

## Table of Contents

Preface.....	1
Introduction .....	1
Location.....	2
Physical Arrangements.....	2
Timing.....	3
Timeline .....	4
Invitations.....	5
Sample Invitations .....	6
Congratulatory Letters.....	8
Sample Letter .....	9
The Ceremony .....	10
Additional Features .....	10
Some Hints.....	11
Sample Ceremony Outlines.....	12
The Printed Program .....	13
The Participants .....	14
Dress Rehearsal.....	14
Ceremony Suggestions.....	15
Scout Vespers .....	15
Flag Ceremonies .....	16
Alternate Opening .....	17
The Trail to Eagle .....	17
Eagle Scout Challenge .....	19
The Eagle Charge (Version 1).....	20
The Eagle Charge (Version 2).....	21
The Eagle Scout Oath (Version 1).....	21
The Eagle Scout Oath (Version 2).....	22
The Eagle Scout Oath (Version 3).....	22
Untitled .....	23
On My Honor .....	23
The Eagle Scout Trail.....	24
Scout Leader's Prayer .....	24
Eagle Scout.....	25
"Trail the Eagle".....	25
The Eagle .....	26
What is it worth? .....	26
It's Only a Pin .....	27
A Hike Of A Thousand Miles Starts With The First Step.....	28
History of the Eagle and Man .....	29
Order of the Arrow Ceremony .....	31
Some Extra Touches.....	34
Flag Request.....	35
Newspaper Articles.....	36
The Reception.....	37

Sample expenses.....	37
Eagle memorabilia Display .....	38
Eagle Gifts.....	38
Suggested Troop Responsibilities.....	39
Additional Resources .....	40
Conclusion .....	41
Troop Eagle History .....	42
Troop Notes .....	43
Helpful Addresses .....	44

## Preface

Congratulations! If you are reading this guide, you have a young man that has completed the requirements for the highest advancement in the Boy Scouts, the Eagle Award. You also are very likely in the process of planning for your son's Eagle Court of



Honor. Most parents will go through this effort only once in their lives, or if very lucky, twice. If you are like the majority of parents in this situation, you do not have a clue as to where to begin, what to do, what types of things you will need to provide, etc...

This guide is intended to be a resource for you, the parents of the new Eagle Scout. The concept is for your troop to provide this guide to you, to give you a place to start your planning for this important occasion. This guide is an attempt to capture an abundance of ideas, concepts, recommendations and ceremonies to aid you in your planning. Hopefully this guide will be helpful in your planning efforts.

## Introduction

The Eagle Court of Honor is very likely one of the most exciting and important events in a young man's life. By earning the Eagle Award, the Scout has demonstrated his commitment to himself, his community, and his Troop, and has made a significant step towards manhood. Almost everyone has heard, at one time or another, that less than two percent of all boys entering the Scouting program ever progress to this level of achievement. It is for these reasons that the presentation of the Eagle Award be conducted in an impressive and appropriate manner.

The purpose of an Eagle Court of Honor ceremony is:

1. To honor the boy
2. To charge the boy
3. To inspire other boys to follow this adventurous and rewarding trail
4. To show the community the product of Scouting so they will direct other boys into its program and support the movement in all ways

The effectiveness of any ceremony draws largely from the personalities of those participating and the facilities available. Select a ceremony suited to your situation, then plan and rehearse carefully. It will be a tremendous aid for your planning if you are able to attend other Eagle Courts of Honor, but if this is not possible, collect a variety of past programs to give you ideas.

Although there is not an absolute set of rules, generally there are three things that dictate the setup and character for the Eagle Court of Honor:

1. Troop traditions
2. The special traits of the Eagle Scout, and
3. Unique features that the Eagle Scout or his family would like incorporated into the program

The job of conducting an Eagle Court of Honor has often been compared to conducting a wedding; truly there are certain similarities that are common to both events. The two most important ingredients are the people and the program. The people consist of the Eagle Scout, his parents, the guests, and the ceremony participants; the program consists of the location, physical arrangements, and the ceremonies used.

The program for an Eagle Court of Honor ceremony should embody the following characteristics:

1. It should be dignified
2. It should be inspirational
3. If well conducted, it will be impressive

If appropriate, emphasis is placed on the important part the boy's parents have played in the Scout's success. The Scout's relationship to his Scout Leaders should be recognized. The importance of the Eagle Scout as a citizen in the community must be stressed.

Traditionally, the Eagle Scout's family does most of the planning for the Eagle Court of Honor. It is appropriate to ask troop leaders what the troop usually contributes and how the troop has handled past Courts of Honor. Some troops are more involved than others, even to the extent of providing some financial help. Other troops may only provide a token gift at the Court of Honor. Some troops may ask to conduct a troop Court of Honor in conjunction with the Eagle Court. It is at the option of the family of the Eagle Scout to either accept or reject this request. An advantage of a joint troop and Eagle Court of Honor is that more troop members will attend. The disadvantage is that it tends to take away some of the uniqueness of an Eagle Court of Honor. If you do have your Eagle Court in conjunction with a Troop Court of Honor, be sure to close the regular Court of Honor, then set up the Eagle Court and reconvene with the Eagle Court of Honor.

## **Location**

The family of the Eagle Scout chooses the location, date, and time. If another Eagle Scout in the troop is also planning a Court of Honor, it is acceptable to have a joint Court of Honor. This works particularly well if they are good friends and have shared Scouting experiences. The location can be an unusual setting, such as a Scout camp or park if weather permits. You may select the family church, the troop meeting place, aboard a naval vessel, a courtroom, or any place of dignity that can handle a large group. Bearing in mind the BSA policy on alcohol, a country club setting would probably be inappropriate. Finally, you may ask the boy his preference, as the objective is for the evening to be a memorable one for the boy and the attendees.

## **Physical Arrangements**

Additional particulars to take into account:

1. Seating for audience
2. Parking arrangements
3. Lighting, heat, ventilation

4. Custodian's cooperation and availability
5. Audio/video equipment, PA system, other special equipment
6. Confirmed reservation for the location

One final note: The presentation ceremonies chosen for Eagle Courts of Honor throughout the year should be varied. The same one should not be used all the time; work with the troop leaders to assure this. Also, the Eagle candidate need not know the details of the ceremony ahead of time; as long as he knows where to stand and basically what to do, he will get by. The ceremony should be as much a surprise to him as to the audience.

## Timing

As soon as you know that your son has completed the Eagle requirements, you need to start the wheels turning and begin planning for his Court. Preliminary planning should occur before his Eagle Board of Review. Try to get as much help as you can from the other boys in the troop and their parents. Also delegate as much as possible, for this ceremony is almost as much for you, the parents, as it is for your son.



