our absence.

### **A SCOUT IS HELPFUL**

Give us the strength to be helpful not only to those that we can easily help, but also let us learn to reach out to others that are forgotten and neglected.

### **A SCOUT IS FRIENDLY**

Let us be thankful for the friends we have, and let us be wise enough to know when to lean on our friends when we need help.

### **A SCOUT IS COURTEOUS**

Please give us the patience and tolerance to work with others and to respect their points of view.

### **A SCOUT IS KIND**

Let us strive each day to treat each other kindly. Treat others as we would like to be treated.

### **A SCOUT IS OBEDIENT**

Please let us never forget the important lesson that to be a great leader, one must be a great follower.

### **A SCOUT IS CHEERFUL**

Let us be cheerful for what you have given us and let us appreciate each new day as a new

opportunity to make a positive difference.

### **A SCOUT IS THRIFTY**

Help us learn to save so we can share with others. Let us always be mindful of our environment and treat your earth in the correct manner.

### **A SCOUT IS BRAVE**

Please give us the courage to speak up for what is just and proper and the tenacity to make the world a better place in the midst of trials and tribulations.

### **A SCOUT IS CLEAN**

Let us keep our minds and our bodies: physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

### **A SCOUT IS REVERENT**

For we in Scouting believe that through the programs and volunteers in the Boy Scouts of America we are doing your ministry.

May the Great Scoutmaster watch over us and protect us until we meet again. Amen.

Thank you and have a safe trip home.

## ***A Scout Prayer***

**Lord, make us:**

**TRUSTWORTHY** in a world where words are cheap and promises broken;

**LOYAL** in a world where true commitment is hardly known;

**HELPFUL** in a world where too many people think only of themselves;

**FRIENDLY** in a world where children are taught to be afraid of their fellow human beings;

**COURTEOUS** in a world where roughness and rowdiness are made out to be manly virtues;

**KIND** and gentle in a world where so many people are hurt;

**OBEDIENT** in a world where authority is a dirty word;

**CHEERFUL** in a world where clean fun is laughed at;

**THRIFTY** in a world where there is a constant push for selfish and senseless convictions;

**BRAVE** in a world where many good people do not dare to stand up for their convictions;

**CLEAN** in a world where wholesomeness is regarded as square and chastity as outmoded; and

**REVERENT** in a world where nothing seems to be sacred anymore.

Amen.

[Rev. John A. Adam, S.J., Fordham University, The Bronx, NY]

# Some Complete Eagle Scout Court of Honor Scripts

[Here is a collection of complete scripts that have been used in sample troops in the past. As always, troops are encouraged to develop their own ceremonies based on the material in this booklet and elsewhere. Variety and personal touches strengthen a ceremony's presentation.]

## ***Eagle Scout Court of Honor Used in Troop 30***

[This ceremony was adapted from *Woods Wisdom* and variations of it have been used in Troop 30 of Newark Valley, NY. One thing which should be noted is that this ceremony lists some of the actual achievements of the Eagle Scout. The list of achievements should be customized for the Scout who is being honored. The specific Scout for whom this ceremony was customized earned part of his ranks before the end of 1989 and the rest afterwards. The list of achievements reflects this because it speaks of skill awards for Tenderfoot and Second Class, but not for First Class.]

### **CEREMONY:**

**SCOUTMASTER:** [Welcome and introduction of minister doing the invocation] There is a guest book which we would like to have everyone present sign.

**MINISTER:** [Invocation]

**MC:** Would everyone please rise for the playing of the *Star-Spangled Banner*.

[Music is played on the organ.]

Color guard, post the colors.

[Pause while the color guard brings the flags forward and places them in the stands.]

Everyone please remain standing for the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

[Recitation of *Pledge of Allegiance*]

Scouts, please remain standing for the Scout Oath.

[Pause for audience to resume seats.]

[Recitation of Scout Oath]

**SCOUTMASTER:** [Introductions]

**COORDINATOR:** As scouting coordinator for Troop \_\_\_\_\_, it is my pleasure to declare

that this Eagle court of honor for [Scout's name] is now officially open.

**MC:** Would the honor guard please escort (*Scout's name*) forward.

[Pause for honor guard to escort scout to front.]

As we begin this Eagle Court of Honor and examine the *Trail to Eagle*, it is fitting that we start with the fundamental principles of Scouting: the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. We have just joined together in reciting the oath. Let us begin our ceremony by lighting candles symbolic of the three parts of the Scout Oath:

Duty to God and country [pause for a scout to light candle]

Duty to others [pause for a scout to light candle]

Duty to self [pause for a scout to light candle]

**MC:** In Scouting, as in most activities of life, there are rules. The rules of Scouting are found in the twelve points of the Scout Law. As a candle is lit for each point of the Scout Law, let us pay careful attention to the words and re-dedicate ourselves to the principles contained in those words.

**MC:** A SCOUT IS TRUSTWORTHY.

**ANOTHER SCOUT:** A Scout tells the truth. He keeps his promises. Honesty is a part of his code of conduct.

**MC:** A SCOUT IS LOYAL.

**ANOTHER SCOUT:** A Scout is true to his family, friends, Scout leaders, school, nation, and world community.

**MC:** A SCOUT IS HELPFUL.

**ANOTHER SCOUT:** A Scout is concerned about other people. He willingly volunteers to help others without expecting payment or reward.

**MC:** A SCOUT IS FRIENDLY.

**ANOTHER SCOUT:** A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts. He seeks to understand others. He respects those with ideas and customs that are different from his own.

**MC:** A SCOUT IS COURTEOUS.

**ANOTHER SCOUT:** A Scout is polite to everyone regardless of age or position. He knows that good manners make it easier for people to get along together.

**MC:** A SCOUT IS KIND.

**ANOTHER SCOUT:** A Scout understands there is strength in being gentle. He treats

others as he wants to be treated. He does not harm or kill anything without reason.

**MC:** A SCOUT IS OBEDIENT.

**ANOTHER SCOUT:** A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rules and laws are unfair, he tries to have them changed in an orderly manner rather than disobey them.

**MC:** A SCOUT IS CHEERFUL.

**ANOTHER SCOUT:** A Scout looks for the bright side of life. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way. He tries to make others happy.

**MC:** A SCOUT IS THRIFTY.

**ANOTHER SCOUT:** A Scout works to pay his way and to help others. He saves for the future. He protects and conserves natural resources. He carefully uses time and property.

**MC:** A SCOUT IS BRAVE.

**ANOTHER SCOUT:** A Scout can face danger even if he is afraid. He has the courage to stand for what he thinks is right even if others laugh at him or threaten him.

**MC:** A SCOUT IS CLEAN.

**ANOTHER SCOUT:** A Scout keeps his body and mind fit and clean. He goes around with those who believe in living by these same ideals. He helps keep his home and community clean.

**MC:** A SCOUT IS REVERENT.

**ANOTHER SCOUT:** A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.

**MC:** The pathway to Eagle can be described as a steep trail leading up to three peaks, the highest being that of Eagle Scout. Officially, the trail starts with the Tenderfoot rank and continues through Second and First Class ranks. Then, the mountain climbing begins. The path is marked with merit badges, leadership responsibilities, service projects, and the practice of Scouting skills and ideals. The first peak reached is that of Star Scout, the second is Life Scout, and, finally, Eagle Scout.

Would the honor guard please escort (*Scout's name*)'s parents forward.

[Pause for honor guard to escort parents to front.]

It is my pleasure to introduce \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Now we shall hear the story of (*Scout's name*)'s *Trail to Eagle*. Each part will be told by a

Scout holding the respective rank.

**TENDERFOOT SCOUT:** To earn the rank of Tenderfoot Scout, (*Scout's name*) did the following:

He was active in the troop and his patrol for at least two months.  
He memorized the Scout Oath and Law.  
He explained the meaning of each point of the Scout Law.  
He practiced these ideals in his everyday life.  
He earned the \_\_\_\_\_ skill award and the \_\_\_\_\_ skill award.  
He had a personal growth conference and a board of review.

**SECOND CLASS SCOUT:** In earning the rank of Second Class Scout, [*Scout's name*] did the following:

He was active in the troop and his patrol for at least two months after earning Tenderfoot.  
He showed Scout spirit.  
He earned \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ skill awards.  
He had a personal growth conference and a board of review.

**FIRST CLASS SCOUT:** To earn the rank of First Class Scout, [*Scout's name*] did the following:

He demonstrated basic orienteering skills.  
He participated in ten troop or patrol activities.  
He served as patrol cook on a camp out.  
He discussed the rights and obligations of a citizen.  
He identified ten kinds of native plants.  
He demonstrated ability with knots and lashings.  
He demonstrated first aid skills  
He swam 100 yards.  
He showed Scout spirit.  
He had a personal growth conference and a board of review.

**STAR SCOUT:** In earning the rank of Star Scout, (*Scout's name*) did the following:

He was active in the troop for at least four months after earning First Class.  
He showed Scout spirit.  
He earned \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ merit badges.  
From the list of required merit badges for Eagle, he earned \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.  
He did at least six hours of service projects.  
He served at least four months in a troop leadership position.  
He had a personal growth conference and a board of review.

**LIFE SCOUT:** In order to earn the rank of Life Scout, (*Scout's name*) did the following:

He was active in the troop for at least six months after earning Star.  
He showed Scout spirit.  
He earned \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ merit badges.

From the list of required merit badges for Eagle, he earned \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
He did at least six hours of service projects.  
He served at least six months in a troop leadership position.  
He had a personal growth conference and a board of review.

**EAGLE SCOUT:** To complete the rank of Eagle Scout, \_\_\_\_\_ did the following:

He was active in the troop for at least six months after earning Life.

He showed Scout spirit.

He earned \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ merit badges.

From the list of required merit badges for Eagle, he earned \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

He served at least six months in a troop leadership position.

He planned, developed, and gave leadership to an Eagle Service Project.

**CANDIDATE:** [Recitation of Scout Oath]

**MC:** I would like to introduce \_\_\_\_\_, who will deliver the Eagle Charge.

[Give as much introduction as is appropriate.]

**SPEAKER:** [Challenge and Charge to Eagle Scout]

**SCOUTMASTER:** The symbol of your success is the Eagle badge which I now present to your mother. Your mother will, in turn, pin the badge over your heart

[Presentation of Eagle badge]

Eagle Scout [Scout's name], in recognition of the wisdom and guidance given to you by your father, will you present to him this Eagle tie tack, which he will be proud to wear in your honor.

[Presentation of Eagle tie tack]

And now, also in recognition of the many hours of patient guidance given by her in your efforts, will you pin the Eagle mother's pin on your mother.

[Presentation of Eagle mother's pin]

**MC:** Committee Member \_\_\_\_\_ will present letters and certificates which have been sent by people who could not attend this afternoon's ceremony and will introduce others who will make presentations in person.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER:** [Presentation of letters and certificates sent by people not present and introduction of others who are present]

**MC:** At this point in the court of honor, the new Eagle Scout, (*Scout's name*), would like

to make a few remarks.

**NEW EAGLE SCOUT:** [Remarks by new Eagle Scout]

**COORDINATOR:** As scouting coordinator for Troop \_\_\_\_\_, I would like to offer my congratulations to (*Scout's name*) for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. I now declare this Eagle court of honor closed.

**MINISTER:** [Benediction]

**MC:** We invite everyone present to come forward to congratulate the new Eagle Scout and his parents and to join us for refreshments. (*Scout's name*)'s project workbook and letters and certificates of congratulations will also be available for viewing at this time. I would also remind everyone to sign the guest book for this occasion. Thank you for joining us today.

## ***Eagle Scout Court Of Honor Used in Troop 57***

[This ceremony was used by Troop 57 of Oswego, NY. The version as presented here was used at a court of honor for three Eagle Scouts. The words can be adapted for a single Eagle Scout.]

### **CEREMONY:**

**SCOUTMASTER:** [Step to microphone.] Senior Patrol Leader, front and center.

**SPL:** [Color guard is in position at the rear of room: American flag, troop flag, four honor guards.]

[Step to microphone.]

Ladies and gentlemen, please rise for the opening ceremonies.

[Wait until the audience is standing and quiet.]

Color guard, advance the colors.

[When color guard is in position]

Scout salute.

[*Pledge of Allegiance*]

Two. Scout Sign

[Scout Oath]

Two. Color guard, post the colors.

[Wait until colors are in place.]

Everyone, please be seated.

**SCOUTMASTER:** My name is \_\_\_\_\_, Scoutmaster of Troop \_\_\_\_\_. I'd like to welcome everyone and thank you for coming. Our master of ceremonies for today is \_\_\_\_\_.

