

Opening

Welcome

(MC)

Ladies and Gentlemen, if we can please get started.

My name is _____, and I will be your master of ceremonies this evening.

Welcome to Troop ____'s Eagle Court of Honor ceremony.

Tonight we will honor _____ for their achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout.

Before we begin our program, I'd like to take a moment and introduce a few of the special guests that we have with us here tonight:

Presentation of the Colors

(MC)

Would our Senior Patrol Leader, _____, please come forward and lead us in the presentation of the Colors and Pledge of Allegiance.

(SPL)

Would everyone please stand.

Scouts - Attention!

Color Guard - Advance!

(color guard advances with flags, stops at front of room)

Color Guard - Post the Colors!

(flags are positioned into flag stands)

Scout salute!

(color guard at front of room facing American Flag)

(all Scouts face American flag and salute)

I pledge allegiance.....and justice, for all.

Two!

Color Guard - Dismissed!

(color guard marches out of the room)

(MC)

Please remain standing for the invocation.

Opening

Invocation

(MC)

At this time I would like to ask _____ to come forward and lead us in an opening prayer.

(OPENING PRAYER)

(MC)

Please be seated.

Formal Opening of Court of Honor (If Council Representative is available)

(MC)

I now call on _____, as a representative of the Boy Scouts of America, to officially convene this Court of Honor.

(Council Representative)

By the power vested in me by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, I declare this Court of Honor to be duly convened for the sole purpose of presenting the Eagle Scout award to _____ (eagle scout).

Scout Law and Oath Candle Ceremony

(Lights a single candle first which will be used to light the others)

A candle represents the Spirit of Scouting, a spirit which burns brightly in the heart of every Scout. Let us renew our Scout Spirit by reminding ourselves the meaning of the Scout Law and Scout Oath.

(House lights are turned off. Scouts walk up and light a candle while another Scout reads the meaning of each of the 12 points of the Scout Law)

A Scout is TRUSTWORTHY. *A Scout tells the truth. He keeps his promises. Honesty is a part of his code of conduct. People can always depend on him.*

A Scout is LOYAL. *A scout is true to his family, friends, Scout leaders, school, nation, and world community.*

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

A Scout is FRIENDLY. *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.*

A Scout is COURTEOUS. *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.*

A Scout is KIND. *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.*

A Scout is OBEDIENT. *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.*

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

A Scout is THRIFTY. *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.*

A Scout is BRAVE. *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.*

A Scout is CLEAN. *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.*

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

(The remaining three candles that represent the Scout Oath are lit by one Scout as the Scout Oath is read)

In the Scout Oath, the Scout promises upon his honor to do his best to do his duty:

*first to **God and country**;*

*second, to **others**, by helping them at all times;*

*and third, to **self**, by keeping himself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.*

The Trail to Eagle

(MC)

(Lights are still off in the room)

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 the Light of the Trail to Eagle as we recognize the accomplishments of our newest Eagle Scouts.

Several years ago, _____ joined Troop ___ and began their journey. Their friendship started as classmates in their early days of school at ____ and grew as the years went by. As Scouts, they were always working together to help each other along the Trail to Eagle.

(candidates stand at end of table with Scouting rank poster displays)

Their first task was to learn Scouting's ideals: the Scout Oath and Scout Law, the motto and slogan. By pledging to live by those guidelines, they became a full-fledged Scout and earned the Scout badge.

(candidates walk toward the Scout sign - light candle)

This new badge didn't stay on the uniform long, however. They quickly worked through the Tenderfoot requirements, memorizing the Oath and Law, going on their first campouts, and learning basic first-aid skills. They were now a Tenderfoot Scout.

(candidates walk toward the Tenderfoot sign - light candle)

As they continued to be active in the troop, they learned about nature and orienteering and knot-tying. They participated in service projects and learned about the dangers of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. Doing these things and more earned them the Second Class badge.

(candidates walk toward the Second Class sign - light candle)

Soon, more time had passed. They had been on at least 10 campouts and many hikes. They had mastered all the basic skills of Scouting and became a First Class Scout.

