

# **Eagle Court of Honor**

## **Sample Ceremony (Multiple Scouts)**

**By Peg Mitchell**

**Troop 657**

**Cary, IL**

**3/23/08**

Master of Ceremonies – Welcome and Introductions	Mr. Don Wilson
Presentation of Colors	Color Guard
Invocation	Mr. Pete Koerber
Presentation of Parents	Honor Guard
Scouting	Mr. Jim Thomas
Significance of Eagle Award	Mr. Tim Boivin
Presentation of Eagle Scout Honorees	Honor Guard
Scout Advancement Report	Mr. Bill Pickett
The Eagle Charge	Mr. Don Wilson
The Eagle Scout Promise	Mr. George Bach
Presentation of Eagle Awards	Mr. Jim Thomas
Letters of Congratulations	Maggie Mitchell
Other presenters	
Eagles' Responses	Steven Mitchell, Eagle Scout
Benediction	Mr. Pete Koerber
Retirement of Colors	Color Guard
* Honor Guard – Jake Mitchell, Billy Mitchell, Greg Krettler, and Aaron Pickett	
** Color Guard – Jeff Boivin, Ted Koerber, Andrew Pickett, David West, and Dan Wilson	

People who pass out programs will get names of any presenters and give the list to the MC.

## **Welcome and Introductions**

**MC:** “Good afternoon. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I’m pleased to serve as master of ceremonies as we honor \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for attaining Boy Scout’s highest rank, the Eagle Scout award. This is a great moment worthy of celebration.

Before we begin our program, I’d like to introduce a few special guests: (and when I say your name, would you please stand up)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

I’d like to remind all of you that there will be a reception honoring our new Eagle Scouts immediately following the ceremony.

## **Presentation of Colors**

\_\_\_\_\_ comes forward. \_\_\_\_\_ will ask the audience to rise and remain standing for the invocation.

\_\_\_\_\_ has the color guard present colors and then leads the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Scout Oath.

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

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.

## **Invocation**

**MC:** Will \_\_\_\_\_ please come forward  
for the invocation?

\_\_\_\_\_ gives invocation.

**MC:** Please be seated.

## **Presentation of Parents**

**MC:** Would the honor guard please escort the honorees' parents forward?

The honor guard will escort the parents to their seats.

## Scout Law - 12 Candles

If you are going to use the Scout Law – 12 Candles as part of your ceremony, you can either just light the candles from a lighter, or from a Light of Scouting candle.

**MC:** Will \_\_\_\_\_ please bring the light of Scouting forward, which represents the Great Spirit of Scouting.”

\_\_\_\_\_ brings the light of Scouting up from the back of the room.

One Scout is the reader, two scouts will be lighting the candles. One of them picks up the single candle and lights it (from the Light of Scouting candle if there is one). They switch off lighting the 12 candles as each point of the Scout law is read.

A Scout is Trustworthy - A scout tells the truth. He keeps his promises. Honesty is part of his code of conduct. People can depend on him.

Loyal - A scout is true to his family, Scout leaders, friends, school, and nation.

Helpful - A scout is concerned about other people. He does things willingly for others without pay or reward.

Friendly - A scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other scouts. He seeks to understand others. He respects those with ideas and customs other than his own.

Courteous - A scout is polite to everyone regardless of age or position. He knows good manners make it easier for people to get along together.

Kind - A scout understands there is strength in being gentle. He treats others, as he wants to be treated. He does not hurt or kill harmless things without reason.

Obedient - A scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rule and laws are unfair, he tries to have them changed in an orderly manner rather than disobey them.

Cheerful - A scout looks for the bright side of things. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way. He tries to make others happy.

Thrifty - A Scout works to pay his way and to help others. He saves for unforeseen needs. He protects and conserves natural resources. He carefully uses time and property.

Brave - A scout can face danger even if he is afraid. He has the courage to stand for what he thinks is right even if others laugh at or threaten him.

Clean - A scout keeps his body and mind fit and clean. He goes around with those who believe in living by these same ideals. He helps keep his home and community clean.

Reverent - A scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.

## **Scouting**

**MC:** \_\_\_\_\_ will now speak on the purpose and meaning of Scouting.

\_\_\_\_\_ talks.

## Meaning of Scouting

Scouting, as known to millions of youth and adults, evolved during the early 1900s through the efforts of several men dedicated to bettering youth. These pioneers of the program conceived outdoor activities that developed skills in young boys and gave them a sense of enjoyment, fellowship, and a code of conduct for everyday living.