**MC:** Good evening. I would now like to introduce our honored guests and ask them to stand. Please hold your applause until they are all standing. [Introduce guests who are present. ]

**MC:** Will the guard of honor please escort Life Scouts \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ to the stage.

[Wait until they are seated.]

At this point, I call upon \_\_\_\_\_ to ask God's blessing upon this ceremony.

**MINISTER:** [Invocation]

**MC:** I now present \_\_\_\_\_, Scouting Coordinator for Troop \_\_\_\_ to open this court of honor.

**COORDINATOR:** I now declare this court of honor in session. Today we have the honor and pleasure of recognizing three candidates for the award of Eagle Rank. This is an important and serious matter. In full awareness of the challenge of these times, the parents and leaders of these candidates have labored long and faithfully to develop them to be alert and to participate in citizenship through the Scouting program. Their efforts culminate tonight in the presentation of the Eagle Scout Badge. The success of these efforts will become evident in the way these Eagle Scouts will set their social pattern for all the lives they may touch. Democracy is a fresh conquest for each generation.

**MC:** When a boy becomes a Boy Scout, there should be instilled within him that which we call the *Spirit of Scouting*.

[Light a candle. ]

This lighted candle symbolizes that spirit. Because the *Spirit of Scouting* embodies the fine principles of the Scout Oath and Law, it becomes a shining beacon of inspiration. Alone, this light may be feeble, but when multiplied by the millions of boys in Scouting, it can become very powerful indeed.

[Step out. Take candle and move to other candles.]

After a boy has entered Scouting, the Scout Law that he has promised to obey, is put into effect as occasions may demand, and so, one by one, the symbols that stand for the parts of the Scout Law are lighted. There are twelve parts, all important and all meaningful.

[Light a candle at each point of the Scout Law]

Each is an important cornerstone in the building of a strong character. A scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

And finally, in the three points of the Scout Oath which we heard during the opening ceremony, he promises on his honor to do his best to do his duty.

First [light candle] to God and his country.

Second [light candle] to others by helping other people at all times.

And third [light candle] to himself by keeping himself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

You see how the light from this *Spirit of Scouting* grows and becomes stronger. These, in outline, are the basic ideals of Scouting, to which each boy subscribes when he becomes a Boy Scout.

It is, therefore, right and proper that we have made a careful review of the qualifications of these candidates. In order that all may understand the completeness of our review, \_\_\_\_\_ will report on the candidates' qualifications to First Class.

[Takes *Spirit of Scouting* candle and goes to the First Class Scout poster and candle.]

**REVIEWER:** [Light Scout candle]

Our candidates earned Scout by understanding and promising to live by the Scout Oath and Law. They learned the Scout Motto, Slogan, Salute, and Handclasp and understood the significance of the Scout Badge. They also took part in a personal growth agreement conference with their scoutmaster.

[Light Tenderfoot candle]

As Scout, our candidates were active in their troop and patrols for at least two months. They repeated from memory the Scout Oath and Law and demonstrated how they practices them in everyday life. They also earned Citizenship and one other skill award, and after a personal growth agreement conference with their Scoutmaster, and a Troop Leaders Council review, they became Tenderfoot Scouts.

[Light Second Class candle]

After showing Scout Spirit and being active for at least two months as Tenderfoot Scouts and earning the First Aid, Hiking, and one other skill award, they had a personal growth agreement conference with their scoutmaster and a troop board of review and they became Second Class Scouts.

[Light First Class candle]

For at least two months as Second Class Scouts, our candidates were active in their troop and patrols and showed Scout Spirit. They earned the Camping, Cooking, and one other skill award and the First Aid merit badge. After having a person growth agreement conference with their scoutmaster and a Troop Leaders Council review, they became First Class Scouts.

Now, Senior Patrol Leader \_\_\_\_\_ will continue with our review.

**SPL:** [Light Star candle]

As First Class scouts for at least four months, our candidates were active and showed Scout spirit in their troop and patrols. They earned five more merit badges, three of which are from the required list, and did service projects of at least six hours. They also served for four months or more in troop leadership positions and after a person growth agreement conference with their Scoutmaster and a Troop Committee review, they became Star Scouts.

[Light Life candle]

Continuing along the scouting trail, our candidates were active as Star Scouts for at least six months and showed scout spirit and leadership. They earned five more merit badges, three of which were from the required list for Eagle. After doing service projects of at least six hours and having a personal growth conference with their scoutmaster, they had a Troop Committee review and became Life Scouts.

Will the honor guard please escort our candidates' parents to the stage.

[Wait for parents to reach stage and be seated.]

To attain the highest rank in Scouting, our candidates were active in the troop and their patrols for at least six months, showing scout spirit and leadership. They earned ten more merit badges for a total of twenty-one, twelve of which were from the required list. They planned, developed, and gave leadership to a service project which was helpful to their school, religious institution, or community. They passed a troop and district board of review. Tonight you will witness the presentation of their well-earned award.

Now, \_\_\_\_\_ will describe their Eagle projects.

**DESCRIBER:** [Give description of the Eagle service projects. This may be broken up among several speakers.]

**SPEAKER:** Webster's dictionary describes an eagle as a large bird of prey with sharp vision and powerful wings, famous for their strength, size, grace, and keen vision. It is the national emblem for the United States: the bald eagle. Though the eagle is found throughout the world, he is never found in abundance; he is always rare and he is always a superb specimen. In Scouting the eagle stands for strength of character. The eagle stands for knowledge of all phases of Scouting. The eagle represents an understanding of community and nation, and a deep respect for same. The eagle is a symbol of what a young man has done as well as what that young man will do, and will be, when he grows to manhood. The eagle is a leader. The eagle is respected, both by his peers and by his adult leaders.

**MC:** Eagle Scout candidates, please rise.

I would like to call upon \_\_\_\_\_ to give the Eagle Scout Charge to these Scouts.

**CHARGER:** [Eagle Charge]

**MC:** Would the parents of these Eagle Scout candidates please stand behind their sons.

Will \_\_\_\_\_, Scoutmaster of Troop \_\_\_\_, please come up and present our new Eagles with their medals.

[After he is finished and returns to his seat]

Will \_\_\_\_\_ please come up and present our new Eagles with their patches.

[After he is finished and returns to his seat]

Will \_\_\_\_\_ please come up and present our new Eagles with their certificates.

[After he is finished and returns to his seat]

Will \_\_\_\_\_ please give our new Eagles their mothers' pins. Will the new Eagles please present their mothers with the mothers' pins.

[After he is finished and returns to his seat]

Will \_\_\_\_\_ please give our new Eagles their fathers' pins. Will the new Eagles please present their fathers with the fathers' pins.

**MC:** The parents of the new Eagle Scouts may be seated.

[Read letters of congratulations. This may be done by someone else. If there are many to be read, excerpt should be used instead of the letters in their entirety.]

[If any of the guests have presentations to make, this is the time for them.]

[If any of the guests wish to speak, this is the time for them.]

# Eagle Scout Ceremony Script for Damon Drown (October 16, 1993)

[The following is an adaptation of the original Court of Honor script. Most of the names have been replaced with position titles.]

4:45 PM Ushers start

About 5 PM Scoutmaster steps to podium. Asks everyone to take their seats.

When everyone is seated:

**Scoutmaster:** Welcome to this Eagle Court of Honor for Damon Drown. It has been 7 months since our last Eagle Court of Honor.

**Assistant Senior Patrol Leader:** Will everyone please rise for the presentation of the colors by the Honor Guard.

The Honor Guard brings up the colors and posts them.

Please join me in the *Pledge of Allegiance*. I pledge . . . . .

All members of the Honor Guard can be seated except \_\_\_\_\_ who will return to the back of the Hall to line up for the candle lighting.

**Scoutmaster:** I would like at this time to introduce the Master of Ceremonies for tonight. [Scout master introduces MC and can be seated.]

[Have scouts line up in rank order at the back of the hall, Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, and Life. Issue each one a white candle.]

[Instruct each one to keep their hands out of their pockets, walk down the center aisle at the proper time and move to each side with their lighted candles until the Eagle Escort has finished bringing the candidate to the front. They may then be seated, after blowing out the candles.]

**MC:** Thank you. And now, let us begin. [The MC removes and lights a large candle, lights it and leaves it on top of or near the podium. Lights are then dimmed. (*Turn off fluorescent lights*)]

**MC:** Our theme tonight is *The Trail to Eagle*. The pathway to Eagle can be described as a steep trail, leading to the peak of Eagle rank.

Along that trail are 6 steps, the ranks of Scouting that you had to pass on the trail. Damon, it is fitting that you look back before you go on to other challenges to see what you have accomplished. These experiences should not be forgotten - You should benefit from them. Cherish the valuable ones, and make sure the bad ones do not happen again. Remember your first trip along that steep trail? At first, you were called Scout by your brothers.

A Scout marches slowly down the aisle with an unlighted candle, steps up to the podium and lights his candle. He then walks solemnly to the left side of the stage and waits.

**MC:** Remember when you received the Scout Badge? You learned the trefoil or fleur-de-lis shape was to resemble the Mariner compass as it would always point you along the true path towards tonight. It had three points which you learned like the three fingers of the Scout Sign were for the three points of the Scout Oath.

Remember when you took those first steps up the long scouting trail? You began to build yourself physically, mentally, and morally by learning the Scout Oath and Law. Before you knew it you were a Tenderfoot Scout.

[A Tenderfoot Scout marches slowly down the aisle with an unlighted candle, steps up to the podium and lights his candle. He then walks solemnly to the left side of the stage and waits. The Scout waits next to Tenderfoot.]

**MC:** Your Scout Badge was replaced by the badge of a Tenderfoot. It still pointed you in the right direction but added were the two stars which represented the truth and knowledge you had gained in Scouting. Also was the bald eagle, our national symbol. You learned from the shield on the eagle's breast that the freedom of America is not without cost that it must be defended.

Soon, you set out for another ledge. There you were greeted by a larger group of Second Class Scouts.

[A Second Class Scout marches slowly down the aisle with an unlighted candle, steps up to the podium and lights his candle. He then walks solemnly to the left side of the stage and waits. The Second Class Scout waits next to Tenderfoot and Scout.]

**MC:** The second class badge showed you a scroll with your motto *Be Prepared*. Its ends were turned up in a smile and that is what you were to do as the bottom knot reminded you to *Do a Good Turn Daily* which is the Scout slogan.

You found that some second class scouts had been there for a long time and were content with their achievement. You continued onward. You studied and before you realized it, you had come to a new ledge, one where First Class Scouts dwell.

[A First Class marches slowly down the aisle with an unlighted candle, steps up to the podium and lights his candle. He then walks solemnly to the right side of the stage and waits. The First Class Scout waits next to Second Class, Tenderfoot and Scout.]

**MC:** Your First Class badge showed you that it was time to put everything you had learned thus far together and this is what you did. You found that the trail to First Class had not been all that difficult. You wanted to learn more in Scouting so you continued onward, earning specific skills through merit badges.

Your next step was to become a Star Scout.

[A Star Scout marches slowly down the aisle with an unlighted candle, steps up to the podium and lights his candle. He then walks solemnly to the right side of the stage and waits next to the First Class Scout.]

**MC:** The Star badge, a golden star was to symbolize your new role as a leader. You were called upon to be a guiding light in the darkness for those who were to follow. No longer were you receiving Scouting but now you were expected to teach new skills to others.

Now the Trail was steeper. Leadership was challenging and also hard work. But you persevered, climbing the steep trail. Soon it led you to Life Rank.

[A Life Scout marches slowly down the aisle with an unlighted candle, steps up to the podium and lights his candle. He then walks solemnly to the right side of the stage and waits next to First Class and Star Scouts.]

**MC:** The Badge of Life, a pure red heart on a golden field was to show all the world the path you had chosen. True to the ideals of Scouting you had gained an inner confidence that was to prepare you for the rest of your life. The trail became even tougher, but more interesting. You thought, now I am close to the Eagle. I will carry on.

[The Eagle escort should be ready in the back of the hall with Damon between them. A Scout should lead the escort with a single lit candle.]

**MC:** We in Troop 39 have watched you as you have worked towards your Eagle. We have watched your mind develop and your knowledge increase. We have seen you grow in many ways and now that you are on the threshold of your goal, we welcome you.

**MC:** [Scoutmaster's name], as Scoutmaster of this troop, is it your judgment that he has fulfilled the requirements to become an Eagle and exemplifies the idea of Scouting?

