Eagle Scout Award

suggested ceremonies

compiled by the National Eagle Scout Association

NESA



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The Eagle Scout Pledge

I, _____, believe in the Boy Scouts of America as a movement which 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 other people and helps him find a worthy use for his powers.

I therefore 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 come thus far along the Eagle trail.

Ceremony 1 • The Challenge

Chairman: We come now to that part of our court of honor where we are to give recognition to candidates for the rank of Eagle Scout.

Aid: Sir, I have the honor to present Life Scout (_____) for the award of Eagle Scout.

Chairman: Awarding the Eagle is an important and serious matter. It is the climax and goal toward which this Scout has been working for several years. -It is the culmination of the efforts of the parents and leaders of this Scout. It is an occasion for pride and for joy, but, it is also a time for serious contemplation.

Eagle is the highest and most coveted award in all Scouting, and it is the last major step in the advancement program. If, at this point, Scouting has not achieved its purpose in the building of character--in the training for leadership--in the practice of service--then it probably never shall. These thoughts, which are in effect the basic code of Scouting, are well summed up in a pledge which is taken by every Scout in the council upon advancement to Eagle rank.

Chairman: *(to candidates)* I will read the pledge to you 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 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 other people, and helps him find a worthy use for his powers. I therefore 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 come this far along the Eagle trail.

Having heard the Eagle pledge, are you willing to adopt it?

Candidate: I am.

Chairman: Raise your hand in the Scout sign and repeat after me. (At this point, Life Scout interrupts)

Life Scout: Stop! I challenge the right of this Scout to be awarded the rank of Eagle! (from the audience)

Chairman: Who are you and by what right do you challenge? LIFE SCOUT: I am a Life Scout, and my esteem for the Eagle rank gives me the right to so challenge.

Chairman: On what grounds do you challenge?

Life Scout: Has this Scout achieved the requirements in Scoutcraft and life interest?

Chairman: His application has been verified. and indicates that he has satisfactorily completed the required 21 merit badges in the various fields of endeavor. Are you now satisfied?

Life Scout: I am.

Tenderfoot: I, too, challenge the right of this Scout to be awarded the rank of Eagle. *(from the audience)*

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

Tenderfoot: I am a Tenderfoot Scout, and the respect that I have for the uniform which I wear gives me the right to so challenge.

Chairman: On what grounds do you challenge?

Tenderfoot: Does his Scoutmaster certify that this Scout has actively participated in Scouting in his troop, demonstrated leadership, and done his best to help in his home, school, church, and commnity?

Scoutmaster: 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, and has been active in school, church, and community activities.

Chairman: Are you now satisfied?

Tenderfoot: I am.

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 which I have in this badge which I wear over my heart gives me the right to so challenge.

Chairman: On what grounds do you challenge?

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

Eagle #2: Recites the Scout Oath

Eagle #3: Recites Scout Law

Eagle #4: Be Prepared

Eagle #5: Do a Good Turn Daily

Board of Review Chairman: As a chairman of the board which reviewed this Scout, 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: Still I am not satisfied. I believe that this candidate should understand that the Eagle is a 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. I invite you and your fellow Eagles to the platform.

Eagle #2: The first responsibility of an Ea9le Scout is to live with honor, which to an Eagle is sacred. Honor is the foundation of character--charatter is what a man 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 obligation of an Eagle Scout is loyalty, without loyalty, all 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 obligation of an Eagle Scout is courage. Courage gives all 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 to do. May the red of your Eagle badge always remind you of courage.

Eagle #5: The final obligation 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 real leadership must be 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 candidate)* Are you ready and willing to accept these responsibilities and to adopt the Eagle pledge which I read to you at the beginning of this ceremony?

Candidate: I am.

Chairman: Raise your hand in the Scout sign and repeat after me. *(Repeats the Eagle pledge)*

Chairman: 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 to you. 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.)

Ceremony 2 • History of the Eagle and Man

Setting: *(Room is in darkness. Flags are still in place at the front of the room from the regular troop court of honor, which immediately preceded the Eagle court of honor. 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 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 Scout replaces the light of Scouting, and he 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 [Eagle candidate] for the award of Eagle Scout. The parents and Scout leaders 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 whose lives he touches. Honor guard, please escort before this court of honor, [Eagle candidate], where he will be prepared to receive the highest rank conferred by the 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 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 has 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 between an eagle and a serpent.

The ancient Assyrians associated me with Ashur, the great sun god. I was awed and worshiped 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 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, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed," --- man was on the moon.

