



**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

**Eagle Scout Resource Package**  
- An aide for Life Scouts and Eagle  
Candidates

**Courtesy of**  
**Troop 179, Virginia Beach, VA**



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**Kathy Lull**  
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**Randy Everette**  
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## Revision History

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Changes</b>
1.0	22 Sep 2003	Initial Document
1.1	21 Nov 2003	Clarification of BOR procedures
1.2	24 Apr 2004	Addition of Mentor pin, typo fixes
1.3	30 Jan 2005	New Eagle Liaison info, changed reference letter procedures, tweaks
1.4	06 Jun 2007	General updates, fix typos

# Usage Notes

- 1) This document was designed for double-sided printing, which is the reason page 2 (reverse of cover page) is blank.
- 2) This document was prepared in Microsoft Word using Office XP. All features should work with Office 2000 also. If you have questions or comments, contact Randy Everette at <mailto:scouting179@cox.net> or Kathy Lull at <mailto:rogue.123@cox.net>. Direct all technical/computer questions to Randy Everette.
  - \* The one area of this document that warrants an explanation as to its use is the Table of Contents (TOC), which begins on the next page. This was prepared using headers and the Outline View of Office XP.
  - \* Notice that when you move your cursor over a line in the TOC, a popup window appears with this statement: "Current Document..CTRL+click to follow link". To move directly to that page in the document, merely hold down the CTRL key and left-click your mouse to do directly to that page. This means you don't have to scroll or page-down to get there. Similarly, if you move your mouse over an email or web link, you can CTRL+click to open up the email or web window.
  - \* Word documents generally open in what is called Print View, meaning it appears on your screen the way it appears printed on paper. You can change this using View/(Normal, Web, Print, Outline) from the navigation bar. Select View/Outline to view the outline of the document. This lets you see the heading structure and allows you to move quickly through the document if you desire to use that method of navigation. You can use CTRL+click to navigate here too as well as update the TOC. The outline menu bar will appear in this mode too.
  - \* In Outline or Print View, you can right-click your mouse to select Update Field to update the TOC's page numbers or entire TOC if the file is edited.
- 3) This document as well as a blank Eagle project form and an Eagle project form with tips may be downloaded from
  - \* <http://members.cox.net/scouting179/Eagle%20Scout%20Resource%20Package.doc>
  - \* <http://members.cox.net/scouting179/EagleProjectPacket.rtf>
  - \* <http://members.cox.net/scouting179/EagleProjectPacketTIPS.rtf>
- 4) This document was written with Troop 179 of Chowanoc District, Tidewater Council as the target audience. Most of this will apply to your unit also, though the bureaucratic procedures may vary slightly.

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# Introduction

## Introduction For Parents

Welcome to our Eagle Candidate Family Resource Package. Hopefully this will make the journey from, "My project is done, how what?" to "That was a great ceremony!!" a little easier.

Advancement in ranks for BSA is well documented. Just read the Handbook and you know exactly what you need to know. It's a little more complicated, once the merit badges and Project are done. Many families find themselves at a loss when trying to help their youth through the process. This guide will help you to navigate through some interesting and sometimes frustrating steps. Take things one at a time and it is not too hard.

Included in this package, you will find some explanations, sample ceremonies, resource ideas and a time line for the youth to use. Please feel free to share any ideas that may be incorporated into our resource. This publication is for you, the family.

## Steps Toward Eagle

Here are the basic steps that your son will make on his journey from Life Scout to Eagle Scout (the order may be changed for #1, #2, and #3):

1. Finish at least 21 merit badges, including 12 Eagle required merit badges. Some of these required badges are in categories from which you can choose one that you must earn. If you earn more than one from one or more of these categories, only one in that category(ies) counts as required and the other(s) in that category(ies) counts as non-required. Also note that there are three required merit badges with 90-day minimum requirements: Family Life, Personal Fitness, and Personal Management. You need to start these well before 90 days prior to your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday so that you have time to complete them before your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.
2. Complete an approved Service Project (see Eagle Service Project section below)
3. Be active in your troop and perform satisfactorily in a Troop Leadership Position for 6 months since your Life Scout BOR. (*Hint: Ensure you PERFORM your job, not just "hold the position"*).
4. Have a Scoutmaster's Conference with his Scoutmaster

*The above must be completed BEFORE his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday unless there is a medical or special-needs situation. If they are finished within that time limit, he has 90 days from his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday in which to:*

5. Fill out an Eagle Application and have it verified at Council OR if your Council prints electronic applications, get it from Council and then verify it. See "How It Works, Eagle Application" section for more details.
6. Arrange for selection of members for his Board Of Review (BOR). District will send a District Representative to this BOR. NOTE: *The BOR process varies from Troop to Troop, District to District and especially from Council to Council. The process described herein is for Troop 179, Chowanoc District, Tidewater Council, BSA.*
7. Arrange for at least 5 letters of recommendation to be delivered to the Chair of his Eagle Board. The forms for this should *only* be obtained from the Troop Advancement Chair.
8. Successfully complete an Eagle BOR.

*Then the Eagle candidate waits for:*

Eagle Applications must be validated by National BSA Headquarters before they are official.

*NOTE: This takes from 2-6 weeks depending on whether your Council submits the application electronically or not.*

*Then the new Eagle and his unit can:*

9. Convene a National Court of Honor, where the Eagle badge may be presented.

# Eagle Service Project

## Eagle Project Preparation

It is suggested but not required that you not do your Eagle Scout Service Project until most of your merit badges are completed. This is a service project that is **Scout run**. An Eagle project is a test of organizing and supervisory skills and frequently the Scout's first run in with big bureaucracy. He must do it himself. This is not to say that the Troop Committee and other adults can't help, but it is his project. He is in charge.

Before a project may be started, the youth will write up a proposal in the Service Project Workbook. The project must gain the approval of the Scoutmaster and the Troop Committee (to which he himself presents the project in full Class 'A' uniform in Troop 179). Once approved by the Committee, it is forwarded to the District Advancement Committee (generally via its' Chairman) for approval. Revisions are frequently asked for by the Scoutmaster, Unit Committee, and District Committees, so do not panic if that occurs. This is an important part of the process. The Scoutmaster and Advancement Chairman are usually the best unit-level resources during this process. Our Scoutmaster was been a part of the District Committee for many years and knows what makes a good project. Ditto for our Advancement Chairman, Randy Everette, who also serves on the Chowanoc District Advancement Chairman.

Remember -- neither the Project nor the Eagle rank is complete or official until the paperwork is finished. Do not start the Project until the District has approved it. Complete your Scoutmaster Conference and turn in your Eagle Rank Application before you are 18. Believe it or not, there have been Scouts who had everything done except turning in their Eagle Rank Application and then turned 18 and lost the chance to be an Eagle Scout forever. This even occurred in our Troop. Make several copies of the completed Workbook. Do not lose the original.

## Eagle Project Execution

The Eagle Project must be performed while you are a Life Scout (after your Life BOR) and completed before your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. It must demonstrate leadership of others and provide service to a worthy institution other than the Boy Scouts. This may be a religious institution, school, or your community. The form you use to submit this project to your Troop's adult leadership may be downloaded from <http://members.cox.net/scouting179/Links.htm>. There are separate files for both the blank form and the form with the tips added in. General tips follow below. The project does not have to be original, but you must do all the planning. It can not be routine labor either (pruning, picking up trash, etc). Once again, use your troop's Eagles and adult leadership for help in planning and organizing your project. The Internet is a great place to search for project ideas too. Examples include:

- Survey a historical site, such as an old Spanish mission
- Landscaping services for a church or school
- Construct a nature trail with descriptive markers
- Construct recycle bins or trash dumpsters barriers
- Collect eye glasses for a charity (Lions Club does this a lot)
- Paint or do repairs for a charity, church or youth group
- Conduct a book drive
- Set up a literacy program
- Build a web site for medical information
- Virginia Beach, VA (your community may too) has a web site for Eagle project ideas: <http://www.vbgov.com/dept/parks/parks/0,,7418,00.html>
- Build a terrarium or aquarium for a school (*Hint: who will take care of the animals in the future, especially during non-school times?*)



Once you've decided on a project and before you do too much work, get pre-approval from your troop and the organization being benefited. You are not allowed to spend your own money or your parents' money on the project. The benefited organization may pay for it, you may raise money for it, or the money may be donated from external sources (including businesses). Keep detailed records of the finances for the project. It is strongly suggested you do the write up on a typewriter or computer. If you do hand-write it, print and be neat!

Make sure you describe the present condition of the situation and how you think it will be when you are done. If you can do so, take before and after photos. Maps may be needed too. You will need to describe materials needed, working conditions, and who did how many hours helping you. Plan for things like: Will I need food and water for my helpers? Who will take care of the animals? What tools will I need? You don't need to write a novel in doing the write-up, but you need to be thorough and detailed as well as cover every possibility. Scouts can only use power tools (except chain saws and log splitters) under adult supervision. If it is an outdoor project -- How will inclement weather be handled? What if your project takes place during the rain or snow season?

You will need at least two adults supervising during the project's execution phase. Don't forget about transportation!

In Troop 179 (it is similar in most troops), once you've made a final project selection, get it approved by the benefited organization; then write it up after talking to the Scoutmaster and Advancement Chair. After those two people have approved the written version, you must present it to the full Troop Committee in full Class 'A' uniform. Then a Committee Member (usually the Advancement Chair) will deliver it to the Chohanoc District Advancement Chair for district-level approval. Once that is done, you may begin your project. Keep copies of the approval and do NOT lose the original. Don't forget to have it signed at the appropriate approval points and have it signed as completed by representative from the benefited organization upon completion.

Remember the "Golden Rule" of Eagle Project proposals: Someone should be able to take your proposal and do the project exactly as you would without you being there!

# How It Works In Troop 179

A Guide For Our Parents And Scouts

## Life Scouts

When a youth has achieved the rank of Life Scout, we make this Eagle Candidate Family Resource Package available to him. He may or may not be ready to start working on "Eagle Stuff", but it is never too early to set that goal. Our policy is that the boy should have most of his required merit badges before he starts to work on a Service Project. We also limit the number of merit badges that a Scout may work on at any given time. Scouts have been known to start new merit badges while many others are still unfinished.

## Scoutmaster Conference

Once all tasks are complete, the Life Scout must arrange for a Scoutmaster Conference. In our troop, the Scoutmaster is very accommodating, just call him and he'll even do a conference at his home. (*This conference must take place before the Life Scout reaches his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.*) This is an opportunity to ensure everything is in order and to prepare the youth for his BOR. Our Committee has made the commitment that no youth will be denied advancement because he did not get the paperwork right. Please help us make sure that the youth's records, troop database, and Council's records agree. It can be ugly if something is not 'just right'. Eagle BORs can be suspended or even dissolved if the paperwork is not right. Worst case -- National could even deny an Eagle application.

This is the time for the youth to start reading the newspaper and getting current on local issues. The BOR could ask all kinds of questions. Your Scoutmaster and Advancement Chairman should be able to give you some good ideas.

## Eagle Liaison

Troop 179 has two designated Eagle Liaisons plus the Advancement Chair who functions as an Eagle Liaison, though not all units have one. These are key people to contact when you have questions related to making Eagle Scout. Troop 179's Chartered Rep (CR), Kathy Lull, is one of them. Her contact information is:

Kathy Lull, home: 468-0257, [Rogue.123@cox.net](mailto:Rogue.123@cox.net), 2016 Barnet Court, Virginia Beach, VA 23456.

Troop 179's Assistant Advancement Chair, Ron Misfeldt, is the other. His contact information is:

Ron Misfeldt, home: 301-3592, [mustangron@aol.com](mailto:mustangron@aol.com), 1181 Broadlawn Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23454.

Troop 179's Advancement Chair, Randy Everette, can help too. His contact information is:

Randy Everette, home: 430-0380, [scouting179@cox.net](mailto:scouting179@cox.net), 1821 Clifton Bridge Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23456.

Our Eagle Candidates can work with one of the above people or any combination thereof in addition to others on the Life-Eagle road. It is up to him. In our troop, we also have specialists for such things such as the party portion of your Eagle celebration.

## Advancement Chairman

Every Troop should have an Advancement Chairman. This person is an excellent resource for general advancement information as well as Life-Eagle transitions, Service Projects, and ceremonies. This is the person that knows all about your records and paperwork and can help you ensure they are perfect. Troop 179's current Advancement Chairman is Randy Everette. His contact information is:

Randy Everette, home: 430-0380, [Scouting179@cox.net](mailto:Scouting179@cox.net), 1821 Clifton Bridge Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-7822.

In our Troop, he also keeps the database and website.

## **Eagle Application**

Now we come to the Eagle Application. Make several copies of this once it is completed and do not lose the original. It must be filled out with no abbreviations, whiteout, or corrections. *Red, White & Blue Eagle Applications:* If your Council still uses these vice electronic Eagle Applications, consult your District and Council officials for their local procedures. *Electronic Eagle Applications:* Beginning in July 2003 (and perhaps now in your Council), Tidewater Council began printing its own Eagle Applications with the information already filled in. It is to be picked up from them (call 757-497-2688, ext 20 before you go), verified by you, signed, and then given to your Troop Committee for the Eagle Board. When you go to Council to get the form, take information such as your project completion package, leadership positions held, etc. Keep several copies of the application. Take your Advancement Chairman with you or he may go on his own. Recently in our troop, the Advancement Chair gets the info from the troop database, goes over it with the Candidate, and then generates the application in conjunction with Council. Upon successful completion of the Board of Review, the fully completed Eagle Application is returned to Council for electronic submission to National via ScoutNet. Upon National's approval, Council is notified, Council will notify the Scoutmaster, who will notify you.

With the Eagle Rank Application, the candidate must prepare an essay on his life goals. Please encourage him to think this through.

