



Troop 2 Milford, BSA

Where the Spirit of Rising Eagles Lives On...



Eagle Scout

Court of Honor Guidebook

A guide for new Troop 2 Eagle Scouts and their parents



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Congratulations!!

Hello and Congratulations! You have been deemed eligible by an independent Council Board of Review for the highest rank in Scouting, that of an Eagle Scout. Your path has been no doubt challenging and rewarding.

While you await your final paperwork and confirmation on becoming an Eagle Scout, it is time you and your family start to think about planning your Eagle Scout Court of Honor (ECOH). This is the ceremony where the Troop gets to present to you your Eagle Scout Rank/Patch, Eagle Scout Medal and Eagle Scout neckerchief.

This is a great time for reflection and contemplation. Reflect on your journey through Scouting and what you have experienced. It may have begun with Tiger Cubs, or it may have started here in Boy Scouts, but no doubt it was a challenging and enjoyable time.

Remember those first few times you got together with your friends, the fun you had, the troubles you had, the enjoyment of completing the tasks and requirements as they were set before you. Each played a role in modeling you into the Eagle Scout you are today.

Also think about your future. What does it hold for you? Are you still a Scout? If so, how will you continue to participate and lead your fellow younger Scouts like those before led you through your journey?

Are you an adult and going onto college or other challenges in your life? Think of how your experiences in the Scouting program have molded and prepared you. Think about what challenges you wish to take on as you venture into adulthood...

Guidebook

This guidebook has been prepared to assist you and your family in preparing for your Eagle Court of Honor ceremony. It will guide you through what the responsibilities of yourselves are as well as those of Troop 2 so that you can have a smooth and enjoyable ceremony and celebration.

Should you ever have questions regarding the ceremony or the reception and their preparation, feel free to contact your Scoutmaster and/or other Eagle Scouts and their families for assistance. All will be ready and willing to assist you in your efforts.

The following page lists a brief synopsis of the responsibilities of the family and the Troop in the ECOH process. Each step will be explained in further detail in the subsequent pages.

Note though that many of those items listed here are merely guidelines. The ECOH is **YOUR** ceremony, you can select which pieces to include and which not to include. Every ceremony is different, because every Scout is different. Make this one **YOURS**.

NOTE: Those items listed in bold are required parts of the ECOH ceremony.

Eagle Court of Honor (ECOH) Responsibilities

Troop Responsibilities

- Eagle Congratulatory Letters
- Eagle Rank, Badges, Medals, Scarf, etc. for new Eagle Scout
- ECOH Ceremony Supplies:
 - Flags
 - Candles
 - Décor
 - Round Tuit
 - Troop 2 Painting

Family Responsibilities

- Selecting and Securing a Date/Time/Location
- **ECOH Script/Contents**
- **ECOH Participants**
 - **Master of Ceremonies**
 - **Senior Patrol Leader**
 - Scout Spirit/Rank participants
 - **Council Representative (Open/Close)**
 - Pastor (Invocation/Benediction)
 - **Accompanist(s)**
 - Voice of the Eagle Reader
 - Eagle Challenge Reader
 - Prayer to Yellow Hawk Reader
 - **Eagle Charge Administrator**
 - **Presenter(s)**
 - State/Local Dignitaries/Proclamations
 - **Eagle Scout Comments**
 - Scout Vespers Leader
- Invitations
 - Troop Members
 - Family Members
 - Friends
 - Prior Troop 2 Members/Eagle Scouts
 - Dignitaries
- ECOH Programs
- Eagle Scout "Memory Board"
- ECOH Supplies
 - Food/Desserts
 - Soda/Drinks
 - Utensils/Cups/Paper Goods
 - Ice
 - Table Cloths
 - Centerpieces (/with Troop)
- ECOH Food/Reception Preparation
- ECOH Reception Servers
- ECOH Clean Up

Troop 2 Responsibilities

The main responsibility of Troop 2 is to present you with the opportunities to get you to the rank of Eagle Scout if that is your overall desire. If you are reading this, mission accomplished. Now it is time to celebrate!!

Below are those items which Troop 2 will handle for you in getting ready for your Eagle Court of Honor;

Eagle Scout Congratulatory Letters

Once it has been announced by the Troop that you have been deemed eligible to be an Eagle Scout, the Troop Chairperson or his/her designee will begin the process of obtaining Eagle Scout Congratulatory Letters. These are letters of congratulations or citations distributed by many members of the local, state and federal governments.

The Troop will contact each of these people and advise them of your achievement and request that they forward some form of recognition to you. These forms of recognition will be sent to your home for you to enjoy and retain as a lasting memory of your accomplishment.