In 1911, following tradition as old as man himself, the Boy Scouts of America chose the eagle to symbolize the very highest in achievement. Through all of history, I have been the symbol of man's best, now the eagle is the symbol of Scouting's best. In a moment, , [presenter's name] 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 National Court of Honor, [presenter's name] will present the Eagle Award.

(Introduce presenter. He or she has the option of speaking informally for a few minutes about the Eagle Award or the Eagle candidate. He or she speaks from a position near the candidate. He or she concludes his speech with: It is with distinct honor and pleasure that I present you with the Eagle Scout Award. *(He or she 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 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: It is customary that you also give your mother an Eagle kiss. *(The Eagle does so.)*

(If the father is an Eagle.)

MC: Your father has stood by you over the years and has offered his encouragement and assistance, as the symbol of what he has contributed to your attainment of this award, the court now asks you to present him a miniature Eagle tie tack (*Only if his father is also an Eagle - 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 , [candiidate's name]'s 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 [presenters name] for coming tonight and assisting in the presentation of the Eagle Award to [candidate's name].

NESA Representative: 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 ten-year member in the association and I have the honor or 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: 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.

Charger: Would all the Eagle Scouts in the audience please stand and form a line near the lectern please. I have the honor to give you the Eagle charge on the occasion of your elevation to highest rank in Scouting. The Scouts of all nations constitute one of the most wholesome and significant movements in the world's history. You have been judged by the Boy Scouts of America of being worthy of the highest rank in this great movement. All who know you rejoice in your achievement. Your position, as you know, is one of honor and responsibility you are a marked man. As an Eagle Scout, you have assumed a solemn obligation to do your duty to God, to country, to your fellow Scouts and to mankind in general. This is a great undertaking. As you live up to your obligations you bring honor to yourself and to your brother Scouts.

America has many good things to give you and your children. But these good things depend 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 [candidate'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, 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.

[Candidate'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 demonstrate the perseverance that has brought you this far.

Eagle Scout: On my honor---I will do my best---to do my duty---to God and my country---and to ohey the Scout Law---to help other people at all times---to keep myself physically strong---mentally awake--and morally straight.

Charger: 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 of lower rank. 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 not only reflect upon you, but on your fellow Eagles and all Scouting. The torch you carry is not only yours, but is ours also.

I challenge you to enter this Eagle brotherhood, holding ever before you, without reservation, the ideals of honor and service, by the repetition of the Eagle Scout Promise before your fellow members, you will become an Eagle Scout. Though the words you use are similar to those by which you joined Scouting, they will mean more now than they could have meant at any time in the past. When you pledge yourself on your sacred honor, you will be sealing your eternal loyalty to the code of the Eagle Scout, with the words, which close the Declaration of Independence. Scout, parents, and guests, please stand.

Charger: [Eagle candidate], please make the Scout sign, and repeat after me:

"I reaffirm my allegiance---to the three promises of the Scout Oath---I thoughtfully recognize and take upon myse1f---the obligations and responsibilities of the rank of Eagle Scout—On my honor---I will do my best---to make my training an example---my rank and my influence-- count strongly---for better Scouting---and for better citizenship,---in my troop---and in my community---and in my contacts with other people---to this I pledge my sacred honor. "

Scouts, parents, and guests may be seated. By the authority vested in me by the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America, it is my privilege and pleasure to pronounce you an Eagle Scout. May the oath you have taken remain engraved on your heart forever.

Closing

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

Ceremony 3 • Lighting the Eagle Trail

Chairman: To earn the higher ranks in Scouting, a young man has to spend a great deal of time and effort. Therefore the occasion which recognizes his accomplishments should be something special. Tonight, we shall follow a pattern which I am going to call "lighting the Eagle trail."

(Lights are turned out except for a single lighted candle in holder.)

Chairman: When ·a boy becomes a Boy Scout there should be instilled within him something that we call the spirit of Scouting. This lighted candle represents 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 more than three and a half million boys in Scouting, it can become powerful indeed. After a boy has entered Scouting, the Scout law that he has promised to obey is put into effect as the occasion may demand. And so, one by one, using the flame from this spirit of Scouting, I light the symbols that stand for the parts of the Law. There are 12 parts---all important and all meaningful. Each is an important foundation stone in the building of strong character.

Chairman: A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. *(These may be lighted by Scouts.)*

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

(Twelve little candles and three larger candles are lighted as narration unfolds.)

