The Eagle Court of Honor Handbook

Welcome to the Eagle Court of Honor Handbook. This is a compilation of resources gathered from many places. You will find herein most of the Eagle Scout Ceremonies Handbook by Dan Demers, and also the Eagle Scout Court Of Honor Scripts FAQ from Fred Rogers. There was a great deal of overlap between these two documents, so it made sense to combine it all, along with other sources, into a new handbook. Wasn't it Einstein that said he stood on the shoulders of giants. Well, my sincere thanks to Dan, Fred and the many other people who have contributed to this handbook.

If you have ceremonies, charges, inspirational messages, poems, tips or complete scripts that would help us all plan Eagle Courts better, please send them to me at gary@macscouter.com.

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Introduction

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

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

Appropriate planning can insure a memorable Eagle recognition ceremony and award presentation, one that will not soon be forgotten by key participants. This pamphlet has been prepared for you to assist Scoutmasters, troop committee chairmen, advancement committeemen, and others in their planning. Recognizing that variety is an important feature of successful courts of honor, several different ceremonies and other materials are included. In addition, helpful comments are given regarding general pre-arrangements, features of a good Eagle award ceremony, and the Eagle charge. On behalf of all Eagles yet to be, it is hoped that your award presentations will always be performed with the sensitivity, care and dignity which the occasion deserves.

Acknowledgments

The EAGLE COURT OF HONOR HANDBOOK, by Gary Hendra, the MacScouter, is a compilation of material from many sources, including the following:

Don Demers' EAGLE SCOUT CEREMONIES HANDBOOK could not have been possible without the contributions from a lot of dedicated Scouters and Council folks.

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

Fred Rogers' EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR SCRIPTS FAQ was compiled from many sources. Most of the scripts were distributed originally by the National Eagle Scout Association or were taken from Woods Wisdom. Other scripts and information came from the Scouts-L Youth Groups Discussion List on the Internet and the rec.scouting newsgroup on Usenet.

In addition, contributions to this EAGLE COURT OF HONOR HANDBOOK have been gratefully received from Steve Aberle, saberle@olympic.brigadoon.com, Ben Parker, bparker@interaccess.com, Jack L. Eidson, Mike Walton -- Settumanque! the Blackeagle, Greg Gough, Joe Ulrich, julrich@cdcj089.cnp.cldx.com, Scott Drown, Paul Sweeney, sweeney@mdc.net, Ed Schmitt, and many others.

Preparing for the Eagle Court of Honor

General Pre-arrangements

As soon as the Eagle Scout presentation kit arrives, if not before, the Scoutmaster or troop committee chairman should begin serious preparations for the Eagle Scout Court of Honor. The Eagle candidate and his family should be invited to designate an award presenter who should then be contacted and his participation firmed up. If a hall or other facility is to be used for the ceremony, the necessary arrangements should be made with the owners or other responsible group as soon as possible.

In order to obtain letters of recognition and congratulations from government officials, the requests must be mailed a minimum of four weeks prior to the ceremony.

When the who, what, when, and where have been established, those who will actually plan the Court of Honor should be brought together. This group will usually include representatives from the troop committee, the patrol leaders council, and the troop ladies auxiliary (if the troop has one). Coordination should be established concerning such details as:

- Other advancement recognition
- Ceremony details, including props, public address system, and the movements of the participants
- Decorations
- Refreshments
- Invitations to the guests
- Printing of the program
- Publicity, with special emphasis on photographs in newspapers

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

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

Features Of A Good Eagle Ceremony

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

- The ceremony should have a crisp definitive opening.
- A proper introduction of the Eagle Scout candidate should be made by someone or some group the Scouts in the Troop respect.
- A complete and easy to understand explanation should be made regarding what must be accomplished to attain the Eagle Scout rank. (Explicit mention should be made of the candidate's Eagle Service project.)
- The Eagle candidate's parents should be escorted to the front of the room and should stand or sit near their son. (If neither of his parents is able to attend, his guardian, a close relative or friend should join him.)
- The Eagle candidate should reaffirm his belief in the ideals of Scouting by either reciting the Scout Oath or participating in the Eagle charge.

- The presenter should be someone of special significance to the Eagle candidate. The presenter should be given a few moments to speak concerning the individual Scout or the Eagle Award.
- Either the presenter, assisted by a troop committee member, the Scoutmaster, or the Scout's parents should pin the badge on the Eagle recipient.
- Both the mother and father should receive some recognition from the Eagle Scout himself.
- The Eagle Scout should receive congratulations from all people involved. All or some of the letters of congratulations may be read to those present.
- The Eagle Scout should be given the opportunity to say a few words if he is inclined to do so.
- The ceremony must have a definite closing.

Small Pitfalls To Avoid

In Eagle ceremonies, as in so many other areas of life, it is often the small things that cause the problems and ruin the big things. The following are small items that are often overlooked:

- When using candles for the ceremony, get a supply of fresh candles. Don't try to get by with candles that have previously been used. The Eagle ceremony is a big enough event to warrant fresh candles. Then, save them and use them for other purposes.
- Make sure you have matches or a working lighter available. A lot of people have given up smoking and it is more difficult to ask a group of people for matches and get a positive response.
- Check the PA system immediately before the start of the ceremony.
- Check all props before the start of the ceremony. This includes the lectern, any lights being used, the candles, etc.
- Remind the parents of the Eagle Scout that their son will be pinning awards on them also. They should dress in a way to facilitate this. The mother should wear a dress or suit with lapels or a blouse with a collar. This makes life for the Eagle Scout a lot simpler than a turtleneck sweater. The father should wear a tie or, at least, a jacket with lapels.
- Order the Eagle Presentation Kit as soon as word is received from National that the application has been approved. Council service centers do not always have them in stock and it may take several weeks to get one.
- PLEASE rehearse the ceremony. Stumbling over words detracts from the quality of the ceremony. The young man worked hard to achieve the rank of Eagle; we want to make the ceremony appropriate to his achievement.

Other General Thoughts

A guest book which can be signed by everyone who attends the Eagle Court of Honor makes a wonderful memento of the occasion for the new Eagle Scout.

Some of the ceremonies in this document include the presentation of a membership in the National Eagle Scout Association. Such a presentation can be added to any of the ceremonies. Consider presenting a NESA membership to the new Eagle Scout. Whether you present the membership or not, invite a representative of NESA to attend the ceremony and to say a few words as part of the ceremony.

All of the Courts of Honor in this document assume that the Eagle Scout comes from the "traditional family:" one mother and one father. This is not necessarily true. Be prepared to handle the exceptions by modifying the ceremonies, as appropriate. Some Eagle Scouts will be part of a single parent family while others will involve multiple sets of parents. Be sensitive to individual situations.

Finally, a word of advice to the mother of the Eagle Scout: enjoy the ceremony. Let someone else do the work of providing refreshments and decorating the hall. This day belongs to your son and to you; make it a day that you will remember fondly.

Eagle Court of Honor Execution

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

Some things to think about while planning the event:

- Make it simple, but keep it fun.
- The Master of Ceremonies (MC) sets the tone and the pace of the ceremony.
- Keep the aisle space clear for parading the colors.
- Use props with candles; Scout spirit candle.
- Make sure the candidate's parents sit in a special place.
- An Eagle Ceremony should be held separately from troop Court-Of-Honors.
- Master the lighting and sound system before a ceremony..
- Have the principle speakers sit close to the front to reduce program lag time in traveling to the podium.
- Have the troop march in with patrol flags, and sit together for colors.
- It is appropriate to let humor in and to expect the unexpected.
- Have the Eagle speak from prepared notes!
- Daytime window light may affect slide programs

Eagle Scout Publicity Plan

There are basic steps to follow in publicizing any Scouting event. The following suggestions will help unit leaders develop a media plan for the Eagle Scout Ceremony.

CONTACTS: Prepare a mailing list of the newspapers in your council, district, and unit area. These should be daily, weekly, religious, and school newspapers, business, church, organization, council and district newsletters.

BIO: Obtain detailed biographical material from the recipient and a 4"x 5" (or larger) black and white glossy photo, (some newspapers take their own photos.) Include Scouting honors and leadership positions, education, church, civic and school activities, and include the troop number and the Scoutmaster's name.

Prepare a one page double-spaced news release from the biographical material. This should be typed on a standard 8 1/2"x11" sheet of white paper. Be brief, use short words, always use exact dates, give age of the Scout, name the chartered organization and above all spell every word correctly.

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

Address and mail all news releases to the editor of your local newspaper and newsletters at least a week in advance of the presentation, or as soon as possible after the ceremony. Because of space limitations, most large newspapers deal exclusively with photos and captions of Eagle Scouts. Smaller suburban newspapers welcome photos and longer articles and are more likely to use them.

Invitations

The Eagle candidate should send out invitations to VIPs about 3 months before the actual ceremony. This allows time for busy politician and business leaders to respond to the candidate's invitation.

A Sample Invitation Letter

123 Main Street
Somewhere, USA
___ Month 19____

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 13 July 1998 at the First Banquet Hall of Fame at 2 PM in Mill Valley, Illinois. Your presence would greatly add to my receiving the Boy Scouts of America's highest honor, the Eagle Scout Award. I hope you will be able to attend my Eagle Court of Honor.

Yours in Scouting,

Sample Scout

A SAMPLE INVITATION LIST

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

THE HONORABLE _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

THE HONORABLE _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

For example, Paul Simon is a Senator from Illinois. His address would look like this:

The Honorable PAUL SIMON
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

When writing to the President of the United States, use the address below:

Mr. William Clinton
President Of The U. S.
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. Al Gore
Vice President Of The U. S.
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

Washington, D. C. 20500

Key leaders in your home town that you may consider sending an invitation to:

MAYOR
City of _____

Fire Chief
City of _____

Chief of Police
City of _____

Superintendent of Schools
Public Schools

Key BSA Council Staff to consider inviting:

- Council President
- District Chairman
- District Senior Executive
- Council Commissioner
- District Commissioner
- District Executive

Eagle Commendation Letters

It is common practice to write to a variety of government officials, celebrities, and others to request Commendation letters for a new Eagle Scout. These letters are then presented to the Eagle at the Court of honor, usually in the form or a scrap book. A list of possible addresses can be found at http://www.macscouter.com/Eagle/Addresses.html.

Troop 16 Eagle Scout Court of Honor Work Sheet

This is an example of instructions and a worksheet that can be adapted for your Troop, to give information to the Eagle candidate parents, and help them develop plans for the Eagle Court of Honor.

The Committee of Troop 16 sends our sincere Congratulations on achieving Scouting's highest honor, the rank of Eagle Scout. Every Eagle Scout is constantly looked up to as a special example of leadership and service. It is indeed a special accomplishment.

Because of the special significance of this award, we invite the Eagle Scout and his parents to assist in planning the Court of Honor, so it will always be a special memory for him. This guide has been prepared to help you in your choices. While there is an organized plan to the ceremony, there is also a good deal of flexibility, to accommodate any special people or events that you want to be part of the ceremony. If you want to make changes, please do so, and let us know what you would like to do. The Troop Committee will appoint someone to work with you throughout this process. Please note that it takes 6 to 8 weeks to make all the necessary arrangements, select teams, rehearse them, print invitations, etc.

General Information:

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

Please note we are a large Troop and the number attending the Court of Honor and reception can easily be 100 or more people.

Once a date, time and location have been determined, please notify us and the Troop will print invitations on standard BSA Eagle stationery. We will give these to you for addressing and mailing. The members of the Troop will all be invited by an enclosure in a regular Troop mailing. You may also have your own invitations printed if you prefer.

The Troop will also make the printed programs for the Court of Honor, based on the Program Worksheet enclosed, again on standard BSA stationery, unless you choose to provide your own. The Troop will provide scouts to serve as the Master of Ceremonies, ushers, the Color Guard, and the Dedication Team. The Troop will of course provide the Eagle award presentation kit which includes the Eagle Ribbon badge, cloth badge, Mother's miniature pin, Father's tie-tac, and Scout's miniature pin, as well as a framed Eagle certificate. Additionally, the Troop will prepare a binder for the Scout which will include (mounted in plastic sleeves) all congratulatory letters and a copy of the ceremony. The Troop will also pay for the Scout's initial (5 year) membership in the National Eagle Scout Association.

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

Court of Honor Program & Ceremony:

In planning the location and time, please remember the Troop needs to have access to the location a minimum of 1 hour before the ceremony, for setup and rehearsal by the various teams that will be performing. There is a worksheet attached which outlines the principal parts of the ceremony. Many items are indicated as optional. You may include them or not as you choose. The choice to include any kind of music, such as a hymn or the camp song is optional. If you want a organist or other musician for accompaniment of music you will need to ask them yourself. The Master of Ceremonies will usually be the Senior Patrol Leader of the Troop, but you may select another Scout if you choose.