If there is someone special that your family would like the Troop to contact and obtain a letter or recognition from, please contact the Committee chairperson who can assist you in the effort. Please bear in mind though that some people have expressed a desire not to be contacted for such letters. If your family wishes the Troop to contact one of those persons that has requested no to receive such requests, we must respectfully decline and accede to their wishes.

Eagle Scout Rank and Related Items

Upon receipt of confirmation that the BSA National offices have accepted and confirmed your advancement to the rank of Eagle Scout, they will forward your official paperwork to the Knox trail Council offices. Once they arrive, the Troop will obtain the paperwork and use it as authorization to purchase the following items for you which will be presented to you at your Eagle Scout Court of Honor.

- Eagle Scout Rank /Patch
- Eagle Scout Medal
- Eagle Scout Neckerchief
- Eagle Scout Neckerchief Slide
- Eagle Scout Mother's Pin
- Eagle Scout Father's Pin
- Eagle Scout Mentor's Pin
- Eagle Scout Card
- Eagle Scout National Citation
- Eagle Scout Council Citation

In addition to the above, Troop 2 will also sign you up for the first year's membership into the National Eagle Scout Association (NESA).

ECOH Ceremony Supplies

In addition to the above items that will be presented to you at your ECOH, the Troop also maintains supplies for the ceremony where the items will be presented to you. Those items involved in the ceremony that the Troop will provide includes the following;

- Flag of the United States of America and stand
- Troop 2 Flag and Stand
- Spirit of Scouting Candles and Stand (*if desired*)
- Ranks of Scouting and Stand (*if desired*)
- ECOH Table Décor
- Troop 2 Spirit of Scouting Painting
- Troop 2 Round Tuit (*if applicable... you know who you are!!*)

Note: The family may be asked to provide a white rectangular table cloth for the main ECOH table at the front of the ceremony.

Eagle Scout Family Responsibilities

The main responsibilities of the Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony and its preparation and conduction falls to the families. That is because the ceremony is **YOURS!!** Tailor the ceremony and everything else to your desires. You have worked very hard, now enjoy the ceremony **YOU** want. It can be lengthy and detailed as **YOU** want, full or all the pomp and circumstance in the world. OR, it can be short sweet and simple.

Neither ceremony is better than the other, it is simply different. Make it **YOURS**. Include the parts of the ceremony **YOU** want. Have the participants be the ones **YOU** want to be there and speaking. The ceremony is all **YOURS**, make it what **YOU** want.

The following are the only parts of the ceremony that **MUST** be included.

- **Master of Ceremonies** (to lead the ceremony)
- **Senior Patrol Leader** (to lead the Troop)
- **Council Representative** (to officially open and close the ceremony)
- **Accompanist** (to lead the Eagle Candidate to the podium)
- **Eagle Charge Administrator** (to administer the Eagle Charge to the Eagle Candidate)
- **Presenter(s)** (to present the Eagle Medal and Scarf to the Eagle Scout)
- **Eagle Scout (YOU need to be there too!!)**

The other parts of the ceremony are optional. Many Scouts include them, many do not... what you include and choose not to include is entirely up to **YOU!**

Selecting and Securing a Date/Time/Location

It is up to the family and the Eagle Scout himself to determine where and when the ceremony will take place. Your first step is to contact the Scoutmaster of Troop 2 to determine the upcoming Troop calendar. Working with him/her, you can determine a list of a few available dates that you can begin your search with.

The most recent Eagle Scout Courts of Honor for Troop 2 have been held on Saturday afternoons at 1 PM with a reception following. The entire event usually ends by 3:30 PM. However the day of the week and time is entirely up to yourselves.

You can reference the Troop's website to help you in starting to get an idea on a date. However please confirm all prospective dates with the Scoutmaster as Troop plans do change from the pre-released calendar at times.

As for the location of your ECOH, recent tradition has been that Eagle Scout Courts of Honor for Troop 2 are held in the Lower Chapel of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, our sponsor. A celebratory reception is then held in the Bell Tower Room of Milford Catholic Elementary, right next door.

However where the ceremony takes place is **entirely up to YOU**. You may instead choose to have the ceremony at your own place of worship, or even a local lodge or other gathering place. The decision is for **YOU** and **YOUR FAMILY** to make.

Once you decide where, you need to work with the site(s) to secure the location(s) for the ceremony and reception on one of your prospective dates and times. If you are going to use the facilities at Sacred Heart/Milford Catholic, you may contact the Troop's Chartered Organizational Representative (cor@troop2milford.org) who will work with you and Sacred Heart to determine available dates and times for the facilities. If you will be holding the ceremony/reception elsewhere, you will need to determine a contact and work out the availability and retention of the locations.

Once you have selected a date and time and secured the location for your ECOH, please contact the Scoutmaster (scoutmaster@troop2milford.org), Advancement Chairperson (advancement@troop2milford.org), and Committee Chairperson (chairperson@troop2milford.org) so that they can include your celebration on the Troop calendar and begin the Troop's preparations.