Chairman: Now, far away, loom the hazy outlines of Eagle summit flanked by the lesser peaks that represent the Star and life ranks. Yes, to the newcomer they're a long way ahead, but they'll come a lot closer as this light from the spirit of Scouting continues to spread. -16- The Scout begins as a Tenderfoot, as so I light the Tenderfoot symbol that stands at the foot of the Eagle trail. Once inspired by the spirit of Scouting, he won't stay a Tenderfoot long. Putting a few simple achievements behind him, he very shortly climbs to the rank of Second Class Scout.

(Lights candle.)

Chairman: And then, even though the requirements stiffen a bit, he keeps climbing until finally comes the day when he tops the first summit along the Eagle trail, where he receives his First Class Award. Thus we light the milestone that represents the first Class Scout. But he must not stop here because beyond this first summit, the Eagle trail still leads on.

Chairman: A broad field of merit badges awaits him. He needs but a total of six to conquer the Star Scout summit. Probably a lot sooner than he thought possible, he finds himself standing on Star ridge. Thus through leadership and achievement, he conquers the first of the three great peaks along the Eagle trail. I shall now light the symbol that designates Star Scout.

(Light Star candle.)

Gaining the next summit, the Life Scout peak, is not easy. Much leadership, service, and hard work has to be done in mastering 5 additional merit badges and helping other fellows. The higher the Scouts climb, the smaller becomes the crowd. Yet there are no impossible barriers along the way. This Life Scout goal can be achieved, but it takes real effort; I now light the symbol of this achievement.

(Lights candle.)

Chairman: While the rank of Life Scout is a much-coveted one, and deserving the extreme credit, the Eagle trail does not end there. It still leads on and on. Toward the summit, its pathway narrows and steepens considerably as it winds along narrow ledges. Mile by mile, it becomes tougher and more trying. Many things have to he done in order to conquer these last miles. Before the highest summit along the Eagle trail can be attained, many additional merit badges are needed, some of them are pretty tough and in the meantime, leadership and service to others is not forgotten. Only those with greatest amount of persistence and courage are able to gain the thrill of victory that comes while looking down the trail, from the very top of the Eagle summit. I shall now light the symbol that stands for Scouting's highest award, the Eagle Scout.

Chairman: I extend our most hearty congratulations. And now, if you, along with your mother and dad, will come forward, Your Eagle badge will be presented.

(Call the recipient forward.)

Chairman: We are proud of you; so again let me congratulate you for reaching the highest point along the Eagle trail. May all the qualities that have inspired you to this achievement continue to lead you on to even greater success in the ways of life.

Chairman: As an Eagle Scout, the eyes of all Scouting---yes, the eyes of the entire world---will be trained upon you. Let me remind you that the tradition of the Eagle is high. May you so live that this tradition may always be guided by the spirit of Scouting, as symbolized by these blazing candles before you. May the Eagle badge that you are about to receive be symbolic of this spirit of Scouting.

(Eagle badge is presented mother to pin on candidate's shirt; Eagle Scout pins miniature Eagle on mother.)

Chairman: Pin it over your mother's heart in recognition of her love, encouragement, faith and trust in your manhood. You are now an Eagle Scout and as such, may you never, never disappoint her.

MC: And now, let's give this young man a standing vote of appreciation and a big hand.

(Note: It would be desirable to divide this speech among several good speakers.)

Ceremony 4 • The Light of the Eagle

Setting: (The Eagle court of honor follows a regular troop court of honor, so the flags are in place, and the mood has been set. The participants may be seated at a table in the front of the room, or they may pop up from the audience at their particular point in the program.)

MC: Welcome now to that part of our court of honor where we are to recognize a candidate for the Eagle Award. 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 months.

MC: Honor guard, please escort before this court of honor, Eagle candidate _____, so we may ensure that he has been prepared properly to receive this high honor.

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

MC: The Eagle Award is the culmination of the various efforts of many leaders of this Scout. It is an occasion for pride and joy and a time for serious contemplation. We realize that this is the highest rank in Scouting, and the most coveted of all awards in Scouting. It is the last major step in the advancement program. If we have not achieved our purpose in the building of character, in the training of leadership, in the practice of service we probably never shall. It is, therefore, right and proper that this court had made a careful examination of the applicant. In order that you may understand the completeness of our examination, I shall ask several members of the troop committee to explain the various inquiries made regarding the candidate, Mr. _____.

Mr._____ : The first consideration in the examination of this candidate was proficiency in the various crafts and skills prescribed in the requirements for the Eagle Award. The Eagle candidate presented a record of the various merit badges earned and these have been carefully checked. The candidate has been certified by the various merit badge counselors approved by the troop committee, and the court finds that the candidate has fully qualified for the required merit badges for the Eagle Award.