Here is the official Tidewater Council statement on this, issued in an Electronic Knapsack on 03 Sep 2003:

### ***"EAGLE SCOUT APPLICATION***

*After all requirements for Eagle Scout have been successfully accomplished, either the Scout or the unit representative will make an appointment with the Council Program Secretary (757-497-2688 Ext 20) to prepare a computer Eagle Scout Application. At the meeting, the BSA's SCOUTNET computer program will generate an electronic Eagle application based upon advancement data previously provided from submitted Unit Advancement Reports. Additional data must also be provided to complete the form, such as Leadership positions held and duration after passing the LIFE Board of Review. This computer-generated application is then provided to the boy/leader to be further completed prior to the Eagle Scout Board of Review (References, signatures, etc) The Board of Review is coordinated in the Tidewater Council by the district and unit Advancement Chairpersons. After a successful Eagle Scout Board of Review, the fully completed EAGLE application is returned to the Council Program Secretary, who will verify and electronically submit the application to National Headquarters. Final approval and national certificates will generally be returned to the Council within three weeks and the Scoutmaster shall be notified."*

## **Board Of Review**

This is how it works in Troop 179. There are generally five members on your Eagle BOR (min. is 3, max. is 6): The Troop Committee Chairman, Troop Advancement Chairman, the District Representative, and two additional members the Candidate selects with the approval of the BOR Chairman. The Committee Chairman is also the BOR Chairman. If the Committee Chairman or Advancement Chairman is unavailable, the Troop Committee will find a suitable substitute. In the case of the unavailability of the Committee Chairman, the first alternate is the Chartered Rep. Many of our Committee members have participated in Eagle BORs, several have been Chair. National guidelines say the youth's relatives, Scoutmaster, and Assistant Scoutmasters not participate in Eagle BORs in any way. We like to have the youth ask at least one person from the community -- such as a neighbor, teacher, or friend. This person must be at

least 21, but does not need Scouting experience. Several community members may be asked.

Before a BOR may be scheduled, at least 5 letters of recommendation must have been received. This form should only be obtained from the Advancement Chair. As one can not control who actually turns one in, we suggest you request them from 7-10 people. Personally deliver these to people with a stamped envelope that is addressed to the BOR Chairman. Explain to them the timeliness of this issue. While it is OK for parents to fill one of these out, it does not count as one of the minimum of 5 needed before the BOR is convened.

Once the letters have been received, and all else is completed, we can schedule the BOR. The candidate should contact the Chair of the BOR, who will tell the Advancement Chair to arrange a time and place for the BOR. Armed with this information, the District Advancement Committee will be contacted and arrangements will be made for a District Representative. As soon as we have confirmation of the District person, the candidate can contact other members of the BOR.

This is the time to ensure the candidate's uniform is in PERFECT shape. All insignia should be neatly attached and in the proper location. Check the insignia guide if you have a question. Also make sure the candidate is wearing the proper: unit numerals, patrol patch for the patrol he is currently assigned to, neckerchief or bolo tie for his troop, and troop position (job) patch for his current (or last troop position if not currently in a troop position) position. His uniform should be neat, clean, and pressed when he appears before the BOR. He should wear his merit badge sash too. He should only have an Order Of The Arrow flap patch if he is an OA member and his dues are currently paid. The candidate should present himself as an Eagle Scout -- competent, confident, and neat. Repair and replace as needed. The candidate should also be able to provide truthful answers as to how he met all requirements for the Eagle Rank (such as how he completed the Service Project, what he did for his Troop position, etc). Note that these requirements must be met after he completed his Life Scout BOR.

Many Eagle candidates put together "brag books" to take to the BOR and as a display for the Court Of Honor. This is just a way to show off the history of a Scout's career. A photo album, trading card album, or binder with protective sheets makes a good brag book. The candidate should do this himself -- it is his career. Some candidates will include patches from special events, cards and pins from Cub Scouting through Life Scout, and pictures. Use your resources; this is a good way to help the Board know about the Scout.

Though he can not be a BOR member, the Scoutmaster should make every effort to be at the BOR. He should be able to answer any questions and introduce the candidate to the Board. If the Eagle candidate requests it, the Scoutmaster may sit in the room with him (out of Candidate's direct sight), for moral support. When we reach this part, the unit leadership has done all it can to get the candidate ready. It is now up to the youth. If the SM is not available, we arrange for an Assistant SM to be there. Even if no questions are asked of the SM, his being there is a great form of moral support.

After the interview, the Board will share its recommendation. This is a recommendation only -- all Eagle Scouts are approved by National headquarters. If there is a problem with the paperwork, the Chair may suspend the Board -- pause the process -- until it is cleared up. If the Board cannot unanimously recommend the candidate, they may not recommend advancement to Eagle Scout. In this case, there may be specific issues that must be addressed. In case of problems -- see your unit committee and liaison.

After the BOR, the Eagle Application is forwarded to your local Council for verification/endorsement and National Headquarters for final approval. This can take anywhere from 2-6 weeks; shorter if electronic processing is used, longer if it is not. While you are waiting, it is time to make tentative plans for the Court Of Honor.

Troop 179 allots \$150 for each Eagle COH. Part of this amount is used to pay for initial membership in the National Eagle Scout Association (NESA). The family of the new Eagle can augment this amount to pay for lifetime NESA membership. The standard Blue (Eagle Scout) neckerchief and the Eagle presentation kit are also paid for out of these funds. The balance of

the amount may be used to help pay for expenses of the COH and reception. Many of our Eagles upgrade the neckerchief to the embroidered version (extra costs paid by the family).

Eagle COHs generally fall into two parts: the ceremony and the reception. Your Eagle Liaison is your best resource here. The ceremony should be planned by the youth. The reception is usually handled by the parents. These may be as simple or as elaborate as new Eagle and family wish. Troop 179 has had experience with the whole spectrum -- from a formal ceremony with more than one speaker and a big dinner to the most basic presentation and cake and punch only.

See later section for more specific details. This resource should give you a good start -- please don't hesitate to ask for help, that's why we're here.



# Time Line for Eagle Candidates

It would be helpful to make copies (or obtain a download) of this section for both the candidate and his parents, it will only help keep things going smoothly. These suggested times are just that -- a guideline for getting things done.

# Time Line For Eagle Candidates

## Troop 179

### Before We Start

#### **1. Merit Badges complete and Service Project done.**

Now that you have finished all of your merit badges and Service Project, what's next? It's time to make the final steps toward Eagle Scout. This time line will help you to get from here through your Eagle ceremony. It's not hard, but there are a lot of details.

#### **2. Paperwork, Paperwork**

- After all the work on your project is finished, make sure that you have finished the paperwork. Nobody wants to be the one who did not make Eagle because of paperwork. Get that write up done and get it to the Scoutmaster! Keep a copy for yourself...you never know what may happen. It is best to create it on a computer so that you can print fresh originals, rather than make copies of copies, degrading the quality each time. These are good tips for your whole life.
- Make sure that your records, the troop's records, and the Council's records are in agreement. This is the job of your advancement person, but ultimately you will pay the price if it is wrong. Take no chances. Again -- *Nobody wants to be the one who did not make Eagle because of paperwork.*
- Make several copies of the Eagle application. *Pre-Computer Age:* As far as we know, you can only print the RW&B form from a computer; not actually fill it out on a computer. So, print B&W copies for practice and one RW&B one for actual submission. This difference in the Rank and Project forms is because of the method use to create the digital versions of those forms. There can not be any whiteout, corrections, or abbreviations on the Eagle Application. It must be PERFECT! Read everything carefully and fill out all the appropriate places. When you are sure that you have everything correct on the copied form, take it to your Scoutmaster or Advancement Chair for checking. Then transfer the info onto the RW&B form. *Now In The 21<sup>st</sup> Century:* Get the printed copy from Council and verify it. Sign the form and get the Scoutmaster's signature on the Unit Leader line.
- Take (or get the Advancement Chair to take) the form to the Council office for verification. Someone there is in charge of verifying your information. This could take a few minutes or a few days, depending on what else is going on at the Council office. A Council official will sign the form. You are now ready to begin the time line.
- Write an essay on your Life Goals. This will be presented to the BOR along with your Eagle Application. Be honest and think hard about what you are writing and what you want out of life.

### First

- \_\_\_\_ Talk to the Chair for your Board. Speak to this person yourself and ask if he/she is willing to head up the Board. If he/she has experience, it helps. Set a target date for your BOR. This may change if there is a delay of any kind, such as in getting the 5 letters of recommendation.
- \_\_\_\_ Using the resources we have discussed, confirm who can be on your BOR and make your allowed selections. Ask them personally if they would be willing to sit on your BOR. Let them know that the date will be set as soon as you have the required number of letters of recommendation.
- \_\_\_\_ Prepare at least 10 letters of recommendation. Fill in your personal information, information about the Chair and the Chair's mailing address. Include a stamped envelope that has been



pre-addressed to the Chair. Deliver these personally. These people will be helping you make Eagle Scout. You will not see these letters; they are strictly for the use of the BOR. Politely let the people know that you need them filled out and sent in ASAP. It is OK to have your parents fill out one, but don't count it in your 5.

- \_\_\_ Start reading the newspaper and watching the news on TV, if you don't already do that. The Board may ask you about current events and local issues.
- \_\_\_ Practice saying your Oath, Law, Outdoor Code, Slogan and Motto. Review all of those basic skills and knowledge that you probably haven't used since you made First Class. Remember, the Board is looking for an Eagle Scout in you. If it has been a while since your Service Project was completed, re-read the workbook.
- \_\_\_ Check your uniform. Try it on in front of the mirror. If anything should be replaced, this is the time. You may wear either the shorts or the trousers. You will be in FULL CLASS A uniform (yes, that includes BSA socks), including merit badge sash. Check the insignia guide if you are not sure and refer to the tips mentioned earlier in this guide.
- \_\_\_ Get your display in order. Many Scouts like to bring a "brag book" to the Eagle BOR. One effective idea is to get a 3-ring binder and pages of baseball cardholder sheets. They are the perfect size for the advancement cards, MB cards, and smaller patches. Make a nice display, starting with the earliest days of your Scouting career. You may want to have a book of patches from events and your Service Project in a notebook or binder too. However you choose to do it, do it so that it shows your pride in yourself and your Scouting career. Remember, that people who do not know you will be looking at this record of your Scouting experience.

***Don't have your cards?!? They are not required, but they sure help! Be sure your BOR Chair has your 5 letters of recommendation, a properly completed and signed Eagle Application, your completed Eagle Project Workbook, and an advancement BOR form. You should have your Scout handbook and be in a sharp Class 'A' uniform.***

### **Once Your 5 Letters Have Been Received by the BOR Chair**

- \_\_\_ Consult the Chair of your Board and your Eagle Liaison to set up the BOR. Have at least 2 dates to offer the Council Representative.
- \_\_\_ Inform the other members of the BOR of the details of when your Board will be held. If the date does not work for one of them, thank them and ask someone else.
- \_\_\_ Ask the SM (or a representative) to be with you for your Board. SMs cannot sit on the BOR, but they introduce you, answer questions for the Board, and give moral support. They may also sit in the room for the Board, but may not participate. They should sit out of your sight.

### **At Least 2 Days Before Your Board**

- \_\_\_ Clean and press your uniform. It should be PERFECT. All the appropriate patches should be secured, fit neatly, and you should have all the appropriate parts. See prior-mentioned tips on this.
- \_\_\_ Gather all the things *YOU* should bring to the Board. If you are nervous, entrust them to your parents, Eagle Liaison, or Chair. Be sure they are kept in a safe place where you can easily find them and where nothing should be expected happen to them (such as a younger sibling or pet getting a hold of them and destroying them). Use this checklist:
  - ◆ Scout Handbook (everything signed—see 'Paperwork, Paperwork' section)
  - ◆ Eagle Service Project Workbook (completed and ready for review)
  - ◆ Pictures of your Service Project, if not included in above
  - ◆ Eagle Application (properly filled out, signed by SM, verified by Council)
  - ◆ Brag Books (if you have them)

\_\_\_ Confirm with Chair of Board that all is on track. Find out whom is responsible for the advancement form to the BOR. Ask him/her to confirm with the rest of the Board,  
Or

\_\_\_ Confirm with rest of Board members

\_\_\_ Confirm with the SM. If you wish, ask/remind the SM to be in the room with you (for moral support)

\_\_\_ Touch base with the Eagle Liaison for your unit.

\_\_\_ Thank your parents.

### **The Board Of Review**

Members of the Board will look over your advancement info, check the Service Project workbook, and read the letters and the like before they interview you. They may have questions for your Scoutmaster. Be patient -- you will be waiting somewhere else while they do this. Once they are satisfied that they are familiar with your information, they will ask you to join them. Your SM may introduce you and them either stay for moral support (no actual help), or wait outside the room. This is your choice.

After the interview, the Board members will ask you to step out of the room while they discuss what they have heard. Again, be patient, it may be a while. The recommendation must be unanimous.

When they have decided on their recommendation, they will ask you to return. They may also ask for your parents to join you. You will now be told what they have decided. If they recommend you, your application is forwarded to the BSA National Office. While the recorded date of your Eagle Rank is the date of the BOR, no one is an Eagle Scout until National has approved the application. This could take 2-6 weeks. As mentioned before, it is less if Council processes it electronically, which Tidewater Council does. You may start making plans for the ceremony, but nothing may be committed until you have your confirmation. If the Board recommends you, National generally only rejects an Eagle Application for paperwork discrepancies. If they do not recommend you, they will tell you why. Try not to get discouraged, but rather focus on fixing what they told you to work on.

### **Surviving Your Board** (Read this before you go)

\_\_\_ Get clean and dressed in your Class A uniform in plenty of time prior to leaving for the Board. Have your parents check you over. Brush your teeth, use mouthwash, floss and smile. Make sure you look neat. Put a handkerchief or tissue in your pocket as nerves can make your palms sweat. Wear your merit badge sash. A mint can help with dry mouth.

\_\_\_ Leave early. You don't want to be late.

\_\_\_ If you are there before the Board, greet the members of the Board as they arrive in a mature well-spoken manner and thank them for coming. If you arrive after they are already in the conference room, don't worry about it.

\_\_\_ Relax, few Scouts get to this point -- you can do it! Answer each question as it comes, but don't be afraid to say that you don't know an answer, or have not thought about a particular subject before. Take your time and answer as completely as you can.

### **After The Interview**

\_\_\_ Thank each member of the Board.

\_\_\_Collect your things (brag books, etc). The Eagle Application and Advancement form go to Council. One of the members of your unit Committee will take care of this, but confirm it with the Eagle Liaison.

\_\_\_Thank your parents.

\_\_\_Choose a target date for your Court Of Honor. It should be at least 8-10 weeks away. The final date may change, if it takes longer for your paperwork to get back from National.

### **10 Weeks From Your Ceremony's Target Date**

\_\_\_Decide if you would like to have a guest speaker at your ceremony. You may ask someone with experience in Scouting, someone you admire, or someone special in your life. Speak to him/her personally to see if he/she would be willing to participate in your ceremony.

\_\_\_Start putting your Ceremony together. Make a list of people you will need to help you. Here is where your Eagle Liaison and/or other Eagles can really help you.

\_\_\_Start getting commitments from those you will need for your ceremony. This is especially important if you are planning to have a VIP as guest speaker.