Eagle Court of Honor Script

Once you decide on a date, time and location and inform the Troop, it is time to begin your preparations. One of the first items is to determine what **YOUR** ceremony is going to be like. How it runs and what is included is entirely up to **YOU**. You can include everything, you can add more, you can even delete sections of the script/ceremony. What happens and how long **YOUR** ceremony is up to **YOU**.

There are however certain parts of the ceremony that **MUST** be included as part of the program. Below is a summary of the usual flow of a complete Eagle Scout Court of Honor. A full script of the ceremony is attached at the end of this booklet and is available electronically from the troop for your use in preparing your ECOH.

The sections listed in **HIGHLIGHTED BOLD TYPE** are those sections that **MUST** be included as part of the ceremony.

- **Master of Ceremonies - Introduction**
- **Senior Patrol Leader/Troop 2 – Troop Entrance, Flag Presentation and Pledge of Allegiance**
 - Lighting of the Spirit of Scouting Candles
 - Invocation
 - Lighting of the Ranks of Scouting Candles
 - Voice of the Eagle
 - Eagle Challenge
 - Prayer to Yellow Hawk
- **Official ECOH Opening Declaration**
- **Eagle Candidate Presentation**
- **Administration of the Eagle Charge**
- **Eagle Rank, Medal and Neckerchief Presentation**
- **Eagle Scout Comments**
 - Presentation of National BSA Citation/Letter
 - Presentation of Council Citation/Letter
 - Reading of Federal and State Citations/Letters
 - Presentation of State House of Representatives Proclamation
 - Presentation of State Senate Proclamation
 - Presentation of Local Proclamations
- **Troop 2 "Round Tuit" (if applicable)**
- **Scoutmaster's Minute**
 - Benediction
 - Scout Vespers
- **Master of Ceremonies Closing Comments**
- **Official ECOH Closing Declaration**

Review the script provided and discuss it with your family. Decide which sections of the script you want to keep and which you would like to cut. The decisions are entirely up to you. Some ceremonies are short and sweet, others longer... it is entirely up to you. It is **YOUR** Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Just please keep in mind, those sections listed in **HIGHLIGHTED BOLD TYPE** must be part of your ceremony.

If you have any questions on what to include in your script and what to cut, feel free to contact other Eagle Scouts of Troop 2 or other Troops. You can also discuss it with your Scoutmaster who will be glad to help.

Once edited and completed, forward the ECOH Script to your Scoutmaster for review/approval. This MUST be done at least 21 days BEFORE your ECOH.

After review/approval by the Scoutmaster, send a copy of the approved final script to all ECOH participants. Have this done at least 10 days BEFORE your ECOH.

On the date of your ECOH, have at least 5 copies of the final approved script available in case of an emergency or required last minute changes.

Eagle Court of Honor Participants

Once you have decided on the content of your ECOH, you have to decided on who will participate in your ceremony. There is only two real solid MUSTs in this part, YOU must be there... and you must have someone from Council there to open and close the ceremony. After that, who you want to participate is up to you.

Here is a list of the participants in an ECOH and what they do. You may also choose to have one person fulfill several roles in the ceremony, not just one. **HIGHLIGHTED BOLD TYPE** identifies those roles that MUST be filled/included in the ceremony.

Master of Ceremonies: This is the host of the day's program. Traditionally this is someone close to you that has had a part in your Scouting career.

Senior Patrol Leader: This is usually the current Troop 2 SPL or senior ranking Scout that attends the ceremony. However if you want to make a change here that is perfectly fine. This person leads the entrance of the Scouts and flags into the ceremony and leads the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to start things off.

Scout Spirit/Scout Rank Participants: These are Scouts that read lines while lighting candles at the front of the ceremony. They can be Scouts designated by you in advance, or simply Scouts that attend the ceremony.

Pastor: This can be the Pastor of your place of worship or the Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church. This person does the Invocation and Benediction sections of the ceremony.

Voice of the Eagle Reader: This person reads the "Voice of the Eagle" section of the ceremony. This is usually someone from your Scouting life that played a role in molding you into the Scout/person you are.

Eagle Challenge Reader: This person reads the "Eagle Challenge" section of the ceremony. This is usually someone from your Scouting life that played a role in molding you into the Scout/person you are.

Prayer to Yellow Hawk Reader: This person reads the "Prayer to yellow Hawk" section of the ceremony. This is usually someone from your Scouting life that played a role in molding you into the Scout/person you are.

Council Representative: This needs to be a member of the Knox Trail Council Leadership team. This person does the official opening and closing declarations of the ceremony. It can be anyone you choose. If you do not know of anyone particular with Council, you can confer with the Scoutmaster on naming this person.

