

Troop 111 Eagle Court of Honor - Basic Ceremony Outline

Preliminary Notes - This Outline assumes that the Eagle Court of Honor is following a regular Troop Court of Honor. [If it is a standalone, Eagle-only Court of Honor, then it should start with an invitation to assemble, and then opening flag ceremony and invocation.] The Scout(s) and family members should be seated in the front row or in a separate, designated set of seats. All awards should be out of their respective packaging, all pinned awards should be unpinned, and everything should be laid out on the side table for easy access.

Opening Remarks by SM or designated emcee (either henceforth listed as “SM”).

The SM's Call to Order - "By the power vested in me by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, I hereby declare this Eagle Court of Honor open."

Optional: Introduction of the Eagle's Parents, family members, and special guests.

Optional: Silent Escort of the Eagle to Front Center (by 2 Eagle Scouts, if possible).

Introduction of Eagle Candidate (include their Career Summary if this is not already detailed in the program).

[If there are multiple Eagles, each one is introduced sequentially (in the order of the Boards of Review) but separately (i.e., only one Scout should be standing).]

Optional: Explain the Eagle Board of Review, and Introduce all Eagle Board members who are in attendance, for a public recognition and welcome.

The Eagle Scout(s) who is/are about to be inducted are asked to assemble at the front of the room (if not already there). - Optional: The Eagle(s) are reminded that they are about to take an Oath for Life, and asked if they understand and agree.

Call to Eagles (by SM) - All Eagle Scouts in the room are asked to assembly to left of the Eagle Light Box (left with respect to the audience's view). - Optional: Include Girl Scout “Gold Award” recipients and American Heritage Girls “Stars and Stripes Award” recipients.

The SM invites assembled Eagles to bear witness, and to renew their own vows, as follows:

"Gentlemen (or Ladies and Gentlemen): - You honor us with your presence here tonight. I ask you to bear witness to this induction of our newest Eagle Scout(s), and to renew the vows you made at your own inductions. Please step forward and introduce yourselves, giving your name, what Unit you earned your Eagle with, where, and in what year."

Each Eagle (Gold Award, Stars and Stripes Award) steps forward in sequence and introduces himself (herself) - When all have done so, the SM turns back to the Eagle Scout:

"Eagle Scout(s) _____ Full Legal Names _____, these Eagle Scouts will witness your induction into their ranks. Remember all those who have gone before you, and those still to come, as you join their company."

SM hands off to the Eagle Scout (by name) doing "100 Scouts."

SM hands off to the Eagle Scout (by name) doing "The Voice of the Eagle" (Note: Someone has to run the Light Box; this person should have a copy of the narrative).

SM hands off to the Eagle Scout (by name) doing "The Charge to Eagle."

SM hands off to the Eagle Scout (by name) doing the Formal Induction of Eagle Scout(s).

When the Induction is complete, the Eagle Scout(s) is/are congratulated by the Eagle Assembly, starting with the Eagle Scout who performed the Induction; the Scouts who were in the assembly then take their seats.

The SM also congratulates the Eagle(s), then gives explanatory commentary concerning the Awards (if possible, younger brothers or sisters should help handle the awards (that is, from table to assembly); this will require the SPL or an adult to handle the awards on the table). [If there were multiple Eagles, each one is handled separately.] In sequence:

The SM removes Eagle Scout's Bolo Tie (or N/C and slide), unbuttons left pocket flap.

The Mother pins the Eagle Medal on her Son, on left pocket flap.

Optional: The Son pins the Eagle Pin on his Mother, or (more commonly) drapes a ribbon with the pin over her head.

The Father places the Eagle Bolo Tie (or Neckerchief and Slide) over his son's neck.

Optional: The Son pins Lapel Pin or Tie Clasp on his Dad.

The SM presents the Eagle to assembled guests for recognition. [If multiple Eagles, the first (and his parents) take their seats, and the next Scout comes up with his parents, and the process is repeated until all Eagles have received their awards).

When all awards are completed, the SM invites the Eagle Scout to give an Address to the audience (afterwards, they sits with Parents). If multiple Eagles, each Scout gives his address in the order of their induction.

The SM gives his Scoutmaster's Minute

The SPL runs a Closing Flag Ceremony. The flags should move from right to left with respect to the audience; American flag leading the way.

SM formally closes the Court of Honor; offers an Invitation for Dinner, Snacks, etc. (whatever is being provided, if anything), and asks whoever is handling the dinner to give some basic directions, then reminds the Scouts to allow all guests to eat first. "Let's Eat."

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Appendix I - "100 Scouts"

About one out of every four boys in America becomes a Scout. However, of every 100 boys who become Scouts, about 30 will drop out during their first year. This might be regarded by some as a failure, but in later life even these early dropouts will remember that they had once been Scouts, and nearly all of them will speak well of the program. In fact, many of them will return to Scouting with their own sons.

Of the 100, only rarely will one ever appear before a juvenile court judge.

Twelve of the 100 will be from families that belong to no Church. Through Scouting, these 12 and many of their families will be brought into contact with a Church, and as a result some will continue to be active all their lives. Five of the 100 will earn a religious award. One of the 100 will enter the Clergy.