(candidates walk toward the First Class sign - light candle)

At this point the trail became harder and the path was less clear. Now they had to make some choices: what merit badges to earn, what troop office to hold, where to spend their service hours. With hard work and persistence, though, they made the decisions, completed the requirements, and earned the Star rank.

(candidates walk toward the Star sign - light candle)

The next rank seemed no harder than Star. But they had already done some of the easier merit badges. Now they had badges like Citizenship, Personal Mgmt, Communications, and Family Life. They worked hard as troop leaders, completed more service hours, and became a Life Scout. Only one step away from Eagle.

(candidates walk toward the Life sign - light candle)

The going became much tougher now. They could no longer put off some of those really hard merit badges. And now they not only had to participate in a service project, but they had to plan and lead the project as well. _____(describe eagle projects). Now, finally, their Eagle project complete, their merit badges earned, they stand poised at the pinnacle of Scouting.

(candidates walk toward the Eagle sign - light candle)

(Candidates will take a seat on stage. Lights are turned back on)

Significance of the Eagle Rank

(MC)

At this time I would like to ask _____ to come forward and share with us a few of his thoughts on the significance of the Eagle Scout rank.

(SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EAGLE RANK SPEAKER)

Webster's dictionary describes the 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. Though the eagle is found throughout the world, it is never found in abundance; it is always rare and it is always a superb specimen.

In Scouting the eagle stands for strength of character, and for knowledge of all phases of Scouting. The eagle represents an understanding of community and nation, and a deep respect for both. 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 into a man. The eagle is a leader. The eagle is respected, both by his peers and by his adult leaders.

The Eagle Scout award is the highest award possible to youth members of the Boy Scouts of America. It represents many years of dedicated effort, and the successful completion of a long process which started when the young man first became a Scout. It is a demonstration of how people, working together, can truly help mold a young man with a solid sense of leadership, citizenship, and responsibility.

The trail to Eagle is a long one and only a few will ever complete the journey. On a national basis, approximately 2% of those boys that enter Scouting ever reach Eagle. You have done it!

Consider these statistics, that of 100 boys that join Scouting;

12 will receive their first religious contact

5 will earn their religious emblem

2 will enter the clergy

18 will develop hobbies which will last a lifetime

8 will enter a career based upon Merit Badges they worked on

17 will become Scout volunteers

1 will use Scouting skills to save the life of another person

1 will use Scouting skills to save their own life

2 will attain the rank of Eagle Scout.

Did you know that 26 of the first 29 US astronauts were Boy Scouts and that 11 of the 12 men who walked on the moon were also Scouts? None of us will forget that Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon, but let us also remember that he too was an Eagle Scout. Of the 214 former and present astronauts, 142 have taken part in Scouting and 33 became Eagle Scouts.

A recent survey revealed that seventeen of our 100 US Senators, over 60 of our Congressmen, eleven of our state Governors, fourteen of our most senior military officers, and over 1,700 chief executive officers, or heads of corporations are all Eagle Scouts.

(Continued on next page)

Significance of the Eagle Rank

Your Eagle Scout award will go far beyond Scouting itself. When you apply to a college or apply for a job, Eagle Scout on your application helps. Should you choose to enter the military service of your country, Eagle Scout will put you a notch above others. More than that, the things that you have done, the leadership and character you have developed, will guide you throughout your life. You will have opportunities to be of service to others, through your school, your church, your community, and through Scouting, because you know what you can accomplish.

In the years to come, you will casually meet other men who are Eagle Scouts too. There will be an instant bond of comradeship. For you have each shared a common experience. You each know the other can be trusted, as a friend and as a brother Scout. The comradeship among Eagle Scouts extends throughout the nation, yes even throughout the world. For the rest of your life, you will be known as an Eagle Scout!

So you might ask yourself, what is this Eagle Badge worth? Well, in dollars and cents it is worth about \$7.50. Probably two and a half dollars in silver, twenty 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 rededication to the Scout Law and Oath each time you advanced. Think of the service that you have given to your troop and to other people. Is your Eagle badge worth \$7.50? 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. You are an Eagle Scout, so now look ahead, and 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 this trail, and as the years roll by, we can all hope that you can look back on the trail of life and be proud to say, "I have done my best."

