

SAMPLE OF EAGLE COURT OF HONOR

USING VOICE OF THE EAGLE CEREMONY

A. Introduction and Welcome

Welcome to our Court of Honor for _____. My name is _____ and I will be your Master of Ceremonies for this Court of Honor. Will you please stand for the invocation by _____.

Please be seated.

I would like to introduce the other members of our Court of Honor. Please hold your applause until all participants have been introduced.

- 1) Representing the Scouts of Troop _____ is Scoutmaster _____.
- 2) Representing the Adult Leadership for Troop _____ is Committee Chairman _____.
- 3) Representing Scouting at the District, Council, Region and National level: _____.
- 4) Representing sponsoring organization _____.

(Note: After introduction of those on stage, turn lights out to do Voice of Eagle.)

VOICE OF THE EAGLE:

This is the voice of the Eagle, the Spirit of Scouting. The Eagle whose heights you have struggled so 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. There were others with you at the time, but their determination was weak, their perseverance was not as strong as yours.

Look back for a moment. Look back over the cliff and you have climbed. Look back over the experiences you have encountered in your ascent. These experiences should not be forgotten – you should profit by them. Cherish the valuable ones, and make sure that the adverse ones do not occur again. Experience is a valuable teacher if you will only heed its teachings. We remember when you took your first step upon the trail that leads upward. With the 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 saw you learn by doing. At first your brother Scouts called you a Tenderfoot – and they were right, you were indeed a Tenderfoot.

(PROJECT TENDERFOOT BADGE ON SCREEN – OR SCOUT HOLDS POSTER)

I am the Tenderfoot. My three points stand for the three parts of the Scout Promise. 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 our land.

EAGLE: But you were not a Tenderfoot for long – for you soon reached the first ledge, and there you were greeted by a large group of Second Class Scouts.

(PROJECT SECOND CLASS BADGE ON SCREEN – OR SCOUT HOLDS POSTER)

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**”.

EAGLE: Some Second Class Scouts have been there for a long time and were content with their achievement. Others, like yourself, 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 were to another ledge – the ledge where the First Class Scouts dwell.

(PROJECT FIRST CLASS BADGE ON SCREEN – OR SCOUT HOLDS POSTER)

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.

EAGLE: There you found a tempting green meadow split 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 spurred you on, and you bade farewell to those who had decided the trail from their green pasture looked a bit too rough. We remember when you became a Star Scout.

(PROJECT A STAR BADGE ON SCREEN – OR SCOUT HOLDS POSTER)

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

EAGLE: You found the trail from First Class had been an optical illusion = not as difficult as it had seemed. This spurred you on, and again you left many of your fellow Scouts that you might climb still farther. Now the trail was steeper. Now it was less worn. Fewer Scouts seemed to be headed 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 up the trail. Soon it was the badge of Life Scout.

(PROJECT LIFE BADGE ON SCREEN – OR SCOUT HOLDS POSTER)

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 fellow man. I am ready to reach for my wings to fly.

EAGLE: The heart-shaped badge that was placed on your uniform – you will never forget the feeling in your heart. It was the same that has been experienced by most Scouts in reaching the ledge of life. Now I am close to the Eagle. I will carry one. The trail became tougher, but more interesting. You stuck with the original simple principles: The Scout Oath and Law, but now they had a fuller meaning. Your understanding of them was better. Yes, we watched your mind develop, and your wisdom increase. We have watched your leadership ability expand into a valuable asset. 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.

(PROJECT EAGLE BADGE ON SCREEN OR SCOUT HOLDS POSTER)

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

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: Will the ushers please escort the candidate (s) and (his/their) parents to the stage.

At this time I would like to introduce our Eagle Scout (s) and as them/him to introduce their/his parents and to make any comments they/he wish(es).

B) Ceremony introduction (by Master of Ceremonies)

- 1) Will _____ please light the candle which will be used to light the Oath and Law candles . . .to symbolize that knowledge is passed from the man to the boy in scouting.
*(Candle lighter lights candle and returns to seat leaving lighted candle on the table.)
 - 2) _____ please come forward and light the first four candles signifying the first four Scout laws.
*(Light one candle at a time and with each recite the appropriate law – when complete – step back and wait for the next scout to be called. When the next scout arrives, hand him your candle and remain standing at the four candles you lit.)
 - 3) Will _____ please step forward and light the next four candles signifying the next four laws.
*(See instructions under #2 above.)
 - 4) Will _____ please step forward and light the last four candles signifying the final four laws.
*(See instructions under #2 above.)
 - 5) Will the Eagle Scout please light the candles of the oath and recite the Oath.
 - 6) The first 12 candles lighted represent the law a Scout is to live by. The final three candles represent the Oath – the Oath is a Scout’s promise to live according to the twelve laws – not only in scouting, but every day.
 - 7) Eagle Scout (s) will you please give the Scout sign and repeat with me the Scout Oath – our promise to live by the law of Scouting: (*Begin with scout hand salute – repeat Oath – call “Ready – Two.”
 - 8) Will the Eagle Scout (s) please move to my extreme right where _____ will administer the Eagle charge. (* _____ moves to his position on stage as scouts recite Oath. Scouts move to area of Award Table, but face the audience.)
 - 9) _____ will take the Eagle pledge of citizenship for the first time. If there are any Eagle Scouts in the audience, will you please stand and reaffirm your pledge by joining our candidate (s).
Repeat after me in unison: (Do Scout Sign)
On my Honor I will do my best – to do my duty to God – On my honor I will do my best – to do my duty to country – I reaffirm my allegiance – to the three promises of the Scout Promise. I thoughtfully recognize and take upon myself the obligation 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 rank and my influence – strongly count for better Scouting – and for better Citizenship – in my Troop – and in my Community – and in my contact with other people – regardless of race, class or creed. To this I pledge my Sacred Honor.
I charge you to enter the Eagle Scout Brotherhood, holding without reservation, ever before you the ideals of honor and service. By the repetition of the Eagle Scout pledge before your fellow members, you have become an Eagle Scout. Though the words you used be similar to those by which you joined scouting, tonight they mean more than they could have meant at the time or at any time in the past. When you pledge yourself on your Sacred Honor, you have sealed your eternal Loyalty to the code of Eagle Scout.
- NOTE:** At completion of Eagle Charge – Scout (s) and Presenter move to award table.
Presenter asks parents to join scouts (stand behind him.)
- 10) Presentation of Eagle Awards:
 - A) Presenter to make appropriate **but short** remarks.
 - B) Introduction of adult who will help with award presentation.
 - C) Presenter explains Eagle to be given to Father who will pin son –

Son then pins mother and may give her a kiss.

NOTE: At conclusion of pinning – Presenter asks for audience applause. New Eagles and parents then return to respective seats and remain standing.

11) (**Master of Ceremonies**) Tonight we have a unique experience. Our Eagles have asked that our speaker be someone special. Tonight we have two very special people and I want to introduce our first speaker. (Give brief introductory information.) At conclusion of speech, thank him for speaking.

12) Retire (**Master of Ceremonies conducting**)

Will Eagle _____ come forward and lead the Scout Vespers.

(As he goes forward give closing statements.) Immediately following the Scout Vespers and Taps, we will adjourn for refreshments in the next room and you will have an opportunity to congratulate the new Eagle (s).

Thank you for attending this Court of Honor. It is your support that enables young men to develop their skills, experience an emotional growth, develop friendships and satisfy a need found in the family affair called: **TROOP____, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA.** We hope someday soon we may gather again to honor you and your son as each of them reach their goal – **EAGLE SCOUT.**

13) Vespers

14) Taps