**Scoutmaster:** I am proud to say he has.

**MC:** Could you now give some of Damon's background?

[Scoutmaster reads the biography.]

**Scoutmaster:** Damon, I now ask you to repeat the Scout Oath rededicating yourself to its principles.

[Two Scouts, the First Class and Star, should be ready to come forward to light candles for the Law. Using the candles from the previous part of the ceremony, light their candles from Damon's.]

**Scoutmaster:** The law of the Eagle is the Scout Law. I would now like to have the Scouts stand and repeat the Scout Law as Damon lights the candles representing each Law. Would \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ assist by lighting the candles which represent the Laws?

First Class and Star should now come forward and light their candles from Damon's.

[Scouts should repeat Law slowly, giving time to light the two candles. Scoutmaster stays at front to assist with awards.]

**MC:** Your conduct along the trail of has been excellent. You have rededicated yourself to the principles of Scouting. You have heard the Law of the Eagle, but one more thing is important - your future.

As an Eagle you become a guiding light to other Scouts below you. You become an example to your community. Remember that people expect more of you.

To falter in your duties would not only reflect on you, but your fellow Eagles. The torch you carry is not only yours, but theirs.

**MC:** Would [name of Charger] please come forward to give the Eagle Charge?

**Charger:** This is not the end of the trail but rather the beginning of a new era in your life. You are now entering a brotherhood of boys and men who have not only achieved the Eagle Scout rank but have made a commitment to the Scout Oath and Law. You will always be an Eagle Scout and will be expected to conduct yourself accordingly.

Would the Eagle Scouts in the audience please stand.

Damon Drown, I charge you to enter this Eagle Scout Brotherhood holding, without reservation, the ideals of honor and service. Repeating the Eagle Scout promise before your fellow members, you will be sealing your eternal loyalty to the code of the Eagle Scout.

Scout Sign, Repeat the Charge after me: I reaffirm my allegiance to the three promises of the Scout Oath.

I thoughtfully recognize and take upon myself the obligations and responsibilities of the Eagle Scout.

On my honor, I will do me best to make my training an example, my rank and my influence count strongly for better Scouting and for better citizenship, in my Troop, in my community, and in my contacts with other people.

To this I pledge my sacred honor.

**MC:** Would you now light the candle representing the rank of Eagle?

[The Eagle Honor guard should now be ready to escort the parents to the front and retire to the rear of the Hall. Pause while the last candle is lit. Damon's candle can be put out.]

**Charger:** Congratulations. I would now like to present you with the Eagle neckerchief.

[Charger removes Troop neckerchief and places Eagle neckerchief on, shakes Damon's hand. Charger can now retire to the back of the Hall to join the Eagle Honor Guard.]

**MC:** The Scoutmaster will now present the Certificate. [Certificate presented.]

**MC:** Will the Eagle Scout Honor Guard please escort Damon's parents to the front. [Pause while Guard comes to front and the returns to the rear.]

**MC:** What Damon has accomplished is with your support and guidance. It is fitting that you present the Eagle award to him.

[Scoutmaster takes the badge from the bearer's box and hands it to the father who pins it on the candidate. Scoutmaster will hand the candidate the mother's and father's pin when needed.]

**MC:** In recognition of the many hours of patient guidance given by her to you in your efforts, will you present this pin to your mother. [Pause for pinning.]

**MC:** And will you give your father the Eagle Tie pin? [Pause. When done, parents can be seated.]

**MC:** I would now like to ask Damon's grandfather, [ name ], to come forward to say a few words and read some letters of congratulations. [Pause for words and reading.]

[Eagle Honor Guard comes to front, congratulates the candidate and escorts him to the rear. Color guard should be ready.]

**MC:** Will the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader please lead us in the closing ceremony? [Pause while ASPL comes to front.]

**ASPL:** Please rise. Color guard, prepare to retire the colors.

Retire the colors. Please salute.

**ASPL:** At Ease. This concludes our ceremony. Thank you for coming. We hope that you will join us for some refreshments. [Scouts should allow adults to line up for refreshments first.]

[Thanks to Scott Drown, SM Troop 39, Maltby, Mt., Baker Council, Everett, WA].

# ***Eagle Scout Court of Honor Script for Bradley Alan Wallace***

(December 28, 1993)

[This is an adaptation of the original Eagle Court of Honor Script. Most of the names have been replaced with position titles.]

[As the guests enter the sanctuary, Boy Scouts of Troop 82 hand out programs and usher guests to their seats. The communion rail refers to a rail found in front of the sanctuary of some churches. All speakers, participants, and their spouses are seated in a special area prior to the opening.]

## **Opening Ceremony:**

**SPL:** (Proceeds to the center front of communion rail and turns to face the audience)  
Would everyone please stand for the presentation of our Colors and the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

(Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack march in and take their places)

**SPL:** (calls the Color Guard -- Cobra & Trailblazer Webelos Scouts -- to present the colors. Once the Color Guard reaches the front of the Sanctuary and is in place, he calls "Hand Salute" and leads the Pledge of Allegiance. The colors are posted; he asks the audience to "Please be seated". He then dismisses the Color Guard "Color Guard, dismissed", and follows them to the back of the Sanctuary where they then quietly proceed to their seats.

**Assistant Scoutmaster:** Scouts, Scouters, and friends of Scouting, I would like to welcome you to this Eagle Court of Honor. This is an occasion for pride and joy, as well as a time for serious reflection. The Eagle is the highest recognition that Scouting offers to Scouts. It is earned through the advancement program, and only a small percentage of boys who begin in Scouting receive this honor. The wearer of the Eagle award is the epitome of Scouting's best efforts and beliefs. Tonight, we have the pleasure of seeing Bradley Wallace climax his Scouting efforts when he joins the company of Eagle Scouts. Before we begin, the Reverend Jim McWhinnie, Pastor of Grace United Methodist Church, will deliver the Invocation.

Invocation.

Significance of the Eagle Badge.

**Presenter 1:** The presentation of the Eagle Scout Award is an important and serious matter. For the Eagle candidate, this is the climax in his Scouting efforts. The attainment of this award is made possible through the assistance of those with the candidate tonight -- his Scoutmasters, Troop leaders, fellow Scouts, parents, family, friends, and members of the community. This is an occasion for pride and joy, as well as a time for serious reflection.

The Eagle is the highest recognition offered in Scouting. It is earned through the advancement program. The wearer of the Eagle award is the embodiment of Scouting's best efforts and beliefs. Bradley Wallace has distinguished himself through his continued performance of active service in Scouting. He is trained and practiced in his leadership

abilities. And, he is marked by the character gained through an understanding of his citizenship and religious beliefs. It is important that each of us understands the meaning of the Eagle Badge.

(Lights are dimmed)

[The Eagle Honor Guard speaks from the rear of the sanctuary:]

**Scout 1:** The appeal of the majestic eagle has been felt by every great people from prehistoric times to the present day. To the Egyptians, the eagle was the messenger of the gods and the sun, a symbol of eternal life. To the Romans, he was the carrier of Jupiter's thunderbolts and a sign of power. To American Indians he stood as the incentive to valor and the pledge of victory. For us today, the eagle is the living symbol of all courageous and freedom-aspiring Americans. When the Eagle Scout badge was designed in 1912, it was decided that a small silver eagle would be suspended from a tricolor ribbon of red, white, and blue. So it remains today.

(The Eagle is lit.)

**Scout 2:** The foremost responsibility of an Eagle Scout is to live with honor. To an Eagle Scout, honor is the foundation of all character. He knows that 'a Scout is trustworthy' is the very first point of the Scout Law for a good reason. An Eagle Scout lives honorably, not only because honor is important to him, but because of the vital significance of the example he sets for other scouts. Living honorably reflects credit on his home, his church, his troop, and his community. May the white of the Eagle Badge remind you to always live with honor.

(The white ribbon is lit.)

**Scout 3:** The second obligation of an Eagle Scout is loyalty. A Scout is true to his family, scout leaders, friends, school, and nation. His loyalty to his troop and brother scouts makes him pitch in and carry his share of the load. All of these help to build the loyalty which means devotion to community, to country, to one's own ideals, and to God. Let the blue of the Eagle Badge always inspire your loyalty.

(The blue ribbon is lit.)

**Scout 4:** The third obligation of an Eagle Scout is to be courageous. Courage has always been a quality by which men measure themselves and others. To a scout, bravery means not only the courage to face physical danger, but the determination to stand up for the right. Trusting in God, with faith in his fellow man, he looks forward to each day, seeking his share of the world's work to do. Let the red of the Eagle Scout badge remind you always of courage.

(The red ribbon is lit.)

**Scout 5:** The fourth obligation of an Eagle Scout is to be cheerful. To remind the Eagle Scout to always wear a smile, the red, white, and blue ribbon is attached to the scroll of the Second Class Scout award, which has its ends turned up in a smile.

(The scroll is lit.)

**Scout 6:** The final responsibility of an Eagle Scout is service. The Eagle Scout is service. The Eagle Scout extends a helping hand to those who still toil up Scouting's trail, just as others helped him in his climb to the Eagle. The performance of the daily good turn takes on a new meaning when he enters a more adult life of continuing service to others. The Eagle stands as protector of the weak and helpless. He aids and comforts the unfortunate and the oppressed. He upholds the rights of others while defending his own. He will always 'be prepared' to put forth his best.

**Scout 7:** You are deserving of much credit in having achieved Scouting's highest award. However, wear your award with humility, ever mindful that the Eagle Scout is looked up to as an example. May the Scout Oath and the Scout Law be your guide for tomorrow and onward.

(Lights are turned up)

**Musician:** (soloist -- music *The Lord's Prayer*)

**MC:** I would now like to introduce Deputy [name]. He has been with the Lee County Sheriff's Office for 1-1/2 years, and is currently serving as a correctional officer in Fort Myers. He was a Cub Scout and a Boy Scout as a youth, and believes in the importance of programs such as Scouting for our young people. Ladies and Gentlemen, [name].

Keynote Address.

**MC:** [ name ], Calusa District Committee Chairman for SW Florida Council, will now convene the National Court of Honor.

Convening of the National Court of Honor:

**Council person:** By the authority vested in me as a representative of the Southwest Florida Council and the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, I declare this Court of Honor to be convened.

**Master of Ceremonies:** The Scouting movement constitutes one of the most wholesome and significant influences in the world today. Many successful, well-known persons are Eagle Scouts -- a former President of the United States, a film director whose films have won worldwide acclaim, most of the original astronauts, and several outstanding sports personalities. The Eagle candidate whose efforts culminate this evening in the presentation of the Eagle badge, has labored long to enter this brotherhood. He will assume even greater responsibilities to the ideals of honor and service. When he pledges himself on his sacred honor, he will be sealing his loyalty to the code of the Eagle Scout with the words which closed the Declaration of Independence.

Honor Guard, please escort before this Court of Honor Life Scout Bradley Alan Wallace, where he will be prepared to receive the Eagle Scout Award.

(After the Honor Guard returns to their seats, MC continues)

Reaffirmation of Candidate to the Scout Oath Principles, Master of Ceremonies:

All along the trail of achievement, your scoutmasters have given you advice and encouragement. I call upon your Scoutmaster to vouch for you tonight. (Scoutmaster steps forward, Council person addresses him.) "Sir, before presenting your Scout the Eagle Award, we would like to have your assurance that Bradley has been faithful in serving his troop, in giving leadership to its scouts, in practicing the principles of the Scout Oath and Law, and in practicing the good turn in his daily life. Based upon these qualifications, is your Scout entitled to the honor the Eagle badge represents?"

**Scoutmaster:** Yes, sir, he is.

**MC:** Eagle candidate Bradley Wallace, what promise did you take when you became a Tenderfoot Scout?

**Eagle Scout Candidate:** The Scout Oath, sir.

**MC:** Is there any reason why you should not renew that promise now?

**Eagle Scout Candidate:** There is not, sir.

**MC:** Then I ask you to now give the Scout Oath as you rededicate yourself to its principles.

**Eagle Scout Candidate:** (Gives the Scout Sign and repeats the Scout Oath)

**MC:** You have just recommitted yourself to the principles of the Scout Oath. You now have a new, more intense obligation to your church, your community, and your troop. The knowledge you have gained in all areas of scouting will better enable you to be prepared for the future and its challenges. The Scout Motto of *Be Prepared* now takes on special meaning.

Before the Eagle Award is bestowed upon you, I am going to ask the Honor Guard to escort your father to your side.