### **6 Weeks From Your Ceremony's Target Date**

\_\_\_Complete a rough copy of your ceremony. This will tell you exactly how many helpers you will need and any special props or other equipment.

\_\_\_Start on your invitation list. You can get the envelopes ready, even if you don't have a confirmed date yet.

\_\_\_Discuss the reception with your parents. This is the time to start working on the menu. If you are planning on having a special cake, start shopping around now.

*Note: You might get lucky and have someone (maybe your Mom/Dad, or Troop Party/COH planner) take over the details of your reception. If this is the case -- remember to say THANKS!*

### **National Approval** (3 weeks? Before COH)

Now that BSA has certified that you have completed all the requirements to be an Eagle Scout -- time to **party!**

\_\_\_Secure/reserve the place you have chosen for your COH. Confirm the time and date -- get it in writing! Be sure to allow decorating/set up time or plan to set up earlier in the day and return just before the ceremony. Give yourself several weeks to pull it together. This is a once in a lifetime event.

\_\_\_Contact any special participants to ensure that your confirmed date still works for them. Make alternate arrangements if needed.

\_\_\_Send out those invitations. Make sure that you have a good method of collecting RSVPs. Send a notice to the local newspaper. Flyers may be distributed to the youth members of your troop.

\_\_\_Finalize that ceremony. Set a practice date -- reserve the location of the COH for practice.

\_\_\_ Order your cake.

\_\_\_ Start collecting decorations for the reception. If you have your heart set on the Eagle ones shown in the catalog -- it is not too early to buy them. Sometimes they must be ordered. Things that are Red, White and Blue are always good for an Eagle Scout Ceremony.

\_\_\_ Decide on program covers (or flyers, or covers, or whatever you plan to use), see above.

\_\_\_ Families frequently give gifts to the new Eagle. It may be that you would like to get tokens for your family to present during the COH. In the Eagle Recognition Kit there will be a tie tac for your Dad, a Mother's pin for your Mom, and a Mentor's pin for someone who mentored you through Scouting -- if you need to make additional arrangements, now is the time.

### **Two Weeks Before Your Ceremony**

\_\_\_ Set the menu for the reception.

\_\_\_ Work out a floor plan for the COH and reception. If you are using one large room, it may be a little more complicated. Take into consideration the number of people you expect at the ceremony and how you are having the ceremony conducted.

\_\_\_ Confirm with your location.

\_\_\_ Contact all principles for the COH and confirm with them about the rehearsal date. Guest speakers generally just come for the ceremony and do not usually need to be at rehearsal. Make sure that all Scouts participating, especially you, have complete uniforms (even if things are borrowed).

\_\_\_ Make a copy of your ceremony and go through it with the SM and/or Eagle Liaison. Make any changes.

### **One Week Before Your Ceremony**

\_\_\_ Make copies of the (revised) ceremony for all the participants (at least those who have dialogue). Give it to them prior to the rehearsal so they have time to read it through.

\_\_\_ Hold the rehearsal. Go through the ceremony enough for everyone to be comfortable, but don't be obsessive. Let them know when you need them arrive for the COH. Have fun!

\_\_\_ Shop for any food that can be made ahead and frozen. Prepare whatever you can.

\_\_\_ Check that uniform again.

\_\_\_ Make a rough copy of the program for the COH. Include VIPs who have RSVP'd.

### **Three Days Before The Ceremony**

\_\_\_ Check that your Brag Book and props are in order.

\_\_\_ Confirm with any VIPs who have RSVP'd.

\_\_\_ Complete the final draft of the program. Get it printed.

\_\_\_ Make food that falls into the 3-day category.

### **The Day Before The Ceremony**

\_\_\_ Prepare the rest of the food. Tomorrow should be arranging only -- not cooking.

\_\_\_ Gather all props and equipment in a special place. Check your list twice.

\_\_\_ Wash and press your uniform.

\_\_\_ Confirm with your principle participants.

\_\_\_ Arrange for clean-up -- if not already done.

### **The Ceremony**

\_\_\_ Make sure everyone has a ride.

\_\_\_ Arrive early enough to set up, or set up earlier in the day.

\_\_\_ Set out programs.

\_\_\_ Greet guests as they arrive.

\_\_\_ Enjoy your spotlight.

# Ceremonies

This section contains some of the many possible Eagle ceremonies. There are others out there. The next section has inspirational readings, poems, etc which may be used. Be creative. It's your ceremony.

# Ideas For Assembling A Ceremony

In the next section of this resource, you will find some Eagle Court Of Honor ceremonies. These are not the only ceremonies, but rather a collection of suggestions. This is one of the most important events in a young man's life. The goal is to make the COH meaningful and memorable.

In the Scout Ceremonies book, the authors take considerable time to explain that and also that the Eagle COH is special and should reflect the wishes of the Candidate. Keep that in mind when arranging the details for this event. Different personalities lend themselves to different approaches toward the same goal.

The Eagle Award must be present in a Court Of Honor. That is the rule, though the Ceremony can be very simple. Now for the fun.

Most Eagle ceremonies include the Eagle Charge and Challenge. Many include an opportunity for the new Eagle Scout to speak. Some use adults who have received the award and some only youth. Many include a special recognize to all Eagles, youth and adult, who are present by having an "Eagle's Nest" -- a special area for them to sit, asking all Eagles to stand and be recognized, or having all Eagles join the new Eagle up front. These types of special recognitions are often done at the end of the ceremony. Feel free to use the information here and customize the ceremony to that which suits you best. If none of the ceremonies seems right, take part of any one and build your own. Here is an outline to help you:

## Introduction

Call To Order	Troop Committee Chair	<i>Note: These are</i>
Invocation	Minister/Rabbi/etc	<i>suggestions, it is</i>
Introduction of Honored Guests	Scoutmaster	<i>OK to make</i>
Colors	Troop Color Guard	<i>changes.</i>
Pledge Of Allegiance	Senior Patrol Leader	
Opening of COH	District/Unit Commissioner	
Scout Law	Two Eagle Scouts	
Trail Of The Eagle (new Eagle's history)	SM/friend/parent/etc	

## Eagle Award

Pledge Of The Eagle	Adult Eagle
Presentation Of the Award	SM/parent/etc
Charge and Challenge	Impressive speaker (Eagle)
Eagle's Response	Short speech by new Eagle
Closing of COH	District/Unit Commissioner

Benediction

Minister/Rabbi/etc

Colors

Troop Color Guard

## **Reception**

### **Some Options:**

- Entire ceremony done by Eagle Scouts (adult and youth)
- Special Presentations (gifts to Eagle, gifts to family)
- OA guides or ceremonial team (if appropriate)
- Slide/picture/video show of the Eagle from a baby to Eagle Scout



*Note: These ceremonies were obtained from Internet sites. They are reproduced mainly as they appear, with credit intact. Some aesthetic changes may have been made (fonts, margins, etc.)*

## Generic Eagle Court Of Honor Ceremony

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Attached is a generic Eagle Court Of Honor Ceremony that I have used several times, but it should be customized to make each Court Of Honor as unique as possible.

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SENIOR PATROL LEADER: Ladies and Gentlemen, may I please have your attention? Please stand for the Presentation Of The Colors. Color Guard, advance the Colors.

*(Troop marches in and remains in the aisle. Color Guard comes forward to the head of the Troop, stoops with the Troop at the head of the aisle, then continues forward and rotates to face the audience.)*

SPL: Will the audience please stand and join in the Pledge Of Allegiance. Scouts, Salute!

*(SPL leads the Pledge Of Allegiance. After the Pledge, while everyone is still standing, three Scouts come forward and complete the opening ceremony. SPL asks each Scout to come forward by name.)*

SCOUT 1: The red of our flag represents the life blood of Brave Americans ready to die or worthily live for our Country.

SCOUT 2: The white of our flag is for purity, cleanliness of purpose, thought, word, and deed.

SCOUT 3: The blue of our flag is for faith and loyalty; the eternal blue of the star filled heavens.

*(The three Scouts return to the head of the line of the Troop.)*

SPL: Color Guard, post the colors.

*(Color Guard posts the Colors, returns to the front of the line, and salutes the Flag.)*

SPL: Troop, go to your seats but remain standing.

*(Scouts file into the seats going all the way down to the end. Everyone is still to remain standing.)*

SPL: Will everyone remain standing while \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ church delivers the invocation.

*(The invocation is delivered.)*

SPL: Thank you \_\_\_\_\_. Would everyone please be seated. I would like to introduce \_\_\_\_\_ of Troop \_\_\_\_ and our Master Of Ceremonies for tonight's Eagle Court Of Honor.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: Thank you, \_\_\_\_\_. Good afternoon honored guests, ladies, gentlemen, Scouts and Scouters. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ of Troop \_\_\_\_\_. It is my pleasure to be the Master of Ceremonies for the Eagle Court Of Honor, honoring \_\_\_\_\_. Today we have the honor and pleasure of recognizing \_\_\_\_\_ for the award of Eagle Scout. The parents and Scouters of \_\_\_\_\_ have labored long and faithfully

to develop him toward responsible citizenship through the Boy Scout program. The efforts now culminate in the presentation of the Eagle Award. The success of those efforts, however, will only be manifested in the way this new Eagle sets a social, behavior, and moral pattern for the lives of those he touches. Honor Guard, please escort before this Court Of Honor, Eagle Candidate \_\_\_\_\_.

*(Honor Guard escorts candidate to the front of the room and returns to seats.)*

MC: I will now call upon \_\_\_\_\_, a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ District Commissioners staff to open this Court Of Honor.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER: By the authority vested in me by the National Court Of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America, I hereby declare this Court Of Honor opened.

MC: Achieving Eagle is a long and arduous task. Scoutmaster \_\_\_\_\_ will outline \_\_\_\_\_'s long trail to the Eagle Scout Rank.

*(Six pre-selected rehearsed Scouts with rank award signs prepare to assist in this ceremony.)*

SCOUTMASTER: Scouting is no doubt one of the greatest organizations in the world to foster the ideals of citizenship. It is little wonder that so many of our nation's greatest leaders had some of their earliest leadership experiences in Scouting. The total development from boyhood to manhood depends on physical, mental, and moral growth expressed in the Scout Oath and Law. The skills are so demanding and the challenges so great that it is not surprising to learn that only about 2% of all boys in Scouting achieve the rank of Eagle. Let us now reflect on the trail to Eagle which a young man must undertake. If you refer to your program, you can see the long trail this Eagle Candidate traveled.

SM: To become a Boy Scout a boy must understand and promise to live by the Scout Oath and Law.

SCOUT (of Scout Rank): *(Holds up Scout emblem)*

I am a Scout. My badge represents the international brotherhood of Scouting which I have joined.

SM: A Tenderfoot must .....

SCOUT (of Tenderfoot Rank): *(Holds up Tenderfoot emblem)*

I am a 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 which is the emblem of a nation molder together in justice, and an Eagle to guard the freedom of my land.

SM: To become a Second Class a boy must .....

SCOUT (of Second Class Rank): *(Holds up Second Class emblem)*

I am a Second Class Scout. The ends of my scroll are turned up in the willing smile of the Scout. On my face is the motto "BE PREPARED", and suspended from me is the not, tied there to remind you of the slogan of the Boy Scouts of America "DO A GOOD TURN DAILY".

SM: To become a First Class a boy must .....

SCOUT (of First Class Rank): *(Holds up First Class emblem)*

I am a First Class Scout. When I was a Tenderfoot I laid a course by the stars of Truth and Knowledge and I 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.

SM: To become a Star Scout a boy must earn a total of six merit badges, four of which must be from the Eagle-required list, plus perform service and hold a troop position.

SCOUT (of Star Rank): *(Holds up Star emblem)*

I am a Star Scout. Now that I can stand alone, I have earned the right to improve on my own. To me goes the honor of choosing my field. Before me lies a horizon of endless opportunity.

SM: To become a Life Scout a boy must earn a total of eleven merit badges, seven of which must be from the Eagle-required list, plus perform service and hold a troop position.

SCOUT (of Life Rank): *(Holds up Life emblem)*

I am a Life Scout. I have shown the world that Scouting is in my heart. I have mastered knowledge of subjects that will benefit not only myself but my country and my fellowman. I am ready to reach for the wings to fly.

MC: The Eagle Award is the culmination of \_\_\_\_\_ and his leaders. A Scout must earn 21 merit badges, in various crafts and skills. Twelve of these are required by the Boy Scouts of America. You boys that sit here with the Troop are a part of the Eagle Award that \_\_\_\_\_ is about to receive. As \_\_\_\_\_ has helped you learn your scouting skills, he was exhibiting Troop leadership, that is necessary to develop to become an Eagle Scout. Hopefully, some of you will follow his example and complete your Eagle Rank. Each Eagle Candidate must plan and supervise an Eagle Service Project. This Service Project demonstrates a Scout's capacity and willingness to exert his leadership ability in activities that are constructive and worthwhile in his community.

*(Briefly describe the Eagle Service Project completed by the Candidate)*

After a Scout has completed the requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout, he must be reviewed by an Eagle Board Of Review, made up of members of the Troop Committee and a representative from the \_\_\_\_\_ District Advancement Committee of \_\_\_\_\_ Council. This Board Of Review meets to assure that the ideals of Scouting and the esteem of the Eagle Rank are upheld. I would like to introduce \_\_\_\_\_ who sat on the Eagle Board and will report on the Board's findings.

BOARD OF REVIEW MEMBER: As a member of the Board that reviewed \_\_\_\_\_, I certify that after investigation, interview, and examination, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that this Scout has demonstrated that he has held to the Spirit in his daily living. The Board recommends his advancement to Eagle Scout.

MC: Thank you, \_\_\_\_\_. I will now call upon \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Council \_\_\_\_\_ to help convey the responsibilities of the Eagle Rank to our new Candidate.

EAGLE CHARGE: I speak for the Eagle Scouts of this Council. I have the honor to give you the Eagle Scout Charge on the occasion of your elevation to the highest rank in Scouting. The Boy Scouts of all nations constitute one of the most wholesome and significant influences in the world's history. You have been counted worthy of this high rank. All who know you rejoice in your achievement. As you live up to your obligations, you bring honor to yourself and your brother Scouts. Your responsibility extends to your country and your God. America has many good things to give you and your children after you, but these good things depend for the most part on the ability of her citizens. Our country has a great past and you can make her still greater. I charge you to undertake your citizenship with solemn dedication. Be a leader, but lead only towards the best. Lift up every task you do and every office you hold to the high level of

service to God and your fellow man. 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 their brains to exploit others and to gain selfish ends. I charge you to be among those who dedicate their hearts and hands to common good. Build America on the solid foundation of clean living, honest work, unselfish citizenship, and reverence for God. Then, whatever others may do, you will leave behind you a record of which you may be justly proud. Eagle Scout Candidate \_\_\_\_\_, I charge you to enter the Eagle Scout Brotherhood, holding without reservation ever before you, the ideals of honor and service. By repetition of the Eagle Scout Promise before your fellow Scouts, you will become an Eagle Scout. Though the words you use may be similar to those by which you joined Scouting, today they will mean more 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:

*(Speaker turns to audience and says:)*

EAGLE PROMISE:

Will all the Eagle Scouts present today join us up front and I, as I administer the Eagle Scout Promise.