The following section details a timeline for the activities you will need to accomplish to run your Eagle Court of Honor. There are, however, some important aspects about the planning process that should be noted. When a boy finishes his Eagle requirements, there is some time that will elapse before you can have his ceremony. First he turns in his Life to Eagle package. Next he schedules and has his Board of Review. Finally, the District or local Council (or both) takes time to verify his accomplishments and dates. Once the Council has approved the Eagle Scout Application, they forward it to the National Scout Office for their inspection and approval. This entire approval process will take from 6 to 8 weeks. Be forewarned that the process can take much longer if anyone along the way encounters any discrepancies. It is for this reason that it is recommended for you to plan at least a 3 to 4 month interim between submission of your son's Eagle paperwork and scheduling his Court of Honor. This is most critical if you plan to invite out of town guests, as you would not want to schedule their visit and then not be able to present the young man's award.

Finally, remember that your ceremony may be elaborate or simple, the choices are yours and your sons.

## Timeline

This section is intended to give you an idea on the amount of lead time you will need in order to present your Eagle Court of Honor with a minimum of "challenges." The time frames are suggestions only, and your specific event or plans may dictate that you initiate some of these items prior to the suggested times. Further details (when necessary) for the tasks are contained later in this guide.



<b>When to initiate</b>	<b>Tasks</b>
<b>3-6 months</b> prior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reserve site and date—Compare with Troop, School, and personal calendars</li> <li>• Coordinate with out-of-town guests</li> </ul>
<b>8-10 weeks</b> prior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Order flag from capitol in Washington D.C.</li> <li>• Reserve giant Eagle emblem from Council</li> <li>• Prepare artwork and layout for invitations</li> </ul>
<b>6-8 weeks</b> prior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send letters to dignitaries in government</li> <li>• Have invitations printed</li> <li>• Prepare draft of program</li> </ul>
<b>4-6 weeks</b> prior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send out invitations</li> <li>• Call on participants—earlier if they need to develop a speech</li> <li>• Arrange for Order of the Arrow participation &amp; regalia</li> <li>• Reserve Photographer if desired</li> <li>• Reserve time slot at printer for programs</li> <li>• Send press release to newspapers</li> </ul>
<b>2-4 weeks</b> prior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize and print programs</li> <li>• Reserve United States, State, and Troop flags</li> <li>• Order cake and flowers</li> </ul>
<b>4-6 hours</b> prior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pick up cake and flowers</li> <li>• Set up</li> </ul>
<b>2 hours</b> prior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehearsal</li> </ul>

## Invitations

Whom to consider for invitations:

- Friends
- Relatives
- Troop members (also past members of the troop that know your son)
- Eagles from previous years in the troop
- Scouts and Scouters from other troops whom your son knows
- Troop sponsor, Charter Organization Representative
- Merit Badge counselors
- Summer Camp personnel
- District and Council leaders
- Principal and teachers from school
- Church friends
- Community leaders
- Business acquaintances and coworkers
- Neighbors

Send press release to newspapers (see the section entitled "Newspaper Articles" on page 36.) Local or community newspapers may be more responsive to publishing a photograph than the large metropolitan newspapers.

Invitations may be sent out earlier than the time line suggests if appropriate (i.e. out of town guests might like more notice.) Include directions or a map if the location is not well known, do not assume everyone knows where it is.

The Scout Shop has very nice Eagle Invitation Cards with envelopes (item number R02571) that can be personalized with your unique invitation.

The following two pages contain examples of actual invitations.



## Sample Invitations

You and your family are cordially  
invited to attend  
the Court of Honor ceremonies  
for the purpose of presenting

**Erik J. Scairpon**

with Scouting's highest honor,  
**The Eagle Scout Award**

to be held on  
Saturday, the seventh of May, 1994  
at 7:30 in the evening  
The Redmond Methodist Church,  
16540 N.E. 80th  
Redmond, Washington

Reception following ceremony

Boy Scout Troop 591  
requests the honor of your presence  
at the Court of Honor ceremonies  
presenting

**James Eugene Harper**  
with Scouting's highest honor,  
**The Eagle Scout Award**

to be held on  
Sunday, the third of June, 1990  
at 7:30 in the evening  
Faith Lutheran Church  
9041 - 166 Ave. N.E.  
Redmond, Washington

Reception following ceremony

You are cordially invited to attend  
a Court of Honor  
on November 30th, 1988 at 7:30 p.m.  
to recognize  
Scott Main  
who has risen to the rank of Eagle Scout.  
Scott is a member of Troop 420,  
Chief Seattle Council,  
Boy Scouts of America,  
located in Bothell, Washington.  
The ceremony will be in the Sanctuary,  
followed by a reception in the  
Fellowship Hall of:  
Bothell United Methodist Church  
18515 - 92nd Avenue N.E.  
Bothell Washington 98011

You are invited  
To Boy Scout Troop 622  
Court of Honor and Potluck Dinner  
To Honor Eagle Scout  
**RV Eagle Palmer II**  
at  
Northlake Lutheran Church  
6620 N.E. 185th St.  
Kenmore, Washington  
on Wednesday, September 24, 1986  
Dinner at 6:30  
Court of Honor at 7:15 p.m.  
Reception follows Ceremony

*You are cordially  
invited to*

**EAGLE COURT  
OF HONOR**

*for*

**CLIFFORD GOMEN**

7:00 p.m. on October 14, 1990

at the

Church of Jesus Christ  
of Latter Day Saints 19215 88th Ave.

Bothell, WA 98011

**You are cordially invited  
to attend the  
EAGLE COURT OF HONOR**

**for  
JAMES MARTIN RICKETTS**

on

**Saturday, November 16, 1991  
7:30 P.M.**

**American Legion Hall  
19631 Bothell Everett Highway  
Bothell, Washington**

**Troop 622**

**Special Performance: OA Dance Team  
Reception following**

You and your family are cordially  
invited to attend an  
**EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR**

for

**BRYAN KRAFT**

Sunday, May 3, 1992

2:00 p.m.

The Farm Clubhouse  
N.E. 144th Pl. and 157th Ave. N.E.