The Color Guard will usually be composed of Troop members, but you may select other scouts if you desire. The 'Dedication Team' will be composed of Troop 16 boys because this ceremony is unique to the history of Troop 16. You may choose the boys to participate on this team or leave it up to the SPL.

The Call of the Eagle is an audio or video tape special presentation. Its use is optional.

The choice of Speakers is up to you, or we will help with suggestions. The main purpose is for various adults, in different aspects of the Scout's life, to briefly tell of the effort and accomplishment of the Scout in the area of experience they know him. It is not necessary to have all 5, but there should be at least 3, ending with the Scoutmaster. The speaker representing the BSA may be a Scouter from another Troop, a District or Council Executive. The speaker for the Church usually represents the church where the COH is performed or someone from the Scout's own religious training. A significant teacher or perhaps someone from the community, perhaps with whom the Scout worked on his Eagle Project, is another possibility. The Scout may have another personal or scouting mentor, a person from the OA Lodge perhaps, or a relative of significance to his achievement. Lastly, will be the Scoutmaster, who will relate the Scout's record of accomplishments and scouting history in the Troop.

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

The Eagle Scout is expected to say a few words in acceptance of his award, perhaps thanking particular people who have been of special help along his trail as well as inspiring others Scout's still working the Trail to Eagle. The Scoutmaster will then read from various letters of congratulations and recognition from political figures or others unable to attend. This may be followed by an optional closing hymn and then the closing flag ceremony.

After the Court of Honor:

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

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

Troop 16 Eagle Scout Court of Honor Work Sheet

for Eagle Scout _____

Date_____ Time_____

Location_____

Suggested Program Outline (ver# _____)

(greeting & seating by ushers)

Call to Order (SPL or _____)

Opening Flag Ceremony (Color Guard)

Invocation (optional) _____

Opening Hymn (optional) _____

Re-dedication of Eagle candidate to Scout Oath & Law (Troop 16 Team)

Speakers: (minimum of three)

For the Boy Scouts of America _____

For the Church _____

For the Community or School _____

For the Scout _____

For the Troop (Scoutmaster or _____)

The Eagle Scout Challenge (SM or _____)
(incl. all other Eagles present)

The Eagle Scout Charge (SM or _____)

Award Presentation (Eagle Scout & parents)

Acceptance & Recognition (Eagle Scout & SM)

Closing Hymn (optional) _____

Closing Flag Ceremony (Color Guard)
(w / Scout Benediction)

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

Eagle Recognition Ceremonies

The ceremonies in this handbook are dignified, and if well conducted, should be very impressive. A troop can combine different elements of ceremonies to fit their needs, or can follow a ready made ceremony. In some, emphasis has been placed on the important role the parents have in their son's success. The Scout's relationship to his Scoutmaster is also recognized, as is the importance of the Eagle Scout as a citizen in his community, and country.

A Court of Honor for an Eagle Scout should be simple enough to be readily understood, yet inspirational enough to make a lasting, memorable impression on all who attend. It is intended that these ceremonies will be helpful in encouraging Troops to develop new ceremonies of their own along lines already proven effective. Let every Eagle Court of Honor in your troop be the best it can be.

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.

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

CHAIRMAN: Awarding the Eagle Badge of rank is an important and serious matter. It is the goal toward which this Scout has been working for several years. It is the culmination of effort by his parents and Scout Leaders. It is an occasion for pride and for joy, but, it is also a time for serious contemplation.

The Eagle 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 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, 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 and are you willing to adopt it?

CANDIDATE: I am.

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

(A Life Scout in the audience interrupts.)

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

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

LIFE: 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: 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: I am.

(A Tenderfoot Scout in the audience interrupts.)

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

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

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 the Life rank, this Scout has held leadership positions in his troop. Also, he has been active in school, church, and community activities.

CHAIRMAN: Are you now satisfied?

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.

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

EAGLE #1: I am an Eagle Scout, and the pride that I have in this badge that I wear over my heart gives me the right to so challenge.

CHAIRMAN: On what grounds do you challenge?

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

BOARD: 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.

CHAIRMAN: Are you now satisfied?

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

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

EAGLE #2: The first responsibility of an Eagle Scout is to live with honor, which to an Eagle is sacred. Honor is the foundation of character -- it is what a person really is, down inside, not what someone may think he is. An Eagle will live so as to reflect credit upon his home, church, school, friends, upon Scouting, and upon himself. May the white of your Eagle badge always remind you to live with honor.

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

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

EAGLE #5: The final responsibility of an Eagle Scout is service. He extends a helping hand to those who toil up the Scouting trail he has completed, just as others helped him in his achievement of the Eagle rank. The habit of the daily Good Turn must take on new meaning and blossom forth into a life of service. The Eagle protects and defends the weak and the helpless. He aids and comforts the oppressed and the unfortunate. He upholds the rights of others while defending his own. His code of honor is based upon the belief that leadership is founded upon real service.

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

Lighting the Eagle Trail Ceremony

SETTING:

- Two lecterns, with lights, placed on either side of the stage, will simplify the presentation.
- A single lighted candle is placed on a table in front of the moderator..
- 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 (Assistant Scout Master or other Troop leader)
- Speaker #2 (Assistant Scout Master or other Troop leader)
- Scout Master
- 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 spend a great deal of time and effort. Therefore, the occasion that recognizes his accomplishments should be memorable. Tonight, we shall follow Light the Eagle trail as we recognize the accomplishments of (Eagle candidates name).

When a boy becomes a Boy Scout there is within him something that we call the spirit of Scouting. This single lighted candle before you represents that spirit. Because the spirit of Scouting embodies the principles of the Scout Oath and Law, it becomes a shining beacon of inspiration. Alone, this light may seem feeble, but when multiplied by the more than three and a half million boys in Scouting around the world, it is powerful indeed. After a boy enters Scouting, the Scout Law that he promises to obey begins to guide his life. One by one, using the flame from the spirit of Scouting, we shall light the symbols for each part of the Scout Law. There are 12 parts; each is an important foundation in the building of strong character.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Tenderfoot badge is the first rank a Scout receives. It stands at the foot of the Eagle 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 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 symbol.)

While the rank of Life Scout is a coveted one, and deserving to 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 ledges of personal achievement and mountain pastures of troop accomplishment. Mile by mile, the trail becomes more trying. Many challenges must be conquered in these last miles. Before the highest summit along the Eagle Trail can be completed, additional merit badges must be earned. Some of them are very difficult and leadership and service to others are not forgotten. Only with the greatest persistence and courage can the Scout gain the thrill of victory that comes while looking back down the trail, from the very top of the Eagle summit.

SM: Eagle candidate [Scout's name], you are to be 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 candidate's uniform.)

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

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

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

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

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

MODERATOR: Will the audience please rise and give Eagle Scout [Scout's name], 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 are invited to the reception immediately after our closing.

The Light of the Eagle I Ceremony

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

PARTICIPANTS

- Master of Ceremonies (MC)
- Honor Guard

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

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

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

MC: The Eagle Award is a culmination of the effort of many leaders of this Scout. It is an occasion for pride and joy and a time for serious contemplation. It is the highest rank in Scouting, and the most coveted of all awards in Scouting. It is the last major step in the Scouting advancement program. If Troop leaders have not achieved their purpose with this scout in the building of character, in the training of

cannot be false to any man. Neither pain nor profit, pride nor personal loss shall swerve him in his loyalty. May the blue of your badge remind you always to be loyal.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CANDIDATE: I am.

MC: By the authority vested in this court of honor by the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, and by recommendation of the persons who have investigated your credentials, your leadership practice and your character, this court hereby awards the rank of Eagle Scout to _____. The charge to this worthy Eagle will be given by Mr. _____.

CHARGE: (Choose an Eagle Charge or Pledge from Chapter 13.)

The Light of the Eagle II Ceremony

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

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

(VOICE OF THE EAGLE)

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

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

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

4. The third responsibility of an Eagle Scout is to be courageous. Courage is a quality by which men measure in themselves and others. To a Scout, bravery means not only the courage to face physical danger, but the determination to stand up for his rights. Trusting in God with faith in his fellow citizen, he looks forward to each day, seeking his share of the world's work. (Light the red portion of the ribbon on the light box.) May the red of the Eagle badge always remind you of courage.

5. The fourth responsibility of an Eagle Scout is to be cheerful. To remind the Eagle Scout to always wear a smile, the red, white, and blue ribbon is attached to the scroll of the Second Class Scout Award , which has its ends turned up in a smile. (Light the scroll on the light box.)

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

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

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

PRESENTATION OF THE AWARD, ETC. ETC.

A Simple Eagle Scout Ceremony

SETTING:
The colors are posted in the front of the room with other appropriate candles and Eagle paraphernalia 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 the 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 ____ has had on the lives of boys since it held its first charter in 19___. We pray for continued blessings on this troop, its leaders, its troop committee, and its sponsor through the years ahead. 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 development of our day. Eagle Candidate [Scout's name] you have been deemed worthy of the highest rank in its membership. All who know you rejoice in your achievement. Your position, as you well know, is one of honor and responsibility. You are 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 counselors. The board of review carefully checked the record of this candidate for leadership in his troop, school affairs, church association, in 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 inquires 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, [Scout's name], the rank of Eagle.

(Here, the parents would be recognized, the presentation made, and while the new Eagle Scout is pinning the 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.)

Order of the Arrow Ceremony I

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

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

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

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

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

SCOUTMASTER: Yes, he has.

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

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

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

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

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

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

CANDIDATE: No.

ALLOWAT: Then please stand and with the Scout sign, recite the Scout Oath, slowly and clearly.

CANDIDATE: (Repeat the Scout Oath slowly.)

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

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

ALLOWAT: Without the love and guidance of understanding parents, a boy is severely handicapped. Your parents have watched you grow and develop. They have worked with you in health, nursed you in sickness, guided your thoughts and actions, and helped you in untold ways. Your Adult Leaders have been a strength to lean on. One of them was always there in times of trouble and for help. Your home influence will last throughout your life. I ask your parents to stand beside you as a symbol that they will continue to help the young Eagle to grow in the qualities of leadership and citizenship that a true Eagle must have.

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

KINET: As a token of your willingness to continue your support for this young Eagle, I ask Mrs. _____ to pin the Eagle badge on your son.

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

CANDIDATE: Yes.

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

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

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

CANDIDATE: Yes.

KINET: Then you have the honor to give your father the miniature Eagle Tie Pin.
ALLOWAT: As Ceremonial Chief, I now call upon Mr. _____, to give the new Eagle the charge.

Mr. _____: (Any of the many charges may be used.)

(When the charge is finished, the four winds step up to the new Eagle Scout, one at a time, and tap him on the right shoulder three times, as Mr. _____ reads.)

Always remember Eagle Scout [Scout's name], the words of the EAST WIND, to be TRUSTWORTHY, LOYAL, and HELPFUL. The words of the WEST WIND, tells one to be FRIENDLY, COURTEOUS, and KIND. The words of the SOUTH WIND urges one to be OBEDIENT, CHEERFUL, and THRIFTY. Finally, the words of the NORTH WIND, the most powerful of all admonishes, one to be BRAVE, CLEAN and REVERENT.

(Mr. _____ returns to his seat.)

ALLOWAT: I now welcome you, Eagle Scout [Scout's name], to the summit of your trail. the Eagle is

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

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

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

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

Allowat 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, candidate, make the Scout sign and state the Scout Oath slowly and clearly to renew this promise which you first made many moons ago.

Candidate: (Repeats the Scout Oath slowly.)

Scoutmaster: This court recognizes candidate 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, his church, his school, his friends, and upon himself. May the white of your badge remind you to live with honor.

West Wind: (Places the blue candle into the candle holder). The second 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 of Eagle emblem remind you of courage.

(Kichkinet takes candle from candidate and extinguishes it.)

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

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 extinguished the three candles.)

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

East Wind: Remember the common law: trustworthy, loyal, helpful.

West Wind: Remember the law of equity: friendly, courteous, kind.

South Wind: Remember the civil law: obedient, cheerful, thrifty.

North Wind: Remember the divine law, the most powerful of all: brave, clean, reverent.

Scoutmaster: We now present Eagle Scout name with the highest award of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout.

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

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

(The new Eagle Scout speaks.)

(After the Eagle Scout has spoken, the drummer begins beating the drum.)

Allowat 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.

(All proceed out in the same order as they entered).

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

The Voice of the Eagle Ceremony

SETTING:
Pictures of the Scout ranks are arranged in a semicircle across the front of the room. They are spaced out far enough so that the candidate and his escorts have room to walk from one to the next. The Eagle card is at the center, and slightly to the rear of the others. The Eagle is candidate 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, and you should profit by making sure that the adverse ones do not occur again. Experience is a valuable teacher if you heed its teachings.

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

SECOND READER: But not for long, for soon you reached the first ledge where you were greeted by a group of Second Class Scouts.

Some, like yourself, were stopping to catch their breath before continuing along the Eagle trail. You began to study more, you worked harder, and almost before you knew it, you came to another ledge, the ledge where First Class Scouts dwell.