Accompanist(s): This person(s) are the ones that lead you to the front podium before you receive your Eagle Scout rank. Usually this is someone that has had an impact on your life. Past persons have included siblings, grandparents, uncles, aunts, etc.

Administrator of the Eagle Charge: This is the person who reads the Eagle Charge with you and other Eagle Scouts during the ceremony. This is usually read by someone who has had a great impact on you and your Scouting development. It can be an Eagle Scout, past Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, anyone who has played a significant role into molding you and making you into who you are today. This is a great honor to present this charge at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor.

Presenter(s): This is the person(s) that present you with your Eagle Scout Medal and Neckerchief. Traditionally this has been the Scout's parent(s).

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Your Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will be at the front as well. You will present them with a Mother's pin and Father's pin/tie tack.

Mentor(s): These are person that helped and mentored you in your quest to be an Eagle Scout. This person(s) can be other Eagle Scouts or adult leaders who provided guidance for you on the trail to becoming an Eagle Scout. You can present this person(s) with an Eagle Scout mentor's pin in recognition of their assistance to you.

YOU: Yes you. You must be there to accept your Eagle Scout rank and you will be asked to make a few comments marking the occasion. Be prepared with a speech. A good guide to thank those that helped you and guided you on your trail through Scouting.

Local and State Dignitaries: These are usually local politicians, pastors or other persons that wish to mark the occasion and recognize you for your efforts. Traditionally Troop 2 has included our State Representative and State Senator in the proceedings.

Scout Vespers Leader: This is a Scout or Adult Volunteer in the Scouting program that will lead the attendees of the ceremony in Scout Vespers, the traditional closing song of Scouting campfires. This can be any person of your choice, but has traditionally been a current/former Scout that has had an impact on your scouting career.

Once you decide on who will do what, the next thing is to make sure all of the people you want to participate in the ceremony will be there. A good idea is to call them to ensure that they are available on the date/time you have chosen and that they are willing to be participants in the ceremony. If they say yes, send them a copy of the script so that they can prepare and know what their lines (if any) will be that day. They can then practice and be well prepared for your ceremony.

Invitations

Once you have decided where and when, and the content of the script and who will be participating in the ceremony, you have to make sure people will be there.

All the invitations are the responsibility of the family.

The Troop will include your ceremony on the Troop calendar and do what they do to normally alert people to the event. However it is also best that you issue your own invitations to members of the Troop.

That means the family is responsible for sending out all invitations for the ceremony, either by electronic mail, postal mail or both. People that should be included in the invitation list include;

- **Ceremony Participants**
- **Your immediate family members**
- **Troop 2 members**

You can also include:

- Prior Troop 2 members
- Prior Troop 2 and other BSA Eagle Scouts
- Extended family
- Friends
- Local Dignitaries
- Teachers
- People that have an impact on your Scouting and/or personal life.

You can distribute information by email using whatever template you wish. You can do the same for paper invitations. They can be of any design you want. You can also purchase ECOH invitations at the Scout Store or via the web at www.scoutstuff.org.

Invitations should not be sent at the last minute, as people should be given proper notification so that they can ensure they will be available to attend your ceremony. A good guide is to send your invitations 30-45 days in advance of the ceremony.

Make sure to include the date, time and location of the ceremony. It is also a good idea to request an RSVP to a phone and/or e-mail address with a specific due date. This will help you and your family in planning to have enough food and supplies on hand for all of the attendees to your ceremony.

Eagle Court of Honor Programs

Often Scouts and their families choose to provide a program booklet for the attendees of the ECOH. Whether or not you do so is entirely up to you. These traditionally list the elements of the ceremony and the participants, a short biography of the Eagle Scout, information about the Eagle Scout Rank, a copy of the Troop 2 Eagle Scout "Nest," and any comments from the family itself.

You can contact the Troop or other current Eagle Scouts of Troop 2 for ideas on what to include in a program and how to go about creating your very own. Samples can even be shown to you from the Troop 2 archives.

Programs can be professionally printed or printed at home on a good quality printer. You should plan on having enough programs available for one per family that will be attending. Also ensure to provide one copy to Troop 2 for their historical records.

Eagle Scout Memory Board

Many times at an ECOH the family prepares a table or two of memorabilia and an Eagle Scout "Memory Board." This is materials about the new Eagle Scout and his history in Scouting, in his personal life or both. The decision of whether to include such memorabilia, and what to include if you choose to make one, is up to you and your family.

Past memory boards and materials have included;

- Eagle Scout Project Book
- Scouting Ranks/Merit Badge history
- Merit Badge Sash
- OA Sashes (if applicable)
- Old uniforms
- Old neckerchief
- Council patches
- Collector's items
- Pictures

- Citations
- High School Diploma
- School Recognitions
- Recognitions outside Scouting/school

Eagle Court of Honor Supplies

Although the Troop provides materials for the ceremony itself, most if not all of the supplies required for the reception that usually follows is the responsibility of the family.