(After his father is in position on the candidate's right and the Honor Guard has returned to their seats, continue with. . . )

Eagle Candidate [Scout's name] your father has undoubtedly been a primary source of help in your Scout work. He will help you carry the standards of your award to the highest peak of attainment, since the very best is expected of an Eagle Scout in exemplary conduct, character, achievement, and leadership ability. I am going to ask your father, who has stood by you so loyally to pledge his willingness to continue to help you. Mr. Wallace, do you agree to continue to help [Scout's name] so that he may grow in character and those leadership qualities that an Eagle Scout should have?

**Mr. Wallace:** I will.

**MC:** Your mother has undoubtedly been your greatest source of inspiration in your quest for the Eagle Award. I am going to ask that she please rise and allow the Honor Guard to

escort her to your side.

(The Honor Guard escorts the mother to the candidate's left. Presenter moves to the microphone as mother is escorted to Eagle Candidate's side.)

**Presenter:** (Give a brief history of Eagle Candidate's Scouting career - see attached. When completed, he continues . . . )

Eagle Candidate Bradley Wallace, it is now my pleasure to introduce Eagle Scout [name of Charger to deliver to you the Eagle Charge.

Eagle Charge:

[name of Charger]: Scouts of all nations make up one of the most wholesome and significant movements in the world's history. You have been judged by the Boy Scouts of America as being worthy of this honor. All who know you rejoice in your achievement. This award, as you will know, is one of honor and responsibility. You are a marked man. As an Eagle Scout, you have assumed a solemn obligation to do your duty to God, to Country, to your fellow Scouts, and to mankind in general. This is a great undertaking. As you live up to your obligations you bring honor to yourself and to your brother Scouts. America has many good things to give you and your children after you; but these good things depend for the most part on the quality of her citizens. Our country has had a great past. You can help make the future even greater.

I charge you to undertake your citizenship with a solemn dedication. Be a leader, but lead only toward the best. Lift up every task you do and every office you hold to the highest level of service to God and to your fellow man.

So live and serve, that those who know you will be inspired to finer living. I charge you to be among those who dedicate their hearts, hands, skills, and abilities to the common good. Help to build America's future by continuing to set an example of clean living, honest work, unselfish citizenship and reverence for God, whatever others may do. You will leave behind you a record of which you may be justly proud.

Eagle Candidate Bradley, I charge you to enter this Eagle Scout brotherhood holding without reservation and ever before you the ideals of honor and service. By the repetition of the Eagle Scout promise before your fellow members, you will become an Eagle Scout. When you pledge yourself on your sacred honor, you will be sealing your eternal loyalty to the code of the Eagle Scout with the same words which closed the Declaration of Independence.

Will all Eagle Scouts here tonight please stand and renew your Eagle Scout promise as [Eagle Candidate's name] joins our brotherhood? (Pause) Scout sign; repeat after me. Be seated.

(*Eagle Scout's name*), your conduct along the trail has been excellent. You have rededicated yourself to the principles of Scouting. But one more thing is important . . . your future.

As an Eagle Scout, you become a guide to other Scouts. You become an example in your community. Remember that your actions are now a little more conspicuous and people will

expect more of you. To falter in your responsibility would reflect not only on you, but on your fellow Eagles and all of Scouting. The torch you carry is not only yours, but it is also ours.

Presentation of Award:

**Presenter 2:** Life Scout Bradley Wallace, we are finally at that point you have been waiting for. Having confirmed all readiness for the reception of this award, it is now time to formally present this high badge of accomplishment

By the authority vested in me by the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America, it is my privilege an pleasure to pronounce you an Eagle Scout. May the Oath you have taken always remain with you.

No words of this Court of Honor could do justice to the devotion and patient perseverance with which your Scoutmaster has helped you towards worthy manhood. Only from his hands could you receive your Eagle award at this moment. Will Scoutmaster [name] pin the badge on this new Eagle Scout?

In recognition of fatherly advice and guidance along the trail to Eagle, I will ask this Eagle Scout's father now to present to his son the Eagle Scout certificate and personal letter of commendation from the Chief Scout Executive, Boy Scouts of America. (Hand certificate to father for presenting. Letter should be read before presenting.)

No one will ever know the unnumbered acts of self-sacrifice and helpfulness from the mother of this Eagle Scout which have led us to this night. As the symbol of what his mother has made possible, the court will now ask this Eagle to present his mother with a miniature Eagle pin. (Son pins on miniature Eagle pin. When all the insignia have been presented, speaker gives the new Eagle Scout the Scout handclasp with the left hand. Right handshake should be used for each of the parents. **Note:** in the Theodore Roosevelt Council, tradition dictates the right hand with small finger extended - supposedly a T. Roosevelt-inspired change).

May I congratulate you again, and may I remind you that Scouting should now become an even greater tie between son and parents, binding you even more closely as a family. To you, Eagle Scout Bradley Wallace, I express confidence that you will honor Scouting with your life and service as tonight Scouting honors you. That God may bless you and make you a blessing is our prayer.

Honor Guard, please escort Bradley's parents to their seats.

(As the Honor Guard is seating the parents, Scoutmaster moves to the microphone and continues . . .)

Special Recognition:

**Scoutmaster:** It gives me great pleasure to introduce [ name ], Chartered Organization Representative for the Scouting units here at Grace UMC, who will present those with special recognition's for the new Eagle Scout.

**Chartered Organization Representative :** (says a few words on behalf of the sponsoring organization,

and introduces the following people:)

[name], Committee Chairman, Troop 82 (plaque)

[name], Kiwanis, (plaque +)

[name], Optimist, (plaque +)

(When presentations are complete, Scoutmaster moves back to the microphone for the closing.)

Closing.

**Scoutmaster:** Now [Eagle Scout's name], before you leave this ceremony, will you kneel where you are and in true Scout fashion, silently ask your God to give you strength and courage to wear with distinction and honor the award which you now hold.

(A moment of silent prayer)

I congratulate you as an Eagle Scout. The eagle soars high and seeks to rest only upon the lofty peaks. As an Eagle Scout, you too must soar high. You must not swerve from the path of duty. Your ideals must be lofty. You must strive to obtain that which is the highest and noblest in life.

I hereby close this Eagle Court of Honor and present to you Eagle Scout Bradley A. Wallace.

**Bradley Wallace:** (After applause, Bradley says a few words of thanks)

Benediction

**SPL:** (Leads closing, colors recess.)

[Honor Guard: Escorts parents out. All remaining Boy Scouts follow, then Cub Scouts. Receiving line is formed in Fellowship Hall.]

[Thanks to Scott Drown, SM Troop 39, Maltby, Mt., Baker Council, Everett, WA]

## ***Eagle Scout Ceremony from Joe Ulrich***

[Here is a copy of the Eagle ceremony that my troop has done for many years. -- Joe Ulrich, julrich@cdcj089.cnp.cldx.com]

### **Program**

**Welcome:** Scoutmaster

**Invocation:** Clergyman or Scoutmaster

**Dinner** (Cleanup by Scouts): Dinner Committee

**Opening Ceremony:** Senior Patrol Leader

**Scoutmaster Messages:** Scoutmaster

**Court of Awards:** Scoutmaster

**Eagle Court of Honor**

**Opening candle Ceremony:** Scoutmaster

**Trail of the Eagle:** Scoutmaster

**Eagle Poem:** Scoutmaster

**Eagle Charge:** Selected Eagle Scout

**Eagle Oath:** Scoutmaster

**Eagle Presentations:** Mother, Scout

**Speakers:** Scoutmasters, Dignitaries

**Acceptance:** New Eagle Scout

**Benediction:** Clergyman or Scoutmaster

**Refreshments:** Dinner Committee

[Note: While guests are arriving, talk to each dignitary to determine if they have a presentation to make, and if the care to speak. Ask them how they prefer to be introduced, and put them on the schedule of speakers. Ask if they have any special scheduling needs.]

Ask the SPL if he has the Trail of the Eagle participants arranged. If not, do it NOW!!

## Welcome

**SM:** On behalf of the [Scout's name] family, I'd like to welcome all of you to this banquet. Many scouts set out on the trail to Eagle, but few have the perseverance to follow it to the end. [Scout's name] is one of those few and we are here tonight to honor his great achievement.

{Minister's name} will now perform the invocation.

Invocation (if needed): Lord, you bring us together this evening to honor the Eagle scout. We thank you for the food we are about to eat. We acknowledge your guidance in helping boys and adults work together to build leadership and appreciation of the outdoors. Lord, continue to watch over these boys as they grow into young men, and give the adults the patience and wisdom to guide them. Amen.

**SM:** Please remain seated until I call your table. Thank you and enjoy your meal.

## Dinner

[Note: Get scouts to pick up trash near end of meal. Don't neglect to recognize the kitchen staff!!]

## Opening Ceremony

**SM:** Will the color guard please perform the opening ceremony.

**SPL:** Pledge, Oath, Law.

## Scoutmaster Messages

[Note: Use this time for any important messages that **MUST** be done this night. **Keep it short!!**]

## Slide Show

[Note: If this is the first family activity of the year, do a slide show of the past years activities. **Keep it short!!**]

## Court of Awards

[Note: Recognize those scouts who are working on advancement, but try not to take the time to hand out patches. When the awards are completed, instruct the Trail of the Eagle participants to file out and get organized.]

## **Eagle Court of Honor**

**SM:** We would now like to begin the Eagle Court of Honor for (*Scout's name*). (*Name*) will perform the Opening Candle Ceremony.

### **Candle Ceremony**

[Note: The scout spirit candle must be lit prior to starting ceremony.]

**SM:** Will the honor guard please take their positions. (Honor guard (preferably two Eagle Scouts) files into position)

Will the honor guard please escort Mr. & Mrs. (*names*) to the Eagle Court of Honor. (Parents escorted and seated at the front of the room)

Will the Honor guard please escort Eagle Candidate (*Scout's name*) to the Eagle Court of Honor. (Candidate escorted to the Candle Ceremony. It should be located to allow enough room to move from ceremony to the beginning of the Trail of the Eagle.)

Please turn out the lights. (The large Scout spirit candle is to be the only light in the room.)

The candle aflame represents the spirit of Scouting. (*Scout's name*), it is in fact your demonstration of scout spirit that has brought you to where you are tonight. As a symbol of the spirit in you, [*Scout's name*], will you at this time light your candle from the scout spirit candle and take your position behind the table.

This evening, (*Scout's name*), as you prepare to receive Scouting's highest honor, the Eagle Scout Award, let's pause and reflect on the oath and the law which are the essence of the scout spirit in you.

Would you now recite the scout oath to this audience and pause to light a candle for each of the three parts of the oath.

**Scout:** On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the scout law. (Lights red candle.)

**SM:** As a Boy Scout of America, I believe that America's strength lies in her trust in God and in the courage and strength of her people. I will, therefore, be faithful in my religious duties and will maintain a personal sense of honor in my own life. I will treasure my American heritage and will do all I can to preserve and enrich it. I will hold the values of the Scout law in highest regard.

**Scout:** To help other people at all times. (Lights the white candle.)

**SM:** I recognize the dignity and worth of my fellow men and will use fair play and goodwill in dealing with them.

**Scout:** To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight. (Lights blue candle.)

**SM:** I will acquire the attitude that seeks truth, strength, and uprightness, first in myself and then in all situations I encounter throughout my life.

The Scout Law is a set of guiding values that you have adopted for your life. \_\_\_\_\_, recite the scout law and light a candle for each point as we pause to reflect on its meaning.

**Scout:** A scout is trustworthy. (Lights a candle on one side.)

**SM:** A Scout tells the truth. He keeps his promises. Honesty is a part of his code of conduct. People can always depend on him.

**Scout:** Loyal. (Lights a candle on the other side. Continues to light candles after each point alternating sides.)

**SM:** A Scout is true to his family, friends, Scout leaders, school, nation, and community.

**Scout:** Helpful.

**SM:** A Scout is concerned about other people. He willingly volunteers to help others without expecting payment or reward.

**Scout:** Friendly.

**SM:** A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other scouts. He seeks to understand others. He respects those with ideas and customs that are different from his own.

**Scout:** Courteous.

**SM:** A Scout is polite to everyone regardless of age or position. He knows that good manners make it easier for people to get along together.

**Scout:** Kind.

**SM:** A Scout understands that there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated. He does not harm or kill anything without reason.

**Scout:** Obedient.

**SM:** A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rules and laws are unfair, he tries to have them changed in an orderly manner rather than disobey them.

**Scout:** Cheerful.

**SM:** A Scout looks for the bright side of life. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way. He tries to make others happy.

**Scout:** Thrifty.

**SM:** A Scout works to pay his own way and to help others. He saves for the future. He protects and conserves natural resources. He carefully uses time and property.