*(Speaker waits for all Eagle Scouts to reach the front and line up.)*

Will everyone please stand. *(pause, wait for all to stand)*

Eagle Scouts, please give the Scout Sign and repeat after me:

I, \_\_\_\_\_ *(state your name)* \_\_\_\_\_, reaffirm my allegiance 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.

MC: All Eagle Scouts except the Candidate(s), please return to your seats. *(pause)* Will everyone please be seated.

MC: Will Scoutmaster \_\_\_\_\_ please come forward and present the Eagle Award.

BADGE PRESENTATION

SM: Will the parents of \_\_\_\_\_ please come forward.

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. *(Scoutmaster gives Eagle Medal to the Candidate's mother to pin on her son.)*

Will you please pin the Eagle Medal on your son. *(After that, Scoutmaster gives mother's Eagle pin to son.)* No one will ever know the unnumbered acts of self-sacrifice and helpfulness from the mother of this Eagle Scout which has led to this afternoon. As the symbol of what this mother has made possible, this Court now asks \_\_\_\_\_ to present his mother a miniature Eagle pin. *(Eagle Scout pins pin on his mother.)*

Eagle Scout, it is also customary that you give your mother an Eagle kiss. *(After that, Scoutmaster gives dad's Eagle lapel pin to son.) (Eagle Scout pins pin to his dad.) (After this, MC asks parents to return to seats.)*

MC: I would like to introduce Eagle Scout \_\_\_\_\_, with a with a presentation from the National Eagle Scout Association. The Troop Committee has enrolled you, our new Eagle Scout, in the National Eagle Scout Association. I present you with your certificate and

membership card. \_\_\_\_\_, there are many dignitaries here tonight that would like to congratulate you and say a few words.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any others present who wish to make a presentation at this time?.....

\_\_\_\_\_ has received many letters and certificates from dignitaries and friends who could not be here this afternoon. I would like to read a few of them.....

MC: \_\_\_\_\_, it is now time to hear from you. *(New Eagle Scout gives a few words.)*

MC: I now declare this National Court Of Honor closed. Senior Patrol Leader, take charge.

SPL: Scouts, please rise and repeat the Scout Law.

SPL: \_\_\_\_\_, will you please deliver the Benediction. *(Gives the benediction.)*

SPL: Will everyone please rise....Color Guard retrieve the colors. *(Color Guard retrieves the Colors and exits.)*

SPL: Will everyone please join in refreshments?

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From: [shenning@fast.net](mailto:shenning@fast.net) (Stephen M. Henning)

Newsgroups: rec.scouting

Subject: Re: Eagle Court Of Honor

Date: 23 Sep 1995 07:50:42-0400

Cheers, Stephen Henning in Reading, PA, USA

# A Brief Eagle Ceremony

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

## Participants:

Eagle Scout  
Eagle Scout's Mother  
Eagle Scout's Father  
Scoutmaster  
Commissioner (or Executive)  
Volunteer Scouter  
Presenter  
Eagle Scout escorts (four Eagle Scouts)

## Ceremony:

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 \_\_\_\_\_. 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 goals of developing citizenship, imparting character development, and enhancing personal fitness. While the Eagle Scout Badge is one of seven rank badges the Scout earns, the achievement of the Eagle Scout Rank is indeed the highest honor that a Scout may achieve.

Scout \_\_\_\_\_, will you please face the audience, raise your right hand in the Scout sign, and please repeat the Oath. *(Eagle Scout repeats the Scout Oath.)*

COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Eagle Scout \_\_\_\_\_. At this time I wish to call upon your Scoutmaster to wish you well.

SCOUTMASTER: Eagle Scout \_\_\_\_\_, I wish to congratulate you upon this achievement on behalf of the Scouts and Scouters 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 our 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 new Eagle Scout neckerchief. This is different from the white NESA neckerchief. This one is blue and silver. Scoutmaster then expresses his 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 your service project in the Troop. But your parents supported you throughout and it is at this time that I ask them to please join us here. Will the Eagle escorts please bring Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ forward to join their son.

*(Eagle escorts bring the parents of the new Eagle forward.)*

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

PRESENTER: *(say personal greetings and other comments related to the achievement of the Eagle Scout Badge. Then, state the following:)*

I have the honor of presenting this 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 to the Scoutmaster, who then holds it while the presenter gives the new Eagle Scout the Eagle Scout Charge.)*

PRESENTER: Mr. 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 uniform on the left side above the pocket centered.)*

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

*(Scoutmaster gives the pin to the Scout, who then turns and pins his mother.)*

*(At this time, the Volunteer Scouter stands and faces the Scout and his parents.)*

VOLUNTEER SCOUTER: \_\_\_\_\_, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and 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. Volunteer Scouter reads the letter sent to Eagle Scouts from the National President and Chief Scout Executive. Afterwards, Volunteer Scouter presents the letter and the Eagle Scout card to the father of the Eagle Scout.)*

VOLUNTEER SCOUTER: At this time, the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America hereby recognized \_\_\_\_\_ as an Eagle Scout of Troop \_\_\_\_\_. We ask that Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ present his son with his card and his letter from the National Council.

*(Father presents card and letter to his son.)*

PRESENTER: \_\_\_\_\_, 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 small Eagle tie tack, an outward symbol of your achievement which he may 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. Also, it is possible to add a presentation of a membership in the National Eagle Scout Association.

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# “Short” Eagle Court Of Honor Ceremony

COLOR GUARD, HONOR GUARD, PARENTS, PRESENTERS AND TROOP

PARENTS: PEW AUDIENCE LEFT

PRESENTERS: PEW AUDIENCE RIGHT

HONOR GUARD AND COLOR GUARD BEHIND PARENTS

OPENING CEREMONY

Scout 1: The red of my flag is the lifeblood of brave men ready to die or worthily live for this, our country. *(Lights candle)*

Scout 2: The white of my flag is for purity, cleanliness of purpose, thought, word, and deed. *(Lights candle)*

Scout 3: The blue of my flag is for faith and loyalty, like the eternal blue of the star-filled heavens. *(Lights candle)*

WELCOME: SCOUTMASTER

INVOCATION: CHAPLAIN

NATIONAL COURT OF HONOR: SCOUTING REP

The time has come to recognize our recipient of the Eagle Badge. By the authority invested in me by the Boy Scouts of America, I now declare this Eagle Court Of Honor officially open.

Today, one individual will receive his Eagle. He has been tested along the Scouting trail and proudly wears at least 21 merit badges. He has tasted the thrill of service to our community and has found it is truly better to serve than to be served.

Eagle Scout Candidate \_\_\_\_\_, please rise.

EAGLE SCOUT TRAIL: SCOUTING REP

This is the voice of the Eagle – the Eagle whose heights you have struggled to reach. I remember when you came to the base of the cliff and how you looked up with ambition and determination. Look back at the experiences you have encountered in your ascent. These experiences should not be forgotten. You should profit by making sure the adverse ones do not occur again. Experience is a valuable teacher if you will heed its valuable lessons.

Do you remember when you took your first step on the Eagle trail? With your first steps you began to build yourself physically, mentally, and morally. You started living the Scout Oath and Law. Soon you learned the symbolism inherent in the Scout Badge; you learned that there are three points of the trefoil which stand for the three parts of the Scout Oath:

Duty to God and country, duty to other people, and duty to yourself.

You learned of two important ideals in 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

have enjoyed on hikes and campouts. In adding the Eagle to the shield of the United States you are further reminded of your duty to country.

You pledge to support and preserve its freedom. Pointing skyward is the sign of the north. Taken from the mariner's compass, it is 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 a Scout smile admonished you to Be Prepared. The overhand knot reminds you 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 knew it, you became a First Class Scout. The badge you received is both a combination of Tenderfoot and Second Class, reminding that there is much more to being a Scout than just attending meetings. You were tempted to remain here, but your ambition stirred you on. The variety of merit badges gave your interest free reign.

You took the lead showing others the way. It didn't take long before the first obstacle on the trail had been overcome. You were then a Star Scout. The Life rank was reached more slowly. The trail had become steeper and the merit badges harder. Fewer 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 had started your climb, you continued up the trail. You learned that leadership was leading, not driving or pushing. Example is best.

The Life rank is symbolized by a heart with the First Class badge, the badge of Scouting imposed thereon. At this point the trail became tougher, but also more interesting. The original principles, the Scout Oath and Scout Law, now had more 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 nor the beginning. Almost your whole life lies ahead of you. Your part in our country's upbuilding from the past may be small, and your claim to distinction and honor may rest on no basis at all. But the future is for your own choosing. From your action the judgment must come. The need of your service to your country is greater than all you have previously done. When the drama is finally ended and the curtain is lowered at last, you must rest on the things you have accomplished, not the dreams of the past.

Eagle Candidate \_\_\_\_\_, please be seated.

INTRODUCITON OF HONORED GUESTS: SCOUTMASTER

QUALIFICATIONS: SCOUTMASTER

We have the honor and the pleasure of recognizing the 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 towards alert and participating citizenship through the Boy Scout program. Their efforts culminate today in the presentation of his Eagle Badge.

The Boy Scout program constitutes one of the most wholesome and significant developments of our day. This Scout is worthy of the highest rank in its membership. As an Eagle Scout, he will be asked to assume a solemn obligation to his duty to God, country, fellow Scouts, and fellow citizens. This is a great undertaking. It was, therefore, proper that the Court make a careful

examination of your achievements. In order that all understand the completeness of our examination, I will have our Troop Committee Chairman review the findings of the Board Of Review.

#### BOARD OF REVIEW FINDINGS: TROOP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

The first consideration in examining this candidate was his proficiency in the various crafts and skills prescribed for the Eagle Rank. Our applicant has presented a record of the merit badges earned and these have been carefully checked. He has been certified by appointed merit badge counselors and the Board Of Review has found him qualified for the 21 required. Another important consideration for the Eagle rank is leadership. The Board Of Review has carefully reviewed his leadership in the troop, school, church, and community. We found that he has demonstrated this ability in activities that are constructive and worthwhile. We believe that he qualifies for the Eagle rank. Last and most importantly is the character of this candidate. It was our finding that this candidate is endeavoring to put into daily practice the principles of the Scout Oath and Law which include integrity and honor. We believe he is qualified as an Eagle Scout and that he will continue those habits of conduct in the future.

In light of these inquiries by the Eagle Board Of Review, the Court Of Honor finds the candidate qualified to receive the rank of Eagle Scout.

#### EAGLE PRESENTATION: SCOUTING REP

Would the Honor Guard please escort the candidate and his parents to the Honor area.

We would like to have the Scoutmaster assist in the presentation of the Eagle badge.

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, and be involved in the presentation of that award.

In recognition of fatherly advice and guidance along the trail to the Eagle rank, I will ask your father to now pin the badge of the Eagle Scout. *(Father pins on the Eagle badge on the left pocket flap.)*

\_\_\_\_\_ (new Eagle Scout) will now give his father the Eagle Tie Clasp.

*(Eagle Scout presents his father with the Eagle Tie Clasp.)*

Service and patient perseverance has been shown by your leaders as they helped you toward worthy manhood. It is appropriate that the Troop Committee Chairman present you with the Eagle Scout Certificate.

*(Chairman reads letter from Nation Boy Scouts and presents the new Eagle Scout the certificate.)*

No one will ever know the unnumbered acts of self-sacrifice from your mother. In recognition of her devotion, the court will now ask you to present her with the Eagle Mother's Pin.

*(Eagle Scout pins Eagle pin on mother and gives her a hug and a kiss.)*

Will the Honor Guard please escort the parents to their seats of honor.

\_\_\_\_\_ (new Eagle Scout) has asked \_\_\_\_\_ (Scoutmaster) to give him the Eagle charge.

EAGLE CHARGE: SCOUTMASTER

*(Scoutmaster reads charge, can be found in National's Eagle packet, among other sources.)*

Would the Honor Guard please escort \_\_\_\_\_ (new Eagle Scout) to his seat of honor.

Would \_\_\_\_\_ (Scoutmaster) and \_\_\_\_\_ (an Eagle Scout) please come forward for the summation of our program and the reading of the congratulatory letters.

CONGRATULATORY LETTERS: TROOP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

CLOSING REMARKS: SCOUTING REP

"VOICE OF THE EAGLE": SCOUTMASTER

CLOSING CEREMONY

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Chuck Batteau – SM, Troop 751, Glen Allen, VA USA

[Charles.r.batteau@bell-atl.com](mailto:Charles.r.batteau@bell-atl.com)

Maybe they meant an hour a DAY!! :-)

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12/08/95

*From: Tim Curt [timpcurt@unix.asb.com](mailto:timpcurt@unix.asb.com)*

*Newsgroups: rec.scouting*

*Subject: Re: Eagle Court Of Honor Ceremony*

*Date: Sun, 24 Sep 1995 19:11:30 GMT*

# Simple Eagle Ceremony

## SETTING:

The Colors are posted in the front of the room with other appropriate candles and Eagle paraphernalia in place.

## PARTICIPANTS:

Master Of Ceremonies (MC)

Scoutmaster

Ceremony Participants

Family of the Eagle Candidate are all seated in the front row

Visiting Scouts, Scouters, and friends are also seated near the front

## CEREMONY

MC: Tonight we have the honor and pleasure of bestowing the rank of Eagle Scout to 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. Their efforts culminate tonight in the presentation of the Eagle Award.

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

*(The Candidate is escorted to the front of the room by an Honor Guard.)*

CHAPLAIN: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the interest in the Scouting movement that has brought this group together. We thank you for the success of the Scouting program in the United States since 1910. We are grateful for the influence that Troop \_\_\_\_ and its Scoutmaster \_\_\_\_\_ have had on the lives of boys since it held its first charter in 19\_\_\_. We pray for continued blessing on this Troop, its leaders, its Troop Committee, and its sponsor through the years ahead. We pray 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. Eagle Candidate \_\_\_\_\_, you have been deemed worthy of the highest rank in its membership. All who know you rejoice in its achievement. Your position, as you well 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 Award.