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

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

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

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

Will Mr. _____(Scoutmaster)_____, please escort to the front, Eagle candidate [Scout's name] to receive his Eagle Badge of Rank.

(Here follows the normal recognition of the candidate's parents, the actual presentation, etc. See the examples in this manual for ideas as to where to go from here.)

Parents' Ceremony

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

CEREMONY:
The MC/SPEAKER recognizes and commends the Scoutmaster and all other Scouters for their work in helping these boys to become Eagle Scouts.

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

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

The MC/SPEAKER'S speech includes 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, in Scouting, can qualify for Scouting's highest rank of Eagle because:

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

"I am happy to report that our review reveals that this Scout has (these Scouts have) qualified in the requirements for personal character and good citizenship. In addition to the technical requirements for the Eagle Badge of rank."

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

- "Do you realize that you will have a greater responsibility as an Eagle Scout?"
- "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 recommit yourself to the Scout Oath?" (Here the Eagle Scout candidate moves one pace forward and gives the Scout sign.)

  "Rededicate yourself by reciting the Scout Oath?"
  (Each mother invests her son with the insignia of the Eagle Badge. The new Eagle Scout gives his mother the traditional miniature eagle.)
  (The son stands at the right of his mother, and his father stands at the left of his mother.)

(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 of the parents in his right hand and makes a statement like the following.)

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

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

Citizenship Ceremony

This Eagle ceremony is ideal for more than one candidate.

SETTING:
(In the VIP area or on a stage or platform are seated the Mayor of the city, the chairperson of the court of honor, and the 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 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 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 chosen worthy of this high rank in the Boy Scouts of America. All who know you rejoice in your achievement. Your position, as you well know, is one of honor and responsibility. You are a marked man. As an Eagle Scout, you have assumed a solemn obligation to do your duty to God, to country, to your fellow Scouts and to humanity.

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

CITATION TO Scout [Scout's name],

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 achieved Star rank on _____. You received additional badges and awarded the Life rank on _____. You have earned the following badges: (List the badges here.)

In addition to these badges you were recommended by your parents, your teachers, your Scoutmaster and others whom we rely. The court of honor believes you will be a first class citizen, always worthy of your Eagle Badge of rank.

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

This statement signed by the president of the council, Scout Commissioner, Chairperson of the court of honor, District Commissioner, Scoutmaster, and Scout Executive.

Officially presented by: _____

Mayor of the city of _____

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 persons 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 stage, forming a semicircle 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 member 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 have one of these representative 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./Ms. _____ to be the first person in this picture. Also later we will ask him/her to be the first person to start the Eagle 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 appointed by the council president. Our National Council Office forwards the Eagle badge to the local council. We have asked Mr./Ms. _____ 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-chairmen, and members of the district committee, appointed by the district chairman. As the National Council forwards the Eagle Badge to the council for awarding, so the council forwards the badge to the district. We will therefore ask Mr./Ms. _____ 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 (or Rabbi)

The institution that helps all of us most is the church, (synagogue) from the cradle to the grave she is ever with us. We are proud that Scouting is privileged to help in her work. We have asked the Eagle candidate's Pastor (Rabbi) to be with us for the awarding of this Eagle Badge of rank. Reverend (Rabbi) _____ of the _____ Church (Synagogue), 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./Ms.) _____ of the _____ school. Will you please take your place in our picture next to the Reverend.

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 and 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 twelve 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. is seated and MC takes over the podium.)

MC: The Eagle candidate Scout [Scout's name], and his parents are escorted to the stage by members of the Troop.

(To Eagle candidate) You are almost at the summit that you have been diligently seeking to reach. Please take the candle representing 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)

MC: (Addressing Troop Committee Chairman or Advancement Chairman) Mr. _____, Chairman of the Troop Committee, has Scout [Scout's name] conducted himself in a manner that exemplifies meaning of Scouting.

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

MC: Thank you Mr. _____, for your report. Will Mr. _____, representing the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, will 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 [Scout's name], please step forward, render the Scout sign and repeat after me:

I, [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: Now Eagle Scout [Scout's name], the eyes of all Scouting -- yes, the eyes of the world are trained upon you. Let me remind you that the tradition of the Eagle is high. May you 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 Scout [Scout's name], 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.

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 would have been all but impossible.

(To all) Immediately after the benediction and retreat of the colors, you may congratulate Eagle Scout [Scout's name].

PASTOR: Benediction and retreat.

History Of The Eagle And Man Ceremony

SETTING:
Room is in darkness. Flags are still in place at the front of the room from the opening ceremony. At the front is a table with one lighted candle representing the light of Scouting. In front of this candle, one each, red, white, and blue, unlighted. Behind the lighted 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 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 [Scout's name] for the award of Eagle Scout.

The parents and Scout leaders of the Eagle candidate whom we honor tonight have labored long and faithfully to develop him toward alert and participating citizenship through the Boy Scout program. Their efforts culminate this evening in the presentation of the Eagle 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 [Scout's name], where he will be prepared to receive the highest rank conferred by the Boy Scouts of America, that of Eagle Scout.

[The honor guard, composed of Eagle Scouts will escort the Eagle 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 worshipped 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 outstretched wings. The silver eagle was the symbol of the republic and the Roman Empire used the golden eagle as its symbol. I became the personal emblem of the Caesars, representing supreme authority.

In the Middle Ages, I became the symbol of Germany. 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 the early Christians, the eagle was the symbol of ascension. This was due to the strong flight of the eagle with its gaze fixed on the sun. In early icons I was best known as the symbol of St. John the Evangelist.

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

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

From this early beginning, I have been used in many ways to symbolize the ideals of this country. Several states have the eagle on their state flags. You can find me on the coins of America from the beginning to present day.

I have a prominent place in America as in ancient Rome as a symbol of power and authority. The emblems of the President, vice-president, several members of the President's cabinet, and most branches of the armed forces center on the eagle.

From the god of the Assyrians to the symbol of the Caesars to the emblem of this country, it was thus fitting that the eagle should have a part in the most momentous achievement of man. The Apollo 11 crew chose Eagle as the name for the lunar module which was to make history. And with the words of Eagle Scout Neil Armstrong -- "Houston, Tranquillity 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, _____, [name and title of guest speaker] will confer upon you the award of Eagle Scout. However, I am sure you will agree that some special persons should be accorded the privilege of standing with you and in some measure sharing these high honors.

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

[Parents take places on 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 for a few minutes about the Eagle Award or the Eagle candidate. He speaks from a position near the candidate. He concludes his speech with the following sentence.]

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

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

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

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

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

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

MC: In recognition of fatherly advice and guidance along the trail to Eagle, I ask _____, 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 them both to the Eagle's father, who then reads the letter aloud and presents them both to the Eagle.]

MC: The court thanks Mr. _____ for coming tonight and assisting in the presentation of the Eagle Award to [Scout's name].

NESA REPRESENTATIVE: [Scout's name], by virtue of your 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, receiving other honors and awards, always remember this night when you became an Eagle Scout.

[He then gives him the NESA membership.]

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

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

[Scout's name], I have the honor to give you the Eagle 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.

mankind in general. This is a great undertaking. As you live up to your obligations, you bring honor to yourself and to your brother Scouts.

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

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

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

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

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

[Announce reception to follow.]

A Brief Eagle Ceremony

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

PARTICIPANTS:

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

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 [Scout's name]. Will everyone please stand and will the escorts please bring forward the Eagle Scout to the front of the room.

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

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

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

[Eagle Scout repeats the Scout Oath.]

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

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

[Scout master removes old neckerchief and replaces it with Eagle Scout Neckerchief. This is different from the NESA white neckerchief, this one is blue and silver.]

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

SCOUTMASTER: Just like your past progress along the trail, you did not go it alone. Your fellow Patrol and Troop members assisted you greatly . Your friends and those in your community supported you while you completed the service projects in the Troop. But your parents supported you throughout and it is at this time I ask them to please join us here. Will the Eagle escort s please bring Mr. and Mrs. _____ forward to join their son.

toward Eagle. Also, it is possible to add a presentation of a membership in the National Eagle Scout Association.

-- Thanks to Mike Walton, Settumanque! the Blackeagle.

A Re-dedication Ceremony In Troop 16

A Ceremony for Eagle Scout Re-dedication to the Scout Oath & Law

(Props needed: Troop 16 "Induction" birch log candle rack and candles, matches)
[Note: this is 3 tiered birch logs, mounted on a post. 1 candle on the highest log, 3 candles on the middle, 12 on the lowest]

(Personnel: 1 Boy Scout leader (SPL?) and 6 Scouts for Scout Law, all in full Class A uniform)

SPL: (to audience) We are about to re-dedicate ourselves to the Scout Oath and Law.

(to team) Team members prepare yourselves.

(pause a moment, while 'scout law team' assembles in front of candle racks,
SPL steps behind center candle rack. When all is ready and quiet:)

SPL: My Brothers, Once before you stood here with your Fellow Scouts. I will now remind us all of our determination to always be true and faithful to the obligations of a Boy Scout. (SPL lights 1 candle.)

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

You see before you 3 candles, each symbolizing a part of the Scout Oath. The center candle represents your Duty to God and Country, and to obey the Scout Law. (light center candle)

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

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

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

(1st scout comes forward, in front of candle racks, turns to face candidates, makes the scout sign and says A Scout is Trustworthy. As he speaks, SPL lights 1st candle. REPEAT FOR EACH LAW.)

(when all 12 laws have been done)

SPL: Will Eagle Scout Candidate [Scout's name] please come forward. (candidate does so)

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

(to audience) Will all Scouts and Scouters please rise, and raise your right hand in the Scout sign and say with us the Scout Oath.

On my Honor... (all do so)

SPL: Two. You may be seated.

(Team and Eagle Scout candidate return to seats, audience sits)

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

An Eagle Scout

Setting: (A brief opening ceremony. the colors are posted in the front of the room. Other appropriate candles and Eagle paraphernalia are in place. Scoutmaster, Ceremony participants, and family of the Eagle candidate are seated in the front row. Visiting Scouts and Scouters are also near the front.)

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

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

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

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

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

MC: The Scouting movement constitutes one of the most wholesome and significant developments of our day. You have been deemed worthy of high rank in its membership. all who know you rejoice in your achievement. Your position, as you will know, is one of honor and responsibility. You are now a marked man; as an Eagle Scout, you will be asked to assume a solemn obligation to do your duty to God, to your country, to your fellow Scouts, and to your fellow citizens. As this is a great undertaking, it is therefore right and proper that a board of review make a careful examination of each candidate prior to the presentation of an Eagle Award. This candidate has presented a record of merit badges earned and these have been carefully checked against council records and certified by duly appointed merit badge counselors. the board of review has carefully checked the record of this candidate as to leadership in his troop. School affairs, church association, in his community, and in the conduct of his Eagle service project. this candidates has demonstrated his capacity and willingness to exert leadership in activities that are constructive and worthwhile. It has been satisfactorily established by the board of review that this candidate is putting into daily practice the principles of the Scout Oath and Law. In light of the inquiries made, and the favorable results in each case, the board of review has found this candidate qualified and has authorized the court of honor to bestow on you, ____name____, the rank of Eagle.

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

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

-- Thanks to George Crowl

An Alternate Opening Ceremony

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

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

(First candle is lit at Tenderfoot, then proceed, one at a time.)

1. I am the Tenderfoot. 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 molded together in justice, and an eagle to guard the freedom of my land.

2. I am the Second Class. The ends of my scroll are turned up in the willing smile of the Scout. On my face is our motto, "Be Prepared," and suspended from me is the knot, tied there to remind you of the slogan of the Boy Scouts of America, "Do a Good Turn Daily."

3. I am the First Class. I was Tenderfoot and I laid my course by the stars of truth and knowledge and girded myself with the righteousness of justice and freedom. I added a smile that I might be a friend to all and bound myself together with the knot of duty to others.

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

5. I am the Life. I have shown the world that Scouting is in my heart. I have mastered knowledge of subjects that will benefit my country and my fellowman. I am ready to reach for my wings to fly.

6. I am the Eagle. It has been a long, hard--but wonderful -- road. I have mastered my goal. With deep humility I now stand as a representative of the best that Scouting can accomplish in the lives of boys. May I now pass on to my younger brothers a portion of my knowledge.

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

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

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

MC: Scouting is no doubt one of the greatest organizations in the world to foster the highest ideals of citizenship. It is little wonder then that so many of our nation's greatest leaders had some of their earliest leadership experiences in Scouting. Now Scouting is changing, but one thing remains constant, and that

is that the total development from boyhood to manhood depends upon physical, mental, and moral growth expressed in the Scout Oath. The skills are so demanding and the challenges are so great that it is not surprising to learn that only about two percent of all boys in Scouting achieve the rank of Eagle Scout each years. When most boys enter Scouting they picture themselves as some day becoming Eagle Scouts, but as you know, there are just too many activities and interests clamoring for their attention and the flames that were burning aspirations dim to ashes and flicker away and they stop short.