**Scout:** Brave.

**SM:** A Scout can face danger even if he is afraid. He has the courage to stand for what he thinks is right even if others laugh at him or threaten him.

**Scout:** Clean.

**SM:** A Scout keeps his body and mind fit and clean. He goes around with those who believe in living by these same ideals. He helps keep his home and community clean.

**Scout:** Reverent.

**SM:** A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.

[Scout's name], you have thoughtfully prepared yourself for the Trail of the Eagle. Your journey now is only beginning.

### **Trail of the Eagle**

**SM:** Please post the Trail of the Eagle. (Participants file in and take their positions.)

At this time, your Eagle Scout escorts will conduct you through the Trail of the Eagle. (Candidate is escorted to start of the trail.)

Mr. (*Name*) will now tell us of (*Scout's name*)'s, Trail to Eagle.

[Note: A slide show and talk of the Scout's activities and dates of advancement. As each rank is presented on the screen, the candidate lights the candles of the Scouts along the trail representing that rank.]

### **Eagle Poem**

**SM:** Mr. [Name] will now recite the Eagle Poem.

[Note: 15 second pause, then raise the lights.]

### **Eagle Charge**

**SM:** (*Scout's name*), having completed the requirements for Eagle, are you prepared to accept the challenge of the Eagle Scout and rededicate yourself to the Scout Oath and Scout Law?

**Scout:** I am.

**SM:** (*Scout's name*), please join your parents for the Eagle Charge. The honor guard may be seated.

The Eagle Charge will be given by Eagle Scout [Name].

**Eagle:** Eagle Candidate, (*Scout's name*), I charge you:

Enter the Eagle Scout Brotherhood holding, without reservation, ever before you the ideals of honor and service. I further charge you to remember that this entry into the Eagle Brotherhood is not an end to your commitment to these ideals but rather, just the beginning of the commitment. By repetition of the Eagle Scout Oath before your parents, leaders, and fellow scouts you acknowledge your acceptance of the challenge and become an Eagle Scout.

Though these words are similar to those by which you joined scouting, tonight they have a special significance as you pledge, on your sacred word of honor your eternal loyalty to this code.

[Note: Eagle scout giving oath replaces Scout neckerchief with Eagle scarf and slide.]

**SM:** Thank you [name].

### **Eagle Oath**

**SM:** (*Scout's name*), give the scout sign and repeat after me: [Eagle Oath]

**SM:** By the authority vested in me by the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America, it is my privilege to pronounce you, (*Scout's name*), an Eagle Scout. Let's have a round of applause for this fine young man.

Mrs. (*Mother of Scout's name*), will you please pin the Eagle badge on [Scout's name].

As a symbol of the advice and council provided you by your mother as you advanced along the Eagle trail, I now ask you, (*Scout's name*), to pin the miniature Eagle pin on your mother.

As a symbol of the fatherly guidance provided as advanced along the Eagle trail, I now ask you, [Scout's name], to present this token to your father.

Eagle Scout (*Scout's name*), you and your parents may be seated.

### **Speakers and Presentations**

#### **Eagle Scout's Acceptance Speech**

**SM:** Would our new Eagle Scout like to say a few words?

**New Eagle Scout:** Gives speech.

**SM:** Thank you (*Scout's name*). I would like to join the (*Scout's name*) family in thanking the Eagle Banquet committee and everyone else who helped make this celebration such a success.

## **Benediction**

**SM:** Now I'd like to ask (*Minister's name*) to close these proceedings with the benediction.

**SM:** Thank you. Please join us in congratulating (*Scout's name*) and enjoy some cake and refreshments.

## ***An Eagle Court of Honor Script by Greg Gough***

(SETTING: MC is stage right; fire in center lit; scout rank cards are in semi-circle behind the fire, with Eagle rank nearest to podium; flags placed beside, but behind speaker)

(LIGHTS: all lights are turned off)

(SPOTLIGHTER: follow flags coming in)

OPENING CEREMONY:

**Master of Ceremonies (MC):** Everyone please stand

Color Guards advance

Post the Colors

Post the troop flag

Please follow me in the Pledge of Allegiance

Color Guards dismissed

Please be seated

(conduct opening flag ceremony; Smudgee carries troop flag and 2 OA members in full costume, carry the American flag)

(SPOTLIGHTER: light should move to MC)

**MC:** Welcome everyone. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ and will be your MC for tonight's ceremony. We have several individuals who are active in the scouting program here with us tonight. (recognize various leaders, *i.e.*, troop leaders, *etc.*) If we have any Eagle Scouts with us, young or not so young, would you please stand for a moment and be recognized. (Pause) You may be seated. Tonight we gather to honor one of our own. A scout who has proven himself worthy of Scouting's highest honor. Eagle Scout is not earned by the timid or the undedicated. Nor is it earned by the dispassionate. Eagle scout is earned by only those who work hard, exhibit virtue, and have ignited the passion of the scouting spirit in their soul. For that reason, only 4% of the boys who join Boy Scouts will ever become Eagle. The few that do, are seen as leaders among men. Tonight, [Scout's name] will join those few, known as Eagle Scout. Please join me in silence as we observe a Native American ceremony of smudging. The smudging ritual is done to purify the ceremonial area and its participants, and to ask for a blessing from our creator.

(SPOTLIGHTER: shines light on smudger, and each person as he smudges)

(SMUDGER is positioned center stage close to audience; Smudger blesses the four winds and

the sky and the earth. \*\*As each person is smudged, he is to gather the smoke in his arms, and imitate pouring the smoke over their heads. )

(ENTER YOUNG SMUDGER: he is smudged by smudgee)

(ENTER 2 OA TEAM: they are smudged by young smudger)

(OA TEAM exits to retrieve Eagle Scout and bring him forward to Young Smudger)

(OA TEAM then escorts Eagle Scout to fire where he is sat down on right side of fire, sideways to audience.)

(OA TEAM: return to podium to wait for signal)

(MC: starts tape \*\*VOICE OF THE EAGLE\*\*\*\*)

### **VOICE OF THE EAGLE**

This is the voice of the Eagle, the Eagle whose heights you struggled to reach. We remember well when you first came to the base of the cliff, and how you looked up with ambition and determination.

Look back for a moment, look back over the cliff you have climbed; look back at the experience you have encountered in your ascent. These experiences should not be forgotten, and you should profit by making sure that the adverse ones do not occur again. Experience is a valuable teacher if you heed its teachings.

(SPOT TENDERFOOT)

We remember when you took your first step upon the trail that leads upward. With your first step, you began living the Scout Oath and Law. While you were on the trail, we watched you study and then we watched you learn by doing. First you were only a candidate, building yourself physically, mentally, and morally. Then your brother Scouts called you a Tenderfoot and they were right, you were indeed a Tenderfoot.

(SPOT OFF)

(SPOT SECOND CLASS)

But not for long, for soon you reached the first ledge where you were greeted by a group of Second Class Scouts.

Some, like yourself, were stopping to catch their breath before continuing along the Eagle trail.

(SPOT OFF)

(SPOT FIRST CLASS)

You began to study more, you worked harder, and almost before you knew it, you came to

another ledge, the ledge where First Class Scouts dwell.

(SPOT OFF)

(SPOT STAR)

There you found a tempting green meadow by a crystal clear stream, bathed by the sun. Here you were tempted to remain. Yes, you could have remained there to live in First Class glory, but your ambition stirred you on. We next remember your progress when you became a Star Scout. You found the trail from First Class had been an optical illusion. It was not as difficult as it had seemed. This spurred you on and again you climbed further.

(SPOT OFF)

Now the trail was steeper, it was less worn. Fewer Scouts seemed to be heading in your direction. You looked back and saw the crowds below you. You looked up and saw the few above you. With the same determination with which you started your climb, you continued on the trail.

(SPOT LIFE)

So on it was the badge of Life Scout, the heart badge that was placed on your uniform. You will never forget the thoughts in your heart. It has been experienced by most Scouts on reaching the ledge of Life. "Now I am close to Eagle. I will carry on." The trail became tougher, but more interesting. The original simple principles, the Scout Oath and Law, now had a fuller meaning. Your understanding of them was greater.

(SPOT OFF)

(OA TEAM: When the Voice of the Eagle reaches the Eagle rank, the OA Team escorts the Eagle Scout to the Eagle rank card)

(SPOT FOLLOWS SCOUT & OA TEAM TO EAGLE)

Yes, we have watched your character unfold and become manly. We have watched your leadership ability expand into a valuable asset. We have watched your mind develop and your wisdom increase. We have watched all of these things in you. Now that you are at the threshold of your goal, we welcome you. For you have done your climbing in a true Scout-like manner.

(OA TEAM: When the tape is finished, the OA Team wraps a blanket decorated with Scouting awards over the Eagle Scout)

MC: As this blanket clothes you in the spirit of scouting, let it be a reminder of your continued journey through Scouting.

(OA team takes their place to the Eagles right)

(LIGHTS: all lights are turned on)

(MC may turn and congratulate Scout (*Scout's name*) on his journey)

(SPOT OFF)

**MC:** In a moment, the Scoutmaster of Troop \_\_\_\_\_, will bestow upon you the award of Eagle Scout. However, I am sure you will agree that some special people should be accorded the privilege of standing beside you, as they have throughout your journey in scouting. Color Guards (OA Team), please escort the parents of this Eagle to his side.

(OA TEAM: escorts Parents to Scout and has them stand on each side of the Eagle candidate.)

(OA TEAM then takes their place sitting beside fire)

**MC:** Both the parents and the Scout leaders of this Eagle Candidate have labored long and faithfully to guide and prepare this young man for his journey in life, through the help of the Boy Scout program. Their efforts culminate this evening in the presentation of the Eagle Award. The success of these efforts, however, will only be manifested in the way this Eagle Scout sets a pattern for those whose lives he touches. At this time, I would like to intro- duce the \_\_\_\_\_ (introduce your speaker(s)).

**SPEAKER:** \*\*\*\*\*

**MC:** The Scoutmaster of Troop \_\_\_\_\_, (*SM name*) will now present the highest award presented by the Boy Scouts of America. That of Eagle Scout.

**SCOUTMASTER:** (present Eagle Award)\*\*\*\*\*

**MC:** It is tradition of the Eagle ceremony, for the Scout to be given a charge. (\*\*explain purpose/meaning of charge) The Scoutmaster will now present the Eagle with his charge.

**SCOUTMASTER:** (Eagle Charge) Eagle candidate, (*Scout's name*), I charge you to enter the Eagle Scout brotherhood, holding the ideals of honor and service. By the repetition of the Eagle Scout promise, you will become an Eagle Scout. When you pledge yourself on your sacred honor, you will be sealing your loyalty to the code of the Eagle Scout with the words that closed the Declaration of Independence. Make the Scout sign and repeat after me:

I reaffirm my allegiance\* to the three promises of the Scout Oath \* I thoughtfully recognize and take upon myself \* the obligations and responsibilities\* of the rank of Eagle Scout. \* On my honor, I will do my best\* to make my training an example \* my rank and influence count strongly\* for better Scouting and for better citizenship\* in my unit \* in my community \* and in my contacts with other people. \* To this I pledge my sacred honor.\*

**CLOSING CEREMONY:**

**MC:** We will conclude our ceremony by retiring the colors and the presentation of the flag.

You will notice that our Troop flag is decorated with 10 gold stars, representing each Scout who has attained the rank of Eagle in this troop. This flag will be presented to the Eagles parents to add their sons star to the Troop flag, as he joins those who have attained the Eagle rank before him.

The American flag, which was raised over the U.S. Capital in honor of this Eagle Scout, will be presented to him to keep as a daily reminder of his duty to serve God, his Country, and others.

We hope this ceremony has inspired other Scouts to reach this honorable rank. We are anxious to see many more Eagles pass through our troop. On behalf of [Scout's name] and his parents, we wish to thank everyone for coming and invite you stay for refreshments immediately following the closing ceremony.

Attention Color Guards (OA team, still sitting by fire, stands up; Young Smudger joins the OA TEAM at the fire)

Color Guards Advance

(all advance towards flag & stop)

Color Guards, retire the colors

(Young Smudger & OA Team retire Troop flag & fold it)

(OA team: removes the American flag from pole and fold it)

Color Guards advance

(OA Team & Young Smudger: advance to center and deliver folded American flag to Eagle Scout; then deliver folded Troop flag to parents)

Color Guards dismissed

Thank you. Goodnight

[Thanks to Greg Gough, SM Troop 201, Ozark, MO. "I used to be an Owl but I will always be an Eagle!"]