In this country and abroad at the turn of the century, it was thought that children needed certain kinds of education that the schools couldn't or didn't provide. This led to the formation of a variety of youth groups, many with the word "Scout" in their names. For example, Ernest Thompson Seton, an American naturalist, artist, writer, and lecturer, originated a group called the Woodcraft Indians and in 1902 wrote a guidebook for boys in his organization called the *Birch Bark Roll*. Meanwhile in Britain, Robert Baden-Powell, after returning to his country a hero following military service in Africa, found boys reading the manual he had written for his regiment on stalking and survival in the wild. Gathering ideas from Seton, America's Daniel Carter Beard, and other Scoutcraft experts, Baden-Powell rewrote his manual as a nonmilitary skill book, which he titled *Scouting for Boys*. The book rapidly gained a wide readership in England and soon became popular in the United States. In 1907, when Baden-Powell held the first campout for Scouts on Brownsea Island off the coast of England, troops were spontaneously springing up in America.

William D. Boyce, a Chicago publisher, incorporated the Boy Scouts of America in 1910 after meeting with Baden-Powell. (Boyce was inspired to meet with the British founder by an unknown Scout who led him out of a dense London fog and refused to take a tip for doing a Good Turn.) Immediately after its incorporation, the BSA was assisted by officers of the YMCA in organizing a task force to help community organizations start and maintain a high-quality Scouting program. Those efforts climaxed in the organization of the nation's first Scout camp at Lake George, New York, directed by Ernest Thompson Seton. Beard, who had established another youth group, the Sons of Daniel Boone (which he later merged with the BSA), provided assistance. Also on hand for this historic event was James E. West, a lawyer and an advocate of children's rights, who later would become the first professional Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts

The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated to provide a program for community organizations that offers effective character, citizenship, and personal fitness training for youth.

Specifically, the BSA endeavors to develop American citizens who are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit; have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness; have personal values based on religious concepts; have the desire and skills to help others; understand the principles of the American social, economic, and governmental systems; are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand our nation's role in the world; have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people; and are prepared to participate in and give leadership to American society.

## **Significance of Eagle Award**

**MC:** And now, we will hear from \_\_\_\_\_ on  
the Significance of the Eagle Award.

\_\_\_\_\_ speaks.

## **Significance of Eagle Award (Option One)**

### **The Eagle in History**

The use of the eagle to represent Scouting's best is very appropriate. The eagle is, of course, our national bird, adorning our coins, several state flags, and the Great Seal of the United States of America.

But the symbolism of the eagle goes back much farther in time. In fact, the eagle has symbolized humankind's best since the dawn of recorded history.

The eagle has long been a symbol of good triumphing over evil. The ancient Greeks depicted the eagle holding a serpent in its claws, much as the American eagle holds arrows and an olive branch. So too the Eagle Scout battles evil in the world with the good in himself.

Armies from ancient Rome to nineteenth-century Europe have marched under eagle standards. Sioux warriors adorned their war bonnets with eagle feathers. In the twentieth-century, an army of Eagle Scouts, more than a million strong, has gone out to build a better world for themselves and their fellow men.

Many cultures, watching the eagle fly toward the sun, have associated the bird with their sun gods. To the Assyrians, for example, the eagle represented the sun god Ashur, and in early Christianity, the eagle symbolized the ascension of Christ into heaven. Today the Eagle Scout continues to fly high, his gaze always fixed on his goals.

For countless centuries, the eagle has represented victory and valor, grace and beauty. The Eagle Scout represents those things, as well as the values embodied in the Scout Oath and Law.

The eagle is a rare creature. When you see one flying, you can't help but stop and watch its graceful, exuberant soaring. The Eagle Scout is a rare creature too. Just watch him fly.

## **Significance of Eagle Award (Option Two)**

### **Eagle Award**

The presentation of the Eagle Scout Award is an important and serious matter. For the Eagle candidate, this is the climax in his Scouting Efforts. The attainment of this award is made possible through the assistance of those with the candidate tonight—his Scoutmasters, Troop leaders, fellow Scouts, parents, family, friends, and members of the community.

We are here tonight to honor a young man, as he becomes an Eagle Scout. As we do so, it's important to reflect on what it means to be an Eagle Scout.

The 1938 Handbook for Scoutmasters put it this way: The badges which accompany his advancement and which the Scout wears on his Uniform are not to show that he has “passed certain tests.” There should be no past tense implied! On the contrary, each badge cries out “I can, right now and here!”

So what can the Eagle Scout do? Let's take a look at some of the things he has done in preparing to be an Eagle Scout.

In terms of badges, he has earned the Scout badge and the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, Star, Life and finally Eagle. Along the way, he earned 11 required merit badges and 12 elective merit badges. He served in troop leadership positions for a total of 16 months, and spent at least 13 hours on service projects, not including the many hours he spent on his Eagle Scout service project. In all, he has completed approximately 325 different requirements.

So what have these requirements taught him? Who is the Eagle Scout?