This Candidate presented a record of merit badges earned. These have been carefully checked against Council records and certified by appointed merit badge councilors. The Board Of Review

carefully checked the record of this Candidate for leadership in his troop, school affairs, church association, his community and in the conduct of his Eagle 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 this Court Of Honor to bestow upon you, (Eagle Candidate's name), the rank of Eagle Scout.

(Here the parents would be recognized, the presentation made, and while the new Eagle is pinning his miniature Eagle on his mother, the poem "An Eagle Scout" is read to the audience. The poem is found in Chapter 14.)

(The rest of the ceremony would proceed as other typical examples illustrated.)

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# The Challenge Ceremony

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 \_\_\_\_\_ for the rank of Eagle Scout.

CHAIRMAN: Awarding the Eagle Badge of rank is an important and serious matter. It is the goal towards 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 of pride and joy, but, it is also a time for serious contemplation.

The Eagle 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 Council upon advancement to Eagle rank.

(To the Eagle 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, and 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 Pledge, are you willing to accept it?

CANDIDATE: I am.

CHAIRMAN: Raise your right 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 Scout.

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 SCOUT (TF): I, too, challenge the right of this Scout to be awarded the rank of Eagle Scout.

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

TF: 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?

TF: 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?

SM: As Scoutmaster of Troop \_\_\_\_\_, I certify that for more than 6 months since attaining 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?

TF: I am.  
*(An Eagle Scout in the audience interrupts)*

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

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 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.

BOR CHAIRMAN: As Chairman of the Board 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 recommends his advancement to Eagle Scout.

CHAIRMAN: Are you now satisfied?



EAGLE #1: I am still not satisfied. I think 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, and 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 Scout is sacred. Honor is the foundation of character – it is what a person really is, down inside, not what someone may think he is. An Eagle Scout will live to reflect credit upon his home, church, school, friends, Scouting and 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 Scout 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. With trust in God and faith in his fellowman, the Eagle Scout 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 Scout 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 candidate is willing and eager to accept the mantle of responsibility, as well as the honor of the badge of Eagle Scout, 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 which I have read to you at the beginning of this ceremony?

CANDIDATE: I am.

CHAIRMAN: Raise your hand in the Scout Sign and repeat after me:

*(Repeat the Eagle pledge)*

Now, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, I hereby award you the rank of Eagle Scout.

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.

(Proceed with the presentation of awards)

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# Citizenship Ceremony

This Eagle ceremony is ideal for more than one candidate

## SETTING:

*(In the VIP are, stage, or platform are seated the Mayor, distinguished guests, chairperson of the Court Of Honor, and the MC. Also, the commissioners and other distinguished Scouters and guests. The Commissioner rises and calls the roll of honor. Each Eagle Candidate rises when his name is called and advances to the platform where they all stand at attention.)*

## CEREMONY:

The MC of the evening delivers the charge to the Eagle Scouts. The Mayor then calls each Scout by name, congratulates him and then 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, 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. The Boy Scouts of all nations constitute one of the most wholesome and significant movements in the world's history and you have been deemed 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 to 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 so 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 their abilities 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.

CITATION TO SCOUT \_\_\_\_\_,

You joined Troop \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ Council, Boy Scouts of America on \_\_\_\_\_. You advanced to Second Class rank on \_\_\_\_\_; to First Class rank on \_\_\_\_\_. You earned \_\_\_\_ merit badges and because of your character and good citizenship, you earned Star rank on \_\_\_\_\_. You received additional merit badges and further developed you character and good citizenship and were awarded the Life rank on \_\_\_\_\_. You have earned the following merit badges: *(list them here.)* In addition, you were recommended by your parents, teachers, Scoutmaster, and others upon whom we rely. The Court Of Honor believes you will be a first class citizen, always worthy of your Eagle Scout badge of rank. On

behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ Council, Boy Scouts of America, and with 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 your Troop leaders. This statement is signed by the president of the Council, Scout Commissioner, Chair of the Court Of Honor, District Commissioner, Scoutmaster, and Scout Executive.

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

Mayor Of City of \_\_\_\_\_

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# Eagle Scout Investment Ceremony

## SETTING:

Set the stage with a background of flags behind the installation team. On stage there is a Scout candelabrum with 22 candles, representing the 12 points of the Law, 3 points of the Oath, 6 ranks of Scouting, and Scout Spirit. All Candles are out except the "Spirit Of Scouting". Begin the ceremony by having a bugler step out and sound fan-fare. The curtains open and the narrator begins.

## PARTICIPANTS:

Master Of Ceremonies (MC)

Five Scouts: Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, and Life; in the wings waiting to enter on cue.

## CEREMONY:

MC: To earn the higher ranks in Scouting, a Scout has to spend a great deal of time and effort. Therefore, the occasion that recognizes his accomplishments should be something special. Tonight we shall follow the Lighting The Eagle Trail. *(House lights are turned of.)*

When a boy becomes a Scout there is instilled within him something that we call the Spirit Of Scouting. The lighted candle before you represents that spirit. Because the Spirit Of Scouting embodies the principles of the Scout Oath and Law, it is a shining beacon of inspiration. Alone, this light may seem feeble, but when multiplied by more than three million boys in Scouting, it becomes very powerful indeed. Here to tell us more about Lighting The Eagle Trail is Mr.

\_\_\_\_\_ #1 \_\_\_\_\_.

MR. #1: Far away, looms the hazy outline of a lofty Eagle Summit, flanked by lesser peaks that represent Star and Life. Yes, to the newcomer they are a long way ahead, but they come a lot closer as the light from the Spirit Of Scouting spreads.

The first rank is Scouting is Scout. It is represented by the Spirit Of Scouting candle. The next rank is Tenderfoot. *(The Tenderfoot Scout lights a candle.)* Once inspired by the Spirit Of Scouting, he will not stay tender-of-foot for long. Putting a few simple achievements behind him, he quickly climbs to the rank of Second Class Scout. *(Second Class Scout lights a candle.)* Even though the requirements stiffen a bit, he keeps climbing until finally he tops the mountain ridge along the Eagle trail where he receives the rank of First Class Scout. *(First Class Scout lights a candle.)* This is no place to rest on the Eagle trail, for now he clearly sees the peaks ahead.

Now a broad mountain meadow of merit badges, leadership, and service projects challenge him. He must gather six merit badges as he presses onward to Star Mountain. *(Star Scout lights a candle.)* He is farther along the Eagle trail than he ever thought he would be, and he is proud of his progress. He realizes benefits that he has gained from his training for leadership and for service. The Life Scout rank, the next summit along the trail seems far away. Our hiker rushes on, working, serving, leading; and as he goes he adds five more merit badges to his collection. The farther he climbs, the fewer companions he meets who are with him along the trail, and the more effort he expends. *(Life Scout lights a candle.)* Moving on our traveler has attained another peak. To guide us up the final peak is Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ #2 \_\_\_\_\_.

MR. #2: Our new Life Scout has completed many accomplishments, but looking up, the Scout beholds yet another summit, the highest summit of the range. He knows it must be Eagle Summit about which he has heard so many stories. The trail leads on and upward. Now the pathway narrows and there are even fewer Scouts on it. Toward the summit the path steepens considerably and winds along narrow ledges. Many tough spots will need to be overcome to conquer the last few miles. He must find and gather ten more merit badges. As he goes about that task, he is busy giving leadership to other Scouts who seek to climb the ranks of Scouting. He must also show a great deal of planning, organization, and leadership while successfully carrying out an Eagle Service Project. He is continually giving service to those who cannot enjoy the trail but need a helping hand. Only those with real persistence and courage are able to gain the thrill of Eagle Summit.

Before continuing up the trail to your goal, which is now very apparent; let me remind you that there are more mishaps in mountain climbing after reaching the top than there are on the trail upward. One who achieves the highest goal of Scouting should never forget the rigor of the training he has endured nor the responsibilities of leadership and service that were a part of his success. Never forget that the Scout Law should always be fundamental in your life. There are twelve parts of the Law. *(Installation team will light the twelve candles one at a time, repeating the Scout Law and their definition.)*

Finally, the three parts of the Scout Oath are promises that will carry you safely and securely as you travel down unknown paths in the future. *(A Scout lights the three candles as the Speaker reads the Scout Oath.)*

*(Mr. #2 is seated and MC takes over the podium.)*

MC: Will the escorts please escort Eagle Candidate \_\_\_\_\_ and his parents to the stage.

*(To Eagle Candidate)* You are almost at the summit that you have been diligently seeking to reach. Please take the candle that represents the Spirit Of Scouting, step onto the Eagle Summit and light the candle that signifies you have reached the very top. *(Candidate lights the candle.)*

*(Addressing Troop Committee Chairman or Advancement Chairman)* Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, (state either Troop Committee or Advancement Chairman), has Eagle Candidate \_\_\_\_\_ conducted himself in a manner that exemplifies the meaning of Scouting?

CHAIRMAN: All records and interviews have indicated that the Eagle Candidate has exemplified the meaning of Scouting.

MC: Thank you, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, for your report. Will Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, representing the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, come forward and administer the Eagle Pledge.

BSA REP: SPL, please bring your troop to attention.

SPL: Troop ATTENTION! *(Scouts and Scouters should stand at attention.)*

BSA REP: Eagle Candidate \_\_\_\_\_, please step forward, render the Scout sign and repeat after me:

I, *(state your name)*, realize the obligation to my fellow Eagle Scouts, to my home, my country, and my God. I will at all times do my best to assist other Scouts who are climbing the Eagle Trail and to give back more to Scouting than it has given me and to assist my Troop as much as possible and to the best of my ability.

SPL: Troop, please be seated.

MC: Eagle Scout \_\_\_\_\_, now all the eyes of Scouting – yes, the eyes of world are trained upon you. Let me remind you that the tradition of the Eagle is high. May so live to preserve and uphold this tradition. May your life be guided by the Spirit Of Scouting, symbolized by the blazing candles before you. May the Eagle badge that you are about to receive be symbolic of the fine Spirit Of Scouting.

Mr. Scoutmaster, please join me to present the Eagle badge to Candidate \_\_\_\_\_, who will escort his parents to center stage.

*(Scoutmaster hands the Eagle badge to the mother for pinning.)*

MC: Your mother will now have the honor of presenting you the Eagle badge.

*(To the Eagle Scout)* This miniature Eagle pin is for your mother, who has stood nobly by you. Will you pin it over your mother's heart in recognition of her love, encouragement, faith, and trust she has in you. *(Eagle pins on the mother's pin.)*

*(To the Eagle Scout)* This Eagle tie tack is for your father, who has assisted you and guided you along the Eagle trail. Will you pin it on him in recognition of his support and love for you. *(Eagle pins on the father's tie tack.)*

You are now an Eagle Scout and as such you must never disappoint your parents who have done so much for you. Understand that without their support, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout would have been all but impossible.

*(To all)* Immediately after the benediction and retreat of the colors, you may congratulate Eagle Scout \_\_\_\_\_.

PASTOR: Benediction and retreat.

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# Indian Theme Ceremony

May be performed by the Order Of The Arrow Ceremonial Team

*Here is a ceremony that was given to me by our Order Of The Arrow Lodge Advisor for our OA Chapter's use in an upcoming Eagle ceremony. I understand it has been used here in the Ventura County (CA) Council for a number of years with great success. Have fun. – Lou Leopold, Cubmaster, Pack 3804; Asst. Advisor, Asuskawa Chapter, Topa-Topa Lodge #291, Ventura County Council, California.*

## CAST:

Allowat Sakima, the Mighty Chief  
Kichkinet, the Guide  
The North Wind  
The East Wind  
Eagle Candidate and his parents

The South Wind  
The West Wind  
Drummer  
Scoutmaster

## PROPS:

Drum, Eagle Board, two red candles, white candle, blue candle, candle holders

## CEREMONY:

SCOUTMASER: We have the honor and pleasure of recognizing \_\_\_\_\_ 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 towards alert and participating citizenship through the Boy Scout program. It is, however, the candidates personal efforts and achievement that culminates this evening in the presentation of the Eagle Award.

Please escort Eagle Candidate \_\_\_\_\_ and his parents to the stage.

*(Drummer starts drumming. Indian party arranged with Allowat Sakima and Kichkinet in front, North Wind next, followed by the East and West Winds, with Eagle Candidate in the middle, followed by the Candidate's parents, followed by the South Wind, and drummer in the rear.)*

*(The four winds take their positions at the right of the Eagle board, Eagle Candidate in the center with parents behind the Candidate, and Allowat Sakima, Kichkinet, and 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 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 Scout, 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 and service hours allowed you to be a Star Scout, while still more found you wearing the heart of a Life Scout. Many more months have passed while harder requirements found you adding to your qualifications until you have achieved Scouting's highest rank...Eagle.

ALLOWAT SAKIMA: 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. That 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 – 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 are the virtues of divine nature. 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 SAKIMA: 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 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.)*

SCOUTMASTER: This court recognizes Eagle Candidate \_\_\_\_\_ 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 SAKIMA: 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 an Eagle.

KICHKINET: To ensure that you understand that being an Eagle 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 will so live that he will reflect credit upon his home, church, school, friends, and 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 obligation of an Eagle Scout is loyalty. Please light this blue candle which represents loyalty. *(Pause.)* Without loyalty, all character lacks direction. An Eagle 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 obligation 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 Eagle emblem remind you of courage.

*(Kichkinet takes the candle from the 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 Eagle trail.

KICHKINET: 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 extinguishes 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 \_\_\_\_\_ with the highest award of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout.

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

SCOUTMASTER: We will now hear from our new Eagle Scout.

*(The new Eagle Scout speaks.)*

*(After the new Eagle Scout has spoken, the Drummer begins beating the drum.)*

ALLOWAT SAKIMA: I welcome you, new Eagle, 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 they entered.)*

-- Thanks to Scott Drown, SM Troop 39, Maltby, Mt. Baker Council, Everett, WA

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# History Of The Eagle & 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 stand other candles, one each, red, white, and blue, unlit. Behind the lit candle is the Eagle 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 candles with the light of Scouting.

## OPENING:

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 light box.)* By the authority vested in me as a representative of the \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 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 Candidate \_\_\_\_\_, where he will be prepared to receive the highest rank conferred by the Boys Scouts of America, that of Eagle Scout.

*(The honor guard, composed of Eagle Scouts, will escort the Eagle 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 through 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 worship 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 out-stretched 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 out-stretched 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 the supreme authority.