MC: Mr. _____.

Mr. _____ : Another important consideration for the Eagle Award is leadership. This court has carefully reviewed the record of the candidate's leadership positions held in the troop in school affairs, in the Eagle service project which the candidate planned and supervised, and in his other activities. We find that the candidate has demonstrated his capacity and his willingness to exert his leadership ability in activities that are constructive and worthwhile in this community. We believe that he is qualified to receive the Eagle Award., :.

MC: Mr. _____.

Mr._____ : Last, but certainly not least, is the Scout's character. We have interviewed teachers, his pastor, his parents, his neighbors, and many others regarding the candidate. It is the finding of the court that this candidate is endeavoring to put into practice in his daily life, the principles of the Scout Oath and Law. We believe he will continue these habits after receiving the Eagle Award. In light of these various inquiries, this court finds the candidate qualified for the Eagle Award. However, if anyone knows any reason why this Scout should not be awarded the rank of Eagle, let him speak.

(An Eagle Scout comes forward from the audience).

Eagle Scout: Gentlemen of the court I represent all those Scouts who have received the Eagle Award in the District, we do not object to the awarding of the Eagle badge, but we do believe that the can-

didate should understand that the Eagle rank is a responsibility as well as an honor. We respectfully ask that he be informed of these responsibilities of an Eagle Scout before the badge is awarded. The court concurs in your feeling. Please state these responsibilities for the candidate.

SETtING CHANGE:

(The lights are dimmed or go out, then an old-timer Eagle steps to the front and speaks, or more dramatic, plant the next voice or four voices in corners of the room or behind drapes or in the wings of the stage or elsewhere.)

Voiceof the Eagle:

1. The first responsibility of an Eagle Scout is to live with honor. An Eagle's honor is sacred. Honor is the foundation of all character. Character is what one really is down deep inside, not what someone thinks one is. An Eagle will so live that he reflects upon his home, his church, his school, his friends, and upon himself. (The white portion of the ribbon on the Eagle light box is illuminated.) May the white of your badge remind you to live with honor.

2. The second obligation of an Eagle Scout is loyalty, without loyalty, all character lacks direction. An Eagle is loyal to his ideals. To thine own self be true, and it must follow as the night into day, thou cannot then be false to any man. Neither pain nor profit, pride nor personal loss shall swerve him in his loyalty. (The blue portion of the ribbon on the Eagle light box is illuminated.) May the blue of your badge remind you to always be loyal.

3. The third obligation of an Eagle Scout is courage. Courage gives all character force and strength. Trusting in God and with faith in his fellowman, he faces each day unafraid and seeks his share of the world's work to do. (The red of the ribbon on the Eagle light box is illuminated.) May the red of your badge remind you always of courage.

4. The final obligation of an Eagle Scout is service. He extends a helping hand to those who still toil up the Scouting trail he has just 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. 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 action is based upon the belief that real leadership must be founded upon real service. (The rest of the Eagle light box is illuminated the scroll and the Eagle.) May the motto "Be Prepared" always reminds you that as an Eagle you are among the best prepared to be of service to others. May the eagle suspended from the ribbon always remind you to perform that service when the opportunity presents itself?

(The same Eagle Scout that raised the issue of responsibilities.): 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 around the world.