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

(At this time, the Eagle candidates are introduced to the court, and the presentation ceremonies continue as in other examples in this manual.)

-- Thanks to George Crowl

Eagle Pledges

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.

Eagle 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 for greater advancement and participation. I will conduct myself in a manner fitting and proper for one of this high rank. I will do my best, to give leadership in service whenever I can. This I promise to do always.

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 of Eagle Scout.

On my honor, I will do my best to make my training an example,
and make my rank and influence strongly count
for better scouting and for 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 of 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 privilege and pleasure 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 [Scout's name].

-- Thanks to Steve Aberle, saberle@olympic.brigadoon.com

The Eagle Scout Charge

Welcome To A New Eagle

Eagle Scout candidate [Scout's name], as a representative of the Eagle Scouts of the _____ Council, I welcome you to the brotherhood of Eagle Scouts. Barely more than 2 percent of the boys who enter Scouting achieve what you have been recognized for 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 a Scouting functions, Scouters will recognized 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, 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 [Scout's name] you travel as a marked man, an Eagle Scout!!

The Eagle Scout Charge

The Boy Scouts of the world constitute one of the most wholesome and significant movements in history, and you [Scout's name], have been counted worthy of this highest rank in its membership, all who know you rejoice in your achievement.

Your position, as you well know, is one of honor and responsibility. You are a marked man. As an Eagle Scout, you have assumed a solemn obligation to do your duty to God, to Country, to 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. If you fail, you bring down the good name of all true and worthy Scouts.

Your responsibility goes beyond your fellow Scouts -- to your Country and your God. America has many good things to give you and your children after you; but these good things depend on the qualities she instills in her citizens. You are prepared to help America in all that she needs most. She has a great past, and you are here to make her future 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 your fellow men -- to finest living. We have too many who use their strength and their intellect to exploit others for selfish gains. 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 do, you will leave behind you a record of which every Scout may be proud.

_____
Scoutmaster Troop ____

Eagle Scout Challenge

The Boy Scouts of all nations constitute one of the most wholesome and significant influences in the world's history. You have been declared worthy of the high rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. All who know you rejoice in your achievement.

Your position, as you well know, is one of honor and responsibility. You are a marked man. As an Eagle Scout, you are expected to exemplify in your daily life the high principles and values expressed in the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. You have assumed a solemn obligation to do your duty to God, to your country, to your fellow scouts, and to all other human beings. This is a great undertaking which you are now just beginning. As you live up to your obligations you bring honor to yourself and to your brother scouts.

As an Eagle Scout, you will be a champion to other scouts and be an example to your community. Remember, your actions will be more conspicuous. People will expect more of you. It is your responsibility to help maintain the high regard that all Americans have for Eagle Scouts. To falter would bring discredit, not only to you, but to your fellow Eagles. Keep your ideals high and your honor bright.

Your responsibilities, however, go beyond your fellow scouts. They extend to your country and to your God. America has many good things to give you, and to give your children after you; but these good things depend, for the most part, on the quality of her citizens. Our country has had a great past. You can help make the future even greater.

I challenge you to undertake your citizenship with solemn dedication. Be a leader, but lead only toward the best. Lift up every task you do, and every office you hold, with a high level of service to God and to your fellow human beings. Live and serve so that those who know you will be inspired to the highest ideals of life.

I challenge you to be among those who dedicate their hearts and hands to the common good. Build America on the solid foundations of clean living, honest work, unselfish citizenship, and reverence to God. Then, whatever others may do, you will leave behind you a record of which you may be justly proud.

-- Thanks to Steve Aberle, saberle@olympic.brigadoon.com

The Eagle's 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, in an effort to perpetuate the Scouting Spirit. It also represents years of hard work, strength of character, persistence and, more important, 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 his hard work, it also signifies 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 his 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 the badge 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 fellowman, 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 the badge remind you of courage.

The fourth obligation is Responsibility. and 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 Scouts.

The fifth and final obligation is that of Service. This obligation is represented by the Eagle. 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?

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 Eagle Challenge from the Voice of the Eagle

(To be read by Scoutmaster and 4 other Eagle Scouts present)

Leader: 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 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 color of the Eagle badge remind you always to live with honor.

Person 1: 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.

Person 2: The third obligation of an Eagle Scout is to be COURAGEOUS. Courage has always been a quality by which men measure themselves and others. To a Scout, bravery means not only the courage to face physical danger, but the determination to stand up for the right. Trusting in God, with faith in his fellow man, he looks forward to each day, seeking his share of the world's work to do. Let the red of the Eagle badge remind you always of courage.

Person 3: 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, which has its ends turned up in a smile.

Person 4: 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 on his climb to the Eagle. The performance of a daily Good Turn takes on 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.

Leader: 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 Scout Law be your guide for tomorrow and onward.

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

Weston Eidson's Eagle Scout Award -- August 25, 1996

I once knew a young scout who was reluctant to meet the requirements to achieve the Eagle rank. He might have had notions that some of his friends might think that he was not cool or that they might poke fun at him. He possibly concluded that some of the girls might think he was a nerd, a geek, a dork or something even worse. Heaven forbid if he were ever caught dressed up in his uniform or if he had to blow off "hanging around" in order to attend scout activities. After all, he reasoned, it was a lot of work and he had better things to do. In the end, however, supplied with ample motivation from his parents, he squeaked by the Eagle requirements by a hair and received the award. Before the award, he had felt a tremendous rush of guilt in needing to please his parents. After the award, he began carrying another load of guilt for receiving something he believed he did not completely deserve. Oh sure, he had fulfilled the physical requirements, if only marginally. However, he knew inside that he had not fully committed his heart to the project. For this young man, the pride of the moment belonged to his parents...not him! So this new Eagle just buttoned up his feelings in silence and moved on.

If this young man were here today, I think he would advise any scout with similar feelings that, despite those feelings, it IS OK to go ahead and do the work and receive the award without consulting friends. He would also advise that it IS OK to harbor those guilt feelings relating to his motivations. He would then explain that doing the required work, earning the merit badges and having the Eagle Medal pinned on by his mother were only the beginning of the Eagle Scout experience. . . not the end.

As this young Eagle Scout grew into full manhood and a more mature bearing replaced his youthful notions, several things came to light. Ever more frequently, he would find himself reaching back, almost in autonomic reaction, into his subconscious Eagle-Scout data base for little tidbits of information or skill to meet some daily or extraordinary demand of life. A few years later, the realization began to hit home that he had actually learned something from his scouting program. A new level of nostalgia and appreciation began to form. Upon reflection, he had re-discovered that:

1. Honest, wholesome and tolerant relationships with people from all walks of life were first founded in scouting;
2. Leadership, organizational skills and sound work habits were first practiced and tested in scouting;
3. Appreciation and knowledge of nature and the ability to provide root-smart solutions to common problems reflect the scouting experience;
4. Ability to react calmly and decisively to emergencies, large or small, is based on scout training and discipline;
5. Patriotic service to one's country had its formative roots in scouting; and
6. Respect for family, love of the flag and devotion to God were first.. . foundations of scouting.

The sum of all of these attributes may be called one's values or one's character. The aging scout now realized that he had always sensed the presence of these character attributes as if they were a second nature. The silent voice of a code of conduct and honor speaking to him from deep within. A hidden compass! Indeed, a compass aligned in no small part by his scouting experience from long ago.

However, his practice of these attributes in daily life had not been and is not now an easy task. There had been moments of temptation or failure, always accompanied by the characteristic queasy, uneasy feelings of having done the wrong thing or from not having done his best. The consolation for such disappointments was his knowledge that as long as the character still resided within him, it could be recalled and recharged. Mistakes and missteps could be dealt with.

Nope... The process of earning one's Eagle Scout award does not end with this ceremony. Weston, you, as well as every Eagle Scout, are charged with the lifelong commitment of keeping an ever vigilant eye on that hidden compass and of making continuous corrections to your course. Such corrections will prove most self-gratifying as they scratch the itch of that deeply rooted Eagle Scout Character. This is what the old Eagle Scout learned about himself after years of self examination. In the final analysis...he realized that he didn't do it to please his parents...his parents did it for him! So, Weston...just in case...don't forget to thank your Mom and Dad for their wonderful gift. Congratulations and good luck!

-- Thanks to Jack L. Eidson, Jr. August 25, 1996

Closing Ceremonies

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

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

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

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

MC: This court of honor is now closed.

Poems & Inspirational Pieces

It's Only A Pin

The following poem was contributed 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 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.

Eagle Poem

Fond parents watch their boy where he stands
apart from his friends tonight
as the y 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 the of his new scout badge
as he told them the message it bore.

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

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

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

And the outflinging wings of the eagle scout badge
on the breast of this knight of today
are the things which will lift him above petty deeds
and guide him along the right way.

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

-- Thanks to Paul Sweeney, sweeney@mdc.net, ASM, T-7, Lowell, Ma

An Eagle Mom's Poem

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

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

He learns that words can hurt or heal,

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

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

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

An Eagle Scout

-- Thanks to Ed Schmitt

An Eagle Dad's Poem

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

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

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

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

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

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

-- Thanks to Paul Sweeney, sweeney@mdc.net, ASM, T-7, Lowell, Ma

The Law Of Life

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

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

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

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

Because Of Our Son

Because of our son, we found a job to do.
We became Scouters, tried and true!
We understand boys better, because of our son.
It happened through Scouting, oh what fun!
Because of our son, it was all worthwhile,
Oh, what a reward, to see a boy's smile!
It's endless, the pleasures gained from Scouting,
Because of our son, we attended each meeting,
And we've gained many friends beyond measure.
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've a new way of life.
We recommend Scouting for each Husband and Wife!

Eagle
by Greg Gough

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

Eagle Scout

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

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

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

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

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

The Oyster And The Eagle

When God made the oyster, he guaranteed him social security.
He built the oyster a house, a shell to protect him from his enemies.
When hungry, the oyster simply opens his shell, and the food rushes in.

But when God made the EAGLE, he said, "The Blue sky is the limit.
Go and build your house." So the EAGLE went and built his house upon the highest mountain peak, where storms threatened him every day. For food, he must fly through miles of rain and snow and wind.

The EAGLE, then...not the oyster...is the symbol of the United States Of America, and Scouting's highest award.

The Scouting Trail

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

An Eagle Scout

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

Trail To Eagle
by Greg Gough

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

Trail The Eagle

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

A Prayer For Eagles

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

The Call of the Eagle

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

I am the voice of the Eagle.

I speak for The Eagles whose summit you have struggled so hard to reach.

We remember well when you first came to the base of our mountain, and how you looked up with ambition and determination.

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

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 turning in the trail, and you were greeted by a large group of friendly Second Class Scouts.

Some, like yourself, were stopping to catch their breath, before continuing along the trail. But you studied more, you worked harder, you continued your climb, and soon came to another turning, the place where First Class Scouts dwell.

There you found a green, flowered meadow close by a crystal clear stream, sparkling in sunshine. Many other scouts rested beside the murmuring waters. You were tempted to remain. But your ambition spurred you, and you continued your upward venture.

We next remember your progress when you turned the trail to become a Star Scout. You found the trail from First Class had been an optical illusion, not so difficult as it had first seemed. This inspired you to push onward, to climb higher.

But now the trail was steeper, and less traveled. Fewer Scouts seemed headed in your direction. You looked back and saw crowds below you. You looked up, and saw very few above. Yet, with the same determination as you started your climb, now enhanced by experience and firm resolve, you continued to push up the trail.

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

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

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

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

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

I Am Old Glory

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

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 seven fifty? Of course not! Your Eagle badge is priceless. It represents everything that you have learned, everything that

you have done, to be prepared, to help others, and to help yourself. So now you stand on the peak of the mountain. An Eagle Scout, now look ahead, look sharp. Way out there in the mist is another mountain, and there below is the trail to your future. It may be a long trail, or a short one, but it leads to that mountain far away. As you walk down the trail, and as the years roll by, and finally reach the end, we all hope that you can look back on the trail of life and be able and proud to say, "I have done my best."

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, Bataan, Korea, Vietnam and now Kuwait and every other great battle fought on land, in the air and on the sea, is my red stripes. The shining light of sunshine is in my white stripes, penetrating the blackest night which, in the nation's darkest hours is filled with radiant light. The vast infinity of the heavens is in my stars inspiring mankind to continue climbing courageously up the spiral staircase of history to a world of glowing promise. I am the emblem of man's finest dreams. I am the last hope for peace on earth....I am the American Flag.

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's 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 its only a pin."
But I 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 find attributes.
In the glorious days of his youth.
And the outstretch 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, its only a pin, just an Eagle Scout's 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.

The Symbol

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

Scouting Heritage A Look At 100 Boys That Join Scouting

- Only rarely will one appear before a Juvenile Court.