Each of the 100 will learn from their Scouting experiences. At least one will use his Scout skills to save another person's life, and another one will credit it with saving his own life. Eighteen will develop hobbies through Scouting that will last throughout their lives. Eight will find their future vocations through their merit badge work and Scouting contacts.

85 percent of Student Council Presidents, 89 percent of Senior Class Presidents, 75 percent of School Publication Editors, 71 percent of School Football Captains, 72 percent of Rhodes Scholars, and 85 percent of FBI Agents, were Scouts.

Many Scouts will serve in the military, and in varying degrees will profit from their Scout training. 64 percent of Air Force Academy graduates, 68 percent of West Point graduates, and 70 percent of Annapolis graduates, were Scouts. 26 of the first 29 astronauts, including Neil Armstrong, were Scouts. Among the leaders in this nation in business, religion and politics, 3 out of every 4 were Scouts.

Four of the 100 will reach Eagle rank, and at least one will later say that he valued his Eagle above his college degree. 17 of the 100 will later become Scout leaders and will give leadership to thousands of additional boys.

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. Thank you for being a part of this story.

Appendix II - Voice of the Eagle [Eagle Light Box Ceremony]

"Eagle Scout [_____ Full Legal Names _____], I speak now as the Voice of the Eagle - the majestic peak towards which you have worked for many years to climb. You have walked the foothills of the Eagle - first as a Scout - then Tenderfoot, Second, and First Class. You have scaled the first heights - marking your ascent with Merit Badges, Leadership Positions, Service Projects, and ever increasing confidence. You have surmounted the final crests of Star and Life, and you have now reached the highest summit - the Eagle.

Now, however, as you prepare to walk the last few steps to Eagle, I ask you to take a moment and reflect upon the responsibilities associated with this Honor. As you take wing towards your future, let the Medal which you are about to receive symbolize these responsibilities:

First, the WHITE section of the Eagle Medal represents Honor. The highest responsibility of an Eagle Scout is to always live with Honor. Honor is the foundation of character. Character is what one really is - not what one thinks himself to be. An Eagle's Honor is sacred, and his character should always shine as a beacon wherever he may go and whatever his calling might be. Always live with Honor.

The BLUE section of the Eagle Medal represents Loyalty. Loyalty gives character purpose and direction. Always live by the old adage: "To thine own self be true - and it must follow as day follows night - that you cannot be false to any man."

The RED section of the Eagle Medal represents Courage. Courage gives character strength and endurance. Never shirk your duties - however arduous - for fear of failure. Trust in God and face all your future responsibilities determined and unafraid.

The SCROLL of the Eagle Medal reminds you of your obligation to Service. Your career of Service in Scouting must now take on new depth and meaning as you head out into the World. Protect and Defend the weak and helpless. Aid and Comfort the unfortunate and oppressed. Proclaim and Uphold the Inherent Rights of all men. Always be prepared - and always do your best.

Finally, let the EAGLE of the Eagle Medal always remind you of what you are - an Eagle Scout. I welcome you to our ranks - Congratulations!"

Appendix III - Charge to Eagle

"Eagle Scout [_____ Full Legal Names _____], I have the Honor to give you the Eagle Scout Charge on the Occasion of your Elevation to the Highest Rank in Scouting.

The Boy Scouts of America constitute one of the most wholesome and significant movements in our Nation's History - and you have been counted worthy of the highest rank in its membership. All those who know you truly rejoice in your achievement.

Your position - as you well know - is one combining both high honor - and awesome responsibility. You are now a marked man, for - as an Eagle Scout - you have assumed a solemn obligation to always do your duty to God, your Country, your fellow man - and yourself. As you live up to your obligations, you bring honor to yourself and your fellow Eagle Scouts; if, however, you fail, you bring down - by that much - the good name of all true and worthy Eagle Scouts - both past and future. Furthermore, your responsibilities go beyond your fellow Scouts, to your Country and God. America has much to offer you - and your children after you - but much of what she can offer depends heavily on the quality of manhood that her citizens possess. You can help her in all that she needs most. She has a great past - you can make her future even greater.

I therefore CHARGE you to undertake your citizenship with a solemn dedication. Be a leader of men - but lead only towards noble goals. We have too many who use their strength and brains to exploit others and to gain selfish ends. I CHARGE you to instead be one of those precious few who dedicates his skills and abilities to the common good. Help to further build America on a solid foundation of clean living, honest work, unselfish citizenship and reverence for God. Then - no matter what others may do - you will leave behind you a record of which every Eagle Scout may feel justly proud."

Appendix IV - Formal Induction of Eagle Scout(s)

If there are multiple Eagles being inducted, the Eagle doing the induction should repeat the first line (I, __ (Full Legal Name) __”) for each Scout individually. When all have done so, they repeat the rest of the Oath (from “Do Solemnly Swear” down) together. [It is best to discuss this in advance of the Court of Honor, so the Scouts are not tripping over each other.]

[Instruct Scout to Stand by the American Flag, Raise Scout Sign; Turn and Invite Assembled Eagles to also raise the Scout Sign and silently renew their own vows. Turn back to Scout.]

"I, __ (Full Legal Name) __,

Do Solemnly Swear -

That for the Rest of my Life -

I Will Always 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.

Upon this Oath -

I so Pledge -

My Sacred Honor.

“Two”