In the Middle Ages, I became the symbol of Germany. And, 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 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 sun. In early icons I was best known as the symbol of St. John the Evangelist.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> 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 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 or in their state seal. 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 Cabinet members, and most branches of the military 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. And with the words of Eagle Scout Neil Armstrong – "Houston, 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, I have been the symbol of man's best; now the eagle is the symbol of Scouting's best.

**PRESENTATION:**

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

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

*(Parents take places at each side of the Eagle Candidate. Invite the Scoutmaster to stand next to the parents.)*

As the special guest of tonight's Court Of Honor, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ will present the Eagle Award.

*(Introduce presenter.)*

PRESENTER: *(He has the option of speaking informally a few minutes about the Eagle Award and/or the Eagle Candidate. He speaks from a position near the Candidate. He concludes his speech with the following sentence):*

\_\_\_\_\_, it is with distinction and pleasure that I present you with the Eagle Award. *(Pin it on or pass to his mother for her to pin on his left breast pocket.)*

MC: No one will ever know the unnumbered acts of self-sacrifice 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 now asks \_\_\_\_\_ to present his mother a miniature Eagle pin. *(Give the pin to the Eagle Scout, who pins it on his mother.)*

PRESENTER: It is also customary that you also give your mother an Eagle kiss. *(The Eagle does so.)*

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 him a miniature Eagle tie tack. *(Give the tie tack to the Eagle Scout, who pins it on his father.)*

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

*(The presenter gives the both to the Eagle's father, who then reads the letter aloud and presents them to his son, the new Eagle Scout.)*

MC: The court thanks Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, for coming tonight and assisting in the presentation of the Eagle Award to \_\_\_\_\_, his son.

NESA REPRESENTATIVE: \_\_\_\_\_, by virtue of earning the Eagle Award, you are now eligible to become a member of the National Eagle Scout Association. Your troop has enrolled you as a 10-year member in the association and I have the honor of presenting your membership to you. Fail not your fellow Eagles, for your responsibilities are now greater than before. As you go forward in life in receiving other honors and awards, always remember this night when you became an Eagle Scout. *(He then gives him the NESA membership.)*

MC: \_\_\_\_\_, 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. \_\_\_\_\_ will assist by delivering the Eagle charge.

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

\_\_\_\_\_, I have the honor to give you the Eagle 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 on 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, \_\_\_\_\_, 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, \_\_\_\_\_, 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.

\_\_\_\_\_, you will now rededicate yourself by repeating the Scout Oath. Repeat it slowly, as you stand before the three lit 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 Eagle 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 now your actions are 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 Eagles and all Scouting. The torch you carry is not only yours, but ours also.

\_\_\_\_\_, I challenge you to enter this Eagle brotherhood, holding ever before you, without reservation, the ideals of honor and service. By 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. Scouts, parents, and guests, please stand. \_\_\_\_\_, 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 – to make my training an example – my rank and my influence – count strongly – for better Scouting – and 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 to be the first to congratulate \_\_\_\_\_, Scouting's newest Eagle Scout. Following this, everyone will have an opportunity to do so.

*(Announce reception to follow.)*

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# Lighting The Eagle Trail Ceremony

## SETTING:

Two lecterns, with lights, placed on either side of the stage, will simplify the presentation.

A single lit candle is placed on a table in front of the moderator.

Rank symbols are placed on low tables between the two lecterns. An unlit candle is placed in front of each symbol.

Twelve small 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 Candidate
Mother	Father
Speaker #1 (a Troop Leader)	Speaker #2 (a Troop Leader)
Scoutmaster	Tenderfoot Scout
Second Class Scout	First Class Scout
Star Scout	Life Scout
Eagle Scout	

## CEREMONY:

MODERATOR: To earn the highest rank in Scouting, a Scout must expend a great deal of time and effort. Therefore, the occasion that recognizes his accomplishments should be memorable. Tonight we shall follow the Light The Eagle Trail Ceremony as we recognize the accomplishments of \_\_\_\_\_.

When a boy becomes a Boy Scout there is something within him that we call the Spirit Of Scouting. This single lit 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 and Scout Oath 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 and Scout Oath. There are 12 parts of the Law and 3 parts of the Oath, each is an important foundation in the building of strong character.

*(Twelve small candles are lit by a Scout 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 Trail. Once inspired by the Spirit Of Scouting, he won't stay a Tenderfoot 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 a little 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 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 100 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 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 Class symbol.)*

While the rank of Life Scout is a coveted one and deserving of all who obtain it, the Eagle Trail does not end there; it leads on toward a higher summit. The pathway narrows and steepens considerably as it winds along edges of personal achievement and mountain pastures of troop accomplishment. Mile by mile, the trail becomes more trying. Many challenges must be conquered in the 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 Summit.

SM: Eagle Candidate \_\_\_\_\_, you are now congratulated for reaching the highest peak of the Eagle Trail. Your diligence and hard work have paid off. If you, along with your mother and father, will come forward, your Eagle 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 Badge that you are about to receive is symbolic of this spirit of Scouting.

*(Eagle badge is presented to the mother to pin on the 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, the mother's pin, is given to the Eagle Scout to pin on his mother.)*

SM: Eagle Scout \_\_\_\_\_, 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 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.

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

SM: Eagle Scout \_\_\_\_\_, pin this tie tack on your father in recognition of the support and guidance he has provided you. As an Eagle Scout, may you always make him proud.

MODERATOR: Will the audience please rise and give Eagle Scout \_\_\_\_\_, a round of applause.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this concludes our Eagle Court Of Honor. Anyone wishing to congratulate Troop \_\_\_\_\_'s newest Eagle Scout and his proud parents may do so and all are invited to the reception immediately after our closing.

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# Parent's Ceremony

## SETTING:

(After all the guests are seated, the MC makes a brief statement the honor and significance of becoming an Eagle Scout. The MC/SPEAKER then names the Scout who is to be recognized at this ceremony and asks each to escort his parents to the center stage.)

## CEREMONY:

The MC/SPEAKER recognizes and commends the Scoutmaster and all other Scouters for their work in helping this Scout to become Eagle Scouts.

He also congratulates the parents for their Scout making this high achievement.

Commends and congratulates the Scout for sticking to his purpose until his goal has been realized and for having parents interested in his success.

Include a statement along the following lines: "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 Scout 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 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 Candidate 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 badge of rank."

*(Address the Candidate and secure an answer to each of the following questions – make it impressive)*

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

"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?"

"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?"

"Then, are you now ready to commit yourself to the Scout Oath?" *(Here the Eagle Candidate moves one step forward and gives the Scout sign.)*

"Rededicate yourself by reciting the Scout Oath."

*(The son stands at the right of his mother and his father stands at the left of his mother.)  
(The Candidate's mother invests her son with the insignia of the Eagle badge. The new Eagle Scout gives his mother the traditional miniature Eagle.)*

*(The new Eagle Scout gives his father the traditional Eagle tie tack.)*

*(When all the insignias have been presented, the MC/SPEAKER gives the new Eagle Scout the Scout handclasp with the left hand. Then he takes the right hand of each parent 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 ever more closely together as a family. To you, Eagle Scout \_\_\_\_\_, 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.”

SPEAKER: “By the authority invested in me by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, I now declare you an Eagle Scout.”

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# Picture Ceremony

## SETTING:

(The chairperson 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 Candidate. The Candidate is directed to take his place on stage.)

Continuing to explain; the chairperson points out that the next step in drawing the picture is to fill in the background. For this purpose, several person are being asked to help with the presentation of the Eagle badge of rank.

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

## CEREMONY:

MC:

### a. National Council Representative

Each council in the United States is allowed one representative for each 1000 boy members in the council, to represent the council on the National Council. In this council we have \_\_\_\_ individuals who are National Council Representatives. We are fortunate this evening to one of these representatives with us, Mr./Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_, of \_\_\_\_\_ Council. Since the Eagle badge is presented directly from our National Headquarters in Texas, we are going to ask Mr./Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ to be the first person in this picture. Also later we will ask him/her to be the first person to start the Eagle badge on its journey to the candidate.

### b. 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 are appointed by the council president. Our National Council Office forwards the Eagle badge to the local council. We have asked Mr./Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Council, who is the council's \_\_\_\_\_, to take his/her place in our picture next to the National Council Representative.

### c. District Officer

The district officers of \_\_\_\_\_ District are the district chairman, vice-chairman, and members of the district committee, appointed by the district chairman. As the National Council forwards the Eagle badge to the council for awarding, the so the council forwards the badge to the district. We will therefore ask Mr./Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ District, who is the district's \_\_\_\_\_ to take his/her place in our picture next to the council officer.

### d. Eagle Candidate's Pastor/Priest/Rabbi/etc

The institution that helps all of us most is the church (temple, etc). 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 candidate's Pastor to be with us for the awarding of his Eagle badge of rank. Reverend

\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ Church, may we ask you to take your place next to the district officer.

**e. 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. \_\_\_\_\_ of the school, will you please take your place in our picture next to the Reverend.

**f. Scoutmaster**

With the addition of the next individual, the background of our picture is almost complete. That person is the Eagle candidate's Scoutmaster, 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.

SPEAKER: The picture is now complete except for the two people who have done the most for the Eagle 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.)

SPEAKER: The picture is now complete. But there are two things to be asked the Eagle candidate before the badge can be presented. The first is that the Eagle candidate give a brief resume of what he did to earn the rank of Eagle. (Eagle candidate should read from a statement prepared in advance. Not more than 200-300 words.)

The second requirement is that the candidate rededicates himself to the Scout Oath. (Candidate gives the Scout sign and repeats the Oath after the speaker.)

Addressing the Eagle 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 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 Eagle 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 pin from the Scoutmaster and presents it to his mother and a tie tack to his father. Flowers may also be presented to his mother.)

SPEAKER: Ladies and Gentlemen, this concludes the Eagle ceremony. Anyone wishing to congratulate the troop's newest Eagle and his proud parents are invited to do so.

(Form a receiving line in front of the room, follow with a reception.)

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# The Voice of The Eagle Ceremony

*(Note: This is a popular ceremony, with many variations. This is a short version. The Voice of the Eagle idea is frequently added to other ceremonies.)*

## **SETTING:**

Pictures of the Scout are arranged in a semi-circle 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 card is at the center and slightly to the rear of the others. The Eagle candidate is escorted to the front of the room near the American and Troop flag. As the narrative for each rank is read, the candidate and his escorts move on to that card, and stand behind it. Candles should be placed and lit in front of each card.

## **CEREMONY:**

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, 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 climber higher.

FOURTH READER: Now the trail was steeper, it was less worn. Fewer Scouts seemed to be headed 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 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 candidate \_\_\_\_\_ to receive his Eagle badge of rank.

(Here follows the normal recognition of the candidate's parents, the actual presentation, etc.)

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# Pieces and Parts

Things to use wherever you think they fit. Alter as desired.

# **Charges, Challenges, Pledges and Oaths**

# Eagle Scout Charge

*Please note that many variations of the Eagle Scout Charge exist. No single charge is considered to be the "right" one.*

The Boy Scouts of all nations constitute one of the most wholesome and significant movements in the world's history and you have been counted 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 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. Your responsibility goes beyond to your country and your God. America has many good things to give you and your children after you; but these things depend for the most part on the quality of her citizens.

Our country has had a great past. You are here to make the future greater. I charge you 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 high level of service to God and to your fellow man. So live and serve that these who know you will be inspired to the finest living. We have too many who use their strength and their brains to exploit others and to gain selfish ends. I charge you to be among those who dedicate their skills and ability to the common good. Build America on the solid foundations of clean living, honest work, unselfish citizenship and reverence for God. Whatever others may say or do, you leave behind you a record of which every Scout may be justly proud.

On behalf of the Court Of Honor of \_\_\_\_\_ Council, Boy Scouts of America, with the high hope that you will always represent the finest of character and citizenship, we welcome you into the brotherhood of Eagle Scouts and congratulate you, your parents and your Scout leaders.

# Eagle Scout Challenge

*BSA No. 58-900. This is distributed with Eagle Award packets.*

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 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 courage to stand up for what is right. Trusting in God, with faith in his fellowman, 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 helped him in his climb to Eagle Scout. 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 be your guide for tomorrow and onward.

# Eagle Scout Challenge I

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 Eagle Scouts. 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, on 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 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.

# Eagle Scout Challenge II

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 upon his home, his church, his troop, and his community. May the white of the Eagle badge remind you to always live with honor.

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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 be your guide for tomorrow and onward.

# Eagle Oath (Promise)

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.

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## Eagle Scout Pledge

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.

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## Eagle Scout Pledge II

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 to 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.

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# An Eagle Scout Pledge

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? Will each of you please give the Scout Sign and repeat after me in unison?

On my honor, I will do my best, to do my duty to God. On my honor, I will do my best, to do my duty to my country. 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 or Eagle Scout.

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

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 repeating 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, using the same words which are found at the end of the Declaration of Independence, 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 pleasure and privilege to pronounce you an Eagle Scout. May the oath you have taken remain true in your heart. Ladies and Gentlemen, Scouts and Scouters, I present to you Eagle Scout \_\_\_\_\_.

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

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# **Patriotic**

# The Symbol

A nation's flag is 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 hardly won; of protection under the constitution of the rights and privileges of all Americans; of 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.

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## I Am Old Glory

I am Old Glory.

For more than ten 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 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 the life of liberty and pursuit of happiness, which have been granted to every American as the heritage of free men.

While men love liberty more than life itself; since 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.

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## 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 which I represent. The blood spilled at Valley Forge, Gettysburg, San Juan Hill, Belleau Wood, Iwo Jima, Chosin, the Mekong Delta, the Persian Gulf twice and every other great battle fought on landing 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.

# Inspirational

# Welcome To A New Eagle Scout

Eagle Scout candidate \_\_\_\_\_, as a representative of the Eagle Scouts of the \_\_\_\_\_ Council, I welcome you to the brotherhood of Eagle Scouts. Barely more than two percent of the boys who enter Scouting achieve what you have been recognized for here tonight. The requirements are demanding, but fair, requiring perseverance and ability.

I am not here to talk of your past accomplishments, which are great, but of your future opportunities. I received my Eagle Award more than \_\_\_\_ years ago, and in those years, it has continually enriched my life. It is now yours. When you attend Scouting functions, Scouters will recognize you as a doer and you will be standing as an equal among leaders.

Your Eagle Award will go far beyond Scouting itself. When you apply to a college or apply for a good job, having Eagle Scout on your application helps. I know, because it helped me.

More than that, the things you have done, the leadership and character you have developed, will stand you in better than a certificate and a piece of ribbon in a frame. You will have opportunities to be of service to others, through your school, your work, and through Scouting, because you know what you can accomplish.