## ***Richard \*'s Eagle Court of Honor -- October 6, 1996***

[Troop 869, Clear Lake Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX]

Call to Order -- Brad Etherton, Troop 869 Committee Chairman

On behalf of the Scouts, Scoutmasters, Troop Committee and all the Troop 869 family, I would like to welcome you to this Eagle Court of Honor, convened to honor Richard.

Troop 869 is sponsored by the Clear Lake Presbyterian Church. It was first chartered in 1970 and has been providing the boys of Clear Lake City with the opportunity to participate in the Boy Scout program continuously for over 26 years.

The Eagle Court of Honor is an event of great importance in a boy's life. In order to achieve this high honor, a Scout has to fulfill many requirements, earn 21 merit badges, serve his troop in a leadership position, and plan and carry out a substantial service project for his community. This afternoon we gather to celebrate Richard's achievement and to recognize his hard work and dedication.

As Troop Committee Chairman I declare this Eagle Court of Honor to be in session.

Andrew, our Chaplain's Aide, will now lead us in the Invocation.

Invocation -- Andrew, Chaplain's Aide

Heavenly Father, we ask that you bless this gathering of family and friends from near and far who have come together today to honor and celebrate with Richard his earning of the highest rank in Scouting, that of Eagle. Father, we also ask your blessing on Richard's family, Scout leaders and fellow scouts who have guided and supported Richard along the path to Eagle.

The Eagle Honor Guard is made up of the original members of Richard's first patrol, the Seagulls. They are Jonathan, Jack and Grant.

Presentation of the Colors -- Jonathan, leader, Jack and Grant

Welcome -- John Cross, Scoutmaster

(Scoutmaster Cross will provide his own remarks.)

I now call upon Mr. Jim Keith, Troop 869's Chartered Organization Representative, to tell you about the 100 Scouts.

One Hundred Scouts -- Jim Keith, Chartered Organization Representative

Of any one hundred boys who become Scouts, it must be confessed that thirty will drop out in their first year. Perhaps this may be regarded as a failure, but in later life all of these will remember that they had been Scouts and will speak well of the program.

Of the one hundred, only rarely will one ever appear before a juvenile court judge. Twelve of

the one hundred will be from families that belong to no church. Through Scouting, these twelve and many of their families will be brought into contact with a church and will continue to be active all their lives. Six of the one hundred will become pastors.

Each of the one hundred will learn something from scouting. Almost all will develop hobbies that will add interest throughout the rest of their lives. Approximately one-half will serve in the military, and in varying degrees profit from their Scout training. At least one will use it to save another person's life and many will credit it with saving their own.

Two of the one hundred will reach Eagle rank, and one will later say that he valued his Eagle above his college degree. Many will find their future vocation through merit badge work and Scouting contacts. Seventeen of the one hundred boys will later become Scout leaders and will give leadership to thousands of additional boys.

Only one in four boys in America will become Scouts, but it is interesting to know that of the leaders of this nation in business, religion and politics, three out of four were Scouts.

I now call upon Paul Buras to describe Richard's Trail to Eagle.

Trail of the Eagle -- Paul Buras, Assistant Scoutmaster

Good afternoon. I am Paul Buras, and I have had the good fortune to know Richard for his entire Scouting career. I will briefly recount Richard's Trail to Eagle.

Richard began his trail to Eagle in the fall of 1987 in Pack 956 at Armand Bayou Elementary School. He received his first Scout award, the Tiger Cub pin, in October 1987, and completed the Tiger Cub badge in February 1988.

Christopher is a Tiger Cub in Pack 956. (As each scout is called, he joins a line in front of the room, at the end you have a line of boys which represents the Eagle's growth during his scouting career.)

In his second year of Cub Scouts, Richard completed the Bobcat Badge in October 1988 and his Wolf Badge in November of 1988. During the remainder of this Scouting year, he completed one gold and six silver arrow points.

Nickie is a Wolf Scout in Pack 956.

Next on the trail to Eagle was the Bear Badge, which Richard earned in September of 1989. He also continued to advance and collected one gold arrow point and six silver arrow points.

Patrick is a Bear Scout in Pack 956

Richard's Webelos years were very busy for him. He completed the Webelos Badge in December 1990 and the Arrow of Light Award, Cub Scouting's highest award, in February 1992. During this time he also earned 12 Webelos activity badges and completed the *Parvuli Dei*, a Cub Scout religious award for Roman Catholics. His Webelos years also introduced him to summer camp, attending Camp Strake in the summers of 1990 and 1991.

David is a Webelos Scout in Pack 956

Richard crossed the bridge into Boy Scouts in March of 1992 and continued on his climb to Eagle. His first badge was the Scout award which he received in March 1992. This award recognizes the boy's acceptance of the Scout Oath and Scout Law and his willingness to start learning the skills in Scouting.

Chris is a Scout in Troop 869.

Next on the trail to Eagle was the Tenderfoot Award which was earned in May, 1992. This award recognizes the Scout's first experiences and learning while camping in the outdoors. He is also introduced to the patrol method of the Boy Scouts.

Kevin is a Tenderfoot Scout in Troop 869.

Second Class was the next step. Richard completed this rank in July, 1992. To achieve this award the Scout must demonstrate skills in compass, cooking, nature and first aid. He must also participate in a service project.

Tyler is a Second Class Scout in Troop 869.

Richard completed his First Class award in September 1992. To achieve this rank he had to demonstrate competence in orienteering, hiking, knots, lashings and more advanced first aid. Additionally, he needed to learn about civics and participate in another service project.

Andrew is a First Class Scout in Troop 869

To achieve the rank of Star, Richard started to make some choices. He had to complete six merit badges including four that are required for Eagle, serve in a leadership capacity and participate in six hours of service projects. He served as a Den Chief for Pack 956. He completed the Star rank in February, 1993.

Robert is a Star Scout in Troop 869.

The Life rank is very similar to Star. He earned five additional merit badges, worked on more service projects and continued to serve in a leadership capacity. Richard continued to serve as a Den Chief and he completed the requirements for Life in January of 1994.

Jack is a Life Scout in Troop 869

Richard completed his trail to Eagle in April of 1996. During his efforts to complete the award, which included earning ten additional merit badges, planning and executing a significant service project and continuing to serve in a leadership capacity as Scribe and Patrol Leader, Richard also continued to broaden his Scouting experience. He attended the Junior Leader Training Conference in June 1995, completed the Den Chief award in December 1995, and earned the World Conservation Award.

Jonathan is an Eagle Scout in Troop 869.

In addition, Richard has at least 139 nights of camping, he attended the 1993 National Jamboree and has served on Camp Strake staff. He has earned a total of 66 merit badges, the BSA lifeguard certification and the mile swim and Snorkeling BSA awards.

Scouts, you may return to your seats.

Sam McJunkin, Troop 869 Eagle Advisor, will now continue the ceremony with the Pledge of the Eagle.

Pledge of the Eagle -- Sam McJunkin, Eagle Advisor

Would all the Eagle Scouts in the audience please join me up here as we prepare to administer the Pledge of the Eagle.

(Take a moment to arrange the Eagles so things look nice)

Would Jonathan our most recently honored Eagle Scout, please escort Richard to the stage.

(Take a moment to be sure Richard is comfortable in the center of the stage so all can see him plainly)

Will all the Eagles and Richard now make the Scout sign and join me in the Pledge of the Eagle.

"I (state you name) reaffirm my allegiance (pause)  
to the three promises of the Scout Oath. (pause)  
I thoughtfully recognize and take upon myself (pause)  
the obligations and responsibilities of the rank of Eagle Scout. (pause)  
On my honor, I will do my best (pause)  
to make my training an example of my rank (pause)  
and my influence count strongly and for better citizenship, (pause)  
in my home, in my community and in my contacts with other people. (pause)  
To this I pledge my sacred honor. (pause)"

TWO.

Would the Eagles please return to their seats. Richard please remain on stage. (pause to let commotion pass)

I now call upon Mr. Bruce Wadley, Troop 869 Advancement Chairman, to present the Eagle Award to Richard.

Presentation of the Eagle Award -- Bruce Wadley, Troop 869 Advancement Chairman.

Would Jonathan please escort Mr. and Mrs. Cross to the front to join Richard.

(Jonathan offers his arm to Mrs. Cross and Scoutmaster Cross follows to the front)

Richard, your parents have been constant source of support for the eight and a half years you have spent on your trail to Eagle. They are very proud of you, as are all of us in Troop 869.

Your mother has given you love, encouragement and support for many years, not only in

Scouting, but also in your many other activities. It is with great pleasure that I ask her to pin the Eagle medal on your uniform.

(Mr. Wadley hands medal to Mrs. Cross then she pins it on Richard)

Over the years, Richard, you have had the chance to pin many mother's pins on your mother. This afternoon you have the honor of pinning the Eagle pin on her dress and thanking her one more time for all that she has done for you.

(Mr. Wadley gives the mother's pin to Richard).

Richard, I now call upon your father to place the Eagle neckerchief around your neck.

(Mr. Wadley gives the neckerchief and slide to Scoutmaster Cross)

Richard, your father, too, has helped you along the Eagle trail and in all other aspects of your life. He has always been there for you when you needed help and he has always encouraged you to achieve and learn in your endeavors. Please pin this Eagle tie tack on his pocket next to his Eagle Scout medal.

(Mr. Wadley gives the tie tack to Richard)

It gives me great pleasure to present to you Troop 869's newest Eagle Scout, Richard Cross.

(Leads the audience in applause)

Will Jonathan please escort Richard's parents back to their seats.

(After Richard's parents are seated, continue)

In case you are not aware of it, there are awards to be earned after the Eagle. This afternoon I am also pleased to present Richard with the bronze palm which he has earned by completing 5 additional merit badges, participating fully in the Troop's activities and continuing to develop his leadership skills.

(Mr. Wadley presents the palm to Richard.)

I now call upon Mr. Bob Miller, Assistant Scoutmaster, to administer the Challenge and Charge to the Eagle.

Challenge and Charge to the Eagle -- Bob Miller, Assistant Scoutmaster

Richard, as one Eagle Scout to another, I want to personally recognize your hard work and congratulate you on your significant achievement.

I would like to read to you and this Court of Honor the Eagle Scout Challenge:

The Boy Scouts of all nations constitute one of the most wholesome and significant influences in the world's history. You have been declared worthy of the high rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. All who know you rejoice in your achievement.

Your position, as you well know, is one of honor and responsibility. You are a marked man. As an Eagle Scout, you are expected to exemplify in your daily life the high principles and values expressed in the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. You have assumed a solemn obligation to do your duty to God, to your country, to your fellow scouts, and to all other human beings. This is a great undertaking which you are now just beginning. As you live up to your obligations you bring honor to yourself and to your brother Scouts.

As an Eagle Scout, you will be a champion to other scouts and be an example to your community. Remember, your actions will be more conspicuous. People will expect more of you. It is your responsibility to help maintain the high regard that all Americans have for Eagle Scouts. To falter would bring discredit, not only to you, but to your fellow Eagles. Keep your ideals high and your honor bright.

Your responsibilities, however, go beyond your fellow scouts. They extend to your country and to your God. America has many good things to give you, and to give your children after you; but these good things depend, for the most part, on the quality of her citizens. Our country has had a great past. You can help make the future even greater.

I challenge you to undertake your citizenship with solemn dedication. Be a leader, but lead only toward the best. Lift up every task you do, and every office you hold, with a high level of service to God and to your fellow human beings. Live and serve so that those who know you will be inspired to the highest ideals of life.

I challenge you to be among those who dedicate their hearts and hands to the common good. Build America on the solid foundations of clean living, honest work, unselfish citizenship, and reverence to God. Then, whatever others may do, you will leave behind you a record of which you may be justly proud.

(Mr. Miller walks over to Richard and shakes his hand, adding a personal private comment if desired)

It is traditional for our newest Eagle Scouts to say a few words about their Scouting experience. So now, please hear from Eagle Scout Richard.

The Eagle's Response -- Richard Cross

My trail to Eagle has been very long and hard, but it would have been more so if I had not received help from many people. I feel that attaining this rank would be impossible to do alone.

First of all, I would like to thank all of you who helped me on my Eagle project. The workers and I accumulated over 230 hours of service. In particular, I would like to thank Mr. Cooper and Brian Cooper for the use of their truck to haul supplies and over 28 hours of service that they put in. I also would like to thank Mrs. Swartwout for her help in lining up the project for me.

