

**April 28, 2013 @ 2PM JJ Conklin's Eagle Court of Honor**

**Opening Period**

**Matt:** Good afternoon. My name is Matt Bernotas, and I'm pleased to serve as Master of Ceremonies on this special occasion. Three years ago, Scout J.J. Conklin accepted a challenge—not only to learn the Scout Oath and Law, but to live them out in his daily life, not only to be a good Scout, but to become one of the best, one of the four percent of all Scouts worthy of the rank of Eagle. He set his goals high from the beginning and has now successfully met that challenge, and we are gathered here tonight to celebrate his achievement.

Before we begin our program, I'd like to introduce a few special people :

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I'd like to remind you all that there will be a reception honoring our new Eagle immediately following the ceremony.

Now please rise for the invocation, presented by Mr. Ray Polson, and remain standing for the presentation of the colors.

**Ray Polson:** *(Presents an invocation.)*

**Scouts:** *(Present the colors. One Scout leads the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.)*

**Matt:** I now call on **Mr. Dale DeGirolamo**, as a representative of the Boy Scouts of America, to officially convene this court of honor.

**Dale DeGirolamo:** By the power vested in me by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, I declare this court of honor to be duly convened for the sole purpose of presenting the Eagle Scout Award to J.J. Conklin.

## Scouting Segment: Scout Oath Rededication

**Matt:** Before we continue with our program,  
I think it's appropriate for all the Scouts and Scouters in the room to rededicate themselves to the principles of Scouting by reciting together the Scout Oath.  
Would all Scouts and Scouters please stand.

Scout sign. (*Leads Scout Oath.*) Thank you. Please be seated.

**Matt:** For those of you not very familiar with scouting, we will now present the  
"Stages of Scouting."

*Stages of Scouting presented by various scouts*

**Matt:** Scouting does some pretty amazing things for these young men. To  
demonstrate just how amazing, please welcome \_\_\_\_\_ to share  
"One Hundred Scouts"

\_\_\_\_\_ reads "One Hundred Scouts"

## “One Hundred Scouts”

Of any 100 boys who become Scouts, it must be confessed that 30 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 100, only rarely will one ever appear before a juvenile court judge. Twelve of the 100 will be from families who have no religious affiliation. Through Scouting, these 12 and many of their families will be brought into contact with a church, synagogue, or mosque, and will continue to be active all their lives. Six of the 100 will enter the ministry.

Each of the 100 will learn something from Scouting. Almost all will develop hobbies that will add interest throughout the rest of their lives. Many will 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.

Four of the 100 will reach the rank of Eagle, and at least one will later say that he values his Eagle badge above his college degree. Many will find their future vocation through merit-badge work and Scouting contacts. Seventeen of the 100 boys will later become Scout leaders and will give leadership to thousands of additional boys.

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

Tonight we honor one Scout in a hundred. We know the things he has done in the past; imagine what he will do in the future.

### **Eagle Segment: The Challenge**

*(The First Class Scout, Life Scout, and Eagle Scout who participate in this segment should be seated in different places throughout the audience. They should have their lines memorized.)*

**Matt:** It's now time for the highlight of our program: the presentation of the Eagle Scout Award. I'd like to ask Scoutmaster Caithaml AND Scoutmaster Coghlan to come forward to make the appropriate presentations.

**Scoutmaster Caithaml:** Will the honor guard please escort the candidate forward. (*Ryan Caithaml, Zach Burkhart, and Michael Grau.*)

Awarding the Eagle Scout badge is an important and serious matter. It is a goal toward which this Scout has been aggressively working to achieve since joining Troops 107 and 175. His success is a culmination of the efforts of his family, his scout leaders, and his fellow scouts. This is an occasion for pride and for joy, but also a time for serious contemplation.

(*Addressing the honoree*) J.J., a few moments ago, you joined with your fellow Scouts in repeating the Scout Oath, words you've repeated many, many times. Shortly, you will stand alone and repeat a new oath, the Eagle Scout Promise. Though the words you say are similar to those you've said so many times before, tonight they will mean more to you than they ever have. When you pledge yourself on your sacred honor, you will be sealing your oath with the words which closed the Declaration of Independence.