In the years to come, you will casually meet men who are Eagles 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 Eagles extends throughout the nation, yes even around the world. For the rest of your life, Scout \_\_\_\_\_, you travel as a marked man, an Eagle Scout!

# Significance of the Eagle Rank

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. 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 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.

The EAGLE SCOUT AWARD is the highest award available to youth members of the Boy Scouts of America. It is recognition by the National Court of Honor, presented through the local council and a local court of honor.

It represents many years of dedicated effort and the successful completion of a long process which started when the young man became a Boy 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.

Not every boy, nor every Scout, qualifies for the high rank of Eagle.

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.
3. Perhaps an even more difficult and more important requirement for the Eagle rank is the personal character of the Scout as reflected in his cooperation and service to others in church, home, school, and community. The candidate must have a high degree of the spirit of cheerful service to others which is a basis of good citizenship.

The attainment of the Eagle Scout rank is indeed the highest honor that a Scout may achieve. When a boy enters Scouting, in the three parts of the Scout Oath, he 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

Likewise, the Scout Law he promises to obey is put into effect as the occasion may demand. He is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

Each is an important foundation stone in the building of strong character.

An Eagle Scout is one who has taken the Scout Oath and Law, to which he has promised, and embodied them within his character. The Oath and Law have become a part of him, they guide and direct him.

Very few Scouts make it this far; only about 2% of all Scouts, and it is a great achievement for all parties involved: the Scout, his family, his community, his unit, and the Boy Scouts of America.

Many Eagle Scouts have gone on to assume important positions:

- \* Gerald Ford became President of our great country
- \* H. Ross Perot became a leading businessman and presidential candidate
- \* Steven Spielberg became a major filmmaker
- \* Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon.

A recent survey of leaders revealed that:

- \* 17 US Senators, 60 US Congressmen, and 11 state governors were Eagle Scouts
- \* 14 of our senior military officers were Eagle Scouts
- \* over 1700 corporate CEOs/presidents were Eagle Scouts

Of 214 of our astronauts, 142 were Scouts and 33 were Eagle Scouts.

Awarding the Eagle rank is an important and serious matter. It is the climax and goal towards which this Scout has been working for several years. It is the culmination of the efforts of the parents and leaders of this Scout. It is an occasion for pride and for joy.

Eagle is the highest and most coveted award in all of Scouting and it is the last major step in the advancement program. It is, at this point, that Scouting has achieved its purpose in these Eagles:

- in building participating citizenship
- in growth in moral strength and character
- in development in physical, mental, and emotional fitness

# 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 principles 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, 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 citizen who would gladly advance the group before the individual.

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# The Eagle Obligation

The Eagle Rank represents proficiency in all Scouting skills and is attained by only about 2 percent of all young men in Scouting. It represents a great deal of teamwork as a member and leader of a troop. You demonstrated, by living the Scout Oath and Law, an effort to perpetuate the Scouting Spirit. It also represents years of hard work, strength of character, persistence, and more importantly, it is indicative of what lies in the future as a Scout grows into manhood. Eagle Rank testifies that a Scout has an understanding of his community and his nation, and a willingness to become involved. It is also fitting at this time to explain that not only does this badge signify hard work, but also certain obligations on his part.

The first obligation of an Eagle Scout is Honor. The white in the Eagle badge represents honor and it is the sacred foundation of this character. Character is not what you think of yourself, [Scout's name], but what you are, deep inside. It is what you do to reflect credit upon your home, family, church, school, friends, and yourself. Always let the white of this badge to remind you to live with honor.

The second obligation of an Eagle Scout is Loyalty. The blue in the Eagle badge represents loyalty, your loyalty, for without it, character lacks direction. Regardless of how rough the road, how difficult the task, or how impossible the situation, you must remain loyal to your cause and purpose. It is the sense of belonging, being a part of a team and working together with others. It is standing by your work, your promises and your pledges. It is also the feeling you give others...knowing that they can count on you. Let the blue of this badge remind you to remain loyal.

The third obligation of an Eagle Scout is Courage. The red in the Eagle badge represents courage. It gives your character force and strength. If you have faith in God and your fellow man, you are able to face each day unafraid and strive to share in the work at hand. You should do your part in all things, regardless of danger, adversity, or hardship. Let the red of this badge remind you of courage.

The fourth obligation of an Eagle Scout is Responsibility, which is represented by the Scout Motto, Be Prepared. It means that you are always in a state of readiness, both in mind and body, so you will be able to face danger and help others to the best of your ability. It also means that you have been trained for emergencies and that you are confident of your ability to do your duty as an Eagle Scout.

The fifth and final obligation of an Eagle Scout is Service. The Eagle represents this obligation. You must extend a helping hand to those who still toil up the Scouting trail, just as others helped you achieve your goal. It means that the daily good turn must continue. You must strive to protect the weak and defend the helpless. The Eagle also indicates that you are now an elite member of an esteemed group of world citizens. With this honor comes the knowledge that any discredit which falls upon you, also befalls your brother Eagle Scouts.

Are you willing to accept these obligations, responsibilities, and the honor of the Eagle Scout Badge?

[Scout's answer]: Yes, with the help of God, I am.

Remember your obligations of Honor, Loyalty, Courage, Responsibility, and Service. Our heartfelt congratulations to you on this very, very special occasion and our sincere hope is that you may always wear your Eagle badge with dignity and pride.



# The Call of The Eagle

I am the voice of the Eagle.

I speak for the Eagle whose summit you have struggle 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.

We remember when you took your first steps upon the Boy Scout trail.

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 turn in the trail and you were greeted by a large group of 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 turn, the place where First Class Scouts dwell.

Then 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 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, your fellow Eagle Scouts, have watched your character unfold and become more manly. We have watched your leadership ability expand into a valuable asset. We have watched more 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, 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.

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Thanks to Ben Parker, [bparker@access.com](mailto:bparker@access.com), ASM Troop 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 \$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 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 \$7.50? Of course not! Your Eagle badge is priceless. It represents everything 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. An Eagle Scout, now look ahead, look sharp. Way out there in the mist is another mountain, and there below it 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 that trail, and as the years roll by, and as you 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."

# Scouting Heritage

## A Look At 100 Boys That Join Scouting:

12 will receive their first time religious contact  
5 will earn their religious emblem  
2 will become clergy

18 will develop hobbies which will last a lifetime  
28 will continue lifelong hobbies started in Scouting  
8 will have a career based on merit badge work

17 will become volunteer Scout Leaders

1 will use Scouting skills to save the life of another  
1 will use Scouting skills to save his own life

**2 will attain the rank of Eagle Scout**

## Were You Aware That Boy Scout Alumni Include:

63% of Air Force Academy graduates  
68% of West Point graduates  
70% of Annapolis graduates  
72% of Rhodes Scholars  
85% of FBI Agents  
65% of college graduates  
65% of members of the US Congress  
85% of airline pilots  
85% of student council presidents  
89% of senior class presidents  
71% of football team captains  
65% of basketball team captains  
88% of school newspaper editors  
77% of editors of school annuals  
75% of business managers of school publications  
80% of junior class presidents

## Astronomical Boy Scout Facts:

26 of the first 29 astronauts were Boy Scouts  
11 of the 12 men who walked on the moon were Boy Scouts  
108 of 172 astronauts were Boy Scouts  
Over half of the 108 Boy Scout astronauts attained Star, Life or Eagle rank

# Poems

# The Eagle Scout

Fond parents watch their boy where he stands apart from his comrades tonight.  
As they place on his camp-battered tunic badge, an Eagle, the emblem of right.  
It seems just a few short months have passed, since he joined with the youngster next door.  
How proud he was then of his Tenderfoot badge, as he told them the message it bore.  
But the years have gone as he struggled along, to learn, to learn, what the Scout Law is about.  
He practiced them daily, the Oath and the Law, until now he's an Eagle Scout.  
You may smile in your old world's 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 just as much to him.  
The red, white, and blue of the ribbon you see, are the symbols of courage, honor, and truth.  
He has learned how to value, these fine attributes,  
In the glorious days of his youth.  
And the outstretched wings of the Eagle Scout that rests, on the breast of this knight of today,  
Are the things that will lift him above petty deeds, and guide him along the right way.  
Yes, it's only a pin, just an Eagle Scout's badge, but the heart that is beneath it beats true,  
And will throb to the last for the things which are good.  
A lesson for me, and for you.

# It's Only A Pin

*The following poem was penned by Ches Martin, Scoutmaster of Troop 84 in the Blue Ridge Council of South Carolina. Ches 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 their Tenderfoot pin  
As they told of the message it bore.

But the years have gone as he struggled along  
To learn what the Scout Law's 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.

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Thanks to Paul Sweeney, [sweeney@mdc.net](mailto:sweeney@mdc.net), ASM Troop 7, Lowell, MA

# The Eagle

by  
Emily M. Paris

The eagle is a magnificent bird  
Who soars with graceful ease  
He is a symbol of our heritage  
As he glides upon the breeze

He is a symbol of our freedom  
In his soaring boundless flight  
A beacon for humanity  
And a splendid, noble sight

His huge wingspan maneuvers him  
In boundless soaring flight  
Oh, eagle, in your majesty  
May we follow you tonight

May we soar like eagles on the wings  
Of dreams composed of light  
Oh, eagle, in your splendor  
May we follow you tonight

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## 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.  
Tis 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 have a new way of life.  
We recommend Scouting for each Husband and Wife!



# 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.

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Thanks to Ed Schmidt

# 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!

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Thanks to Paul Sweeney, [sweeney@mdc.net](mailto:sweeney@mdc.net), ASM Troop 7, Lowell, MA

# 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.

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## 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.

# 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 and 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.

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## 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  
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.

# 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 springs, from the good brown earth.

The trail that Scouts in seeking blaze,  
Through the toughest tangle, the deepest maze.  
Till out of boyhood the Scout comes straight,  
To manhood's splendid and high estate.

## 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 a 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.

# 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 honor 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 outflinging wings of the Eagle Scout badge  
On the breast of this knight of today  
Are the things that 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.

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Thanks to Paul Sweeney, [sweeney@mdc.net](mailto:sweeney@mdc.net), ASM Troop 7, Lowell, MA

# 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.

# Eagle

by  
Greg Gough

I dreamed of the Eagle,  
Soaring high above  
Majestic, graceful,  
Free from its earthly tether.  
Its 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 its spirit.  
The spirit of the eagle can be found in  
Each young Scout's eyes  
Its presence can be felt  
By those close to achieving  
Scouting's highest honor.  
And its essence  
Is preserved and cherished  
By those known as  
Eagle Scouts!



# Flags And Commendations

*Note: You may be able to get a free flag from your Senator or Representative, but you'd have to check as this varies amongst elected officials. You may also order some. Here is a sample:*

## Flag Information And Order Form

Please complete this form, enclose your check, and mail to:

**Honorable John W. Warner  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  
Attn: Flag Coordinator**

**“Keeper Of The Stationary”**

An official certificate will accompany each flag. The following information is required:

The flag will be presented to: \_\_\_\_\_

**If recipient’s home of record is not in Virginia, please contact his or her Senator or Representative.**

Date you wish flag flown over the Capitol:

Occasion for which flag is being flown:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of person presenting the flag:  
(if you wish this indicated on the certificate)

Your Name/Address/Daytime phone:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name/address flag is to be mailed to:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*  
PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR OFFICE MUST HAVE THIS FORM IN HAND TEN (10) DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE THE FLAG IS TO BE FLOWN.

THE ENTIRE PROCESS WILL TAKE APPROXIMATELY FOUR TO SIX WEEKS.  
\*\*\*\*\*

The sizes and fabrics are: (circle one)	Cost	Quantity	Total
3 X 5 Nylon	\$7.50		\$
3 X 5 Cotton	\$8.25		\$
5 X 8 Nylon	\$17.50		\$
5 X 8 Cotton	\$18.75		\$

Flying and certification cost: \$4.05

Shipping and Handling: \$4.00

TOTAL: \$

Check or money order should be made payable to:

**KEEPER OF THE STATIONARY**

Revised 12/21/99

# Getting Letters Of Commendation

When a youth passes his Eagle BOR, he may solicit letters of commendation from various public figures. With the Eagle Award, he will automatically receive a letter from the Chief Scout Executive of BSA and one from our Council Executive. However, it is always nice to hear from others that he has done something special. Thus, the letters of commendation. If you are interested, be sure to send a request to your State Representative or Assemblyman, US Representative, US Senator, Mayor, City Council, County leaders, etc. as many of these will send nice letters.

This is an optional thing as some boys are not interested in letters from strangers. Here are some addresses to get you started. Check the web, phone book, and other Eagles for additional ideas. Many of these addresses were obtained at Troop 405's website. If you identify additional individuals or groups who will send letters of certificates, please send the information to:

Calvin H. Gray  
Scoutmaster, Troop 405  
501 CR 166  
Georgetown, TX 78626  
<mailto:405geezer@igg-tx.net>

He advises, DO NOT send requests to individual astronauts. Instead, send your request to NASA at the address in the chart that follows below. Also, DO NOT send requests to United States Supreme Court Justices other than the one provided in this list.

# Sample Commendation Request

Here is an example letter to send requesting a certificate or letter of achievement from our community, state, and federal leaders.

1 August 2003

The Honorable Dick Cheney

Vice President of the United States

Washington, DC 20001

Mr. Vice President:

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, a volunteer (*state your position*) within the (*state your Council*), Boy Scouts of America. This letter is to ask for your assistance in recognizing the achievements and service of (*state Eagle Scout's name*), a resident of this community and a member of (*state your unit*).

Would you please be so kind as to send (*state Eagle's first name*) a letter of greeting, along with any other items you wish to be presented to him during a recognition ceremony to be held (*date of Court of Honor or other presentation*), at (*time*) at (*location of Court of Honor or other presentation*).

Please address you letter and recognitions to Eagle Scout (*Eagle's LAST name*), in care of the following address. All of the recognitions and letters will be compiled, placed in a binder or other suitable keepsake, and after they are read, will be displayed during this special occasion for (*first name of Eagle Scout*).

[Note: I placed the last sentence in as an example of what can be done with all of those letters...if you have differing plans, please note them here instead of that last sentence].

(address of chartered partner organization, your address, or the address of another unit leader)

Thank you very much for taking time from your extremely busy work schedule to help this community and this unit recognize the personal achievement and service of Eagle Scout (*last name of Eagle Scout*).