- Twelve will receive their first time religious contact.
- Five will receive Church Affiliated Awards.
- One will join the Clergy of his chosen faith.
- Eighteen will develop hobbies which will last a lifetime.
- Eight will enter a career based on Merit Badges work.
- Seventeen will become Scout leaders.
- One will save a life, and one will save his own life.

Through Scouting Skills...

- Two of the hundred Scouts will attain the rank of EAGLE.

The Method

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

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

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

Scouting To Me - For Others

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What It Means To Be An Eagle Scout

by Greg Gough

(Awarded Eagle Scout 3/15/72)

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

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

Prayers And Other Religious Materials

Prayer For Our Country

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

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

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

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

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

What Can We Give?

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

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

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

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

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

Prayer

by Greg Gough

Thy song sings in my heart
Thy voice whispers
in the wind.
Thy beauty is shown
in all things.

Magnificent & steadfast
is your presence.
Thank you for reminding us of
How great you are.

A Hiking Prayer

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

by Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav (1722-1811)

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

Benediction For Court Of Honor

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

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

A SCOUT IS TRUSTWORTHY

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

A SCOUT IS LOYAL

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

A SCOUT IS HELPFUL

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

A SCOUT IS FRIENDLY

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

A SCOUT IS COURTEOUS

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

A SCOUT IS KIND

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

A SCOUT IS OBEDIENT

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

A SCOUT IS CHEERFUL

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

Some Complete Eagle Court of Honor Scripts

You will find here a collection of complete scripts that have been used in various Troops over the years. Here you will see many of the bits and pieces from other chapters of this handbook ordered together into a proper script.

Eagle Court Of Honor In Troop 30

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

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

MINISTER: [Invocation]

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

[Music is played on the organ.]

Color guard, post the colors.

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

Everyone please remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

[Recitation of Pledge of Allegiance]

Scouts, please remain standing for the Scout Oath.

[Pause for audience to resume seats.]

[Recitation of Scout Oath]

SCOUTMASTER: [Introductions]

COORDINATOR: As scouting coordinator for Troop __, it is my pleasure to declare that this Eagle court of honor for [Scout's name] is now officially open.

MC: Would the honor guard please escort [Scout's name] forward.

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

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

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

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

MC: A SCOUT IS TRUSTWORTHY.

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

MC: A SCOUT IS LOYAL.

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

MC: A SCOUT IS HELPFUL.

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

MC: A SCOUT IS FRIENDLY.

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

MC: A SCOUT IS COURTEOUS.

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

MC: A SCOUT IS KIND.

ANOTHER SCOUT: A Scout understands there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated. He does not harm or kill anything without reason.

MC: A SCOUT IS OBEDIENT.

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

MC: A SCOUT IS CHEERFUL.

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

MC: A SCOUT IS THRIFTY.

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

MC: A SCOUT IS BRAVE.

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

MC: A SCOUT IS CLEAN.

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

MC: A SCOUT IS REVERENT.

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

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

Would the honor guard please escort [Scout's name]'s parents forward.

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

It is my pleasure to introduce _____ and _____.

Now we shall hear the story of [Scout's name]'s "Trail to Eagle." Each part will be told by a scout holding the respective rank.

TENDERFOOT SCOUT: To earn the rank of Tenderfoot Scout, [Scout's name] did the following:

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

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

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

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

- He demonstrated basic orienteering skills.
- He participated in ten troop or patrol activities.
- He served as patrol cook on a campout.
- He discussed the rights and obligations of a citizen.
- He identified ten kinds of native plants.

- He demonstrated ability with knots and lashings.
- He demonstrated first aid skills
- He swam 100 yards.
- He showed Scout spirit.
- He had a personal growth conference and a board of review.

STAR SCOUT: In earning the rank of Star Scout, [Scout's name] did the following:

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

LIFE SCOUT: In order to earn the rank of Life Scout, [Scout's name] did the following:

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

EAGLE SCOUT: To complete the rank of Eagle Scout, _____ did the following:

- He was active in the troop for at least six months after earning Life.
- He showed Scout spirit.
- He earned _____, _____, _____, and _____ merit badges.
- From the list of required merit badges for Eagle, he earned _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____.
- He served at least six months in a troop leadership position.
- He planned, developed, and gave leadership to others in a service project. His project was _____.

  [Describe the project to some level of detail.]
- He participated in a personal growth conference.
- He was reviewed by a board of review which included representatives from _____ District as well as members of the committee of Troop __.

MC: Would all Eagle Scouts present please come forward and stand behind _____ as he re-dedicates himself to the principles of Scouting by repeating the Scout Oath.

CANDIDATE: [Recitation of Scout Oath]

MC: I would like to introduce _____, who will deliver the Eagle charge.

[Give as much introduction as is appropriate.]

SPEAKER: [Challenge and Charge to Eagle Scout]

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

[Presentation of Eagle badge]

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

[Presentation of Eagle tie tack]

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

[Presentation of Eagle mother's pin]

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

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

MC: At this point in the court of honor, the new Eagle Scout, [Scout's name], would like to make a few remarks.

NEW EAGLE SCOUT: [Remarks by new Eagle Scout]

COORDINATOR: As scouting coordinator for Troop __, I would like to offer my congratulations to [Scout's name]for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. I now declare this Eagle court of honor closed.

MINISTER: [Benediction]

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

Eagle Court Of Honor In Troop 57

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

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

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

[Step to microphone.]

Ladies and gentlemen, please rise for the opening ceremonies.

[Wait until the audience is standing and quiet.]

Color guard, advance the colors.

[When color guard is in position]

Scout salute.

[Pledge of Allegiance]

Two. Scout Sign

[Scout Oath]

Two. Color guard, post the colors.

[Wait until colors are in place.]

Everyone, please be seated.

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

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

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

[Wait until they are seated.]

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

MINISTER: [Invocation]

MC: I now present _____, Scouting Coordinator for Troop ___ to open this court of honor.

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

MC When a boy becomes a Boy Scout, there should be instilled within him that which we call the "Spirit of Scouting."

[Light a candle.]

This lighted candle symbolizes that spirit. Because the "Spirit of Scouting" embodies the fine principles of the Scout Oath and Law, it becomes a shining beacon of inspiration. Alone, this light may be feeble, but when multiplied by the millions of boys in Scouting, it can become very powerful indeed.

[Step out. Take candle and move to other candles.]

After a boy has entered Scouting, the Scout Law that he has promised to obey, is put into effect as occasions may demand, and so, one by one, the symbols that stand for the parts of the Scout Law are lighted. There are twelve parts, all important and all meaningful.

[Light a candle at each point of the Scout Law]

Each is an important cornerstone in the building of a strong character. A scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave. clean, and reverent.

And finally, in the three points of the Scout Oath which we heard during the opening ceremony, he promises on his honor to do his best to do his duty.

First [light candle] to God and his country.

Second [light candle] to others by helping other people at all times.

And third [light candle] to himself by keeping himself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

You see how the light from this "Spirit of Scouting" grows and becomes stronger. These, in outline, are the basic ideals of Scouting, to which each boy subscribes when he becomes a Boy Scout.

It is, therefore, right and proper that we have made a careful review of the qualifications of these candidates. In order that all may understand the completeness of our review, _____ will report on the candidates' qualifications to First Class.

[Takes "Spirit of Scouting" candle and goes to the First Class Scout poster and candle.]

REVIEWER: [Light Scout candle]

Our candidates earned Scout by understanding and promising to live by the Scout Oath and Law. They learned the Scout Motto, Slogan, Salute, and Handclasp and understood the significance of the Scout Badge. They also took part in a personal growth agreement conference with their scoutmaster.

[Light Tenderfoot candle]

As Scout, our candidates were active in their troop and patrols for at least two months. They repeated from memory the Scout Oath and Law and demonstrated how they practices them in everyday life. They also earned Citizenship and one other skill award, and after a personal growth agreement conference with their Scoutmaster, and a Troop Leaders Council review, they became Tenderfoot Scouts.

[Light Second Class candle]

After showing Scout Spirit and being active for at least two months as Tenderfoot Scouts and earning the First Aid, Hiking, and one other skill award, they had a personal growth agreement conference with their scoutmaster and a Troop Leaders Council review and they became Second Class Scouts.

[Light First Class candle]

For at least two months as Second Class Scouts, our candidates were active in their troop and patrols and showed Scout Spirit. They earned the Camping, Cooking, and one other skill award and the First Aid merit badge. After having a person growth agreement conference with their scoutmaster and a Troop Leaders Council review, they became First Class Scouts.

Now, Senior Patrol Leader _____ will continue with our review.

SPL: [Light Star candle]

As First Class scouts for at least four months, our candidates were active and showed scout spirit in their troop and patrols. They earned five more merit badges, three of which are from the required list, and did service projects of at least six hours. They also served for four months or more in troop leadership positions and after a person growth agreement conference with their scoutmaster and a Troop Committee review, they became Star Scouts.

[Light Life candle]

Continuing along the scouting trail, our candidates were active as Star Scouts for at least six months and showed scout spirit and leadership. They earned five more merit badges, three of which were from the required list for Eagle. After doing service projects of at least six hours and having a personal growth conference with their scoutmaster, they had a Troop Committee review and became Life Scouts.

Will the honor guard please escort our candidates' parents to the stage.

[Wait for parents to reach stage and be seated.]

To attain the highest rank in Scouting, our candidates were active in the troop and their patrols for at least six months, showing scout spirit and leadership. They earned ten more merit badges for a total of twenty-one, twelve of which were from the required list. They planned, developed, and gave leadership to a service project which was helpful to their school, religious institution, or community. They passed a troop and district board of review. Tonight you will witness the presentation of their well-earned award.

Now, _____ will describe their Eagle projects.

DESCRIBER: [Give description of the Eagle service projects. This may be broken up among several speakers.]

SPEAKER: Webster's dictionary describes an eagle as a large bird of prey with sharp vision and powerful wings, famous for their strength, size, grace, and keen vision. It is the national emblem for the United States: the Bald Eagle. Though the eagle is found throughout the world, he is never found in abundance;

he is always rare and he is always a superb specimen. In Scouting the eagle stands for strength of character. The eagle stands for knowledge of all phases of Scouting. The eagle represents an understanding of community and nation, and a deep respect for same. The eagle is a symbol of what a young man has done as well as what that young man will do, and will be, when he grows to manhood. The eagle is a leader. The eagle is respected, both by his peers and by his adult leaders.

MC: Eagle Scout candidates, please rise.

I would like to call upon _____ to give the Eagle Scout charge to these scouts.

CHARGER: [Eagle Charge]

MC: Would the parents of these Eagle Scout candidates please stand behind their sons.

Will _____, Scoutmaster of Troop ___, please come up and present our new Eagles with their medals.

[After he is finished and returns to his seat]

Will _____ please come up and present our new Eagles with their patches.

[After he is finished and returns to his seat]

Will _____ please come up and present our new Eagles with their certificates.

[After he is finished and returns to his seat]

Will _____ please give our new Eagles their mothers' pins. Will the new Eagles please present their mothers with the mothers' pins.

[After he is finished and returns to his seat]

Will _____ please give our new Eagles their fathers' pins. Will the new Eagles please present their fathers with the fathers' pins.

MC: The parents of the new Eagle Scouts may be seated.

[Read letters of congratulations. This may be done by someone else. If there are many to be read, excerpt should be used instead of the letters in their entirety.]

[If any of the guests have presentations to make, this is the time for them.]

[If any of the guests wish to speak, this is the time for them.]

Eagle Ceremony Script for Damon Drown, October 16, 1993

The following is an adaptation of the original Court of Honor Script. Most of the names have been replaced with position titles.

4:45 PM Ushers start

About 5 PM Scoutmaster steps to podium. Asks everyone to take their seats.

When everyone is seated:

Scoutmaster: Welcome to this Eagle Court of Honor for Damon Drown. It has been 7 months since our last Eagle Court of Honor.

Assistant Senior Patrol Ldr.: Will everyone please rise for the presentation of the colors by the Honor Guard.

The Honor Guard brings up the colors and posts them.

Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance. I pledge . . . . . .

All members of the Honor Guard can be seated except _____ who will return to the back of the Hall to line up for the candle lighting.

Scoutmaster: I would like at this time to introduce the Master of Ceremonies for tonight. [Scout master introduces MC and can be seated.]

[Have scouts line up in rank order at the back of the hall, Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class , Star, and Life. Issue each one a white candle.]

[Instruct each one to keep their hands out of their pockets, walk down the center aisle at the proper time and move to each side with their lighted candles until the Eagle Escort has finished bringing the candidate to the front. They may then be seated, after blowing out the candles.]

MC: Thank you. And now, let us begin. [The MC removes and lights a large candle, lights it and leaves it on top of or near the podium. Lights are then dimmed. (Turn off flourescents)]

MC: Our theme tonight is "The Trail to Eagle". The pathway to Eagle can be described as a steep trail, leading to the peak of Eagle rank.