Woodinville, Washington

Troop 422  
North Lakes District  
Chief Seattle Council  
Boy Scouts of America No Gifts Please

You are Cordially Invited  
to the

**EAGLE CEREMONY**  
honoring  
**JASON DAVID ZABROCKI**

Thursday, April 27, 1989  
7:00 PM

Cottage Lake Presbyterian Church  
18350 N.E. Woodinville Duvall Rd.  
Woodinville, Washington 98072

Reception following

## Congratulatory Letters

You may want to send letters to high government officials and other famous people that the Eagle Scout admires. Writing to these people will generally result in a very nice letter. A recent Eagle Scout sent out a batch of letters and experienced about a 66% return on them. Some suggested people to include on your invitation list:

- The President of the United States (current & former)
- The Vice-president of the United States
- Your United States Senators and Representatives
- Your State Governor
- Your State Senators and Representatives
- Your County Executive
- The Mayor of your city
- Admired sports heroes
- National heroes, such as astronauts
- Movie or television stars

Your letter should inform them of the great occasion about to occur. Usually you invite them and recognize the fact that they may be too busy to come, but a letter of congratulations would be welcomed. On the following page is a sample letter to the President that will result in a congratulatory reply. Numerous sources exist for names and addresses. Some sources are your public library, the League of Women Voters, and various "Government Guides" published by local politicians.

The writing of these letters should occur as soon after the Eagle Board of Review as possible, as some of these people can take a long time to reply. Be sure to include the Eagle's full name and date of his court of honor.



## Sample Letter

Scoutmaster Bob  
1234 123rd Place S.E.  
Redmond, WA 98072

January 25, 2003

Honorable Pat Paulson  
Executive Office of the President  
The White House 1600  
Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I realize that the demands of your office make it difficult to attend as many events as you might wish. However, the occasion of a Scout attaining Eagle Rank has great significance for the community at large as well as to the young man. If we wish to keep high the ideals these Scouts have lived by, we must affirm their importance.

You are cordially invited to celebrate the achievement of Eagle rank with John Smith of Troop 999 Boy Scouts of America, Redmond, Washington, Chief Seattle Council, on November 23, 2003, at 3:00 PM. in Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 2311 54th Ave. N.E., Redmond, Washington.

I realize it is unlikely you would be able to attend the Court of Honor to which this boy is inviting you. However, a letter from you expressing your recognition of his accomplishment will help make this a special day in his life.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Scoutmaster Bob  
Scoutmaster, Troop 999

## The Ceremony

Some time ago there was a booklet available that is now out of print, called "*Scout Ceremonies*." If you are lucky, perhaps your troop still has a copy available. This booklet will give you at least five word-for-word Eagle ceremonies that you may wish to consider.

The most common ceremony used is "The Trail of the Eagle" (reprinted on page 17). Many troops have suitable props (candle holders and rank cards) available for this ceremony, but you may need to replace the candles. If props are not available from the troop, appropriate candle holders can be made from slices, or "rounds" cut from a rough log and drilled to hold the candles. The Scout Shop sells a very nice set of 8" x 11" trail to Eagle rank cards for use in this ceremony.

The ceremony program has no prescribed order, but usually contains the following elements:

- Opening flag ceremony
- Invocation
- Trail of the Eagle
- Eagle Charge
- Eagle Pledge
- Parents escorted to front
- Badge presented
- Parents receive pins
- Parents escorted back to seats
- Response by Eagle
- "Keynote" speech
- Benediction
- Closing flag ceremony
- Reception



The "Trail of the Eagle" is quite lengthy, so be sure to have a good speaker.

### Additional Features

You may wish to consider some of the following as additions to the program:

- **Eagle roll call:** usually all the Eagles in the audience are recognized by each giving his name, year of Eagle award and troop. Some courts like to have the "Eagle Nest" where the Eagles come to the front and gather around the new Eagle. They identify themselves individually and announce their Eagle date. As they leave they should shake hands with the new Eagle. Also the Eagles' Nest may say the Eagle pledge along with the new Eagle.
- **Scoutmaster and or Coach's Minute**
- **Audience sings** "America the Beautiful" (you may wish to include words in the program, especially if you sing more than one verse).

- **Audience sings** "Scout Vespers" (include words in the program).
- **Scouting history**
- **Parent acknowledgment**
- **Reading of the Eagle Letter**
- **Family awards and presents**
- **Scouting biography:**
  - List ranks and dates attained
  - List merit badges earned
  - List leadership positions held
  - List Scouting functions in which participated
  - Have last troop Eagle do the presentation of the Eagle Award
- **Special Environment:** An inside campfire environment with dark and light effects, a fake campfire, some evergreen boughs, lashed together props, etc.
- **OA Dance Team:** Get an Order of the Arrow Dance Team or Ceremonial Team to perform and present the Eagle badge.
- **Special Acknowledgments** - District and Council personnel.
- **Stepladder Prop** with the rank cards and candles
- **Guest Book** for guests to sign in at entrance with programs.

### Some Hints

- You can eliminate the necessity for memorization of the texts of the speeches by having a copy mounted on light cardboard and lying on the table in the view of the Scouter.
- A small reading light could be helpful in a dimly lit hall.
- You should furnish other participants with small cards from which to read their parts.
- Possibly mount the badges on a plush cushion at the edge of the table facing the audience.
- Due to the wording used, it is important that the ceremony be read slowly and clearly if the Scouts and audience are to receive its full meaning.

In order to avoid a ragged response from the audience, printed programs are a necessity (see page 13). They should contain the highlights of the ceremony with cues for the audience to rise at the presentation of the colors and the administration of the Scout Oath. They should also contain brief biographical data for the Eagle candidate, as well as some indication of the nature of the Eagle requirements.

## Sample Ceremony Outlines

Introduction and  
Opening Presentation of  
Colors Invocation Guest  
Speaker Voice of Eagle  
Escorts  
Scouting Stations (Trail of the Eagle)  
Rededication to Scouting Verification  
of Eagle Rank Presentation of Eagle  
Rank Benediction Retire Colors

Master of Ceremonies—welcome  
Presentation of Colors Invocation  
Convene the Court of Honor  
District Commissioner Eagle  
Candlelight Trail Symbolism of  
the Eagle Badge Eagle Charge  
Background of the new Eagle  
Eagle Oath  
Presentation of  
Parents Eagle Nest  
Formation Plaque  
Presentation Eagle  
Scout Response  
Benediction Retire  
Colors



Prelude  
Presentation of Colors  
    Our National Anthem (Musical Guest)  
Opening of the court Fanfare  
Escort of Eagle Candidate  
Welcome  
Trail of the Eagle  
    Eagle Requirements  
Presentation of Letters Eagle  
Address Presentation of Eagle  
Badge Eagle Challenge Eagle  
Charge Eagle Scout Response  
Closing of the court Benediction  
Retire Colors  
Taps \_\_\_\_\_

## The Printed Program

Printed programs lend a touch of class to an Eagle Court of Honor, and provide an inexpensive souvenir for all the attendees. These do not have to be expensive, but with the technology that is readily available today, a laser printed and photocopied program can be quite impressive. When you prepare the programs, be sure to have enough for all the people you invite. Also, if there are people that are important to the Eagle scout that are unable to attend, the program is a nice item to mail to them with a note and regrets.