Sincerely,

\*\*YOUR SIGNATURE\*\*

(Your full name)

(Your Scouting position)

(Your Unit's name & number)

# Another Sample Commendation Request

(Name)

Member of the Troop Committee, Boy Scout Troop \_\_\_\_

(Address)

(Date)

President George Bush

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

Washington, DC 20500-0003

Dear Mr. President:

The Scouts, Leaders, and Members of the Committee of Boy Scout Troop \_\_\_\_ take great pleasure in announcing that:

Having completed the requirements for and having been examined by an

Eagle Scout Board of Review

(Eagle Scout's name)

Was found worthy of the rank of Eagle Scout

In honor of this achievement, we have scheduled an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for (date and time, at (location, city)).

We would appreciate a letter or certificate acknowledging his achievement. We will compile it with other acknowledgements and place them in a binder commemorating this special occasion.

Thank you for taking time from your extremely busy schedule to help this community recognize the achievements and service of Eagle Scout (*Eagle Scout's name*).

Sincerely,

(YOUR NAME)

[Note: You need to send invitations out early. Three months may not even be early enough for very prominent officials as they have very crowded schedules. For Virginia Beach, VA troops, Mayor Oberndorf has been known to attend. Use your best judgment when sending out the invitations.

# Sample Invitation Letter

123 Main Street  
Somewhere, USA

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

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

I would be greatly honored if you could attend my Eagle Scout Court of Honor on (date, time and place). Your presence would greatly add to my receiving the Boy Scout's highest honor, the Eagle Scout Award. I hope you will be able to attend my Eagle Court of Honor.

Yours in Scouting,

Eagle's signature

# Eagle Letter List

[Note: ensure the person is still in office/alive before sending]

Mr. George Bush President of the United States 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Washington, DC 20500-0003	Mr. _____ Secretary of Commerce 14 <sup>th</sup> Street NW Washington, DC 20230	Mr. William J. Henderson Postmaster General/CEO 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW Washington, DC 20260-0010
Mr. Dick Cheney Vice President of the USA Washington, DC 20501	Mr. _____ Secretary of Education 600 Independence Ave SW Washington, DC 20202-0100	<b>GOVERNOR ADDRESSES</b> ↗ (most have email too, see bottom of page)
United States Ambassador US Mission to the UN 799 United Nations Plaza New York, NY 10017	Mr. _____ Sec. of Health/Human Services 200 Independence Ave SW Washington, DC 20201	Governor _____ Governor's Office 210 State Capitol, Box 110001 Juneau, AK 99811-0001
Mr. Colin Powell Secretary of State 2201 C Street NW Washington, DC 20520	GEN/ADM _____ Chairman of the Joint Chiefs The Pentagon Washington, DC 20318-9999	Governor _____ State Capitol 600 Dexter Ave Montgomery, AL 36130-2751
Honorable George HW Bush 10000 Memorial Drive Suite 900 Houston, TX 77024	Mr. _____ Secretary of Agriculture 14 <sup>th</sup> St. & Independence Ave NW Washington, DC 20250	Governor _____ State Capitol Room 250 Little Rock, AR 72201
Honorable Jimmy Carter Carter Presidential Center One Copenhill Ave NE Atlanta, GA 30307	Mr. _____ Secretary of Transportation 400 7 <sup>th</sup> St SW Washington, DC 20590	Governor _____ State Capitol 1700 West Washington Phoenix, AZ 85007
Mr. Richard Rumsfeld Secretary of Defense The Pentagon Washington, DC 20301-1400	Mr. _____ Secretary of Labor 200 Constitution Ave NW Washington, DC 20210	Governor _____ State Capitol Bldg Sacramento, CA 95814
Mr. _____ Secretary of the Interior 1849 C Street NW Washington, DC 20240	Mr. _____ Secretary of Energy 100 Independence Ave SW Washington, DC 20585	Governor _____ 136 State Capitol Denver, CO 80203-1792
Mr. _____ Secretary of Housing & Urban Development Washington, DC 20410-0001	Mr. _____ Speaker, House of Rep. US Capitol Building Washington, DC 20515	Governor _____ Governor's Office, State 210 Capitol Ave. Harford, CT 06106
Mr. _____ Secretary of the Treasury Room #4404 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, DC 20220	Rep. _____ House Minority Leader 1226 Longworth House Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20515	Governor _____ Legislative Hall Dover, DE 19901
Office of the Asst. Secretary of Defense Public Affairs ATTN: Dir. Of Comm. Relations The Pentagon, Room 1E776 Washington, DC 20301-1400	Mr. John Ashcroft Attorney General Dept Of Justice 10 <sup>th</sup> St & Constitution Ave NW Washington, DC 20530	Governor _____ Office Of The Governor The Capitol Tallahasee, FL 32399-0001

Note: For up-to-date state governor names, addresses (snail and e-mail), fax and phone numbers, see: <http://www.peaceday.org/governor.htm>



Governor _____ 203 State Capitol Atlanta, GA 30334-0900	Governor _____ 130 State Capitol 75 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155	Governor _____ State Capitol Bldg 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd. Room 12 Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Governor _____ Executive Chambers State Capitol Honolulu, HI 96813	Governor _____ PO Box 139 Jackson, MS 39205	Governor _____ State Capitol Room 160 900 Court St NE Salem, OR 97301-4047
Governor _____ 700 West Jefferson, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor PO Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720-0034	Governor _____ Missouri State Capitol Room 216, PO Box 720 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0720	Governor _____ 225 Main Capitol Bldg Harrisburg, PA 17120
Governor _____ 207 State House Springfield, IL 62706	Governor _____ State Capitol Helena, MT 59620-0801	Governor _____ State House, Room 143 Providence, RI 02903-1196
Governor _____ State House, Room 206 Indianapolis, IN 46204-2797	Governor _____ PO Box 94848 Lincoln, NE 68509-4848	Governor _____ PO Box 12267 Columbia, SC 29211
Governor _____ State Capitol Des Moines, IA 50319	Governor _____ Capitol Building Carson City, NV 89701	Governor _____ 500 East Capitol Ave Pierre, SD 57501-5070
Governor _____ 300 SW 10 <sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 212S Topeka, KS 66612-1590	Governor _____ 25 Capitol Street Concord, NH 03301	Governor _____ Tennessee State Capitol Nashville, TN 37243-0001
Governor _____ 700 Capitol Ave, Suite 100 Frankfort, KY 40601	Governor _____ The State House, PO Box 001 Trenton, NJ 08625	Governor _____ PO Box 12428 Austin, TX 78711-2428
Governor _____ Attn: Constituent Services PO Box 94004 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004	Governor _____ State Capitol Room 400 Santa Fe, NM 87501	Governor _____ 210 State Capitol Salt Lake City, UT 84114
Governor _____ #1 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0001	Governor _____ State Capitol Albany, NY 12224	Governor _____ State Capitol, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Richmond, VA 23219
Governor _____ 100 State Circle Annapolis, MD 21401	Governor _____ 20301 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-0301	Governor _____ 109 State St, Pavillion Montpelier, VT 05609
Governor _____ Room 360 Boston, MA 02133	Governor _____ Dept 101 600 East Boulevard Ave Bismarck, ND 58505-0001	Governor _____ PO Box 40002 Olympia, WA 98504-0002
Governor _____ PO Box 30013 Lansing, MI 48909	Governor _____ 30 <sup>th</sup> Floor, 77 South High St Columbus, OH 43215	Governor _____ 1900 Kanawha Blvd Charleston, WV 25305

Governor _____ 115 East State Capitol Madison, WI 53702	Div. Of Education Outreach US Fish & Wildlife Service c/o NCTC, Route 1, Box 166 Shepherdstown, WV 25443	Associate Dir. Of Admissions Virginia Military Institute Lexington, VA 24450-0304
Governor _____ State Capitol, Room 124 Cheyenne, WY 82002	National Parks Service PO Box 37127 Washington, DC 20013-7127	Consumer Affairs Dept. Wm. Wrigley Jr. Co. 410 N. Michigan Ave Chicago, IL 60611-4287
<b>END OF GOVERNOR ADDRESSES ↗</b>	Boy Scout Program Manager National Park Service 1849 C St NW Washington, DC 20013	Executive Director National Sheriff's Association 1450 Duke St Alexandria, VA 22314-3490
Director Central Intelligence Agency Washington, DC 20505	NASA Johnson Space Center CB/Astronaut Office Attn: Eagle Scout Court Of Honor Houston, TX 77058	Mr. James R. Moffett, CEO Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Co. PO Box 51777 New Orleans, LA 70151
Director, FBI J. Edgar Hoover Bldg 935 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington, DC 20535-0001	Pope John Paul Apostolic Nunciature 3339 Massachusetts Ave NW Washington, DC 20008-3687	Mr. James S. Holden Pres. Daimler-Chrysler Corp 1000 Chrysler Drive Auburn Hills, MI 48326-2766
US Secret Service 950 H Street NW, Suite 8400 Washington, DC 20001-4518	Mr. Robert M. Gates NESA, Boy Scouts of America PO Box 152079 Irving, TX 75015-2079	Mr. Michael Eisner CEO, Walt Disney Co. 500 S. Buena Vista St Burbank, CA 91521
Commandant US Coast Guard 2100 2 <sup>nd</sup> St SW Washington, DC 20593-0001	National Rifle Association Safety and Education Div. ATTN: Mike Allen 11250 Waples Mill Road Fairfax, VA 22030	Moose International Community Service Dept Mooseheart, IL 60539-1126
Office of the Superintendent US Military Academy West Point, NY 10996	Mr. William F. Buckley, Jr. 150 East 35 <sup>th</sup> St New York, NY 10016	Chairman, Coca-Cola Co. PO Drawer 1734 Atlanta, GA 30301
Office of the Superintendent US Naval Academy 125 Blake Road Annapolis, MD 21402-5000	Commander-in-Chief International HQ Sons Of Confederate Veterans Columbia, TN 38402-0059	Mr. Rush Limbaugh Station WABC 2 Penn Plaza, 17 <sup>th</sup> Floor New York, NY 10023
HQ USAFA/PAC 2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 318 USAF Academy Colorado Springs, CO 80840- 5016	Commander-in-Chief Veterans of Foreign Wars 406 W. 34 <sup>th</sup> St. Kansas City, MO 64111	Mr. Sanford McDonnell Chairman Emeritus McDonnell-Douglas Corp PO Box 516 St. Louis, MO 63166-0516
Commander US Coast Guard US Maritime Defense Zone Atlantic Portsmouth, VA 23704-5004	National Commander American Legion PO Box 1055 Indianapolis, IN 46206	The Young Men General Pres. Church of Jesus Christ of LDS 47 East South Temple St. Salt Lake City, UT 84150
HQ AFRS/PA (Eagle Scout Letters) 550 D St West, Suite 1 Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4527	Mr. Bob Davie University of Notre Dame PO Box 518 Notre Dame, IN 46556	Dr. Robert Schuller The Crystal Cathedral 12141 Lewis St. Garden Grove, CA 92840

Mr. Steven Spielberg Dream Works PO Box 8520 Universal City, CA 91608	President National Speleological Society 2813 Cave Ave Huntsville, AL 35810-4431	Mr. Dave Thomas Chairman, Wendy's Corporate Communications PO Box 256 Dublin, OH 43017
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# Resources

# Good Web Sites

Here are some web sites found to be helpful in collecting information for the project:

[Note: all links worked as of 24 Aug 2003]

<http://www.eaglescout.org>

<http://www.scoutorama.com>

<http://www.scouting.org/>

<http://www.scouting.org/nesa/index.html>

<http://www.macscouter.com/eagle/>

<http://clipart.usscouts.org/>

<http://www.pwcweb.com/NCACBullRun/bsaforms.htm>

<http://www.scouting.org/boyscouts/eagleproject/>

<http://www.scouting.org/boyscouts/eagleproject/dload.html>

<http://www.vbgov.com/dept/parks/scouts.asp>

<http://members.cox.net/scouting179/Links.htm>

<http://members.cox.net/scouting179/Eagle%20Famous.htm>

<http://members.cox.net/scouting179/Eagle%20History.htm>

<http://members.cox.net/scouting179/Eagle%20Families.htm>

<http://www.flash.net/~smithrc/eagleprj.htm> (Eagle Service Project help)

Additional Resources:

Woods Wisdom (see your Committee)  
Scout Ceremonies (published by BSA)

Unit Committee  
Unit Commissioner  
District Commissioner  
Unit Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters  
Adult Eagle Scouts  
Local NESA chapters  
"Old Guard" Scouters (not naming names lest we forget or offend someone☺:-)

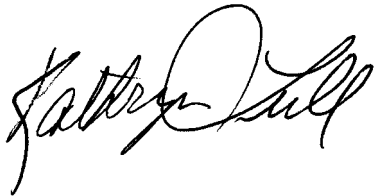
## A Final Few (?) Words

There are many sources of good information and ideas available to Scouters and non-Scouter parents of Scouts. Woods Wisdom is a great resource. Many of us have a copy or two that we use for special ideas. Scout Ceremonies, written by Carl Nelson and Tidewater Council's own Si Simons (an Eagle Scout and Naval Academy graduate from waaaaay back ☺), is a great all-around ceremony book. Several Scouters have published books on ceremonies and specifically on Eagle Ceremonies.

This packet is meant to be a resource to smooth the process for Eagle Candidates and their families. While it is geared to Tidewater Council, most of it is applicable to the entire United States. Since becoming the Chartered Organization Representative of Troop 179, Kathy Lull has helped many families get their son from the Board of Review through the Eagle Ceremony. With the additions and updates made by Randy Everette, the scope of this packet widened to encompass the entire Life-Eagle process. In both cases, Kathy Lull and Randy Everette came to create, update, and issue this packet as a result of their Wood Badge courses, which is why their course numbers are on the cover page. For non-Scouters, the whole program can be a mystery. The need for a step-by-step handbook was obvious to Kathy Lull and the need to more guidance and an update, especially in the realm of Eagle Service projects, was obvious to Randy Everette as they both began their Wood Badge training, so they both worked on this packet as part of their Wood Badge tickets.

We, Kathy Lull and Randy Everette, hope you find this packet of benefit and that it makes it easier on all of us, as we continue to support our youth on the trail to Eagle Scout. It may be downloaded from <http://members.cox.net/scouting179/Links.htm> and copied as necessary. This is also where you'll find the separate files for the Eagle Service project. If you modify it, please give us due credit for its origination.

Yours In Scouting,



Kathy Lull



Randy Everette (Eagle Scout; Troop 1140; Springfield, VA; 22 Jan 1974)

and all past, present, and future members of TROOP 179, CHOWANOC DISTRICT, TIDEWATER COUNCIL. Troop 179 is in Virginia Beach, VA.