Along that trail are 6 steps, the ranks of Scouting that you had to pass on the trail. Damon, it is fitting that you look back before you go on to other challenges to see what you have accomplished. These experiences should not be forgotten - You should benefit from them. Cherish the valuable ones, and make sure the bad ones do not happen again.

Remember your first trip along that steep trail? At first, you were called Scout by your brothers.

A Scout marches slowly down the aisle with an unlighted candle, steps up to the podium and lights his candle. He then walks solemnly to the left side of the stage and waits.

MC: Remember when you received the Scout Badge? You learned the trefoil or Fleur-de-lis shape was to resemble the Mariner compass as it would always point you along the true path towards tonight. It

had three points which you learned like the three fingers of the Scout Sign were for the three points of the Scout Oath.

Remember when you took those first steps up the long scouting trail? You began to build yourself physically, mentally, and morally by learning the Scout Oath and Law. Before you knew it you were a Tenderfoot Scout.

[A Tenderfoot Scout marches slowly down the aisle with an unlighted candle, steps up to the podium and lights his candle. He then walks solemnly to the left side of the stage and waits. The Scout waits next to Tenderfoot.]

MC: Your Scout Badge was replaced by the badge of a Tenderfoot. It still pointed you in the right direction but added were the two stars which represented the truth and knowledge you had gained in Scouting. Also was the bald eagle, our national symbol. You learned from the shield on the eagle's breast that the freedom of America is not without cost that it must be defended.

Soon, you set out for another ledge. There you were greeted by a larger group of second class scouts.

[A Second Class Scout marches slowly down the aisle with an unlighted candle, steps up to the podium and lights his candle. He then walks solemnly to the left side of the stage and waits. The Second Class Scout waits next to Tenderfoot and Scout.]

MC: The second class badge showed you a scroll with your motto "Be Prepared". It's ends were turned up in a smile and that is what you were to do as the bottom knot reminded you to "Do a Good Turn Daily" which is the Scout slogan.

You found that some second class scouts had been there for a long time and were content with their achievement. You continued onward. You studied and before you realized it, you had come to a new ledge, one where First Class Scouts dwell.

[A First Class marches slowly down the aisle with an unlighted candle, steps up to the podium and lights his candle. He then walks solemnly to the right side of the stage and waits. The First Class Scout waits next to Second Class, Tenderfoot and Scout.]

MC: Your First Class badge showed you that it was time to put everything you had learned thus far together and this is what you did. You found that the trail to Fist Class had not been all that difficult. You wanted to learn more in Scouting so you continued onward, earning specific skills through merit badges.

Your next step was to be come a Star Scout.

[A Star Scout marches slowly down the aisle with an unlighted candle, steps up to the podium and lights his candle. He then walks solemnly to the right side of the stage and waits next to the First Class Scout.]

MC: The Star badge, a golden star was to symbolize your new role as a leader. You were called upon to be a guiding light in the darkness for those who were to follow. No longer were you receiving Scouting but now you were expected to teach new skills to others.

Now the Trail was steeper. Leadership was challenging and also hard work. But you persevered, climbing the steep trail. Soon it led you to Life Rank.

[A Life Scout marches slowly down the aisle with an unlighted candle, steps up to the podium and lights his candle. He then walks solemnly to the right side of the stage and waits next to First Class and Star Scouts.

MC: The Badge of Life, a pure red heart on a golden field was to show all the world the path you had chosen. True to the ideals of Scouting you had gained an inner confidence that was to prepare you for the rest of your life. The trail became even tougher, but more interesting. You thought, now I am close to the Eagle. I will carry on.

[The Eagle escort should be ready in the back of the Hall with Damon between them. A Scout should lead the escort with a single lit candle.]

MC: We in Troop 39 have watched you as you have worked towards your Eagle. We have watched your mind develop and your knowledge increase. We have seen you grow in many ways and now that you are on the threshold of your goal, we welcome you, for you have done your climbing in a Scout-like manner

Would the Eagle Escort please bring the candidate forward.

[Pause while the Eagle escort brings Damon to the front. After escorting him to the front, the lead Scout gives the lit candle to Damon. The Eagle Escort then returns to the back of the hall. The other Scouts with lit candles, blow out their candles and take their seats. The lights can now be turned back on.]

MC: Will the Scoutmaster please come forward?

[The Scoutmaster comes to the front.]

MC: [Scoutmaster's name], as Scoutmaster of this troop, is it your judgment that he has fulfilled the requirements to become an Eagle and exemplifies the idea of Scouting?

Scoutmaster: I am proud to say he has.

MC: Could you now give some of Damon's background?

[Scoutmaster reads the biography.]

Scoutmaster: Damon, I now ask you to repeat the Scout Oath rededicating yourself to it's principles.

[Two Scouts, the First Class and Star, should be ready to come forward to light candles for the Law. Using the candles from the previous part of the ceremony, light their candles from Damon's.]

Scoutmaster: The law of the Eagle is the Scout Law. I would now like to have the Scouts stand and repeat the Scout Law as Damon lights the candles representing each Law. Would _____ and _____ assist by lighting the candles which represent the Laws?

First Class and Star should now come forward and light their candles from Damon's.

[Scouts should repeat Law slowly, giving time to light the12 candles. Scoutmaster stays at front to assist with awards.]

MC: Your conduct along the trail of has been excellent. You have rededicated yourself to the principles of Scouting. You have heard the Law of the Eagle, but one more thing is important - your future.

As an Eagle you become a guiding light to other Scouts below you. You become an example to your community. Remember that people expect more of you.

To falter in your duties would not only reflect on you, but your fellow Eagles. The torch you carry is not only yours, but theirs.

MC: Would [name of Charger] please come forward to give the Eagle Charge?

Charger: This is not the end of the trail but rather the beginning of a new era in your life. You are now entering a brotherhood of boys and men who have not only achieved the Eagle Scout rank but have made a commitment to the Scout Oath and Law. You will always be an Eagle Scout and will be expected to conduct yourself accordingly.

Would the Eagle Scouts in the Audience please stand.

Damon Drown, I charge you to enter this Eagle Scout Brotherhood holding, without reservation, the ideals of honor and service. Repeating the Eagle Scout promise before your fellow members, you will be sealing your eternal loyalty to the code of the Eagle Scout.

Scout Sign, Repeat the Charge after me: I reaffirm my allegiance to the three promises of the Scout Oath.

I thoughtfully recognize and take upon myself the obligations and responsibilities of the Eagle Scout.

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

To this I pledge my sacred honor.

MC: Would you now light the candle representing the rank of Eagle?

[The Eagle Honor guard should now be ready to escort the parents to the front and retire to the rear of the Hall. Pause while the last candle is lit. Damon's candle can be put out.]

Charger: Congratulations. I would now like to present you with the Eagle neckerchief.

[Charger removes Troop neckerchief and places Eagle neckerchief on, shakes Damon's hand. Charger can now retire to the back of the Hall to join the Eagle Honor Guard.]

MC: The Scoutmaster will now present the Certificate. [Certificate presented.]

MC: Will the Eagle Scout Honor Guard please escort Damon's parents to the front. [Pause while Guard comes to front and the returns to the rear.]

MC: What Damon has accomplished is with your support and guidance. It is fitting that you present the Eagle award to him.

Scoutmaster takes the badge from the bearer's box and hands it to the father who pins it on the candidate. [Scoutmaster will hand the candidate the mother's and father's pin when needed.]

MC: In recognition of the many hours of patient guidance given by her to you in your efforts, will you present this pin to your mother. [Pause for pinning.]

MC: And will you give your father the Eagle Tie pin? [Pause. When done, parents can be seated.]

MC: I would now like to ask Damon's grandfather, [name], to come forward to say a few words and read some letters of congratulations. [Pause for words and reading.]

[Eagle Honor Guard comes to front, congratulates the candidate and escorts him to the rear. Color guard should be ready.]

MC: Will the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader please lead us in the closing ceremony? [Pause while ASPL comes to front.]

Adam: Please rise. Color guard, prepare to retire the colors

Retire the colors. Please salute.

Adam: At Ease. This concludes our ceremony. Thank you for coming. We hope that you will join us for some refreshments. [Scouts should allow adults to line up for refreshments first.]

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

Eagle Scout Court of Honor Script for Bradley Alan Wallace

December 28, 1993

This is an adaptation of the original Eagle Court of Honor Script. Most of the names have been replaced with position titles.

As the guests enter the Sanctuary, Boy Scouts of Troop 82 hand out programs and usher guests to their seats. All speakers, participants, and their spouses are seated in a special area prior to the opening.

Opening Ceremony:
SPL: (Proceeds to the center front of Communion Rail and turns to face the audience) "Would everyone please stand for the presentation of our Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance."

(Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack march in and take their places)

SPL: (calls the Color Guard -- Cobra & Trailblazer Webelos Scouts -- to present the colors. Once the Color Guard reaches the front of the Sanctuary and is in place, he calls "Hand Salute" and leads the Pledge of Allegiance. The colors are posted; he asks the audience to "Please be seated". He then dismisses the Color Guard "Color Guard, dismissed", and follows them to the back of the Sanctuary where they then quietly proceed to their seats.

Assistant Scoutmaster: "Scouts, Scouters, and friends of Scouting, I would like to welcome you to this Eagle Court of Honor. This is an occasion for pride and joy, as well as a time for serious reflection. The Eagle is the highest recognition that Scouting offers to Scouts. It is earned through the advancement program, and only a small percentage of boys who begin in Scouting receive this honor. The wearer of the Eagle award is the epitome of Scouting's best efforts and beliefs. Tonight, we have the pleasure of seeing Bradley Wallace climax his Scouting efforts when he joins the company of Eagle Scouts. Before we begin, the Reverend Jim McWhinnie, Pastor of Grace United Methodist Church, will deliver the Invocation."

Invocation

Significance of the Eagle Badge
Presenter 1: "The presentation of the Eagle Scout Award is an important and serious matter. For the Eagle candidate, this is the climax in his Scouting efforts. The attainment of this award is made possible through the assistance of those with the candidate tonight -- his Scoutmasters, Troop leaders, fellow Scouts, parents, family, friends, and members of the community. This is an occasion for pride and joy, as well as a time for serious reflection."

The Eagle is the highest recognition offered in Scouting. It is earned through the advancement program. The wearer of the Eagle award is the embodiment of Scouting's best efforts and beliefs. Bradley Wallace has distinguished himself through his continued performance of active service in Scouting. He is trained and practiced in his leadership abilities. And, he is marked by the character gained through an understanding of his citizenship and religious beliefs. It is important that each of us understands the meaning of the Eagle Badge."

(Lights are dimmed)

[The Eagle Honor Guard speaks from the rear of the sanctuary:]

Scout 1: "The appeal of the majestic eagle has been felt by every great people from prehistoric times to the present day. To the Egyptians, the eagle was the messenger of the gods and the sun, a symbol of eternal life. To the Romans, he was the carrier of Jupiter's thunderbolts and a sign of power. To American

Indians he stood as the incentive to valor and the pledge of victory. For us today, the eagle is the living symbol of all courageous and freedom-aspiring Americans. When the Eagle Scout badge was designed in 1912, it was decided that a small silver eagle would be suspended from a tricolor ribbon of red, white, and blue. So it remains today."

(The Eagle is lit.)

Scout 2: "The foremost responsibility of an Eagle Scout is to live with honor. To an Eagle Scout, honor is the foundation of all character. He knows that 'a Scout is trustworthy' is the very first point of the Scout Law for a good reason. An Eagle Scout lives honorably, not only because honor is important to him, but because of the vital significance of the example he sets for other scouts. Living honorably reflects credit on his home, his church, his troop, and his community. May the white of the Eagle Badge remind you to always live with honor."

(The white ribbon is lit.)

Scout 3: "The second obligation of an Eagle Scout is loyalty. A Scout is true to his family, scout leaders, friends, school, and nation. His loyalty to his troop and brother scouts makes him pitch in and carry his share of the load. All of these help to build the loyalty which means devotion to community, to country, to one's own ideals, and to God. Let the blue of the Eagle Badge always inspire your loyalty."

(The blue ribbon is lit.)

Scout 4: "The third obligation of an Eagle Scout is to be courageous. Courage has always been a quality by which men measure themselves and others. To a scout, bravery means not only the courage to face physical danger, but the determination to stand up for the right. Trusting in God, with faith in his fellow man, he looks forward to each day, seeking his share of the world's work to do. Let the red of the Eagle Badge remind you always of courage."

(The red ribbon is lit.)

Scout 5: The fourth obligation of an Eagle Scout is to be cheerful. To remind the Eagle Scout to always wear a smile, the red, white, and blue ribbon is attached to the scroll of the Second Class Scout award, which has its ends turned up in a smile."

(The Scroll is lit.)