There are many options available for styles and contents, but no matter what the contents are, the program will benefit by the addition of an Eagle cover (available at the Scout Shop). These covers have a full color Eagle award, and are very impressive. Some items you may wish to have the program include:

1. A title page such as that on the right.
2. A page containing "Words From The Eagle".
3. A list of the participants and their roles.
4. The order of the program.
5. A one page biographical Scout history of the Eagle, include a list of his merit badges.
6. The words to any songs that the audience will be joining in singing.
7. A full list of all the previous Eagle scouts that have come from the troop.

You may wish to print the program on a special paper; an earth-tone or parchment looks very nice.

**Troop 550  
Chief Seattle Council  
Boy Scouts of America  
PRESENTS  
the  
Eagle Scout  
Court of Honor  
for  
Erik Jason Scairpon  
May 7, 1994  
7:30 PM  
Sponsored by  
Redmond Methodist  
Church  
Redmond, Washington**



## The Participants

Decide early who you would like to serve as the Master of Ceremonies for the Court of Honor. Select the participants carefully, and secure commitments from them well in advance. Send a reminder and a draft copy of the program about a week before the ceremony. Re-confirm with the participants before you print the programs, as it may be embarrassing to a last-minute participant to be omitted from the program.

You may want to have a backup plan to fill in for someone who gets sick or has an emergency that prevents them from attending. This is critical for the key participants (master of ceremonies, keynote speaker, Trail of the Eagle speaker...)

Check with the troop to determine any special troop traditions, such as the Advancement Chairman usually acts as the Master of Ceremonies, the Scoutmaster always presents the cloth badge, etc. Remember, this is your ceremony, and there is no time like the present to change old or start new traditions.

## Dress Rehearsal

In order to assure smoothness and lack of embarrassment on the part of the participants, at least one full dress rehearsal is an absolute necessity. Include all those having a part in the ceremony except the actual candidate(s), (who do not need a rehearsal, and attendance at a rehearsal might actually spoil the actual investiture for them.) In addition, a visiting dignitary might not be available for rehearsal.



## Ceremony Suggestions

As previously mentioned, there used to be a Scout Ceremonies booklet available at the Scout Shop that provided you with word-for-word descriptions of at least five ceremonies. Some examples are:

1. **Trail to Eagle:** This ceremony is very popular. In it, a person with a good voice tells of each advancement from tenderfoot to Eagle. Most of the time it is a ceremony that involves members of the troop who take turns lighting a candle in front of each rank emblem as it is being referred to in the dialog. This ceremony is sometimes referred to in other sources as "Lighting the Eagle Trail." A very nice added touch is to personalize each step with incidents from the Eagle's past scouting experiences. Another nice touch is to have each scout recite two points of the scout law as he lights the candle. If you do this, print up and tape the two points to the back of the candle holder. The full text of this ceremony is found starting on page 17.
2. **Legal-type:** This is especially good if using a Court Room or Chambers for the ceremony. This is where the ceremony is almost like a court case with witnesses coming forward to speak of the excellence and qualities of the Eagle.
3. **A portrait:** This is where a representative of each aspect of the Eagle's life steps forward to be part of the "portrait." This will include a teacher, a church person, a merit badge counselor and others.

There are many sources from different councils that have variants of the above ceremonies plus some unique ones. Included on the following pages are numerous suggestions for songs and recitations. Also included is a section containing an unusual ceremony for your Eagle if he belongs to the Order of the Arrow.

### Scout Vespers

(TUNE OF O TANNENBAUM)

Softly falls the light of day,  
As our campfire fades away.  
Silently each Scout should ask  
"Have I done my daily task?  
Have I kept my honor bright?  
Can I guiltless sleep tonight?  
Have I done, and have I dared  
Everything to be prepared?"

Listen Lord, O listen Lord,  
As I whisper soft and low.  
Bless my mom and bless my dad,  
There is something they should know. I  
will keep my honor bright,  
The oath and law will be my guide.  
Mom and dad this you should know,  
Deep in my heart I love you so."



## Flag Ceremonies

Scouts line up in two rows behind the US and Troop flags.

- The US flag is on the right.
- The flags are held on an angle with the US flag higher.
- You may need to hold a corner of the flag so it does not drag.

When the Color Guard advances, the scout with the US flag crosses **in front** of the Troop flag, and ends up on stage right.

When the Color Guard is in position with the colors, they drop the corners held while advancing. Presenting the colors means to hold the flag poles out so the flags can be fully seen.

When the Color Guards posts the colors, they place the flags in the stands & step back and salute the US flag.

## COMMANDS FOR PRESENTATION OF COLORS:

1. Will the audience please rise, Troop attention
2. Color Guard: forward march, Troop hand salute
3. When they arrive at front, Color Guard: present the colors
4. Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance: "I pledge allegiance..."
5. Color Guard: post the colors
6. Color Guard: Honor the colors (pause)... "Too"
7. Color Guard: dismissed
8. Troop at ease, the audience may be seated

## COMMANDS FOR RETRIEVING THE COLORS:

1. Will the audience please rise, Troop attention
2. Color Guard: forward march
3. When they arrive at front, Color Guard: honor the colors (pause)... "Too"
3. Color Guard: prepare to retrieve the colors
4. Troop, hand salute
5. Color Guard: retrieve the colors
6. Color Guard: Dismissed (When They are at back of hall)... "to"
7. Troop at ease, the audience may be seated

## Alternate Opening

*(A 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."**

*(Another Scout lights the white candle)*

**"The white of my flag is for purity, cleanliness of purpose, thought, word, and deed."**

*(Another Scout lights the blue candle)*

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

*(Lights are turned back on)*

**"Would you all please rise, and join us in the Pledge of Allegiance?"**

*(Group rises, pledge is said)*

**"Thank you -- you may be seated"**

*(Scouts remain at table until they are to escort the Eagle Candidate)*

## The Trail to Eagle

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 down the cliff you have climbed; look at the experiences you have encountered in your ascent. These experiences should not be forgotten. You should profit by making sure adverse experiences do not occur again. Experience is a valuable teacher, if you heed its lessons.