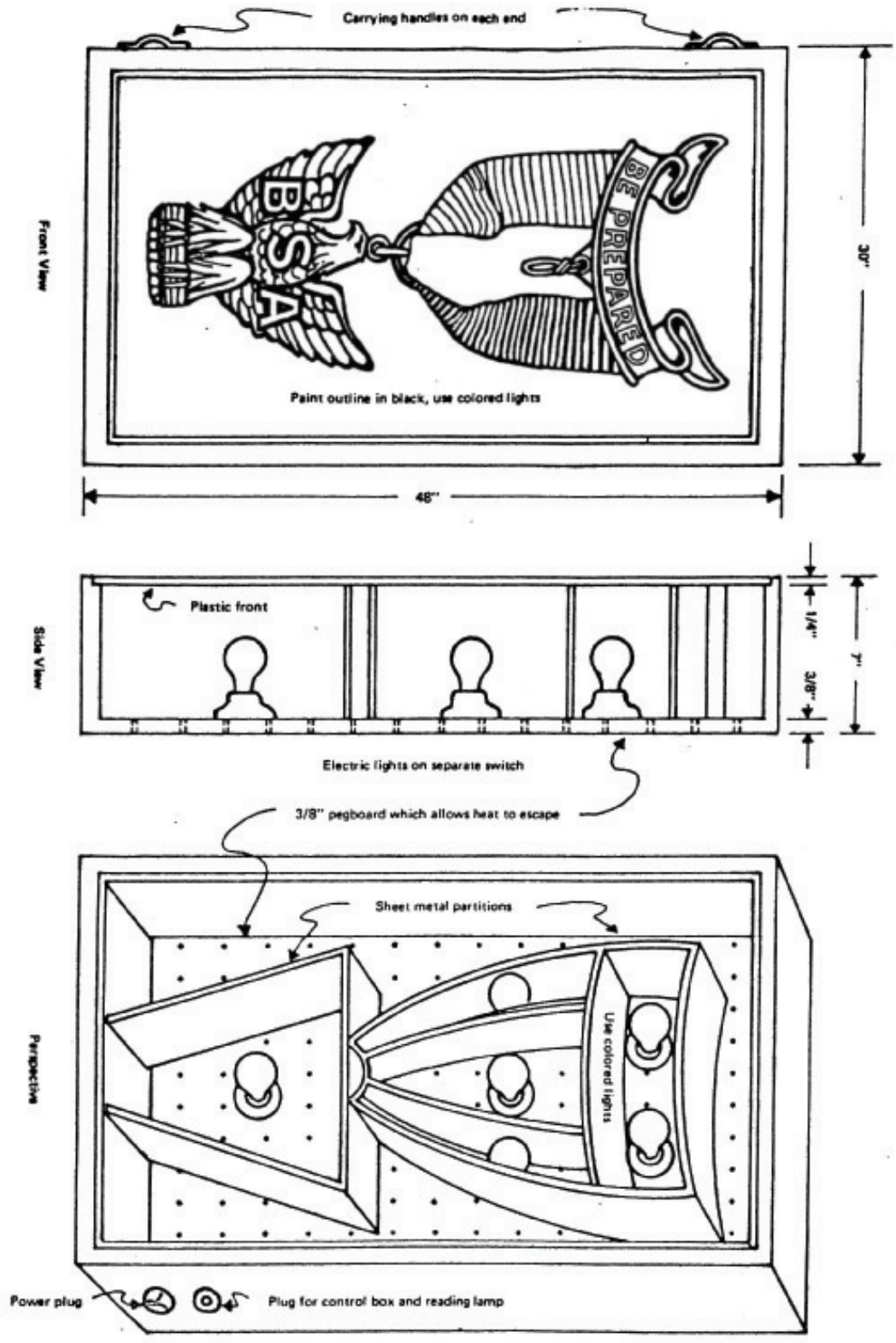
MC: [Eagle Candidate], are you willing to accept the responsibilities of the badge as well as its honor?

Eagle candidate: Yes I am.

MC: By authority vested in this court of honor by the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, and by recommendation of the various persons who have investigated your credentials, your leadership practice and your character, this court hereby awards the rank of Eagle Scout to

MC: The charge to this worthy Eagle will be given by _____.

(From here on, the ceremony takes the form of that shown in the Eagle presentation ceremony: "History of the Eagle and Man," with the exception that the charge comes before the recognition of the Eagle's parents andsubsequent presentation of the badge.)


Carrying handles on each end
Front View
BSA
BE PREPARED
30"
Paint outline in black, use colored lights
48"
Side View
Plastic front
1/4"
3/8"
7"
Electric lights on separate switch
3/8" pegboard which allows heat to escape
Sheet metal partitions
Perspective
Use colored lights
Power plug
Plug for control box and reading lamp

Ceremony 5 • The Light of the Eagle - alternate text

Setting: *(The same as for Ceremony 4 "The Light of the Eagle" presentation ceremony preceding this. The Eagle candidate has been escorted to thefront of the room, and the lights have been dimmed.)*

MC: The presentation of the Eagle Award is an important and serious matter. For the Eagle candidate before us tonight, this is a climax- of his Scouting efforts for several years. 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, 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 rank that Scouting offers to Scouts. It is earned through the advancement program. [Eagle candidate] 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 understand the meaning of the Eagle badge.