The Troop can assist you in getting ideas on the numbers for the supplies you will need. In the below list we have identified some figures you can use if you are having your ceremony/reception at Sacred Heart/Milford Catholic.

Things to ensure you include in your supply list include:

- **Food** – ensure to include enough for all persons invited included Troop members. Also think about including salads or vegetarian dishes for anyone who does not eat meat. You can have pasta dishes, sandwiches, whatever you like.
- **Desserts** – Traditional desserts with troop 2 ECOH have included an Eagle Scout cake, cupcakes, cookies and other items. What you choose to include is entirely up to you and your family.
- **Drinks** – A good idea is to have soda and water available. A good guide is to have 12- 15 2 liter bottles of soda for every 50-60 people attending your ceremony/reception.
- **Utensils / Cups / Paper Goods** – make sure to include enough for every person attending. It is also a good idea to have dessert plates and a second fork for each person for their dessert.
- **Ice** – Have available 1 large bag of ice so people can cool their drinks if they like.
- **Table Cloths** – Have table cloths to cover the serving tables and eating tables at your reception. If you are having your ceremony/reception at Sacred Heart/Milford Catholic, here are some guidelines on table cloth counts;
 - Rectangular: 1 for ceremony, 6 for serving and reception tables.
 - Circular: 20 for reception tables
- **Centerpieces** – This one you can either have your own special centerpieces or you can work with the troop. They Troop has some materials available that have been donated by prior Eagle Court of Honor families.

Eagle Court of Honor Food/Reception Preparation

After you have decided on your menu you have to decide where to get your food and who will prepare it. You can use the supplier of your choice and the cook of your choice. However it is the responsibility of the Eagle Scout and his family to make these arrangements. They will not be made by the Troop.

The Troop does have people that have assisted others in these efforts in the past. If you require assistance, please contact the Scoutmaster who can point you in the right direction on possibly obtaining help preparing the meal.

Eagle Court of Honor Reception Servers

You have had the ceremony of your dreams and the people and food are ready... now what? Well you likely need people to help serve the meal. It is a good idea to have 3-4 people available to assist in serving the food to those attending the reception.

Having servers helps to ensure plates are not overloaded and the food you ordered and worked so hard to prepare last long enough for everyone to eat. Scouts of Troop 2 love to eat and you know how growing boys like to load their plates.

Identify and arrange in advance for 3-4 friends/family members/parents to help you serve all of your guests. These people can also ensure that as food runs low on the serving table it can be replenished from additional supplies in the kitchen/preparation area. Once everyone has been through the line once, the servers can have a seat and enjoy a meal themselves.

In Troop 2 the guests eat first and the Scouts last, so a good guide is that once the Scouts have been through the line it is safe to have your servers sit and eat. The remaining food can be self-serve until it is gone.

Eagle Scout Court of Honor Clean Up

Cleaning up after the **ceremony** of a ECOH will be handled by members of Troop 2. The materials used in the ceremony will be gathered and stored for the next time they are needed in the Troop lockup areas. Eagle Scout materials for the newly recognized Eagle Scout, including any citations, certificates and other materials will be given to the Eagle Scout and his family.

Cleaning up after the ECOH reception is the responsibility of the family. The family should arrange for family, friends and Scouts of Troop 2 to clean the venue after the completion of the reception in order to prepare it for the next user. Often times a quick "can you help us" to a Troop 2 Scout and/or his family is all it takes. Most often they will be more than happy to lend you a hand.

Troop 2 FULL ECOH Script:**TROOP 2 EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR****EAGLE SCOUT NAME****ECOH DATE****Main Participants/Speakers:**

Master of Ceremonies (MoC):	XXX
SPL:	XXX /Ranking Scout
Council Rep.:	XXX
Opening	
Closing	
Voice of the Eagle:	XXX
Eagle Challenge:	XXX
Prayer to Yellow Hawk:	XXX
Pastor:	XXX
Invocation	
Benediction	
Eagle Charge	XXX
Scoutmaster:	XXX
National BSA Citation/Letter	XXX
Council Citation/Letter	XXX
Presidential Citations/Letters	XXX
Federal Citations/Letter	XXX
Governor's Citation/Letters	XXX
State House Citation	XXX
State Senate Citation	XXX
Local Citations/Letters	XXX
Scout Vespers	XXX

MoC/XXX:

I would like to welcome you all to the Troop 2 Eagle Court of honor for **EAGLE CANDIDATE NAME**.

Before we begin some short housekeeping items;

- First off, if you have any electronic devices in your pockets, purses, holders or elsewhere, we politely ask that you know turn them off.
- Secondly, if anyone should feel the need, restrooms are available for your use (direction to bathrooms).