We remember when you took your first step upon the trail that leads upward. With that first step you began to build yourself physically, mentally, and morally. You started living the Scout Oath and Law. All the while you were on the trail, we watched you study and we saw you learn by doing. First, you were only a Scout **(A Scout steps out, lights candle and takes his designated place on the stage. Says "A Scout is Trustworthy, A Scout is Loyal".)**

Next, as you started living the Scout Oath and Law, your brother Scouts called you a Tenderfoot Scout. You learned about the three parts of the Oath: duty to God and country, duty to others, and duty to self. **(Tenderfoot steps out, lights candle and takes his place on stage. Says "A Scout is Helpful, A Scout is Friendly".)**

Soon, you reached the first ledge, and there you were greeted by a large group of Second Class Scouts. To reach the rank of Second Class, a Scout learns to work with members of his patrol and he begins to develop patrol spirit. **(Second Class steps out, lights candle and takes his place on stage. Says "A Scout is Courteous, A Scout is Kind".)**

Some like you, were stopping to catch their breath before continuing along the trail. You began to study more, you worked harder, and almost before you knew it, you came to another ledge—the ledge where the First Class Scouts dwell. When a Scout reaches the rank of First Class in Troop \_\_\_\_\_, he is really first class. He is an expert in the outdoor skills of camping, cooking, hiking, and first aid. **(First Class steps out and lights candle and takes his place on the stage. Says “A Scout is Obedient, A Scout is Cheerful”.)**

There you found a tempting green meadow by a crystal-clear stream bathed in 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 advancement to Star Scout. A Star Scout learns to work with younger boys in the troop, passing along the knowledge he has gained. **(Star Scout steps out and lights candle and takes his place on the stage. Says “A Scout is Thrifty, A Scout is Brave”.)**

The trail from First Class to Star rank was not as difficult as it had seemed. This spurred you on, and again you climbed further. The trail was steeper and less worn. Fewer Scouts seem to be headed in your direction. You looked down and saw the crowds below you. You looked up and saw a few above you, and with the same determination with which you started your climb, you continued up the trail. A Life Scout demonstrates leadership in the troop, and takes part in community service projects. Soon, you earned the badge of Life rank. **(Life Scout steps out and lights candle and takes his place on the stage. Says “A Scout is Clean, A Scout is Reverent”.)**

The heart badge was then placed on your uniform. You will never forget the thought in your heart. This feeling has been experienced by all Scouts on reaching the ledge of Life Scout. Now I am close to the Eagle. I will carry on. The trail becomes tougher, but more interesting. The original principles, the Scout Oath and Law, now had a fuller meaning. Your understanding of them was greater. The rank of Eagle is Scouting's highest award. The Eagle Scout must earn the specified number of Merit Badges and must plan, develop, and carry out an extensive service project, giving leadership to others. He must also serve as a troop officer for a specified time.

Yes, we have watched your character unfold and become more manly. We have watched your leadership expand into a valuable asset. We have watched your mind develop and your wisdom increase. We have watched all these things in you and now that you are on the threshold of your goal, we welcome you, for you have done your climbing in a true Scout-like manner. **(Speaker steps out and lights the last candle as he leaves the stage.)**



## Eagle Scout Challenge

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

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

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

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

The final responsibility of an Eagle Scout is **service**. The Eagle Scout extends a helping hand to those who still toil up Scouting's trail, just as others helped him in his climb to 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.

You deserve much credit for having achieved Scouting's highest award. 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.



## The Eagle Charge (Version 1)

I ask that you listen carefully to these words and weigh their meaning in your heart.

I have the honor to give to you, \_\_\_\_\_, the Eagle Scout charge on the occasion of your elevation to the highest award 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 as being worthy of this honor. All who know you rejoice in your achievement.

Your position, as you well know, is one of honor and responsibility. You are a marked man. As an Eagle Scout, you have assumed a solemn obligation to do your duty to God, to country, to 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 to 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 high level of service to God and to your fellow man. So live and serve that those who know you will be inspired to finer living. We have too many who use their strength and their brains to exploit others and to gain selfish ends. I charge you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be among those who dedicate their skills and ability to the common good.

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



## The Eagle Charge (Version 2)

"Eagle candidate, \_\_\_\_\_ I charge you to enter this 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 which closed the Declaration of Independence. Scouts attention!

Eagle candidate, make the Scout sign and repeat after me":  
*(Insert one of the Eagle Scout Oaths here.)*

## The Eagle Scout Oath (Version 1)

I *(state full name)*, On my honor as a Scout,  
Having renewed my allegiance  
to the three promises of the Scout Oath,  
Hereby make the following pledge:

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 and my 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  
*(Note: pause after each line)*



## The Eagle Scout Oath (Version 2)

Please repeat the pledge of the Eagle after me:

I \_\_\_\_\_ accept the responsibility of the Eagle challenge.  
I realize the obligation to my fellow men,  
My home, my county and my God.  
I will at all times do my best to assist other scouts  
Who are climbing the trail of the Eagle.  
To give back more to scouting than it has given me,  
To assist my troop as much as possible,  
To live with honor and loyalty, courage and service;  
And to be a living example of the Scout Oath and Law To  
the best of my ability.  
To this I pledge my sacred honor.

*(Note: pause after each line)*

## The Eagle Scout Oath (Version 3)

"I promise to undertake my citizenship  
with a solemn dedication.—  
To be a leader,  
but to only lead toward the best.—  
To lift every task I do,  
and every office I hold, to the high  
level of service to God and my  
fellowmen.—  
I promise to so live and serve, that those  
who know me will be inspired to the  
finest living.—  
I promise to be among those who  
dedicate their skills, heart and  
hands, to the common good.—  
I promise to help build America  
on the solid foundation of clean  
living, honest work, and reverence  
to God.  
To this I pledge my sacred honor.  
Too!"



*(Note: pause after each line)*

## Untitled

*One spring afternoon,  
Not so very long ago A young scout and I  
hiked along And he asked me what was so.*

*What is leadership he asked,  
As we came upon a stream.  
I followed his steps across the rocks So  
that's what leadership means.*

*What is service he asked,  
What do we gain by lending a helping hand?  
We picked up cans and placed them in our packs,  
The clean trail seemed to help him understand.*

*What is meant by fellowship?  
That is something I've never understood.  
As the chill of the night deepened,  
We sat by the fire,  
And sharing a blanket,  
He experienced brotherhood.*

*As our journey ended,  
The scout had learned a lot.  
And as he grew to manhood,  
These lessons he never forgot.*

*For I gave the scout no lectures,  
Nor told him what I knew,  
I simply provided the opportunities And from  
experience he grew.*

## On My Honor

<p>On my honor, I'll do my best to do my duty to God; On my honor, I'll do my best to serve my country as I may, On my honor, I'll do my best to do my Good Turn each day, To keep my body strengthened and keep my mind awakened, To follow paths of righteousness, on my honor, I'll do my best.</p>
--

## The Eagle Scout Trail

*The Eagle Scout, whose notable achievement We  
honor here this afternoon, has just completed A  
long, long trail. He started several years ago,  
First as a Cub Scout,  
Then as a Tenderfoot, the gateway to the trail.  
With Scout Good Turns and slogan, "Be Prepared."  
Then Second Class and First, with outdoor life.  
The open road with nights beneath the stars.  
And service to community and troop.  
Now pinnacles of Star and Life were scaled.  
On one hand learning skills and pioneering,  
While following the daily Scout ideals  
Of service in the home, the community, the school-  
Not merely winning many merit badges,  
But living out the Scouting Oath and Law.  
And Yet the Eagle Scout who stands before us  
Has not attained the summit. No, instead,  
He's really just embarking on a trail Much greater-  
that of Scouting leadership,  
And, with the spirit of a true American,  
Is ready to defend our way of life.*



-G.S. Ripley

## Scout Leader's Prayer

(Tune: Marchete)

Our Father in Heaven above us, we ask Thee  
For guidance in our daily task.  
May virtue and manhood stand strongly amongst us;  
To Thee we give all of our thanks.  
The Scout Oath, The Scout Law, their lessons unfolding  
To our youth, in numbers untold,  
Our motto, our Good Turn, may we live it and teach it,  
Great spirit of Scouting, we pray.