Next, I would like to thank Mr. McJunkin, Mrs. Hamilton, Sister Betty, and Mr. Buras for sending Letters of Recommendation in. I chose these people because of their great influence they have had on me. They all made a difference in my life in one way or another.

Third, I would thank all my previous Boy Scout and Cub Scout leaders. My father, Mr. Snodgrass, Mr. Carey, and Jim O'Donnell were my den leaders, and Mr. O'Donnell and Mr. Buras were my Cubmasters. In boy scouts, Mr. Chandler and my father lead the troop. Good leaders influenced me to want to go further in Scouting.

Finally, I would like to thank my parents for all their assistance and encouragement. My father kept me moving whenever I felt like slacking. He also helped build the troop into what it is today. He was at my side when I planned and carried out my Eagle project. My mother was eager to pick up food and drinks for the project workers. She also wrote a letter of recommendation for me. In addition, they both put together my Court of Honor.

Now that I have received my Eagle, I've made plans to give back to the troop and community. I will stay with the troop up until I leave for college. I will finish this term as SPL and hopefully become a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster when I turn sixteen. I am also going to stay on Camp Strake as long as they have Boy Scout camp, and as long as I don't have a full time job. Also, I plan to staff winter camp this year and for years to come.

Thank you all for coming.

(After Richard completes his remarks, he returns to the pew with his parents)

Mr. Etherton returns to the front to introduce Sister Betty

It is my pleasure to introduce Sister Betty who will lead us in the closing benediction.

Benediction -- Sr. Betty, St. Bernadette Catholic Church

Sister Betty will present her own remarks.

Retiring of the Colors -- Jonathan, leader, Jack, Grant

[Thanks to John P. Cross]

## **EAGLE SCOUT CEREMONY FOR ANDREAS DOUGLAS HATCH**

April 11, 1997

[The following ceremony was formatted a little differently to be used as an Eagle Ceremony program booklet.]

## AGENDA

Call to Order	<b>John Dockstader</b>
Presentation of Colors	<b>John Dockstader</b>
Pledge of Allegiance	<b>Tom Joyce</b>
Invocation	<b>Father Thirburse Millott</b>
Scout Oath & Law	<b>David Bohner</b>
Welcome & Introduction of Guests	<b>Richard Hynes</b>
Call to Eagles	<b>Richard Hynes</b>
Voice of the Eagle & Trail of the Eagle	<b>Carl Gullans, Sr.</b>
Eagle Rank Requirements	<b>Charles Hagedorn</b>
Scouting with Andreas	<b>Nick Challen</b>
Dignitary Remarks	<b>Representative Barbara Gardner</b>
	<b>Selectman William Christensen</b>
	<b>Police Chief William Colleary</b>
Eagle Award & Eagle Oath	<b>Jack Breen</b>
Charge to the Eagle	<b>Carl Gullans, Sr.</b>
Declaration of Eagle Scout Rank	<b>Council Representative</b>
Letters, Awards, & Parent Comments	<b>James Lewis</b>
Scoutmaster's Thoughts	<b>Jack Breen</b>
Closing	<b>John Dockstader</b>

## Call to Order *John Dockstader*

The time has come to recognize our Eagle candidate. This Eagle Court of Honor will now come to order.

This evening we have the honor and pleasure of recognizing **Andreas Douglas Hatch**, a candidate for the rank of Eagle Scout. This is an important and serious matter.

The parents and Scout leaders of this candidate have labored long and faithfully to guide him toward an alert and participative citizenship through the scout program. While their efforts culminate this evening in the presentation of the Eagle Scout rank, the true success of their efforts will be measured in the way Andreas sets an example for all whose lives he touches.

## Presentation of Colors *John Dockstader*

Will everyone please rise for the presentation of the colors.

Color Guard, Advance (*color guard walks forward*).

Color Guard, Present the Colors (*color guard posts the colors*).

## Pledge of Allegiance *Tom Joyce*

The flag of the United States of America stands for the past, the present, and the future of our country. It stands for the men and women who have built America from their toil, sweat, and blood. Its stripes tell of the thirteen states that gained our liberty. Its stars tell of the free people of the 50 states working and fighting to

We want you to understand clearly the full significance of the ideals by which Scouts live, and through which we achieve worthy citizenship. Before you, a golden flame burns constantly. This golden flame symbolizes a Scout's honor, which must never be dimmed. When a boy takes the Scout Oath, he is placing his honor, the brightest thing in his life, before his fellow Scouts, his Scouting officials, his parents, and his friends. A boy without honor is as nothing. So it is a serious thing to give the Scout Oath in one's honor.

From this golden flame of a Scout's honor is lighted the *white flame*...duty to God... and to country.

**Scout 1:** (*Tim Fisher*)

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law. We light the *blue flame* of duty to other people.

keep liberty for themselves and for generations to come.

A flag is a symbol and should represent the qualities for which it stands. It can be large or small however, it should never be so large as to serve as a shield for scoundrels, the intemperate, or the ignoble. Nor should it be so small as to be forgotten in times or places where liberty is a dim and distant thing.

A flag must be large enough to win a place dear to the hearts of its sons and daughters, but not so large that its sight strikes fear where it's flown. It should not be so small that it is easily waved in moments of wild, careless enthusiasm for a cause that, in a more sober, reflective moment, would be rejected as unworthy.

It matters little if a flag's history is long or short. What matters is that where the banner waves, those who live under it dwell in peace, liberty, and justice.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those in uniform, please hand salute. All others place your right hand over your heart.

### *Pledge of Allegiance*

Color Guard, dismissed.

Please be seated for the invocation, given by  
Father Thirburse Millott.

## Invocation *Father Thirburse Millott*

## Scout Oath & Law *David Bohner*

*Light candle.*

**Scout 2:** (*Dave Hagedorn*)

On my honor I will do my best to help other people at all times...

We light the *red flame* of duty to self.

*Light candle.*

**Scout 3:** (*Nate Hartwell*)

On my honor I will do my best to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

We now bring to light the *12 White flames* of the Scout Law, which make bright and clear the trail that leads from boyhood to manhood. Scouts and Scouters, shall we stand and repeat together the 12 points of the Scout Law?

*Light candle.*

(Pause until all stand, then **Chris Lewis** lights each candle in turn as the Law is repeated.)

**A Scout is Trustworthy** (Whole Troop)

**CL:** A Scout tells the truth at all times. He keeps his promises. Honesty is part of his code of conduct. People can depend on him.

**A Scout is Loyal** (Whole Troop)

**CL:** A Scout is true to his family, Scout leaders, friends, school, nation, and God.

**A Scout is Helpful** (Whole Troop)

**CL:** A Scout is concerned about other people. He does things willingly for others without thoughts of pay or reward.

**A Scout is Friendly** (Whole Troop)

**CL:** A Scout is a friend to all; he is a brother to other scouts.

**A Scout is Courteous** (Whole Troop)

**CL:** A Scout is polite to everyone without regard for age or position. He knows that good manners make it easier for people to get along.

**A Scout is Kind** (Whole Troop)

**CL:** A Scout understands that there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated.

**A Scout is Obedient** (Whole Troop)

**CL:** A Scout follows their rules of his family, troop, school, and community. If he thinks the rules are unfair, he tries to change. These are the principles which are embodied in Scouting; they are the stones which form the foundation of every Scout. When we repeat these words let them live in our hearts and minds, and let us give them their true meaning in our lives.

*Scouts be seated.*

## **Welcome & Introduction of Guests** *Richard Hynes*

Good evening, and welcome to all who could join us tonight. For a scout to live by the code of the Scout Oath and Law, he must fulfill his duty to God and country, and his duty to others. In doing this, he also fulfills his duty to himself, by developing character and maturity. Tonight we gather to honor a fellow scout; one who has proven he can live up to the ideals of scouting. It is with great pleasure that I introduce the

them through lawful and orderly means.

**A Scout is Cheerful** (Whole Troop)

**CL:** A Scout always looks on the bright side of things. He tries to make others happy.

**A Scout is Thrifty** (Whole Troop)

**CL:** A Scout works to pay his own way and to help others. He carefully uses his time and his resources.

**A Scout is Brave** (Whole Troop)

**CL:** A Scout can face danger even if he is afraid. He has the courage to stand up for what he thinks is right even if that means going against the group.

**A Scout is Clean** (Whole Troop)

**CL:** A Scout keeps his mind and body fit and clean, and he chooses friends with the same ideals. He avoids those people and things which would sway him away from his true course.

**A Scout is Reverent** (Whole Troop)

**CL:** A Scout is always reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties and obligations. And he is ever mindful that he has been blessed by God with many gifts which he is to use not for himself but in the service of God and of others.

*David Bohner*

following special guests. If you would stand as I introduce you:

*Introductions.*

I would also like to introduce the following honored guests who have special presentations to make:

*Introductions.*

## **Call to Eagles** *Richard Hynes*

I now invite all Eagle Scouts, including adults, to stand and state your name and the date of your advancement to the rank of Eagle Scout.

*Eagles state name & advancement date*

**Thank you gentlemen and welcome: Please be seated.**

## Voice of the Eagle & Trail of the Eagle Carl Gullans, Sr.

### Voice of the Eagle (From Choir Loft)

I am the eagle. Since the beginning of time, man has used me as a symbol of royalty, power, victory, authority, and valor. My strength and courage has inspired men through the ages.

On June 20, 1782, I became the symbol of a new nation.. Because of my courage and beauty, I was chosen to symbolize the new United States of America. The eagle became a prominent feature of the seal of state of the new republic. From this early beginning, I have been used in many ways to symbolize the ideals of this country. Several states have the eagle on their state flags. You can find me on the coins of America from the beginning to the present day.

I have a prominent place in America as in ancient Rome as a symbol of power and authority. The emblems of the President, Vice-President, several of the President's Cabinet, and most branches of the armed forces center on the eagle.

The Apollo II crew chose *Eagle* as the name of the lunar module which was to make history. And with the words of Eagle Scout Neil Armstrong -- *Houston.*

***Scout of each rank lights the candle as the narrator reads that rank.***

All the while you were on the trail, we watched you study and we saw you learn by doing. First, you were only a **Scout**, but you learned the symbolism inherent in the scout badge. You learned that there are three points of the trefoil that stand for the three parts of the Scout Oath: duty to God and country, duty to other people, and duty to yourself.

Soon you had attained the **Tenderfoot** rank. Now your understanding of the scout trefoil was enhanced by learning the two important ideals of scouting: truth and knowledge. These are symbolized by two stars on either side of the badge. These stars are like those of the great outdoors, which you enjoyed on hikes and camp-outs.

In adding the eagle and shield of the United States, you are reminded of your duty to country. Pointing skyward is the sign of the North, taken from your Mariner's compass. It's a reminder of your duty to God and your obligation to respect the religious convictions of others.

From here the trail led through basic outdoor skills to the **Second Class** rank. This badge, with the corners of the scroll turned up in the scout smile, admonished you to Be Prepared. The overhand knot below reminds you

*Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed. -- man was on the moon.*

In 1911, following tradition as old as man himself, the Boy Scouts of America chose the eagle to symbolize the very highest in achievement. Through all of history, the eagle has been the symbol of man's best, now the eagle is the symbol of Scouting's best.

### Trail of the Eagle (From Choir Loft)

Andreas, we remember when you first came to the base of the cliff whose heights you have struggled hard to reach on your trail to the eagle. How you looked up with ambition and determination and a little self-questioning as to when you would ever reach the top.

Look back at the experiences you encountered in your ascent. These experiences should not be forgotten. You should profit by making sure that the adverse experiences do not occur again. Experience is a valuable teacher, if you heed its lessons.

Do you remember when you took your first step on the Eagle trail? With those first steps you began to build yourself physically, mentally, and morally. You started living the Scout Oath and law. You were on the edge, wings outspread, trying for flight.

of your daily good turn.

At this point on the trail, some stop to catch their breath before continuing. But you began to study more and work harder. Almost before you know it you became a **First Class** Scout. The badge you received is a combination of the Tenderfoot and Second Class badges, reminding you that there is much more to being a scout than just attending meetings. Here you were tempted to remain, but your ambition stirred you on. The variety of merit badges gave your interest free rein.

It didn't take long before the first obstacle on the trail had been overcome. You were then a **Star** Scout. The trail had become steeper, and merit badges harder. Few scouts seemed headed in your direction. You looked back and saw the crowds behind you. You looked up and saw the few above, and with the same determination with which you started your climb, you continued up the trail. You learned that the star of your badge symbolized leadership, which meant leading, not driving or pushing. As example out front is best.