Welcoming remarks.

Introduce those that are up front and those that will be speaking during the ceremony (page 1 of script).

I would now like to introduce today's Senior Patrol Leader for Troop 2, **XXX**, who will lead the Troop into the ceremony and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPL/XXX "Please Stand for the presentation of the colors" ...

"Advance the colors"

(Color Guard comes forward and reaches its position)

"Will you please join us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance? - Scout salute!"

(Color Guard Dips the troop flag. Lead the Pledge of Allegiance)

"Two. Post the colors. Color Guard, Retreat!"

(Color Guard return to their seats)

"Please remain standing... As part of our opening ceremony I will light the Spirit of Scouting Candle(s)."

MoC/XXX:

Introduce Pastor to give the invocation.

Pastor/XXX:

Delivers the Invocation and Returns to his seat

MoC/XXX:

“Please be seated.”

“When a boy becomes a Scout, there should be instilled in him something we call the ‘Spirit of Scouting’.
(Point at candle) **That candle symbolizes this spirit. Because the ‘Spirit of Scouting’ embodies the principles of the Scout Oath and Law, that candle becomes a 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.**

“The Eagle Trail is traveled through a series of advancements from one rank to the next. Certain requirements must be completed before a scout may go to the next step. Before us will stand boys representing each milestone in scouting which must be passed before a boy can achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. Will those scouts please come forward!”

(Return to seat)

Scouts of Troop 2:

Scout Rank **“To become a scout, we must understand and agree to live by the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout Motto, the Scout Slogan, and the Outdoor Code. We must learn the Scout Sign, the Scout Salute, the Scout Handclasp and when to use them. We must also understand the significance of the Scout Badge. This is the beginning of the Eagle Trail.”**

Tenderfoot **“As a Tenderfoot Scout, we must demonstrate good citizenship and begin to learn the skills that a scout needs to be an active member of his patrol or troop.”**

Second Class **“To become a Second Class Scout we must start to show our skills in swimming, hiking, and first aid, as well as demonstrate proper care at campsites in building fires and preparing meals.”**

First Class “To reach the rank of First Class each of us must have participated in ten separate troop or patrol activities including camping overnight. We must further demonstrate our skills in cooking, knots, lashings, and first aid.”

Star “To attain the rank of Star Scout we must earn a total of six merit badges, which must include any four from the required list for Eagle. We must also complete a service project of at least six hours and serve actively in a leadership position for a minimum of four months.”

Life “To become a Life Scout we must earn five more merit badges so that we have eleven in all. Three of these must be from the required list for Eagle. In addition, a service project of at least six hours is mandatory. We must also serve our troop or patrol in a leadership position for at least six months.”

MoC/XXX:

“Thank you Boys!”

(Pause)

“Although the steps leading toward the rank of Eagle Scout include training in outdoor skills, first aid and community service. it is also important that each scout must show that they do indeed have scout spirit. This is evident by the way each scout lives up to the Scout Oath and Law. Additionally, they each must take part in a personal growth agreement conference with the Scoutmaster where the scout sets goals for himself, these goals may be related to schoolwork, to his family, church or community. The important point being... the setting of goals.

Advancing in rank also requires that the scout go before a review board to determine his eligibility for advancement. The key to the success of the scouting program is for boys to have FUN while they're learning... and that is one of Troop 2's trademarks... our scouts have fun!”

“Now, I would like to introduce **XXXXXX**, who will present us the Voice of the Eagle.”

Voice of the Eagle/XXX:

"This is the voice of the Eagle... the Eagle whose heights you have struggled hard to reach. We remember 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. Remember the climb; remember the achievements; learn from the mistakes that you have made. Experience is a valuable teacher, if you heed its teachings.

We remember when you took your first step upon the trail that leads upward. With that first step you began to grow tall. Your mind became stronger; the difference between right and wrong became clear. 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. As the trail became tougher, but more interesting, the original principles of the Scout Oath and Law, now had a fuller meaning. Your understanding of them was greater.

We watched your character unfold and become straight and true. We have watched your leadership skills expand into valuable assets. 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.

This is the voice of the Eagle."

MoC/XXX:

"Now, I would like to introduce XXXXXX, who will present us the place before EAGLE CANDIDATE NAME the Eagle Scout Challenge."

Eagle Scout Challenge/XXX:

“When the badge of rank for Eagle Scouts was designed in 1912, a small silver eagle was suspended from a tricolor ribbon of red, white, and blue. It remains so today.

EAGLE CANDIDATE NAME ..., when the Eagle Badge is presented to you today by your Scoutmaster, I want you to keep in mind these, the Eagle Scout Challenge...