## 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.

## "Trail the Eagle"

(Tune: On Wisconsin)

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.

## The Eagle

The Eagle Scout Award is the highest recognition offered by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America to a boy who successfully completes all the requirements.

Merit badges representing twenty-one different fields of interest are required before the boy can apply for the Eagle Scout Award. Specific requirements in first-aid, communications, safety, citizenship, preparedness, camping, environment, personal fitness and personal management are mandated along with the opportunities to earn merit badges in many vocational, hobby and recreational subjects.

Leadership experience as a patrol leader or member of the troop staff is required for a minimum of sixteen months. The boy must take part in at least twelve hours of service projects. He also must give leadership to other Scouts in an Eagle Scout Project helpful to his religious institution, school, or community and approved by his Scoutmaster, the Troop Committee and the District Committee.

The character of the Eagle candidate is also examined and his conduct measured against the standards of the Scout Oath and Law. The Eagle Scout Board of Review interviews each Eagle Scout candidate before submitting its recommendation to the National Scout Council. The National Scout Council issues the Eagle Scout Award upon approval. Fewer than one percent of all boys in the Scouting movement in the United States achieve this highest award.

### What is it worth?

The Eagle Badge... The highest rank that a Scout can earn... What is it worth?... Well, in dollars and cents it is worth \$11.00, ...probably a dollar and a half in silver, fifty 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 first time when you first became a Scout. Remember the Scout skills that you learned for each rank. And the rededicating 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 eleven dollars? 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 the help yourself. So now you stand at 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 when you finally reach the end, we all hope that you can look back on the trail of life and be able to say, "I have done my best."



## It's Only a Pin

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 pins 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 old 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 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 beneath it beats true,  
And will throb to the last for the things that are good;  
A lesson for me... and for you.



## A Hike Of A Thousand Miles Starts With The First Step

by Vince Wirkman

As we all know, on hikes, scouts carry their backpacks filled with only the necessities. But we find that the character of those necessities changes with time. As a tenderfoot, some of those necessities may be things that have ties to home such as a favorite pillow or a flashlight to help the scout feel comfortable in strange surroundings. As the scouts' progress through Second class to First class their necessities might include a 6- pack of Coke and a Twix bar. Somewhere along the line these scouts start to add some of the other necessities, such as rope, rain-gear, and if we are lucky a sleeping bag. By the time a scout gets to the Star rank, some of the things that were formerly considered necessities fall by the wayside. Now we find new necessities appearing such as gel and a comb (in case we see some girls along the way) and maybe a map, compass and personal first aid kit. By the time the scout gets to Life he has a fairly good idea of what the real necessities are: his scout handbook, TP and a backpacker's shovel. Amazingly enough as the scout moves along toward Life and Eagle the backpack gets less crowded with extraneous items. It starts getting lighter as the scout realizes all the material things that he can get along without. By the time the scout attains the rank of Eagle he has really pared things down to the basics. Somewhere along the line though, other things have crept into his backpack. These items are always at hand, and seem to add no weight to the scout's load. These things are the skills he has learned and the values and teachings that are to be found in the Scout oath, law, motto and slogan.

For example, take the Scout motto: "Be Prepared." Only two words, but what words! We all understand "Be Prepared" in the context of a scout hike. You must be sure to take all that you might need for the hike such as food, clothing, rain gear, first aid kit, and you must be prepared for whatever might be around that next switch back on the trail. In Baden Powell's vision of scouting, he never intended the motto to apply only to scouting activities. Think, if every time you walked in the door to school or work, you walked in knowing that you were prepared, ...totally prepared.

What about the Scout slogan: "Do a Good Turn Daily." On a hike it may be as simple as assisting another scout who is having difficulty setting up his tent. In life it may be nothing more than a kind word to someone to let them know you care about them. Yet, if we all managed to do a good turn every day, what a better world this would be.

Or take the Scout law: "A Scout is Brave." Bravery is not just courage in the face of danger. It is also the courage to stand up for that which you believe is right even if others laugh or are scornful. All the Scout laws are, in a like manner, guidelines that help the scout progress from childhood through adolescence and on to adulthood. The Scout Law can shape a man's entire life.

Our candidate for Eagle, \_\_\_\_\_, has progressed along this scouting trail and his backpack for his 1000 mile hike is extremely light. There is no need for him to pack all the material things that he might have formerly considered necessities. He will pick those things up as he needs them along the way. \_\_\_\_\_ has already packed his

pack full with the scouting skills he has acquired. He knows that he has at hand those Scouting values and teachings to draw upon and use as he progresses along the way on his 1000 mile hike through life.

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

This is another less familiar presentation. The honor guard, composed of Eagle Scouts will escort the Eagle candidate to the front of the room, near the American flag, leave him facing the audience.

### **VOICE OF THE EAGLE (reader):**

I am the eagle. Since the beginning of time, man has used my brothers and me 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. They awed and worshipped me for my majestic beauty. In the Assyrian myths, I was a symbol of storms and lightning and the god who carried souls to Hades.

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

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

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

In the Middle Ages, I became the symbol of Germany. When 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 19th century, French troops under Napoleon conquered Europe under the symbol of the eagle. Many French soldiers gave their lives to protect the golden eagle that supported the French flag on the battleground.

On June 20, 1787, 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 emblem 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 Assyrian, to the symbol of the Caesar's, 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 II crew chose Eagle as the name for the lunar module that 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 highest in achievement in Scouting. Through all of history, I have been the symbol of man's best, now the eagle is the symbol of Scouting's best.



## Order of the Arrow Ceremony

This ceremony requires a total of 6 members of the OA in Indian costumes. A ceremonial campfire could be used as a backdrop. The OA team either enter in silence or chanting in a low voice. They enter from backstage if a stage is used or from the rear of the audience if no stage is available. They would form as the four winds on one side, with the Mighty Chief in the center of the stage area and Guide off to the side near the candidate.