Scout 6: "The final responsibility of an Eagle Scout is service. The Eagle Scout is service. The Eagle Scout extends a helping hand to those who still toil up Scouting's trail, just as others helped him in his climb to the Eagle. The performance of the daily good turn takes on a new meaning when he enters a more adult life of continuing service to others. The Eagle stands as protector of the weak and helpless. He aids and comforts the unfortunate and the oppressed. He upholds the rights of others while defending his own. He will always 'be prepared' to put forth his best."

Scout 7: "You are deserving of much credit in having achieved Scouting's highest award. However, wear your award with humility, ever mindful that the Eagle Scout is looked up to as an example. May the Scout Oath and the Scout Law be your guide for tomorrow and onward."

(Lights are turned up)

Musician: (soloist -- music "The Lord's Prayer")

MC: "I would now like to introduce Deputy [name]. He has been with the Lee County Sheriff's Office for 1-1/2 years, and is currently serving as a correctional officer in Fort Myers. He was a Cub Scout and a

Boy Scout as a youth, and believes in the importance of programs such as Scouting for our young people. Ladies and Gentlemen, [name]."

Keynote Address

MC: "[name], Calusa District Committee Chairman for SW Florida Council, will now convene the National Court of Honor."

Convening of the National Court of Honor:
Councilperson: "By the authority vested in me as a representative of the Southwest Florida Council and the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, I declare this Court of Honor to be convened."

Master of Ceremonies: "The Scouting movement constitutes one of the most wholesome and significant influences in the world today. Many successful, well-known persons are Eagle Scouts -- a former President of the United States, a film director whose films have won world-wide acclaim, most of the original astronauts, and several outstanding sports personalities. The Eagle candidate whose efforts culminate this evening in the presentation of the Eagle badge, has labored long to enter this brotherhood. He will assume even greater responsibilities to the ideals of honor and service. When he pledges himself on his sacred honor, he will be sealing his loyalty to the code of the Eagle Scout with the words which closed the Declaration of Independence."

"Honor Guard, please escort before this Court of Honor Life Scout Bradley Alan Wallace, where he will be prepared to receive the Eagle Scout Award."

(After the Honor Guard returns to their seats, MC continues)

Reaffirmation of Candidate to the Scout Oath Principles, Master of Ceremonies:
"All along the trail of achievement, your scoutmasters have given you advice and encouragement. I call upon your Scoutmaster to vouch for you tonight. (Scoutmaster steps forward, Councilperson addresses him.) "Sir, before presenting your Scout the Eagle Award, we would like to have your assurance that Bradley has been faithful in serving his troop, in giving leadership to its scouts, in practicing the principles of the Scout Oath and Law, and in practicing the good turn in his daily life. Based upon these qualifications, is your Scout entitled to the honor the Eagle badge represents?"

Scoutmaster: "Yes, sir, he is."

MC: "Eagle candidate Bradley Wallace, what promise did you take when you became a Tenderfoot Scout?"

Bradley Wallace: "The Scout Oath, sir."

MC: "Is there any reason why you should not renew that promise now?"

Bradley Wallace: "There is not, sir."

MC: "Then I ask you to now give the Scout Oath as you rededicate yourself to its principles."

Bradley Wallace: (Gives the Scout Sign and repeats the Scout Oath)

MC: "You have just recommitted yourself to the principles of the Scout Oath. You now have a new, more intense obligation to your church, your community, and your troop. The knowledge you have gained in all areas of scouting will better enable you to be prepared for the future and its challenges. The Scout Motto of 'be prepared' now takes on special meaning."

"Before the Eagle Award is bestowed upon you, I am going to ask the Honor Guard to escort your father to your side."

(After his father is in position on the candidate's right and the Honor Guard has returned to their seats, continue with...)

"Eagle Candidate Bradley, your father has undoubtedly been a primary source of help in your Scout work. He will help you carry the standards of your award to the highest peak of attainment, since the very best is expected of an Eagle Scout in exemplary conduct, character, achievement, and leadership ability. I am going to ask your father, who has stood by you so loyally to pledge his willingness to continue to help you. Mr. Wallace, do you agree to continue to help Bradley so that he may grow in character and those leadership qualities that an Eagle Scout should have?"

Mr. Wallace: "I will."

MC: "Your mother has undoubtedly been your greatest source of inspiration in your quest for the Eagle Award. I am going to ask that she please rise and allow the Honor Guard to escort her to your side."

(The Honor Guard escorts the mother to the candidate's left. Presenter moves to microphone as mom is escorted to Bradley's side.)

Presenter: (Give a brief history of Bradley's Scouting career - see attached. When completed, he continues ...)

"Eagle Candidate Bradley Wallace, it is now my pleasure to introduce Eagle Scout [name of Charger] to deliver to you the Eagle Charge."

Eagle Charge:
[name of Charger]: "Scouts of all nations make up one of the most wholesome and significant movements in the world's history. You have been judged by the Boy Scouts of America as being worthy of this honor. All who know you rejoice in your achievement. This award, as you will know, is one of honor and responsibility. You are a marked man. As an Eagle Scout, you have assumed a solemn obligation to do your duty to God, to Country, to your fellow Scouts, and to mankind in general. This is a great undertaking. As you live up to your obligations you bring honor to yourself and to your brother Scouts."

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

"I charge you to undertake your citizenship with a solemn dedication. Be a leader, but lead only toward the best. Lift up every task you do and every office you hold to the highest level of service to God and to your fellow man."

"So live and serve, that those who know you will be inspired to finer living. I charge you to be among

"Will all Eagle Scouts here tonight please stand and renew your Eagle Scout promise as Bradley joins our brotherhood? (Pause) 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 an Eagle Scout. .... On my honor, I will do my best .... to make my training an example .... and my status and my influence .... count strongly for better Scouting .... and for better citizenship .... in my troop, ... in my community, ... and in my contacts with other people. .... To this I pledge my sacred honor."

Two. Please be seated"

"Bradley, your conduct along the trail has been excellent. You have rededicated yourself to the principles of Scouting. But one more thing is important ... your future."

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

Presentation of Award:
Presenter 2: "Life Scout Bradley Wallace, we are finally at that point you have been waiting for. Having confirmed all readiness for the reception of this award, it is now time to formally present this high badge of accomplishment."

"By the authority vested in me by the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America, it is my privilege an pleasure to pronounce you an Eagle Scout. May the Oath you have taken always remain with you."

"No words of this Court of Honor could do justice to the devotion and patient perseverance with which your Scoutmaster has helped you towards worthy manhood. Only from his hands could you receive your Eagle award at this moment. Will Scoutmaster [name] pin the badge on this new Eagle Scout?"

In recognition of fatherly advice and guidance along the trail to Eagle, I will ask this Eagle Scout's father now to present to his son the Eagle Scout certificate and personal letter of commendation from the Chief Scout Executive, Boy Scouts of America." (Hand certificate to father for presenting. Letter should be read before presenting.)

"No one will ever know the unnumbered acts of self-sacrifice and helpfulness from the mother of this Eagle Scout which have led us to this night. As the symbol of what his mother has made possible, the court will now ask this Eagle to present his mother with a miniature Eagle pin." (Son pins on miniature Eagle pin. When all the insignia have been presented, speaker gives the new Eagle Scout the Scout handclasp with the left hand. Right handshake should be used for each of the parents.)

"May I congratulate you again, and may I remind you that Scouting should now become an even greater tie between son and parents, binding you even more closely as a family. To you, Eagle Scout Bradley Wallace, I express confidence that you will honor Scouting with your life and service as tonight Scouting honors you. That God may bless you and make you a blessing is our prayer."

"Honor Guard, please escort Bradley's parents to their seats."

(As the Honor Guard is seating the parents, Scoutmaster moves to the microphone and continues ...)

Special Recognition:

Scoutmaster: "It gives me great pleasure to introduce [name], Chartered Organization Representative for the Scouting units here at Grace UMC, who will present those with special recognition's for the new Eagle Scout."

Chartered Organization Representative : (says a few words on behalf of the sponsoring organization, and introduces the following people:)

[name], Committee Chairman, Troop 82 (plaque)
[name], Kiwanis, (plaque +)
[name], Optimist, (plaque +)

(When presentations are complete, Scoutmaster moves back to the microphone for the closing.)

Closing
Scoutmaster: "Now Bradley, before you leave this ceremony, will you kneel where you are and in true Scout fashion, silently ask your God to give you strength and courage to wear with distinction and honor the award which you now hold."

(A moment of silent prayer)

"I congratulate you as an Eagle Scout. The eagle soars high and seeks to rest only upon the lofty peaks. As an Eagle Scout, you too must soar high. You must not swerve from the path of duty. Your ideals must be lofty. You must strive to obtain that which is the highest and noblest in life."

"I hereby close this Eagle Court of Honor and present to you Eagle Scout Bradley A. Wallace."

Bradley Wallace: (After applause, Bradley says a few words of thanks)

Benediction

SPL: (Leads closing, colors recess.)

Honor Guard: Escorts parents out. All remaining Boy Scouts follow, then Cub Scouts. Receiving line is formed in Fellowship Hall.

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

Eagle Scout Ceremony from Joe Ulrich

Here is a copy of the Eagle ceremony that my troop has done for many years. -- Joe Ulrich, julrich@cdcj089.cnp.cldx.com

Program

Welcome : Scoutmaster

Invocation : Clergyman or Scoutmaster

Dinner (Cleanup by Scouts): Dinner Committee

Opening Ceremony: Senior Patrol

Scoutmaster Messages: Scoutmaster

Court of Awards: Scoutmaster

Eagle Court of Honor

Opening candle Ceremony: Scoutmaster

Trail of the Eagle: Scoutmaster

Eagle Poem : Scoutmaster

Eagle Charge: Selected Eagle Scout

Eagle Oath: Scoutmaster

Eagle Presentations: Mother, Scout

Speakers: Scoutmasters, Dignitaries

Acceptance: New Eagle Scout

Benediction : Clergyman or Scoutmaster

Refreshments: Dinner Committee

Note: While guests are arriving, talk to each dignitary to determine if they have a presentation to make, and if the care to speak. Ask them how they prefer to be introduced, and put them on the schedule of speakers. Ask if they have any special scheduling needs.

Ask the SPL if he has the Trail of the Eagle participants arranged. If not, do it NOW!!

Welcome

SM On behalf of the [Scout's name] family, I'd like to welcome all of you to this banquet. Many scouts set out on the trail to Eagle, but few have the perseverance to follow it to the end. [Scout's name]is one of those few and we are here tonight to honor his great achievement.

{ Minister's name] will now perform the invocation.

Invocation (if needed): Lord, you bring us together this evening to honor the Eagle scout. We thank you for the food we are about to eat. We acknowledge your guidance in helping boys and adults work together to build leadership and appreciation of the outdoors. Lord, continue to watch over these boys as they grow into young men, and give the adults the patience and wisdom to guide them. Amen.

SM: Please remain seated until I call your table. Thank you and enjoy your meal.

Dinner

[Note: Get scouts to pick up trash near end of meal. Don't neglect to recognize the kitchen staff!!]

Opening Ceremony

SM: Will the color guard please perform the opening ceremony.

SPL: Pledge, Oath, Law.

Scoutmaster Messages

[Note: Use this time for any important messages that MUST be done this night. Keep it short!!]

Slide Show

[Note: If this is the first family activity of the year, do a slide show of the past years activities. Keep it short!!]

Court of Awards

[Note: Recognize those scouts who are working on advancement, but try not to take the time to hand out patches. When the awards are completed, instruct the Trail of the Eagle participants to file out and get organized.]

Eagle Court of Honor

SM: We would now like to begin the Eagle Court of Honor for [Scout's name]. [Name] will perform the Opening Candle Ceremony.

Candle Ceremony

[Note: The scout spirit candle must be lit prior to starting ceremony.]

SM: Will the honor guard please take their positions. (Honor guard (preferably 2 Eagle Scouts) files into position)

Will the honor guard please escort Mr. & Mrs. [Scout's name] to the Eagle Court of Honor. (Parents escorted and seated at the front of the room)

Will the Honor guard please escort Eagle Candidate [Scout's name] to the Eagle Court of Honor. (Candidate escorted to the Candle Ceremony. It should be located to allow enough room to move from ceremony to the beginning of the Trail of the Eagle.)

Please turn out the lights. (The large Scout spirit candle is to be the only light in the room.)

The candle aflame represents the spirit of Scouting. [Scout's name], it is in fact your demonstration of scout spirit that has brought you to where you are tonight. As a symbol of the spirit in you, [Scout's name] , will you at this time light your candle from the scout spirit candle and take your position behind the table.

This evening, [Scout's name] , as you prepare to receive Scouting's highest honor, the Eagle Scout Award, let's pause and reflect on the oath and the law which are the essence of the scout spirit in you.

Would you now recite the scout oath to this audience and pause to light a candle for each of the three parts of the oath.

Scout: On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the scout law. (Lights red candle.)

SM: As a Boy Scout of America, I believe that America's strength lies in her trust in God and in the courage and strength of her people. I will, therefore, be faithful in my religious duties and will maintain a personal sense of honor in my own life. I will treasure my American heritage and will do all I can to preserve and enrich it. I will hold the values of the scout law in highest regard.

