# Eagle Court Of Honor

CEREMONY:

MC: [Step to microphone.] {Eagle Scout Full Name}, front and center.

Eagle Scout or Designee: [Color guard is in position at the rear of room: American flag, troop flag, two honor guards.]

MC: Ladies and gentlemen, please rise for the opening ceremonies. [Wait until the audience is standing and quiet.]

Eagle Scout or Designee: Color guard, advance the colors.

Eagle Scout or Designee: [When color guard is in position] Scout salute. Would everybody please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance? [Pledge of Allegiance]

Eagle Scout or Designee: Color guard, post the colors. [Wait until colors are in place.] Two.

Eagle Scout or Designee: Scout Sign, Scout Oath. [Scout Oath]

Eagle Scout or Designee: Scout Law. [Scout Law]

MC: Everyone, please be seated.

MC: My name is {Name of MC}, master of ceremonies for today. I'd like to welcome everyone and thank you for coming.

MC: I would now like to introduce our honored guests and ask them to stand. Please hold your applause until they are all standing. [Introduce guests who are present.]

MC: At this point, I call upon {Name} to ask God's blessing upon this ceremony.

Designee: [Invocation]

MC: I now declare this court of honor in session. Today we have the honor and pleasure of recognizing {Eagle Scout Name} for earning the award of Eagle Scout. This is an important and serious matter. In full awareness of the challenge of these times, the parents and troop leaders have labored long and faithfully to develop {Eagle Scout Name} to be alert and to participate in citizenship through the Scouting program. Their efforts culminate tonight in the presentation of the Eagle Scout Badge.

MC: When a boy becomes a Boy Scout, there should be instilled within him that which we call the "Spirit of Scouting."

[MC Lights a candle.]

MC: This lighted candle symbolizes 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 millions of boys in Scouting, it can become very powerful indeed.

MC: After a boy has entered Scouting, the Scout Law that he has promised to obey, is put into effect as occasions may demand, and so, one by one, the symbols that stand for the parts of the Scout Law are lighted. There are twelve parts, all important and all meaningful.

[Light a candle at each point of the Scout Law]

MC: Each is an important cornerstone in the building of a strong character. A scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

MC: And finally, in the three points of the Scout Oath which we heard during the opening ceremony, he promises on his honor to do his best to do his duty.

MC: First [MC lights candle] to God and his country.

MC: Second [MC lights candle] to others by helping other people at all times.

MC: And third [MC lights candle] to himself by keeping himself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

MC: You see how the light from this "Spirit of Scouting" grows and becomes stronger. These, in outline, are the basic ideals of Scouting, to which each boy subscribes when he becomes a Boy Scout.

MC: It is, therefore, right and proper that we have made a careful review of the qualifications of {Eagle Scout Name} for the rank of Eagle Scout. In order that all may understand the completeness of our review, I would ask [REVIEWER] to report on the candidates' qualifications.

REVIEWER: [Light Scout candle] {Eagle Scout Name} earned the rank of Scout by understanding and promising to live by the Scout Oath and Law. He learned the Scout Motto, Slogan, Salute, and Handclasp and understood the significance of the Scout Badge. He also took part in a personal growth agreement conference with his scoutmaster.

REVIEWER: [Light Tenderfoot candle] As Scout, {Eagle Scout Name} was active in the troop and patrol for at least two months. He repeated from memory the Scout Oath and Law and demonstrated how he practiced them in everyday life. He also earned Citizenship and one other skill award, and after a personal growth agreement conference with the Scoutmaster, and a Troop Leaders Council review, he became a Tenderfoot.

REVIEWER: [Light Second Class candle] After showing Scout Spirit and being active for at least two months as Tenderfoot Scout {Eagle Scout Name} had a personal growth agreement conference with his scoutmaster and a Troop Leaders Council review to become a Second Class Scout.

REVIEWER: [Light First Class candle] For at least two months as Second Class Scout, {Eagle Scout Name} was active in his troop and patrol and showed Scout Spirit. After having a personal growth agreement conference with his scoutmaster and a Troop Leaders Council review, he became a First Class Scout.

REVIEWER: [Light Star candle] As a First Class scout for at least four months, {Eagle Scout Name} was active and showed scout spirit in his troop and patrol. He earned five more merit badges, three of which are from the required list for Eagle, and did service projects of at least six hours. He also served for four months or more in troop leadership positions and after a personal growth agreement conference with his scoutmaster and a Troop Committee review, he became a Star Scout.

REVIEWER: [Light Life candle] Continuing along the scouting trail, {Eagle Scout Name} was active as a Star Scout for at least six months and showed scout spirit and leadership. He earned five more merit badges, three of which were from the required list for Eagle. After doing service projects of at least six hours and having a personal growth conference with his scoutmaster, he had a Troop Committee review and became a Life Scout.