**MIGHTY CHIEF:** (Give the sign for quiet.) I have led my braves to the summit of this mountain in a long journey from our camp to show you the rewards of your climb along the trail. When you began this trip as a young Cub Scout (or Boy Scout) of the trail many years ago, you had this mountain top as your goal. You now have reached the summit, the realm of the Eagles. But before admitting you to this honored membership, we must first hear the story of your long climb along the trail.



**GUIDE:** 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.

**MIGHTY CHIEF:** Before admitting this Scout to the realm of the Eagle, I would like to have assurance that he has been faithful in serving his troop, in giving leadership to younger Scouts, and that he is entitled to wear the wings of the Eagle. Scoutmaster , has your Scout met these qualifications?

**SCOUTMASTER:** Yes, he has.

**MIGHTY CHIEF:** Scout \_\_\_\_\_, you have worked to the point where you are about to become an 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 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 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, 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 brave and clean.

**MIGHTY CHIEF:** Through all the climb up the Scouting trail, the badges have changed as your abilities grew. But 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.

**MIGHTY CHIEF:** Then you will make the Scout sign and state the Scout Oath slowly and clearly.

**CANDIDATE:** (Repeats the Scout Oath slowly.)

**MIGHTY CHIEF:** 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.

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

**MIGHTY CHIEF:** Without the love and guidance of understanding parents, a boy is severely handicapped. Your mother has watched you grow and develop. She has worked for you in health, nursed you in sickness, guided your thoughts and actions, and helped you in untold ways. Your father has been a strength to lean on, someone to turn to in times of trouble and for help. Your home influence will last you 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 side of the candidate.)

**GUIDE:** As a token of your willingness to continue your help for this young Eagle, I ask you Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ to pin the Eagle badge on your son. (She does so.) Scout, you have seen how your mother plans to stand by you in the future. Do you now promise to do your best as an Eagle Scout?

**CANDIDATE:** Yes.

**GUIDE:** Then you now have the honor to pin a miniature Eagle pin on your mother. (He does so.) Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, please read the letter to your son from the Chief Scout Executive and present him with the Eagle certificate and letter. (He does so.)

**MIGHTY CHIEF:** As Ceremonial Chief, I now call upon Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ to give the new Eagle the charge. (When the charge is finished, the four winds step, one at a time, to the new Eagle, and each puts his right hand on the Eagle's right shoulder as he states the following:)

**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

**MIGHTY CHIEF:** I now 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.

**MIGHTY CHIEF:** (Hands upraised.) We now call upon the Great Spirit of all, for His blessing on this young man. May he ever strive to attain the noblest and highest ideals of life. Be his strength and his guide. Cause him to follow a straight trail and to never be a reason for other Scouts to waver from the path. Protect him for many moons to come. May the Great Master of all Scouts be with us until our trails cross again. (Hold pose until curtains close, etc.)

(If no stage or curtains are used, the OA Team walks back from whence they came, and the Scoutmaster takes over to start the congratulations.)



## Some Extra Touches

1. As soon as possible, contact one of your two United States Senators and request a flag that has been flown over the United States Capitol in honor of your son. Be sure to give the date of the Eagle Court of Honor. This letter needs to include the payment for the flag; an example of a flag request is on the following page.
2. The Chief Seattle Council has a man-sized Eagle Award emblem that can be borrowed as a prop. This needs to be reserved ASAP for it is very popular.
3. Locate and reserve the troop flags, stands and props.
4. Locate a state flag, your local school or library is a good source. You may need to improvise a stand.
5. Bring a stapler, scotch tape, masking tape, thumb tacks, a hammer, a pair of pliers, and wire.
6. Press uniform (be sure have up-to-date insignia); sew any last minute badges.
7. Flowers for the Eagle mom and the main contributors to the Court of Honor.
8. Have an Open House following the ceremony for special people.
9. Invite your troop's "feeder" Cub Scout Pack leaders and members.
10. Arrange for a Photographer, either a professional or someone you can trust to do a quality job.
11. Purchase some miscellaneous gifts for thank you presents.
12. The Eagle should write thank you notes to those who helped with the ceremony and those who gave gifts.
13. Provide live music, suggestions for type of music that might be used:
  - Prelude -- "Boy Scouts of America" by Sousa.
  - Entry march -- "Pomp and Circumstance" by Edgar.
  - Incidental music, used as background during reading of text, especially the Eagle Scout poems -- chapel music from *Parsifal* by Wagner.
  - Vocal number -- male quartet -- "Soldiers' Chorus" from *Tannhauser* by Wagner.
  - Postlude -- "America the Beautiful" by Bates.



# Flag Request

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Please include a check for the correct amount made payable to "Keeper of the Stationary".
2. Send your request to your U.S. Senator's Washington D.C. office.
3. Flags take approximately eight to ten weeks to be flown and delivered, sometimes longer during a holiday season.
4. Flags can be flown for a particular person or organization and on a particular date (with adequate notice of two months).

Name of Constituent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## # of Flags Total

Day Telephone Number:					_____ \$ _____
Type of Flag	Cost <sup>1</sup>	Postage	Sub-Total		_____ \$ _____
					_____ \$ _____
3'x5' Cotton	\$8.25	\$2.90	\$10.59	x	_____ \$ _____
5'x8' Cotton	\$18.75	\$4.10	\$22.85	x	Total \$ _____
3'x5' Nylon	\$7.50	\$2.90	\$10.40	x	
5'x8' Nylon	\$17.50	\$2.90	\$20.40	x	

Enclosed is a check for flag(s) and postage in the

amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Flag to be flown for: \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of person or organization)

Special date flag should be flown: \_\_

Address where flag should be sent:

<sup>1</sup> Price as of this printing—call before ordering.

## Newspaper Articles

An Eagle court is always newsworthy, and the newspapers usually like to have stories that show our youth in a positive light. Getting the correct information to the media is important; a slip can damage the total impact of the Eagle recognition. Some guide items are listed below:

- Prepare an accurate story. Be sure all plans and arrangements are approved and confirmed before writing the news release.
- Be sure that the time of the court of honor does not conflict with another important event that would prevent dignitaries from attending.
- Be sure that all participants have confirmed their participation.
- Include sufficient details about the Eagle's background, including other achievements (scholastic, athletic, etc.). Include the names of parents, Scoutmaster, and others who will participate in the recognition in the article.
- Include a clear, glossy photograph of the Eagle Scout in full uniform. Some newspapers will now only accept digital photos - call and check first.
- Submit the news release to the newspapers and radio or television stations at least 10 days prior to the ceremony.