Voice of the Eagle (old-timer Eagle):

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 ta 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 Indians, he stood as the incentive to valor and the pledge of victory. For us today, the eagle is a living symbol of all courageous and freedom-aspiring Americans. When the Eagle badge was initially designed in 1912, it was decided to suspend a small silver eagle from a tricolor ribbon of red, white, and blue. So it has remained until 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 all character. He knows that "A Scout is Trustworthy" is the very first point of the Scout Law for a good reason. An Ea9le Scout lives honorable, 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 obligation of the 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 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 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 fellowman, he looks forward to each day, seeking his share of the world's work to do. (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 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. *(Light the scroll on the light box.)*

6. The final obligation 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 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 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 always will be prepared to put forth his best.

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

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

Ceremony 6 • 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 near the front.

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 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 set 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: 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 ahead- 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 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. 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 candidate has demonstrated his capacity and willingness to exert leadership in activities that are constructive and worthwhile. It has been satisfactorily established by the board of review that this candidate is putting into daily practice the principles of the Scout Oath and Law. In light of the inquiries made, and the favorable results in each case, the board of review has found this candidate qualified and has authorized this court of honor to bestow upon you, _____, 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 "The Eagle Scout"" is read to the audience.)

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

The Eagle Scout

The following poem was written by S. Kurtz Hingley for the Eagle Court of Honor of his son. It was originally published in "The Quaker City Scout" which was a local scouting newsletter in Philadelphia. It (or variations of it) has been published as "It's Only A Pin". It is given here as it appeared in the May 1931 edition of Scouting Magazine. Thanks to Carol Parillo, granddaughter of the author, for tracking down the original version of the poem.

A fond mother watches her boy where he stands
Apart from his comrades tonight
As they place on his camp-battered tunic, a badge,
An Eagle, the emblem of Right.

It seems to her just a few short months have passed
Since he joined, with the youngster next door.
How proud he was then of his Tenderfoot pin
As he told her the message it bore.

But three years have gone as he struggled along
To learn what the Scout Law's about.
And he practiced them daily, that Oath and that Law,
Until now--he's an Eagle Scout.

You may smile with your worldly wise 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 just as much to him.

The Red, White and Blue of the ribbon you see
Are symbols of Honor and Truth.
He has learned how to value these fine attributes
In the glorious days of youth.

And the outflinging 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 that's beneath it is true,
And will throb to the last for the things which are good;
A lesson for me--and for you.

Ceremony 7 • Order of the Arrow

Setting: If the candidate is a member of the Order of the Arrow, this ceremony could be most appropriate. It requires a total of six members of the Order, in ceremonial dress; a ceremonial campfire could be used as a backdrop, also. OA members enter either in silence or chanting in a low voice either from backstage, if a stage is used, or from the rear of the audience, if no stage is available. They would form with the four winds on one side, Allowat in the center of the the stage area, and Kinet off to the side near the candidate.

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 Cub Scout or Boy Scout on 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.

Kitchkinet: 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 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.

Allowat: 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 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. They bring the desire for you always to be a friend to those of all ages, young and old alike. They tell you to be courteous to those who pass along your trail. Cast away the harmful spirits 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. Obedience, cheerfulness, and thrift 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 sharing 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: 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.

Allowat: Then you will make the Scout sign and state the Scout Oath slowly and clearly.

Candidate: *(Repeats 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.

Kitchkinet: 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.

Allowat: 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 which a true Eagle must have.

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

Kitchkinet: 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.

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

[He does so.]

Kitchkinet: In recognition of the wisdom and encouragement which your father has given you along the trail, I ask you to present this Eagle Dad tie tack to him.

(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.)

Allowat: As Ceremonial Chief, I now call upon Mr. _____ to give the new Eagle the charge.

(Any of the forms of the charge may be used here. 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 follow:)

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.

Allowat: 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.

Allowat: *(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 members walk back from whence they came, and the Scoutmaster takes over to start the congratulations.)

Ceremony 8 • The Voice of the Eagle

Setting: *(The opening has been completed and the Eagle candidate has been escorted to the front of the room near the American flag. Pictures of the Boy Scout ranks are arranged in a semicircle across the front of the room, spaced out far enough so that the candidate and his escorts have some walking to do as they move from one to another. The Eagle card is centered and slightly to the rear of the others. As the story is told about each rank, 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.)*

MC: This is the voice of the Eagle, the Eagle whose heights you struggled hard 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 experiences 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 will 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 to start living the Scout Oath and Law. All the 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 and there you were greeted by a group of Second Class Scouts.

Some, like yourself, were stopping to catch their breaths 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 First Class Scouts dwell.

Third Reader: There you found a tempting green meadow by a crystal clear stream and 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.

Fourth Reader: Now the trail was steeper. Now 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, and, with the same determination with which you started your climb, you continued on your trail.

Soon 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. And 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's name] now escort to the front, Eagle candidate _____ to receive the Eagle Award.

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

Ceremony 9 • Picture Ceremony

Setting: *(The opening has been completed and the Eagle candidate has been escorted to the front of the room near the American flag. Pictures of the Boy Scout ranks are arranged in a semicircle across the front of the room, spaced out far enough so that the candidate and his escorts have some walking to do as they move from one to another. The Eagle card is centered and slightly to the rear of the others. As the story is told about each rank, 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.)*

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

1. The central figure.

The chairman of the court explains that tonight he is going to draw a picture. The central figure in this picture is to be the candidate for the Eagle badge. The candidate is then asked to take his place, front and center on stage.

2. The background.

Continuing to explain, the chairman 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. (Whenever possible each of the following persons should be used. After the chairman introduces them they take their places on stage, forming a semicircle in back of the Eagle Scout candidate.)

(a) National Council representative Each council in the United States is allowed one man for each 1000 boy members in the council, to represent the council on the National -Council. In this council we have men who are National Council representatives. We are fortunate this evening to have one of these men with us, Mr. _____ of _____.

Because the Eagle Scout badge is presented directly from the National Council, we are going to ask Mr. to be the first man in this picture, and will ask him later to be the first man to start the Eagle badge on its journey to the candidate.

(b) Council officers The council officers are the council president, vice-presidents, treasurer, the district chairmen who represent their district on the council executive board, members and council committee chairmen appointed by the council president. Because the National Council forwards the Eagle badge to the local council to be awarded, we will ask Mr. _____ of _____ who is the council , to take his place in our picture next to the National Council representative.

(c) District officer The district officers of this, 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 to be awarded, so the council forwards the badge to the district. We will therefore ask Mr. _____ of _____ who is the district to take his place in our picture next to the council officer.

Ceremony 10 • Parent's Ceremony

Council officers and distinguished guests are seated on the platform. Council commissioner, president, or other appropriate Scouter serves as chairman.

After making a brief statement concerning the honor and significance of becoming an Eagle Scout, the chairman names the Scout or Scouts who are to be recognized at this time and asks each to escort his parents to the front of the hall.

He recognizes and commends the Scoutmasters of these Eagle Scouts for their good work in helping these boys to become Eagles.

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

He commends and congratulates the Scout for sticking to his purpose until his ambition has been realized and for having parents interested in his success.

Chairman: 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 boy, nor every Scout, can qualify for the high 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. [Elucidate at will on intelligent application of requirements for rank and merit badges.]

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

I am happy to report that our investigation reveals that this Scout has qualified in all of these requirements for personal character and good citizenship, in addition to all of the technical requirements for the Eagle rank.

Second Scouter: *(Addressing the Eagle candidate and securing an answer to each question from the candidate.)*

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

(Pause for candidate to answer.)

Your technical requirements for an Eagle Scout qualify you for greater leadership responsibility. Are you willing to accept this responsibility in behalf of brother Scouts, your troop, and others?

(Pause for candidate to answer.)

As an Eagle Scout those who know you will expect your daily personal conduct to emulate fully the spirit of the Scout Oath and Law. Will you do your best as an Eagle Scout to live the Scout Oath and Law?

(Pause for candidate to answer.)

Then, are you now ready to recommit yourself to the Scout Oath?

[Here the Eagle Scout candidate steps one pace forward and gives the Scout sign.]

Will you now rededicate yourself to the Scout Oath?

Eagle Candidate: *(repeats the Scout Oath.)*

(Each mother invests her son with the insignia of the Eagle rank. The new Eagle Scout gives his mother the mother's pin of the Eagle rank. The new Eagle Scout gives his father the Eagle Dad tie tack.)

(The son stands at the right of his mother, and his father stands at the left of his mother.)

(When all the insignia have been presented, the chairman gives the new Eagle Scouts the Scout handclasp with the left hand, and takes the right hand of each of the parents and makes some statement like the following.)

Chairman: 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 _____, I express the confidence that you will honor Scouting with your life and service as tonight Scouting honors you. "May God bless you and make you a blessing," is our prayer.

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

Council or District Eagle Recognition Dinner

Objective:

1. To provide sponsors for the Scouts who achieve Eagle rank.

2. To showcase them before a sponsor group of business and civic leaders.

Strategy:

1. Involve executive board members and selected previous sponsors as table hosts and recruiters of their sponsors.

2. Secure a speaker who will attract sponsors.

3. Conduct the event on a "break even or better" basis, watching food costs closely, reviewing the sponsor fee, and securing the donation of certain program features.