The foremost responsibility of an Eagle Scout is to live with **HONOR**. To an Eagle Scout, honor is the foundation of character. He knows that -‘A Scout is Trustworthy’- is the first point of the Scout Law for a good reason. An Eagle Scout lives honorably, not only because honor is important to him, but also 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. May the white of the Eagle Badge remind you always to live with honor.

The second obligation of the Eagle Scout is **LOYALTY**. A Scout is true to his family, 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 build the loyalty, which means devotion to community, to country, to one’s ideals, and to God. May the blue of the Eagle Badge always inspire your loyalty.

The third obligation of an Eagle Scout is to be courageous. Courage is a quality by which men measure in themselves and others. To a Scout, bravery means not only the courage to face physical danger, but the determination to stand up for one’s rights. Trusting in God with faith in his fellow citizen, he looks forward to each day, seeking his share of the world's work. May the red of the Eagle Badge always remind you of courage.

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.

An Eagle Scout should wear his badge with humility, ever mindful that the Eagle Scout is looked up to as an example.

NAME, may the Scout Oath and the Scout Law always be your guide!"

XXX/insert any personal remarks here if you like...

MoC/XXX:

"Now, I would like to introduce **XXXXXX**, who will present us the A Prayer to Yellow Hawk."

Prayer by Yellow Hawk - Sioux Chief

"Oh Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world, --Hear me-- I come before you, one of your children. I am small and weak. I need your strength and wisdom. Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make my hands respect the things you have made, my ears sharp to hear your voice. Make me wise, so that I may know the things you have taught my people, the lesson you have hidden in every leaf and rock. I seek strength not to be superior to my brothers, but to be able to fight my greatest enemy, myself. Make me ever ready to come to you, with clean hands and straight eyes, so when life fades as a fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

MoC/XXX:

“Continuing with the program I now introduce **NAME/POSITION** to open this Court of Honor.”

Council/XXX:

“On behalf of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and our Knox Trail Council, I hereby convene this Court of Honor. The Eagle Scout Badge represents another step forward by the Scout toward Scouting’s goals of developing citizenship, of imparting character development and enhancing personal fitness.

MoC/XXX:

“I now would like to introduce **NAME/POSITION**, who will have one of the greatest of honors, administering to **EAGLE CANDIDATE NAME** the Eagle Scout Oath and Charge.”

Charge/XXX:

Insert any personal comments/notations here if you wish

“At this time, we come to a most serious part of the ceremony... when the Eagle Scout Oath and Charge are administered. These statements further challenge the new Eagle Scout and his willingness to accept them.

“It is my pleasure to ask **EAGLE CANDIDATE NAME**’s **DESIGNEE(S) NAMES**, to escort the Eagle candidate to the podium.”

(Pause)

“**EAGLE CANDIDATE NAME**, I have the honor to give you the Eagle Scout charge on the occasion of your elevation to the highest rank in Scouting.

I invite any Scout or Adult here today who has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout to come forward and stand by our Eagle Scout candidate.”

(Pause while the Eagles come forward.)

“Eagle Scout candidate **EAGLE CANDIDATE NAME... *We* charge you to enter this Eagle Scout brotherhood, holding without reservation, ever before you, the ideals of HONOR and SERVICE. By the repetition of the Eagle Scout Oath before your fellow members you will seal that brotherhood. Though the words are similar to those by which you joined scouting, they will mean more than they could have at any time in the past. When you pledge yourself on your sacred Word of Honor, you will be pledging eternal loyalty to the code of the Eagle Scout with the words which close the Declaration of Independence.”**

(Ask the audience to please stand. Pause for silence and eye contact.)

“Eagle Scouts and Eagle candidate.. please give 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 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...

to make my rank and my influence...

strongly count 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.”

“Two.....

It is now **OUR** pleasure and privilege to pronounce you an Eagle Scout!”

Pause for applause Ask the audience and Eagle Scouts (other than new Eagle Scout) to return to their seats. (Eagle Scout can be seated next to the altar.)

“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 as worthy of this honor. All who know you rejoice in your achievement. Your position, as you well know, is one of integrity and responsibility.”

“YOU ARE A MARKED MAN!”

“...As an Eagle Scout

you have assumed a solemn obligation to do your duty to God, Country, your fellow scouts, and to mankind in general. As you live up to your obligations, you bring honor to yourself and your brother scouts. America has many good things to give you and your children after you; but these good things depend for the most part on the qualities of honesty and strength that she can produce in her citizens. She has a great past and you are here to make her future greater.”

“We 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 fellow man. Live and serve so that those who know you will be inspired to the finest living. We have too many who use their strength and intellect to exploit others and gain selfish ends.”

“We CHARGE YOU to be among those who dedicate their skills and abilities to the common good. Build America on the solid foundation of clean living, honest work, unselfish citizenship and reverence for God. 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. You become an example in your community.