## Eastlake student



**Erik Scairpon**

Erik Scairpon, a student at Eastlake High School, has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Boy Scouts. This accomplishment represents almost five years of adventure, fun, work, and dedication to the Boy Scout program for Scairpon, a member of Redmond Troop 550.

During the process of satisfying the requirements for the Eagle rank, Scairpon has

performed community service, provided service and leadership for his troop, and is currently serving as Administration ViceChief for his Order of the Arrow chapter.

In addition to the traditional outdoor skills learned in Boy Scouts, Scairpon has a host of merit badges including those from art to woodcarving.

His Eagle project was to organize and coordinate a tree planting work party at Ferral-McWhirter Park in Redmond last May. The event was designed to coincide with Arbor day, and Scairpon's volunteer crew planted more than 280 Western Red Cedar seedlings throughout the park.

Scairpon will be formally presented the Eagle Scout award at a Court of Honor ceremony in the Redmond Methodist Church on May 7.

## The Reception

Normally the reception is held on the same premises as the Eagle Court of Honor, but you may exercise almost the same options as you might for a wedding reception (except for the use of alcohol). Usually punch, coffee, a decorated cake, and ice cream are served after the ceremony. Additional suggested items for a reception:

Punch & Punch bowl	Sheet cake
Coffee, cream, & sugar	Coffee pot
Ice cream	Small sandwiches
Candies and nuts	Center pieces, flowers
Forks and spoons	Trash receptacles
Plates and Napkins	Hot and cold cups
Serving utensils	Table cloths

Red, white, and blue are favorite colors to use for decorations. Programs, plates, cups, napkins, etc., with Eagle Award Emblems are available at the Scout Shop. If you wish to have these patriotic colors combined on each item, you should think about picking up the items around the 4th of July, otherwise you might find hard to find.

You also need to plan for one or more people to help you set up and clean up.



### Sample expenses

Item	Source	Cost <sup>1</sup>
Invitations (150) & Napkins (50)	Scout Shop	\$15.89
Program Covers (100)	Scout Shop	16.76
Printing Invitations (125)	Local Print Shop	10.00
Printing Programs (100)	Photo Copy Shop	15.67
Punch	Super Market	7.94
Plates, Tablecloth, misc.	Department Store	29.50
Cake and supplies	Super Market	68.46
Candies, nuts	Super Market	21.11
Cups	Discount Food Market	5.60
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$190.93</b>

A typical list of expenses that may be incurred:

<sup>1</sup> Cost to be used as a guideline - your actual mileage may vary.

## Eagle memorabilia Display

Many receptions also display awards and scouting pictures of the Eagle. The Eagle scout and his family are encouraged to put together his Eagle scrapbook and memorabilia display. Suggested items to include are contained in the following list:

- Scouting photographs or slides
- Cub Scout uniform
- Merit badge projects
- Scouting presents
- Scrapbook
- Letters from dignitaries
- Board of Review papers
- Certificates and Awards
- Patch blanket or vest
- Cub Scout awards and projects
- Cub and Boy scout Handbooks
- Eagle project papers
- Eagle project photographs
- Eagle project Video

## Eagle Gifts

Small gifts for remembrances to the Eagle scout are appropriate for the occasion. Some parents like to present their son with an Eagle ring at the reception. The Scout Shop has a number of nice Eagle gifts ranging from key fobs and neckerchief slides to sterling silver Eagle Scout award kits, cuff links, and desk accessories. Guests may inquire if gifts are in order; it is up to the family how to respond to this question. One response could be that gifts are neither encouraged or discouraged, it is up to the individual.

Often when a boy has an Order of the Arrow team participate in the ceremony, the Eagle scout will present them with a small token of appreciation.



## Suggested Troop Responsibilities

1. The troop should keep samples of past invitations and programs. Also, the troop should have a set of documentation with the responsibilities of the Scoutmaster, the troop Committee Chairman, and Advancement Chairman. The information could include details such as:

**Scoutmaster:** Read letters, awards Eagle Scout award, badge, Eagle neckerchief and slide, and presents the large perpetual Eagle plaque.

**Committee Chairman:** Awards the mom's pin, dad's pin, a shadow box plaque, and the national Eagle Scout Association membership.

**Advancement Chairman:** Purchase any plaques, parents' pins, certificate holder, or other items the troop committee has agreed on. Advise the parents on troop procedures and traditions.

**Troop Committee:** Establish troop standards of presentation items that the troop will provide at an Eagle court.

2. Maintain information printed up with the lettering, size, type style, and other requirements for having the plaques engraved. Also have this information taped on the back of the permanent plaque if the troop has one.
3. Have a list of addresses of elected officials and others to send the requests for letters of congratulations (see "Sample Letter" on page 9).



4. Have a list of addresses of the local newspapers to notify.
5. Have a few old scripts and programs which would give the scout and his family some ideas.
6. Have copies of this booklet available to give to the prospective Eagle's parents.
7. Provide the Eagle's parents with a list of all persons who have helped the boy earn his Eagle, including Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, District or Unit Commissioner, fellow Scouts, Advisors, other parents, sponsors, merit badge counselors, camp staff, teachers, church members and leaders, community leaders, friends and relatives.

## **Additional Resources**

<http://www.eaglescout.org/> - A web site dedicated to helping Scouts become Eagle Scouts! Contains is a collection of resources to assist you in achieving Eagle Scout rank and planning the celebration to follow - everything from Eagle planning guides to extensive court of honor materials. Whether you're a Boy Scout looking for practical resources for yourself or a Scouter helping one boy or assisting hundreds, you'll find tools that will empower you and help you be the best you can be! Also included is a history of Eagle Rank requirements as taken from old handbooks of the Boy Scouts of America.

## Conclusion

The purpose of an Eagle recognition ceremony is to:

- honor the boy
- charge the boy
- inspire other boys to follow this adventurous and rewarding trail
- show the community the product of Scouting so they will direct other boys into its program and support the movement in all ways

The successful Eagle Court of Honor should feature:

- The boy
- The Parents
- Those persons who helped the boy along the Scouting Trail.

The setup and character for the Eagle Court of Honor should reflect:

- Troop traditions
- The special traits of the Eagle Scout, and
- Unique features that the Eagle Scout or his family would like incorporated into the program

The program for the ceremony should embody the following characteristics:

- It should be dignified
- It should be inspirational
- If well conducted, it will be impressive

Good luck, and hopefully you have found this guide helpful.



## Troop Eagle History

List of past Eagle Scouts from our Troop:

\_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date

## Troop Notes

Additional notes particular to our troop:

## Helpful Addresses

List useful addresses particular to our troop:

City Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Congressman:

Senator:

Senator:

Other:

Other:

Copyright © 2004 by R. S. V. P.  
All rights reserved.

An Eagle Scout Parent's Guide: