



Eagle Scout Court of Honor

There is no set program for an Eagle Court of Honor. Rather, it is up to the Eagle Scout and his family to put together a program that works best for them, *i.e.*, that highlights the aspects they want to emphasize. There are many websites available with example scripts and segments for a Court of Honor; you can access these by entering either “Eagle Scout Court of Honor” or “Eagle Ceremonies” into any internet search engine. Notable sites include the following:

<http://www.eaglescout.org/finale/coh/coh.html>

<http://www.usscouts.org/eagle/ecoh.asp>

<http://www.eaglescout.itgo.com/Court.htm>

<http://www.scoutsonline.com/troop30/eaglecoh.asp>

http://www.lasallecouncilbsa.org/Resources/Publications_PDF/Eagle_Items/Various_Eagle_Ceremonies.pdf

The following is one example script to give you an idea of how the various segments can be put together:

❖ Call to Order

Master of Ceremonies (“MoC”)

“Good Afternoon. Please rise for the presentation of the colors and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance, the Scout Law, and the Scout Oath.”

“Color Guard, Present the Colors”

❖ Presentation of the Colors and Opening Ceremony

Color Guard

“Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance”

“I pledge allegiance....”

“Scout Sign”

“Scouts, please join me in reciting the Scout Law”

“A scout is trustworthy....”

“Scout Sign”

“Scouts, please join me in reciting the Scout Oath”

“On my honor....”

“Please join me in the Lord’s Prayer”

Color Guard retreats.



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❖ Welcome

MoC

“You may be seated.

On behalf of Troop 24, I welcome all of the family and friends to this Eagle Court of Honor. We are glad to have you with us on this special occasion. This afternoon, we have the honor and pleasure of bestowing the rank of Eagle Scout to a member of our troop.

The road to Eagle is rough. It challenges the scout, his family, and his scout leaders. A Scout that completes the journey has labored long and hard to reach this point. The presentation of the Eagle Award will be the culmination of his efforts. This Court of Honor is an occasion for pride and joy, but also a time for serious contemplation.

*I now call upon _____, pastor of Larchmont United Methodist Church **[or as appropriate]**, which is the chartered organization for Boy Scout Troop 24, to offer an invocation.”*

❖ Invocation

“Heavenly Father, we thank you for the interest in the Scouting movement that has brought this group together. We thank you for the success of the Scouting program in the United States since 1910. We are grateful for the influence that Troop 24 has had over the past ____ years of continuous service in the lives of the young men in our neighborhood. We pray for continued blessings on this troop, its leaders, its troop committee, and its sponsor church through the years ahead. We pray that Troop 24 may continue to turn out leaders for tomorrow, prepared as good citizens. Amen.”

[or similar]

❖ Introduction

MoC

“I now call upon _____ to open our Court of Honor.”

The Court of Honor

❖ The Spirit of Scouting

“When a boy becomes a Scout he starts to learn about the spirit of scouting. This spirit is analogous to a single lighted candle. Alone, this light may be feeble, but when multiplied by the 3 ½ million boys in Scouting, it can become a powerful beacon. Because the spirit of scouting embodies the principles of the Scout Oath and the Scout Law, it becomes a shining beacon of inspiration.

During a Scout’s journey to Eagle Scout, he faces many challenges that will help him with life’s decisions. From a Scout, to Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle, each rank is designed to help the Scout grow in the knowledge of outdoor skills, attain self-discipline, develop leadership skills, and understand what citizenship means in the family, the community, and the nation. It is not an easy journey and the lessons that he learns along the way are sometimes hard.



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However, as the Spirit of Scouting grows within the Scout, his light becomes brighter. The scout becomes a symbol for others as a valued member of scouting and a hope for future generations.”

❖ Introduction

MoC

“I now call upon _____ to officially welcome the New Eagle.”

❖ Welcome to the New Eagle

“Eagle Scout candidate _____, as a representative of the Eagle Scouts of the Tidewater Council of Boy Scouts, I welcome you to the brotherhood of Eagle Scouts. Only about 4 percent of the boys who enter Scouting achieve what you are being recognized for this afternoon. The requirements are demanding, but fair, requiring perseverance and ability.

I am not here to talk of your past accomplishments, which are great, but of your future opportunities. I received my Eagle Award, more than _____ years ago, and in those years it has continually enriched my life. It is now yours. When you attend Scouting functions, Scouters will recognize you as a doer, and you will be standing as an equal among leaders.

Your Eagle Award will go far beyond Scouting itself. When you apply to a college or apply for a good job, having “Eagle Scout” on your application helps. I know, because it helped me.