First and foremost, of course, he is an outdoorsman. He knows how to camp, swim, hike, use tools of the woods, build a fire, use a camp stove, and find his way with map and compass. He's spent at least 20 days and nights camping out in a tent he pitched on a site he selected. Many of those times he planned his own menu and cooked his own food.

The Eagle Scout is comfortable with nature. He can identify local animals and plants, including poisonous plants. He understands the causes of water,

land, and air pollution and developed a project to solve an environmental problem.

He embodies the Scout motto, “Be Prepared” He knows how to treat fractures, head injuries, hypothermia, convulsions frostbite, burns, abdominal pain, muscle cramps, even knocked out teeth. He knows what to do in case of fire, explosion, desert emergency, motor-vehicle accident, mountain accident, food poisoning, gas leak, earthquake, flood, tornado, hurricane, atomic emergency, and avalanche.

The Eagle Scout is a good citizen. He’s been to a city meeting and knows how the city government is organized. He knows who his U.S. Senators and Representatives are and has written a letter to one of them about a national issue. He’s read the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

He knows how to manage his money and understands the risks and benefits of putting his money in saving bonds, mutual funds, common stock, and real estate. He has set financial goals and worked toward achieving those goals.

The Eagle Scout has also set and worked toward fitness goals. He’s competed against himself in tests of aerobic endurance, flexibility, and muscular strength. He knows what it means to be physically, mentally, and socially fit.

He’s a good family member. He knows what things are important to the members of his family and has talked to his family about finances, drug abuse, and growing up.

All of these things he did in order to earn the merit badges required for Eagle. Beyond those, he earned 12 elective merit badges, which introduced him to such subjects as: Climbing, shooting, water sports and collecting to name a few.

## **Significance of Eagle Award (Option Three)**

### **Eagle Scout Badge**

The Eagle Badge represents accomplishments in scouting skills, in teamwork as a member and leader of his troop or patrol, and in Scout Spirit as represented by living the Scout Oath and Law.

Only about two percent of all boys who join Scouting in the United States achieve the Eagle Scout Award.

The Eagle Scout Award represents an understanding of the community and nation and a willingness on the wearer to help others.

The Eagle Scout Award stands for a job started by a boy when he first joined Scouting - a job started and finished.

The Eagle Scout Award stands for strength of character.

The Eagle Scout Award is a symbol of what a boy has done, but, more important, it represents what the boy will be in the future as he grows into manhood.

Here are some respected Eagle Scouts:

Henry Aaron – Baseball player, home run king – the Mobile Press Register quoted Henry as saying that the greatest positive influence in his life was his involvement in Scouting.

Neil Armstrong – astronaut, first man on the moon, from Wapakoneta, OH

Willie Banks – Olympic and world record holding track star

Michael Bloomberg – Mayor of New York City, founder of Bloomberg News

Bill Bradley – Pro basketball star and U.S. Senator from New Jersey

William Devries – M.D., transplanted first artificial heart

Michael Dukakis – Governor of Massachusetts, presidential candidate

Thomas Foley – Former Speaker of the House and U.S.

Representative from Washington

Gerald Ford – U.S. President (First Eagle to be President)  
James Lovell – Navy pilot and astronaut, President of National Eagle Scout Association. Flew on Gemini 7, 12, and Apollo 8, and 18. At one time had seen more sunrises than any other human being  
Richard Lugar – Senator from Indiana (presidential candidate 1996)  
J. Willard Marriott, Jr. – President of Marriott Corporation  
Michael Moore – Author and filmmaker  
H. Ross Perot – Self-made billionaire and presidential candidate  
Donald Rumsfeld – Secretary of Defense  
Sam Walton – Founder, Wal-Mart

## **Presentation of Eagle Scout Honorees**

**MC:** Will the honor guard please present the Eagle Scout Honorees?

The Honor Guard presents the Eagle Scouts.

## **Scout Advancement Report**

**MC:** Our next speaker is \_\_\_\_\_, who will give the Scout Advancement Report.

\_\_\_\_\_ talks. Gives advancement report.

## The Eagle Charge

Before charge: Eagle Badge Display is set up.

**MC:** Becoming Eagle Scouts is not the end of a journey; it is merely the beginning. As Eagles, you have far greater responsibilities than you had before. To explain those responsibilities, \_\_\_\_\_ will give the Eagle charge, and \_\_\_\_\_ will assist.

\_\_\_\_\_ gives the Eagle charge.

## Eagle Charge

Becoming an Eagle Scout is a great accomplishment; *being* an Eagle Scout is a great responsibility. As an Eagle, the Scout Oath and Scout Law should take on new meaning for you; the motto and slogan take on new urgency.

As an Eagle, your first obligation is to live with honor. You are a marked man, a leader; for good or ill, people will follow the example you set. Give up anything before you give up your reputation and good name. As Shakespeare said, "Mine honour is my life; both grow in one. Take honour from me, and my life is done." Let the white of the Eagle badge remind you of honor.