Days until Dinner

-150 Recruit Eagle dinner chairman, begin committee selection

-150 Eagle dinner committees selected (program, publicity sponsors and attendance, physical arrangements)

-145 Prepare council bulletin notice on Eagle dinner (to mail in 10 days)

-130 Eagle dinner committee meeting (ground rules and job specs

-125 Prepare Eagle dinner budget estimate

-120 Prepare letter to executive board and key Scouters to enroll Eagle dinner sponsors (for mailing in 10 days)

-115 Prepare Eagle dinner announcement letter to Scoutmasters (for mailing in 10 days)

-100 Prepare Eagle dinner invitation to new Eagles with vocational questionnaires (for mailing in 10 days)

-085 Compile Eagle dinner sponsor acceptance cards and confirm sponsors enrolled

-080 Prepare follow-up letters to Eagle dinner sponsor prospects not enrolled (for mailing in 5 days)

-065 Match up Eagles with appropriate sponsors

-060 Send ticket request to Eagle dinner sponsors

-030 Council public-speaking contest winner and/or other speakers recruited for Eagle dinner.

Ceremony 11 • Citizenship Ceremony

Setting: On the platform are seated the mayor of the city, the chairman of the court of honor ceremony, the speaker of the evening, the commissioner and other distinguished Scouters and guests. The commissioner rises and calls the roll of honor. The Eagle candidate rises when his name is called and advances to the platform where he stands at attention.

The speaker of the evening delivers the charge to the Eagle Scout. The mayor then calls Scout by name, congratulates him and presents to him his personal citation in an attractive folder. The mayor reads the citation in full.

At the close of the presentation, the Scout does an about face, gives Scout sign and repeats the Scout Oath.

Speaker: 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 counted worthy of this high rank in the Boy Scouts of America. All who know you rejoice in your achievement. Your position, as you well know, is one of honor and responsibility. You are a marked man. As an Eagle Scout, you have assumed a solemn obligation to do your duty to God, to country, to your fellow Scouts, and to mankind in general.

As you live up to your obligations, you bring honor to yourself and to your brother 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 things depend 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, 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 better 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 abilities to the common good. Build America on the solid foundations of clean living, honest work, unselfish citizenship and reverence for God, and, whatever others may say or do, you will leave behind you a record of which every Scout may be justly proud.

Sample Mayoral Citation for Citizenship Ceremony

Eagle Scout _____, you joined Troop ___ of _____ District of the _____ Council, Boy Scouts of America on _____. You advanced to Second Class rank on _____. And 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 were awarded the Life rank on _____.

You have earned the following badges:

(List the badges here.)

In addition to these badges you have been recommended by your parents, your teachers, your Scoutmaster and others upon whom we rely, as a Scout of high character and a good citizen and a worthy representative of Scout training and ideals, the court of honor believe you will be a first class citizen, always worthy of your Eagle rank.

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

This statement signed by the president of the council, council commissioner, chairman of the court of honor, district commissioner, Scoutmaster, and Scout Executive.

Officially presented by:

[Signature]

Mayor of the City of _____.

Ceremony 12 • 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 then,

Hark to the tale of one who knows,

As onward ... onward ... Scouting grows.

(First candle is lighted at Tenderfoot. Then proceed, one at a time.)

First: 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.

Second: 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."

Third: 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.

Fourth: 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.

Fifth: 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.

Sixth: I am the Eagle. It has been a long, hard-but wonderful-journey. 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 and cleanliness of purpose, thought, word, and deed.

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

MC: Scouting is no doubt one of the great organizations in the world to foster the highest ideals of citizenship. It is no wonder then that so many of our nation's greatest leaders had some of their earliest leadership experiences in Scouting. Scouting is changing, but one thing remains constant: the total development from boyhood to manhood depends on the physical, mental, and moral growth expressed in the Scout Oath. The skills are so demanding and challenges are so hard, it is not surprising to learn that only about two per cent of the boys in Scouting achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. As most boys enter Scouting, they picture themselves becoming Eagle Scouts, but, as you know, there are so many activities and interests clamoring for their attention that the flames that were burning aspiration dim to ashes and die away and they stop short.

What does the Eagle badge represent? It means that a Scout 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 also represents what the boy will be in the future as he grows into manhood.

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

Ceremony 13 • Closing Ceremony

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.



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