Remember that your actions are a little more conspicuous and people will expect more of you. The torch you carry is not only yours, it is also ours.”

MoC/XXX:

“I now turn these proceedings over to Troop 2’s Scoutmaster, XXX, who will present our new Eagle Scout the Eagle rank.”

Scoutmaster/XXX:

Brief comments

Call parents forward and have them stand on either side of their Scout.

Present Eagle badge to mother to pin on her son.

Describe what is happening

Give mother's pin to scout to pin on his mother.

*Describe what is happening - **don't forget kiss!***

Give tie tack to scout to give to his father.

PRESENT THE SCARF!

Parents to put on scarf and present membership in National Eagle Scout Association.

Invite parents to be seated

Present Eagle Scout Patch

“At this time I invite our new Eagle Scout to share with us his thoughts about this occasion.”

Eagle Remarks/Acceptance

Eagle Scout's remarks

MoC/XXX:

If you care to do so, here is where you can make a few “choice remarks about Eagle Scout”

“I now invite our **Position/Name, to make a presentation.”**

XXXX:

Read and present letter/certificate from National BSA.

MoC/XXX:

“I now invite our **Position/Name, to make a presentation.”**

XXXX:

Read and present letter/certificate from Knox Trail Council.

MoC/XXX:

At this point the Master of Ceremonies should introduce individuals for the following presentations:

XXX *Presidential Citations/Letters*

XXX *Federal Citations/Letters*

XXX *Governor’s Citation/Letters*

Rep. *State House Proclamation*

Senator *State Senate Proclamation*

XXX *Local Citations/Letters*

XXX *MISC Citations/Letters*

MoC/XXX:

I now would like to invite our Scoutmaster, **XXX, back to the lectern.**

Scoutmaster/XXX:

Returns to lectern

**Troop 2 Round Tuit Presentation/Signing (if applicable)
“The Scoutmaster's minute.”**

Returns to seat.

MoC/XXX:

Introduce Pastor to give the Benediction.

Pastor/XXX:

Delivers the Benediction and returns to his seat

MoC/XXX:

“I now would like to invite **XXX to the lectern to lead us in Scout Vespers.”**

Scout Vespers/XXX:

Sing 'Scout Vespers' During 2nd stanza, (the humming), state the Scout Oath

“On my honor I will do my best...”

“To do my duty to God and My Country,”

“To obey the Scout law, to help other people at all times,”

“To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.”

Return to your seat.

MoC/XXX:

“A receiving line will be held here to give you an opportunity to congratulate our new Eagle Scout, immediately thereafter, please join us for a reception in John’s honor, upstairs in the Bell Tower Room.”

I now would like to invite our **POSITION, NAME, back to the lectern to close our Eagle Scout of Honor.**

Council/XXX:

Returns to lectern

“I now declare this Knox Trail Council Eagle Scout Court of Honor Closed”

100 Scouts Poem

“One Hundred Scouts”

Of any one hundred boys who become Scouts, it must be confessed that thirty will drop out in their first year. Perhaps this may be regarded as a failure, but in later life all of these will remember that they had been Scouts and will speak well of the program.

Of the one hundred, only rarely will one ever appear before a juvenile court judge. Twelve of the one hundred will be from families that belong to no church. Through Scouting, these twelve and many of their families will be brought into contact with a church and will continue to be active all their lives. Six of the one hundred will become pastors.

Each of the one hundred will learn something from Scouting. Almost all will develop hobbies that will add interest throughout the rest of their lives. Approximately one-half serve in the military, and in varying degrees profit from their Scout training. At least one will use it to save another person's life and many will credit it with saving their own.

Three of the one hundred will reach Eagle rank, and at least one will later say that he valued that achievement above his college degree. Many will find their future vocation through merit badge work and Scouting contacts. Seventeen of the one hundred boys will later become Scout leaders and will give leadership to thousands of additional boys.

Only one in four boys in America will become Scouts, but it is interesting to know that of the leaders of this nation in business, religion and politics, three out of four were Scouts.

This story will never end. Like the “Golden Pebble” of service dropped into the human sea it will continue to radiate in ever-widening circles, influencing the characters of men down through unending time.

Poem – An Eagle Scout

“An Eagle Scout”

“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 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 the years have gone as he struggled along to learn what the Scout law’s about;

He practiced them daily, the Oath and the Law, until now he’s an Eagle Scout.

You may smile in your worldly old 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 the symbols of honor and truth,

He has learned how to value these fine attributes in the glorious days of youth.

In the outflinging wings of the Eagle that rests on the breast of this Knight of today

Are the things that 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 beats true,

**And will throb to the last for the things which are good, A
lesson for me . . . and for you.”**

--Author Unknown.