Your second obligation as an Eagle Scout is to be loyal. As a follower, you promised to be loyal to those above you. Now, as a leader, you must also be loyal to those below you, treating them as you would want to be treated. And you must also be loyal to your ideals, not letting others sway you from your course. Let the blue of the Eagle badge remind you of loyalty.

Your third obligation as an Eagle Scout is to be courageous. Stepping into your new role as a leader, you will face many challenges and obstacles. A ship in the harbor is safe, but that's not what ships are for. You must have the courage to do what is right, no matter what other people do or say. Let the red of the Eagle badge remind you of courage.

Your fourth obligation is to serve others, for a leader is above all a servant. Let the practice of the daily good turn lead to a lifetime of service, for only in giving of yourself do you give anything of value. Just as it always has, let the scroll on your badge remind you of service.

Your final obligation as an Eagle Scout is to have vision. As a leader, you must now blaze your own trail. Just as a bald eagle soaring high above the ground can look far into the distance, so too must you look far into the future. Many people will follow you; only with vision will you lead them in the right direction. Let the silver eagle hanging from your badge remind you of vision.

These then are your obligations as an Eagle Scout: honor, loyalty, courage, service, and vision. By meeting these obligations, you can lead your troop, your community, and your nation toward a better tomorrow.

## **The Eagle Scout Promise**

**MC:** Will \_\_\_\_\_ please come forward for the Eagle Promise?

\_\_\_\_\_ does the Eagle Promise.

## Eagle Promise

As our court of honor began today, you joined with your fellow Scouts in repeating the Scout Oath. Now, you will stand alone and repeat a new oath, the Eagle Scout Promise. Though the words you say are similar to those you've said so many times, today they will mean more to you than they ever have. When you pledge yourself on your sacred honor, you will be sealing your oath with the words which closed the Declaration of Independence.

I'd like all the Eagle Scouts in the audience to come forward and rededicate themselves by repeating the Eagle Scout Promise with our new Eagle Scouts.

Please make the Scout sign and repeat after me:

I reaffirm my allegiance  
To the three promises of the Scout Oath.  
I thoughtfully recognize  
And take upon myself  
The obligations and responsibilities  
Of an Eagle Scout.  
On my honor I will do my best  
To make my training and example,  
My rank and my influence  
Count strongly for better Scouting  
And for better citizenship  
In my troop,  
In my community,  
And in my contacts with other people.  
To this I pledge my sacred honor.

Two. (*To Eagles in audience*) Please be seated.

## Presentation of Eagle Awards

**MC:** It's now time for the highlight of our program: the presentation of the Eagle Scout Awards.

Mothers' pins

Fathers' pins

Neckerchiefs

Slides

Eagle Pins

Certificates

Mentor Pins

**MC:** Would the Scoutmaster please come forward to present the Eagle awards?

The Scoutmaster says, "Will the honorees' parents please come forward?"

The Scoutmaster says:

"\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, your parents have undoubtedly been your primary source of help and strength."

No one will ever know the unnumbered acts of self-sacrifice from your mothers. In recognition of your mothers' devotion, please present your moms with the Eagle Mothers' pins."

(\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ give pins to their moms)

“Your fathers have been the source of much advice and guidance along the Eagle trail. I’d like you to present your fathers these Eagle pins.”

(\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ give pins to their dads)

And now we will replace \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_’s neckerchiefs and slides with Eagle neckerchiefs and slides.

Then the Scoutmaster will put the Eagle pins on the New Eagle Scouts, (pause)

And the Scoutmaster will present the Scouts with their Eagle Certificates.

**MC:** And now, it gives me great pleasure to present to you, our newest Eagle Scouts, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_!

There should be a standing ovation here.

## Letters of Congratulations

**MC:** We're not through yet though. \_\_\_\_\_  
will now read excerpts from a couple of the congratulatory  
letters that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have  
received.

\_\_\_\_\_ reads letters.

## **Other Presenters**

**MC:** It is now time to hear from any special presenters or speakers.

This is a good place for the “Legend of the Rose” if you’re going to use it.

**MC:** Are there any other presenters or speakers?

Optional Indian headdress neckerchief slide can be presented here.

If not, we will now hear from Eagle Scouts\_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Eagles' Responses**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ speak.

\* Optional mentor pin presentation.

Before Closing

**MC:** Let's give our new Eagle Scouts one more round of applause.

## **Benediction**

**MC:** Will \_\_\_\_\_ please come forward  
and give our benediction.

\_\_\_\_\_ gives benediction.

## **Retirement of Colors**

\_\_\_\_\_ comes up for retirement of colors.

**MC:** This afternoon has indeed been a special afternoon. Thank you all for coming and participating in this wonderful event. Please join us at the reception. Good afternoon.