More than that, the things you have done, the leadership and character you have developed, will serve you better than a piece of ribbon and a framed certificate. You will have opportunities to be of service to others—through your school, your work, and through Scouting—because you know what you can accomplish.

In the years to come, you will casually meet other men who also are Eagles. There will be an instant bond of comradeship, for you have each shared a common experience. You each know the other can be trusted, as a friend and as a brother Scout. The comradeship among Eagles extends throughout the nation, and even around the world. For the rest of your life, Scout _____, you travel as a marked man, an Eagle Scout!!”

❖ Introduction of Guest Speaker

MoC

“I would now like to introduce _____, who has known _____ for the past several years, who will provide some remarks.”

❖ Guest Speaker’s Remarks



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❖ Call for the Charge

MoC

*"I now call upon _____, a fellow Eagle Scout [**recommended**], who will provide a few remarks and administer the Eagle Charge."*

❖ The Eagle Charge

"An Eagle Scout is regarded as someone special, not only in scouting but also in higher education, business, and community service. The award is a performance-based achievement whose standards have been well maintained over the years. As you have heard, very few scouts ever earn the Eagle Scout rank. This evening, I have the honor of administering the Eagle Scout Charge to one of them.

_____, would you please come forward."

_____ proceeds to the front.

"You have been judged worthy of the high rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. All who know you rejoice in your achievement.

Your position, as you well know, is one of honor and responsibility. As an Eagle Scout, you are expected to exemplify in your daily life the high principles and values expressed in the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. You assume a solemn obligation of duty to God, to your country, to your fellow Scouts, and to all humankind. As you strive to live up to this obligation, you bring honor to yourself and to scouting.

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

Our country's future depends on sound leadership. By attaining the highest rank in scouting, you have shown yourself capable of being one of these leaders.

*_____, **I charge you** to undertake your citizenship with solemn dedication. In every task you do and every office you hold, lift it up to the highest level of service to God and to your fellow man. So live and serve, that those who know you will be inspired by your example.*

***I further charge you** to be among those who dedicate themselves to the common good. Build America on a solid foundation of clean living, honest work, unselfish citizenship, and reverence toward God; and in so doing you will leave a record of which you and every Scout may be proud."*



Eagle Scout Court of Honor

❖ Call For Certification

MoC

"I now call upon _____, to review the scout's certification for the rank of Eagle Scout."

❖ The Eagle Certification

"The Eagle Award is the highest rank in Boy Scouts, and the most coveted of all awards in Scouting. It is the last major step in the Scouting advancement program. If troop leaders have not achieved their purpose with this scout in the building of character, in the training of leadership, and in the practice of service by this time, then they probably never shall. It therefore is right and proper that this court make a careful examination of the applicant.

This candidate has presented an impressive record of merit badges earned, a record that far exceeds the minimum requirements for advancement to the rank of Eagle Scout. They have been carefully checked against council records and certified by appointed merit badge counselors. The Board of Review carefully checked the record of this candidate for leadership within his troop, his school affairs, his church association, and 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. The Board of Review has satisfactorily established that this candidate is putting into daily practice the principles of the Scout Oath and Law. In light of the inquires made, and the favorable results in each case, the Board of Review has found this candidate qualified and has authorized this Court of Honor to bestow upon him the rank of Eagle Scout.

_____ will now administer the Eagle Pledge."



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❖ The Eagle Pledge

“_____ , I challenge you to enter the Eagle brotherhood, holding ever before you, without reservation, the ideals of honor and service. By repeating the Eagle Scout Pledge before your fellow scouts, 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 ever 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 same words that closed the Declaration of Independence. Scouts, and guests, please rise. _____ , scout sign. Will all other Eagle Scouts in attendance please display the scout sign and renew your Eagle Pledge as _____ joins the Eagle brotherhood?”

Repeat after me:

I reaffirm my allegiance –

To the three promises of the Scout Oath –

Duty to God and Country –

Obedience of the Scout Law –

and to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

I thoughtfully recognize and take upon myself –

the obligations and responsibilities of the rank of Eagle Scout –

toward my family, my fellow man –

my country, and my God.

I will at all times do my best –

to assist others –

to live with honor, loyalty, courage, and service –

and to be a living example of the Scout Oath and Law.

To this I pledge my sacred honor.”

“Two”

❖ Call for Presentations

MoC

“We have now come to the portion of the Eagle Court of Honor where certain presentations are made that signify that _____ has passed the significant milestone of achieving the Eagle Scout rank. The presentation of the Eagle Award is an important and serious matter. It is the climax and the goal for which this Scout has been working for many years. I call upon _____, the troop advancement chairman, to make the Eagle Award presentations.”



Eagle Scout Court of Honor

❖ Eagle Awards Presentations

Advancement Chair

“_____ , before presenting the Eagle Award to you, I would like your parents to join you.”

The scout's parents join him.

“The time has come to present the Eagle Awards, and the honor of presenting them rightfully falls to the persons most responsible for your being here, your parents.”

◆ Medal and Certificate presentation to the Scout

Advancement Chair

“Your mother has undoubtedly been a great source of inspiration in your quest for the Eagle Award. I ask that she pin this Eagle medal, which is the same medal that was pinned on your father by your grandmother over thirty years ago, on your left pocket.”

Hand the Eagle award to the scout's mother.

The scout's mother pins the Eagle award on the left pocket of the scout's shirt.

“In recognition of his advice and guidance along the trail to Eagle, I ask that _____'s father present to his son the Eagle Scout certificate.”

Hand the certificate to the scout's father.

The scout's father hands the certificate to the scout with a handshake.

◆ Presentation to the Scout's Parents and Mentor

Advancement Chair

“As a symbol of what his mother has helped make possible, the court now asks _____ to present his mother with this Eagle Mother's pin.”

Scout pins the Eagle pin on his mother's scout ribbon, and he awards her the Troop 24 "scout kiss."

“As a symbol of what his father has helped make possible, the court asks this scout to present his father with this Eagle tie tack.”

Scout presents the tie tack to his father shirt, followed by a handshake.

“A relatively new award has been created to recognize the vital and influential role that an Eagle Scout Mentor plays. An Eagle Scout Mentor is the individual that the Eagle Scout believes has done the most to help him complete the rise to Eagle. As a symbol of what the Eagle Scout Mentor has helped make possible, the court asks this scout to ask his mentor to come forward so that the scout can present him with this Mentor Pin.”

Scout calls _____ to come forward and presents the pin to him, followed by a handshake.

When all awards have been presented, the Scoutmaster gives the new Eagle Scout the Scout handshake and an appropriate handshake for each parent and mentor.



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The Scout's parents and mentor return to their seats.

❖ Scoutmaster's Remarks

Scoutmaster

“As you can see by looking at your program, _____ has demonstrated extraordinary dedication to the principles of scouting. He has demonstrated dedication to the Boy Scout organization by earning over _____ merit badges, earning multiple religious and other awards [as appropriate], participating in numerous Boy Scout summer camp programs, including serving as a Camp Counselor at Pipsico Scout Reservation for two summers, and participating in two of the most challenging national Boy Scout programs—a Maine high adventure canoeing trip and a Philmont Scout Ranch trek [as appropriate]. _____ has demonstrated dedication to Troop 24 through his many leadership positions, including Senior Patrol Leader [or as appropriate]—where he was in charge of all of the scouts in the troop—and his consistent participation in troop events and camping trips. _____ also has demonstrated dedication to the Order of the Arrow [if appropriate]—the Boy Scout Brotherhood of Honor Campers.

_____, I am confident that you will continue to honor scouting with your life and service as today Scouting honors you.

Many others recognize the importance of your accomplishment, and some have sent Letters of Commendation. They include [as appropriate]:

The President of the United States, the Vice President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the United States Attorney General, the Chief of Naval Operations, three former Presidents of the United States, both United States Senators who represent Virginia, _____’s Congressman, the Governor of Virginia, four state senators or delegates, three members of Norfolk’s City Council—including the Mayor—and the Boy Scout national and council presidents.

These letters will be available for review during the reception following this ceremony.

Now, by the authority vested in me by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, I declare you to be an Eagle Scout.”

Applause

“Before _____ provides his remarks, I ask that any other Eagle Scouts present come forward and welcome _____ into the Eagle brotherhood.”

Other Eagle Scouts come forward, offer the scout handshake to new Eagle Scout, and then return to their seats.

❖ Eagle's Remarks

Eagle Scout

❖ Closing

Scoutmaster

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



Eagle Scout Court of Honor

❖ Call for Benediction

MoC

"I now call upon Dr. Mahaffey to offer a benediction and blessing."

❖ Benediction and Blessing of Food

❖ Retire the Colors

MoC

"Please Rise to Retire the Colors"

"Color Guard Advance"

"Color Guard, Retire the Colors"

"Scouts, Salute"

"Two"

❖ Reception Announcement

MoC

"_____ and his family invite everyone to join them for a reception in the Social Hall [as appropriate]."