REVIEWER: To attain the highest rank in Scouting, {Eagle Scout Name} was active in the troop and his patrol for at least six months, showing scout spirit and leadership. He earned ten more merit badges for a total of twenty-one, twelve of which were from the required list for Eagle. He planned, developed, and gave leadership to a service project which was helpful to his school, religious institution, or community. He passed a troop and district board of review. Tonight, you will witness the presentation of his well-earned award.

REVIEWER: Now, {Eagle Scout Name} will describe his Eagle project.

{Eagle Scout Name}: [Give description of the Eagle service project. This may be broken up among several speakers.]

MC: Webster's dictionary describes an eagle as a large bird of prey with sharp vision and powerful wings, famous for their strength, size, grace, and keen vision. It is the national emblem for the United States: the Bald Eagle. Though the eagle is found throughout the world, he is never found in abundance; he is always rare and he is always a superb specimen. In Scouting the eagle stands for strength of character. The eagle stands for knowledge of all phases of Scouting. The eagle represents an understanding of community and nation, and a deep respect for same. The eagle is a symbol of what a young man has done as well as what that young man will do, and will be, when he grows to manhood. The eagle is a leader. The eagle is respected, both by his peers and by his adult leaders.

MC: {Eagle Scout Name}, please rise.

MC: I would like to call upon (Name, Troop 373 Committee Advancement Chair) to give the Eagle Scout charge to {Eagle Scout Name}.

Andy Salaka: The Boy Scouts of the world constitute one of the most wholesome and significant movements in history, and you {Eagle Scout Name}, have been counted worthy of this highest 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 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. If you fail, you bring down the good name of all true and worthy 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 good things depend on the qualities she instills in her citizens. You are prepared to help America in all that she needs most. She has a great past, and you are here to make her future 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 your fellow men -- to finest living. We have too many who use their strength and their intellect to exploit others for selfish gains. I charge you to be among those who dedicate their skills and ability to the common good.

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

MC: I would like to call upon {Name – typically another Eagle Scout} to administer the Eagle Pledge.

EAGLE SCOUT: The Eagle Scout candidate will now take the Eagle Scout pledge. As the candidate takes this pledge for the first time, will those Eagle Scouts who are present in the audience please stand and reaffirm their pledge? Will each of you please give the Scout Sign and repeat after me in unison?

*On my honor, I will do my best, to do my duty to God and my country. I reaffirm my allegiance to the three promises of the Scout Oath. 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 an example, and make my rank and influence strongly count for better scouting and for better citizenship, in my troop, in my community, and in my contact with other people. To this, I pledge my sacred honor.*

The Eagle Scouts in the audience may now be seated. I charge you to enter this Eagle Scout brotherhood holding ever before you, without reservation, the ideals of honor and service. By repeating of the Eagle Scout pledge before your fellow members, you have become an Eagle Scout. Though the words you used just now are similar to those by which you joined Scouting, today they mean more than they ever could have meant at that time, or at any time in the past. When you pledged yourself on your sacred honor, using the same words which are found at the end of the Declaration of Independence, you sealed your eternal loyalty to the code of the Eagle Scout. [As one Eagle Scout to another,] 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 true in your heart. Ladies and Gentlemen, Scouts and Scouters, I present to you Eagle Scout {Eagle Scout Name}.

MC: Would the parents of {Eagle Scout Name} please come up to stand behind their son.

MC: Will {Name}, Scoutmaster of Troop 373, please come up and present this new Eagle with his medal, patch, and certificates.

[After he is finished and returns to his seat]

MC: Will the new Eagle please present his mother with the mothers' pin.

MC: Will the new Eagle please present his father with the fathers' pin.

MC: At this time, {Eagle Scout Name}’s parents would like to present him with two special gifts to commemorate his time in scouting. [Shadow Box and Flag presented]

MC: The parents of the new Eagle Scout may be seated.

MC: [I would like to read the letters of congratulations from “Scouting”]

[It should be noted that congratulatory letters from the President and Governor were also requested but unfortunately have not arrived in time for this ceremony]

[If any of the guests have presentations to make, this is the time for them.] [If any of the guests wish to speak, this is the time for them.]

MC: At this time, I would like to request that the Color Guard take their places for the closing ceremony. [Wait for the Color Guard to advance].

MC: Ladies and gentlemen, please rise for the flag retirement. [Wait until the audience is standing and quiet.] Scout Salute. Color guard, retire the colors. Two.

MC: Ladies and Gentlemen, this concludes the formal part of our ceremony. Please join {Eagle Scout Name} and his parents for food and refreshments. Thank you.