Eagle Charge

(MC)

Becoming an Eagle Scout is not the end of a journey; it is merely the beginning. As an Eagle, you have far greater responsibilities. I'd like to ask _____ to come forward and give the Eagle Charge.

(EAGLE CHARGE SPEAKER)

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 always to live with honor.

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 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 what is right. Trusting in God, with faith in fellow man, he looks forward to each day, seeking his share of the world's work to do. Let the red of the Eagle badge remind you always of courage.

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 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 have 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 a 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 award. But 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 always be your guide for tomorrow and onward.

Eagle Promise

(MC)

As our Court of Honor began tonight, you joined with your fellow Scouts in repeating the Scout Law and Oath. Now, you will stand and repeat a new oath, the Eagle Scout Promise. Though the words you say are similar to those you've said so many times before, tonight they will mean more to you than they ever have. When you pledge yourself on your sacred honor, you will be sealing your oath with the words which closed the Declaration of Independence. I'd like to ask _____ to come forward and give the Eagle Promise.

(EAGLE PROMISE SPEAKER)

Would all the Eagle Scouts in the audience please stand at this time and rededicate themselves by repeating the Eagle Scout Promise with our new Eagle Scouts.

Please 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 an Eagle Scout.
On my honor I will do my best
To make my training and 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.*

Two!

Please be seated.

Eagle Badge Presentation

(MC)

And now it's time for the highlight of our program this evening: the presentation of the Eagle Scout award. I'd like to ask Scoutmaster _____ to come forward to make the presentations.

(SCOUTMASTER)

We have heard a lot tonight about what it takes to be an Eagle Scout. Now I would like to tell you a little about _____ (eagle scout).

(Tell a story about the Scout's history in the Troop and interesting things he has done)

Joined the Troop _____

Earned First Class rank _____

Completed Eagle Scout requirements ____, one Eagle Palm ____ (if earned)

Will the honor guard please escort the candidate's parents forward.

(honor guard escorts parents from their seats to the award area)

No one will ever know the unnumbered acts of self-sacrifice from your mother. I'd like to ask your mother to pin the Eagle medal on your uniform.

In recognition of your mother's devotion, please present her with this Eagle mother's pin.

Your father has been the source of much advice and guidance along the Eagle trail, so I'd like to ask him to present the Eagle Scout certificate to you.

In return, please present your father with this Eagle tie tack.

Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to present to you our newest Eagle Scout, _____.

Will the honor guard please escort the candidate's parents back to their seats.

(honor guard escorts parents from the award area back to their seats)

_____(eagle scout), *please be seated.*

Lighter Moments along the Trail to Eagle

(MC)

At this time we would like to share a few of the lighter moments that have happened along the Trail to Eagle.

(Parent of EAGLE SCOUT _____)

Eagle Scout Response

(MC)

We have heard a lot tonight about what it means to be an Eagle Scout. Now each of our honorees will have the chance to tell us a little about what being an Eagle Scout means to him.

(EAGLE SCOUT _____ RESPONSE)

Closing

Closing Remarks

(MC)

This has been a very special evening for all of us.

I want to thank all of you for coming out and participating in our Court of Honor.

Please join us for some refreshments at the conclusion of our ceremony.

Now let's give _____(eagle scout) one more round of applause.

Benediction

(MC)

At this time I would like to ask _____ to come forward and lead us in a closing prayer.

Would everyone please stand.

(CLOSING PRAYER)

(MC)

Please remain standing while we retrieve the colors.

Senior Patrol Leader, please lead us as we retrieve the Colors.

Retrieve the Colors

(SPL)

Color Guard - Take you places please.

Scouts - Attention!

Color Guard - Advance!

(color guard advances, then stops at front of room)

Color Guard - Retrieve the colors!

(flags are retrieved from flag stands)

Scout salute!

(Scouts salute the flag while it is being retrieved)

Color Guard - Dismissed!

(color guard marches out of room with flags)

Two!