

Troop 528
Ephraim 5th Ward

Eagle Scout
Court of Honor Ceremony

Suggestion Guide for Parents
and
Eagle Scout

Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Boy Scouting program. Nationally, less than 4% are granted this rank. For this purpose, we feel that it is important that we make sure to honor this young man in a special Eagle Court of Honor ceremony. The ceremony may be elaborate or simple...whatever you and your boy decide.

The purpose of the Eagle Court of Honor ceremony is to:

- 1-Honor the Boy
- 2-To inspire other boys to follow his example

A successful Eagle Court of Honor should feature:

- 1-The boy
- 2-The Parents
- 3-Those persons who helped the boy along the Scouting Trail

The program for the ceremony should embody the following characteristics:

- 1-It should be dignified
- 2-It should be Inspirational
- 3-If well conducted, it will be impressive

Traditionally, the Eagle Scout's family does most of the planning for the Eagle Court of Honor. But, many people have never attended an Eagle Court of Honor or have forgotten how one should be conducted. We hope this guide will aid you to prepare a ceremony that will magnify the great achievement of this young man. In addition to this guide, the troop leaders are happy to help you plan the ceremony.

To ensure the ceremony will be conducted well, you need to ensure the following:

- 1-Have a printed program
- 2-Speakers know what to say
- 3-Presenters know when to do it

There are great resources online that you can help you plan the ceremony and refer speakers and presenters to:

www.scouting.org

www.eaglescout.org

-just google 'eagle scout court of honor'

Costs to consider:

- Ephraim Stake purchases the award and certificate for the Eagle Scout
- The 5th ward purchases a neckerchief and ring as a gift
- Refreshments are usually supplied by families of the Eagle Scout, and families can ask others to help bring refreshments
- Optional Eagle Scout Invitations to send out purchased by family of Eagle Scout

— — Please contact troop leaders or Bishop if there are any concerns about cost of the ceremony

Planning Before the Ceremony

To make the ceremony awesome and smooth, planning needs to occur weeks in advance. Some things to consider to be in order before the day of the ceremony include:

1-Date—Traditionally Eagle Court of Honors are done on Sunday Evenings, but is not required.

2-Location—Traditionally done at the Church. Again, not a requirement, but it would be nice to do it at a location where local leaders, scouts, and friends of the Eagle Scout can conveniently come.

3-Invite—Who would the Eagle Scout like to be there? Family, current troop leaders, and church leaders are a given. But anyone else that you would like to come should have some sort of invite from the parents or the Eagle Scout. Past leaders (scouting and church), friends, coaches, teachers, neighbors, grandparents, younger boy scouts in the troop, ect... are all examples of people who would like an invite. Maybe invite the main contact individual that your Eagle Scout worked with for his Eagle Project. An invite can be casual or if you'd like there are formal invitations at the local scout office. We would strongly encourage the Eagle Scout to

personally invite the younger scouts in the troop to attend so the younger boys can see the importance of this Rank.

4-Plan the Outline and details for the Ceremony (will discuss)

5-Coordinate plans and outline with troop leaders.

6-Traditionally there are refreshments provided at the conclusion of the ceremony. Families are in charge of bringing or delegating refreshments.

7-If you are planning on obtaining letters from dignitaries (Pres. of U.S., State Senators, ect...) or if you want to purchase an American Flag that has flown over the US Capital....these things need to be done months in advance.

Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony

The ceremony program has no prescribed order but will at least contain:

- Opening Flag Ceremony
- Invocation
- Badge Presentation
- Parents receive pins
- Mentor Pin
- Words from the Eagle Scout
- Benediction
- Closing Flag Ceremony

Again, this is a list of what we would suggest as a minimum for a ceremony. There are so many more things that can be done to spruce up the ceremony and make it more memorable for the Eagle Scout and others in attendance.

Here is a list of some other elements that can be added to the program that may enhance the ceremony (A detailed list of some of these elements will follow):

- Trail of the Eagle
- Eagle Scout Challenge
- Eagle Charge
- Have an Eagle's Nest
- Picture/Power Point Presentation
- Reading of the Eagle Letter or Letters of Congratulations received
- Guest Speakers
- Singing Patriotic Songs

Trail of the 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.)

Lighting candles for the Trail to Eagle can be optional if you want.

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

"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.

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.

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!"

Examples of Eagle Memorabilia Display

Many receptions display awards and scouting pictures of the Eagle Scout. Here is an example of items that you could use:

-Scouting photographs/powerpoint, Cub Scout uniform, Merit badge projects,
Letters from dignitaries, Board of Review papers, Certificates and Awards, Cub
and Boy Scout Handbooks, Eagle project papers/photographs/video....ect.