The **Life** rank was reached more slowly. The Life rank is symbolized by a heart with the first class badge imposed on it. At this point the trail became tougher, but also more interesting. The original principles, the

Scout Oath and Law, now had a fuller meaning. Your understanding of them was much greater. As a result, your character unfolded; you became more of a man. Your leadership ability expanded into a valuable asset. Your mind developed and your wisdom increased.

Now you stand at the top of the mountain. It is not the end of the trail. Almost your whole life lies ahead of you. The future is for your own choosing. We have watched all these things in you and now that you are on the threshold of your goal, we welcome you, for you have done your climbing in a true Scout-like manner.

### **Eagle Rank Requirements**

*Charles Hagedorn*

The awarding of the Eagle badge is an important and serious occasion; the climax and goal for which a scout works many years; an occasion for pride and joy; a time for serious contemplation. It is the culmination of the efforts of all Andreas's leaders.

3. Plan, develop, and carry out a service project worthy of an Eagle Scout.
4. Appear before a board of Review of prominent persons in the community and satisfy them that you have done your best to understand and live up to the Scout Oath and Law, and that you qualify for the Eagle Scout Award in all ways.

Careful examination has been made by the court as to Andreas's qualifications for the Eagle Scout Award. Proficiency has been checked in the various crafts and skills prescribed for the Eagle rank, and the record of merit badges earned has been approved and certified by the counselors appointed by the court. Andreas has qualified on the basis of merit badge achievement.

Andreas has demonstrated his capacity and willingness to exert leadership in activities that are constructive and worthwhile in this community. The record has been checked in troop leadership, school affairs, and other fields of work and service. Andreas has demonstrated loyalty and duty to God and Country. We believe him qualified to receive the rank of Eagle Scout.

### **Scouting with Andreas** *Nick Challen*

The following is a resume of Andreas Hatch's personal and scouting history.

*Read Andreas's achievements from the program.*

The Eagle Award is the highest and most coveted rank in scouting: the last major step in the advancement program. Fewer than 2 of every 100 scouts in the United States reach the Eagle rank. At this point, we trust that Andreas has achieved our purpose in the building of character, training of leadership, and practice of service.

The requirements for the Eagle rank are as follows:

1. Earn 21 merit badges, including First Aid, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communication, Safety, Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving, Environmental Science, Personal Management, Personal Fitness or Swimming or Sports, and Camping.

**[Note: if this format is used, there have been changes to the Eagle Scout merit badge**

2. Serve actively in a troop position for a period of six (6) months after becoming a Life Scout.

**Dignitary Remarks** *Jack Breen/ Andreas*  
*Remarks & Presentations from dignitaries,*  
including:

**Representative Barbara Gardner**

**Selectman William Christensen**  
**Police Chief William Colleary**

**Eagle Award** *Jack Breen*  
***Award and Pin Presentations***

Will the honor guard please bring forward Life Scout Andreas Hatch, our Eagle Candidate.

*Honor guard escorts Andreas to the front.*

Will the honor guard please escort forward the Eagle applicant's parents.

*Honor guard escorts Mr. & Mrs. Hatch to the front.*

Eagle Scout, we now proclaim to all the world your accomplishments. The symbol of your success is the Eagle badge and neckerchief, which will now be presented to your parents. Your parents will, in turn, pin the badge over your heart and place the neckerchief around your neck.

*Present Mrs. Hatch the badge and Mr. Hatch the neckerchief.*

*Mrs. Hatch pins the badge on Andreas.*

**Mr. Hatch places the neckerchief around Andreas= neck**

Eagle Scout, in recognition of the wisdom and guidance given to you by your father, will you present to him this Eagle tie bar, which he will be proud to wear in your honor?

*Andreas presents tie bar to his Dad.*

And in recognition of the many hours of patient guidance given by her in your efforts, will you present the Eagle pin and flowers to your mother?

*Andreas presents pin and flowers to his Mom.*

On my honor, I will do my best to make my training an example my rank and my influence strongly count for better scouting and for better citizenship in my troop, in my community and in my contacts with other people to this I pledge my sacred honor.

**Charge to the Eagle** *Carl Gullans, Sr.*

Andreas, as an Eagle Scout and a District Commissioner of the BSA, I have the honor of giving you the Eagle Scout charge on this occasion of your elevation to the highest rank in scouting.

The Boy Scouts of all nations constitute one of the most meaningful and significant movements in the world's history, and you have been counted worthy of this high rank in its membership. All who know you rejoice in your achievement. Your position, as you well know, is one of honor and responsibility. You are a marked man. As an Eagle Scout, you have assumed a solemn obligation to do your duty to God, to Country, to fellow scouts, and to humanity. This is a great undertaking. As you live up to your obligations, you bring honor to yourself and your brother scouts.

Your responsibility goes beyond your fellow scouts, to your Country and God. America has many good things to give you and your children after you, but these good things depend on the character and leadership abilities of her citizens. You are to help her in all that she needs most. America has a great past. You are here to help make her future greater.

I charge you, **Andreas Hatch**, to undertake your citizenship with solemn dedication. Be a leader, but lead only toward the best. Lift up every task you do and every office you hold, to the highest level of service to God and to your fellow men. So live and serve, that those who know you will be inspired to the finest living. We have too many who use their strength and knowledge to exploit others and to gain selfish ends.

Andreas, let this not be the end of your scouting. Go on to greater heights, and give to other boys the benefit of your experiences.

**Eagle Oath** *Jack Breen*

Andreas, please give the scout sign and repeat after me:

*pause at for Andreas to repeat*

I reaffirm my allegiance to the three promises of the Scout Oath I thoughtfully recognize and take upon myself the obligations and responsibilities of the rank of Eagle Scout.

I charge you, **Andreas Hatch**, to be among those who dedicate their skills and abilities to the common good. Build America on a solid foundation of clean living, honest work, unselfish citizenship, and reverence for God, and whatever others may do, you will leave behind a record of which every scout may be proud.

**Declaration of Eagle Scout Rank**

*Council Representative*

By the authority vested in me by the Knox Trail Council and the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, It is my pleasure and privilege to pronounce you an Eagle Scout.

**Letters, Awards, Plaques** *James Lewis*

To commemorate this occasion, I would like to present Andreas with this American Flag, which was raised over the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

*Make presentation.*

To commemorate this occasion, we would like to read the following congratulatory letters:

*Read letters.*

**Troop Gift** *James Lewis*

Andreas, to commemorate this occasion, Troop 92 would like to present you with this gift.

**Presentation of troop gift**

**NESA Membership** *Carl Gullans NESA Representative*

Scout Andreas Hatch, by virtue of your earning the Eagle Award, you are now eligible to become a member of the National Eagle Scout Association or NESA. Your parents have enrolled you as a member

and I have the honor of presenting your membership card and certificate to you. I also would like to present you with a NESAs lapel pin on behalf of the Arthur R. Eldred Chapter representing Nassau County Council. Fail not your fellow Eagles, for your responsibilities are now greater than before. As you go forward in life, receiving other honors and awards, always remember this night when you became an Eagle Scout.  
**Presentation of NESAs Items.**

At this point, we'll ask our new Eagle Scout to say a few words.

A Few Words from Andreas.

### **Scoutmaster's Thoughts** Jack Breen

A Few Words from Mr. Breen.

### **Closing** John Dockstader

*Extinguish the 12 white candles.*

#### **Scout 1**

As I put out this **WHITE** Candle, which represents **Purity**, may we be ever mindful of this obligation, that a Scout is Clean. He keeps clean in body and thought, stands for clean speech, clean sports, clean habits, and travels with a clean crowd.

#### **Scout 2**

As I put out this **BLUE** Candle, which represents **Loyalty**, may we be ever mindful of this obligation, that a Scout is Loyal. He is loyal to all whom loyalty is due - his Scout leader, his home, his parents, and his country.

#### **Scout 3**

### **Parent Comments**

Now I'd like to invite Andreas's father, **Doug Hatch**, to make a few comments about his achievement.

*Andreas's parents offer comments.*

### **The Eagle's Response** by Andreas

As I put out this **RED** Candle, which represents **Courage and Sacrifice**, may we be ever mindful of our obligation to remember the sacrifices that have been made for us by many others, that we may enjoy the lives of good citizens in the American way.

Thanks to everyone who made this ceremony possible.

Will everyone please rise for the retiring of the colors.

Color Guard, Advance (*color guard walks forward*).

Color Guard, Retire the Colors (*color guard posts the colors*).

The purpose for which this Court of Honor was convened is now concluded. This Court of Honor stands adjourned. Please join us for a buffet reception in the church hall, across the parking lot.

## **Eagle Scout Andreas Hatch**

[A biographical sketch is always appropriate because it gives details on the Scout whom we honor.]

Andreas is a twin and the youngest of four children. Born in Saudi Arabia, he lived and attended school in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait where he became accustomed to living in multi-racial and multi-cultural environments. He moved to Southborough, MA in 1987 at the age of six.

In June 1992, Andreas joined the newly formed Troop 92 thus beginning his enjoyable and rewarding scouting experience. He rose rapidly through the ranks becoming the Troop's second Eagle Scout and is currently the Venture Scout Crew Chief.

Andreas has been on over 60 nights of camping, including a week of Brownsea II\* and Trail to Eagle, and was one of the first Scout in Troop 92 to receive the Year Around Camper Award.

He is among the first scouts in the Troop to receive the BSA Lifeguard certification. Andreas is also the first to have worked at the Cub Adventure Day Camp at Resolute where during the past two summers he has been both a Den Guide and Lifeguard.

Andreas' Eagle Scout project consisted of negotiating purchases with local material suppliers, constructing picnic tables and making a picnic area at the Southborough Arts Center thus making the area more appealing and, hopefully, helping to promote the arts in Town.

Having just turned sixteen, Andreas is presently a sophomore at Algonquin Regional High School where he is a member of the National Honor Society, plays on the school soccer team and in the school orchestra. Since graduation is two years away, he is still thinking about some as yet undefined areas of higher education and is currently trying to provide himself many options. There is some talk he may follow his older brother, also an Eagle Scout, as an international scout counselor prior to starting college.

In addition to school and Scouts, Andreas has been an important member of the Wayside Swim team for several years, having twice been elected Team Captain and twice been selected as the Most Valuable Swimmer.

Andreas has worked as a Referee in the Southborough Youth Soccer program and is a lifeguard at the Wayside Racquet and Swim Club.

As well as being involved with community service work, he has been an altar server at St. Anne's church for four years.

(\* a council Junior Leader Training Course like Theodore Roosevelt Council's Bear Claw course.)

### **ADVANCEMENT TRAIL**

Joined Scouts	June 1992
Scout	June 1992
Tenderfoot	February 1993
Second Class	June 1993
First Class	June 1993
Star Scout	January 1994
Life Scout	September 1994
Eagle Scout	November 19, 1996

### **TROOP LEADERSHIP**

Assistant Patrol Leader	Sept. '92 – Feb. '93
Patrol Leader	Sept. '93 – Feb. '94
Assistant Senior Patrol Leader	Feb. '94 - Feb. '96

### **OTHER SCOUTING LEADERSHIP POSITIONS**

Den Guide, Resolute Cub Adventure Day Camp	Summer 1995
Lifeguard, Resolute Cub Adventure Day Camp	Summer 1996

### **MERIT BADGES**

<u>Badge</u>	<u>Date</u>
* Camping	Aug 1994
* Citizenship in the Community	Apr 1994
* Citizenship in the Nation	Aug 1994
* Citizenship in the World	Dec 1993
* Communication	Aug 1994
* Environmental Science	Jul 1993
* Family Life	Nov 1994
* First Aid	Jan 1994
* Lifesaving	Jul 1994
* Personal Management	Feb 1995
* Safety	Aug 1994
* Swimming	Aug 1992
Art	Jul 1994
Canoeing	Jul 1993
Emergency Preparedness	Aug 1994
Leatherwork	Jul 1994
Music	May 1995
Orienteering	Aug 1995
Pioneering	Jul 1996
Rowing	Jul 1993
Small Boat Sailing	Aug 1992
Soil & Water Conservation	Aug 1995
Wilderness Survival	Jul 1996
Wood Carving	Aug 1995

\* Eagle-Required Badges

## **SPECIAL AWARDS**

Totin' Chip	1992
Fireman Chit	1992
Swimmer	1992
Mile Swim	1992
Polar Bear	1992
Tomahawk	1992
Junior Leadership Training	1994
Order of the Arrow	1995
Year Around Camper	1995
World Conservation	1995
BSA Lifeguard	1995
Attendance Award	1993, 1994, 1995