Scout: To help other people at all times. (Lights the white candle.)

SM: I recognize the dignity and worth of my fellow men and will use fair play and goodwill in dealing with them.

Scout To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight. (Lights blue candle.)

SM: I will acquire the attitude that seeks truth, strength, and uprightness, first in myself and then in all situations I encounter throughout my life.

The scout law is a set of guiding values that you have adopted for your life. _____, recite the scout law and light a candle for each point as we pause to reflect on its meaning.

Scout : A scout is trustworthy. (Lights a candle on one side.)

SM: A scout tells the truth. He keeps his promises. Honesty is a part of his code of conduct. People can always depend on him.

Scout: Loyal. (Lights a candle on the other side. Continues to light candles after each point alternating sides.)

SM: A scout is true to his family, friends, scout leaders, school, nation, and community.

Scout Helpful.

SM: A scout is concerned about other people. He willingly volunteers to help others without expecting payment or reward.

Scout: Friendly.

SM: A scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other scouts. He seeks to understand others. He respects those with ideas and customs that are different from his own.

Scout: Courteous.

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

Scout: Kind.

SM: A scout understands that there is strength in being gentile. He treats others as he wants to be treated. He does not harm or kill anything without reason.

Scout : Obedient.

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

Scout: Cheerful.

SM: A scout looks for the bright side of life. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way. He tries to make others happy.

Scout : Thrifty.

SM: A scout works to pay his own way and to help others. He saves for the future. He protects and conserves natural resources. He carefully uses time and property.

Scout: Brave.

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

Scout: Clean.

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

Scout: Reverent.

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

[Scout's name], you have thoughtfully prepared yourself for the Trail of the Eagle. Your journey now is only beginning.

Trail of the Eagle

SM: Please post the Trail of the Eagle. (Participants file in and take their positions.)

At this time, your Eagle Scout escorts will conduct you through the Trail of the Eagle. (Candidate is escorted to start of the trail.)

Mr. [Name] will now tell us of [Scout's name]'s, Trail to Eagle.

[Note: A slide show and talk of the scout's activities and dates of advancement. As each rank is presented on the screen, the candidate lights the candles of the scouts along the trail representing that rank.]

Eagle Poem

SM: Mr. [Name] will now recite the Eagle Poem.

Fond parents watch their boy where he stands
apart from his friends tonight
as the y 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 the of his new scout badge
as he told them the message it bore.

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

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

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

And the outflinging wings of the eagle scout badge
on the breast of this knight of today
are the things which will lift him above petty deeds
and guide him along the right way.

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

[Note: 15 second pause, then raise the lights.]

Eagle Charge

SM: [Scout's name], having completed the requirements for Eagle, are you prepared to accept the challenge of the Eagle Scout and rededicate yourself to the Scout Oath and Scout Law?

Scout: I am.

SM: [Scout's name],, please join your parents for the Eagle Charge. The honor guard may be seated.

The Eagle Charge will be given by Eagle Scout [Name].

Eagle: Eagle Candidate, [Scout's name], I charge you:

Enter the Eagle Scout Brotherhood holding, without reservation, ever before you the ideals of honor and service. I further charge you to remember that this entry into the Eagle Brotherhood is not an end to your commitment to these ideals but rather, just the beginning of the commitment. By repetition of the Eagle Scout Oath before your parents, leaders, and fellow scouts you acknowledge your acceptance of the challenge and become an Eagle Scout. Though these words are similar to those by which you joined scouting, tonight they have a special significance as you pledge, on your sacred word of honor your eternal loyalty to this code.

[Note: Eagle scout giving oath replaces Scout neckerchief with Eagle scarf and slide.]

SM: Thank you [Name].

Eagle Oath

SM: [Scout's name], give the scout sign and repeat after me:

I, [Scout's name], 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.

With the help of God,
I will do my best
to make my training an example.

My influence and my opportunities
strongly count for physical fitness,
for wholesome character
and for devoted citizenship,
in Scouting,
and in my community.

To this I pledge my sacred honor.

SM: By the authority vested in me by the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America, it is my privilege to pronounce you, [Scout's name], an Eagle Scout. Let's have a round of applause for this fine young man.

Mrs. [Mother of Scout's name], will you please pin the Eagle badge on [Scout's name].

As a symbol of the advice and council provided you by your mother as you advanced along the Eagle trail, I now ask you, [Scout's name], to pin the miniature Eagle pin on your mother.

As a symbol of the fatherly guidance provided as advanced along the Eagle trail, I now ask you, [Scout's name], to present this token to your father.

An Eagle Court of Honor Script by Greg Gough

(SETTING: MC is stage right; fire in center lit; scout rank cards are in semi-circle behind the fire, with Eagle rank nearest to podium; flags placed beside, but behind speaker)

(LIGHTS: all lights are turned off)

(SPOTLIGHTER: follow flags coming in)

OPENING CEREMONY:

Master of Ceremonies (MC): Everyone please stand
Color Guards advance
Post the Colors
Post the troop flag
Please follow me in the Pledge of Allegiance
Color Guards dismissed
Please be seated

(conduct opening flag ceremony; Smudgee carries troop flag and 2 OA members in full costume, carry the American flag)

(SPOTLIGHTER: light should move to MC)
MC: Welcome everyone. I'm _____ with _____ and will be your MC for tonight's ceremony. We have several individuals who are active in the scouting program here with us tonight. (recognize various leaders, i.e., Troop leaders, etc.) If we have any Eagle Scouts with us, young or not so young, would you please stand for a moment and be recognized. (Pause) You may be seated. Tonight we gather to honor one of our own. A scout who has proven himself worthy of Scouting's highest honor. Eagle Scout is not earned by the timid or the undedicated. Nor is it earned by the dispassionate. Eagle scout is earned by only those who work hard, exhibit virtue, and have ignited the passion of the scouting spirit in their soul. For that reason, only 2% of the boys who join boy scouts will ever become Eagle. The few that do, are seen as leaders among men. Tonight, [Scout's name] will join those few, known as Eagle Scout. Please join me in silence as we observe a Native American ceremony of smudging. The smudging ritual is done to purify the ceremonial area and its participants, and to ask for a blessing from our creator.

(SPOTLIGHTER: shines light on smudger, and each person as he smudges)

(SMUDGER is positioned center stage close to audience; Smudger blesses the four winds and the sky and the earth. **As each person is smudged, he is to gather the smoke in his arms, and imitate pouring the smoke over their heads.)

(ENTER YOUNG SMUDGER: he is smudged by smudgee)

(ENTER 2 OA TEAM: they are smudged by young smudger)

(OA TEAM exits to retrieve Eagle Scout and bring him forward to Young Smudger)

(OA TEAM then escorts Eagle Scout to fire where he is sat down on right side of fire, sideways to audience.)

(OA TEAM: return to podium to wait for signal)

(MC: starts tape **VOICE OF THE EAGLE****)
VOICE OF THE EAGLE

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

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

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

(SPOT SECOND CLASS)
But not for long, for soon you reached the first ledge where you were greeted by a group of Second Class Scouts.

Some, like yourself, were stopping to catch their breath before continuing along the Eagle trail.
(SPOT OFF)

(SPOT FIRST CLASS)
You began to study more, you worked harder, and almost before you knew it, you came to another ledge, the ledge where First Class Scouts dwell.
(SPOT OFF)

(SPOT STAR)
There you found a tempting green meadow by a crystal clear stream, bathed by the sun. Here you were tempted to remain. Yes, you could have remained there to live in First Class glory, but your ambition stirred you on. We next remember your progress when you became a Star Scout. You found the trail from First Class had been an optical illusion. It was not as difficult as it had seemed. This spurred you on and again you climbed further.

(SPOT OFF)

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

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

(OA TEAM: When the Voice of the Eagle reaches the Eagle rank, the OA Team escorts the Eagle Scout to the Eagle rank card)

(SPOT FOLLOWS SCOUT & OA TEAM TO EAGLE)
Yes, we have watched your character unfold and become manly. We have watched your leadership ability expand into a valuable asset. We have watched your mind develop and your wisdom increase. We

have watched all of these things in you. Now that you are at the threshold of your goal, we welcome you. For you have done your climbing in a true Scout-like-manner.

(OA TEAM: When the tape is finished, the OA Team wraps a blanket decorated with Scouting awards over the Eagle Scout)

MC: As this blanket clothes you in the spirit of scouting, let it be a reminder of your continued journey through scouting.

(OA team takes their place to the Eagles right)

(LIGHTS: all lights are turned on)

(MC may turn and congratulate scout on his journey)

(SPOT OFF)

MC: In a moment, the Scoutmaster of Troop ____, will bestow upon you the award of Eagle Scout. However, I am sure you will agree that some special people should be accorded the privilege of standing beside you, as they have throughout your journey in scouting. Color Guards (OA Team), please escort the parents of this Eagle to his side.

(OA TEAM: escorts Parents to Scout and has them stand on each side of the Eagle candidate.)

(OA TEAM then takes their place sitting beside fire)

MC: Both the parents and the Scout leaders of this Eagle Candidate have labored long and faithfully to guide and prepare this young man for his journey in life, through the help of the Boy Scout program. Their efforts culminate this evening in the presentation of the Eagle Award. The success of these efforts, however, will only be manifested in the way this Eagle Scout sets a pattern for those whose lives he touches. At this time, I would like to introduce the _____ (introduce your speaker(s).

SPEAKER: **********

MC: The Scoutmaster of Troop____, (SM name) will now present the highest award presented by the Boy Scouts of America. That of Eagle Scout.

SCOUTMASTER:(present Eagle Award)*******

MC: It is tradition of the Eagle ceremony, for the Scout to be given a charge. (***explain purpose/meaning of charge) The Scoutmaster will now present the Eagle with his charge.

SCOUTMASTER: (Eagle Charge) Eagle candidate, (Scouts name), I charge you to enter the Eagle Scout brotherhood, holding the ideals of honor and service. By the repetition of the Eagle Scout promise, you will become an Eagle Scout. When you pledge yourself on your sacred honor, you will be sealing your loyalty to the code of the Eagle Scout with the words that closed the Declaration of Independence. Make the Scout sign and repeat after me:

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

CLOSING CEREMONY:

MC: We will conclude our ceremony by retiring the colors and the presentation of the flag. You will notice that our Troop flag is decorated with 10 gold stars, representing each Scout who has attained the rank of Eagle in this troop. This flag will be presented to the Eagles parents to add their sons star to the Troop flag, as he joins those who have attained the Eagle rank before him.

The American flag , which was raised over the US capital in honor of this Eagle Scout, will be presented to him to keep as a daily reminder of his duty to serve God, his Country, and others.

We hope this ceremony has inspired other Scouts to reach this honorable rank. We are anxious to see many more Eagles pass through our troop. On behalf of [Eagle Scout's name] and his parents, we wish to thank everyone for coming and invite you stay for refreshments immediately following the closing ceremony.

(CLOSING CEREMONY)
MC:
Attention Color Guards (OA team, still sitting by fire, stands up; Young Smudger joins the OA TEAM at the fire)
Color Guards Advance
(all advance towards flag & stop)
Color Guards, retire the colors
(Young Smudger & OA Team retire Troop flag & fold it)
(OA team: removes the American flag from pole and fold it)
Color Guards advance
(OA Team & Young Smudger: advance to center and deliver folded
American flag to Eagle Scout; then deliver folded Troop flag to parents)
Color Guards dismissed
Thank you. Goodnight

-- Thanks to Greg Gough, SM Troop 201, Ozark, MO. I used to be an Owl but I will always be an Eagle!

Additional Eagle Resources

New Eagle Court of Honor Book Published

Louisville, KY -- Mark Ray's new book, The Eagle Court of Honor Book, began with a fainting spell.

"A few years ago, I attended a ceremony honoring twin Eagle Scouts," Ray explained. "The program was rather long, and the boys had to stand at attention on stage the whole time. Well, they locked their knees and, after about half an hour, they fainted."

That incident and several others made Ray realize that many Scout leaders didn't know how to plan courts of honor, as these Eagle Scout ceremonies are called. So he decided to tell them. The result is The Eagle Court of Honor Book, the first complete guide to what Ray calls "Scouting's greatest moment."

The 128-page book contains three complete ceremony scripts, dozens of mix-and-match ceremony parts, and a large selection of inspirational quotations and poems. It also contains nine planning checklists, illustrations of simple ceremony props, and details on support jobs like promotion, physical arrangements, and decorations.

Ray is self-publishing the book, which retails for $9.95 plus $2.00 shipping and handling. For more information, write to Mark Ray, P.O. Box 22314, Louisville, KY 40252-0314. You may also call (502) 327-7153, send an e-mail message to MarkR48512@aol.com or visit Mark's web site at http://members.aol.com/MarkR48512/EagleBook.html