**Scoutmaster Coghlan:** I will read the Eagle Scout Promise to you now so that you will know what you are about to pledge, and I will then ask you to repeat it 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 an Eagle Scout.  
On my honor I will do my best  
To make my training and example,  
My rank and my influence  
Count strongly 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.

Having heard the Eagle Scout Promise, are you willing to adopt it?

**J.J.:** I am.

**Scoutmaster Coghlan:** Please make the Scout sign and repeat after me.

**Hunter Horak (First Class Scout):** *(Rising to his feet)* Stop! I challenge the right of this Scout to be awarded the rank of Eagle!

**Scoutmaster Caithaml:** Who are you and by what right do you challenge?

**Hunter Horak (First Class Scout):** I am a First Class Scout, and the respect I have for the uniform I wear gives me the right to so challenge.

**Scoutmaster Caithaml:** What is the nature of your challenge?

**Hunter Horak (First Class Scout):** As a First Class Scout, I have mastered the basic skills of Scouting. Has this Scout attained the necessary skills to become an Eagle Scout?

**Scoutmaster Caithaml:** As Scoutmaster of Troop 107, I certify that this Scout attained the rank of First Class on the sixth of January, 2011. Since that time, he has earned 41 merit badges, including all of those required for Eagle rank. He has demonstrated that he does indeed possess the skills of an Eagle Scout. Are you now satisfied?

**Hunter Horak (First Class Scout):** I am. *(He sits down.)*

**Ben Freeman (Life Scout):** *(Rising to his feet)* I, too, challenge the right of this Scout to be awarded the rank of Eagle.

**Scoutmaster Caithaml:** Who are you and by what right do you challenge?

**Ben Freeman (Life Scout):** I am a Life Scout, and my esteem for the Eagle rank gives me the right to so challenge.

**Scoutmaster Caithaml:** What is the nature of your challenge?

**Ben Freeman (Life Scout):** As a Life Scout, service and leadership are my watchwords. Has this Scout satisfactorily completed the service and leadership requirements of the Eagle rank?

**Scoutmaster Caithaml:** He has. He has led the troop as Troop Guide for a period of one year and is currently leading our 2013 Jamboree contingent as our Senior Patrol Leader. He has served his community by installing a flagpole, wash stone landscaping, and beautiful benches for the North Ridgeville Community Care. To demonstrate his service, we'd like to share a brief presentation of his Eagle Scout Project.

*(Video is played)*

Are you now satisfied?

**Ben Freeman (Life Scout):** I am. *(He sits down.)*

**Ryan Caithaml (Eagle Scout):** *(Rising to his feet)* I, too, challenge the right of this Scout to be awarded the rank of Eagle.

**Scoutmaster Caithaml:** Who are you and by what right do you challenge?

**Ryan Caithaml (Eagle Scout):** I am an Eagle Scout, and the badge I wear over my heart gives me the right to so challenge.

**Scoutmaster Caithaml:** What is the nature of your challenge?

**Ryan Caithaml (Eagle Scout):** Has this Scout, now nearing the end of the Eagle trail, demonstrated his willingness and ability to live and act in accordance with the ideals of Scouting, as exemplified by the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan?

**Dale DeGirolamo (BSA Representative):** As a representative of the Boy Scouts of America, I certify that the Eagle Scout board of review, after thorough investigation, interview, and examination, has concluded unanimously that this Scout has demonstrated his willingness and ability to live out the spirit of Scouting in his daily life.

**Scoutmaster Caithaml:** Are you now satisfied?

**Ryan Caithaml (Eagle Scout):** Still, I am not satisfied. I believe that this candidate should understand that the Eagle badge is a mark of responsibility as well as one of honor. I respectfully ask that this candidate be informed of the responsibilities of an Eagle Scout before continuing further.

**Scoutmaster Caithaml:** I agree. And I feel that no one is more qualified to impart this knowledge than one who already wears the Eagle badge. At this time, I would ask Eagle Scout (and Scoutmaster) Coghlan to outline the responsibilities of the Eagle. *(Eagle Scout in audience sits down.)*

**Scoutmaster Coghlan “Charger”** : (*Addressing the honoree*) Becoming an Eagle Scout is a great accomplishment; being an Eagle Scout is a great responsibility. As an Eagle, the Scout Oath and Scout Law should take on new meaning for you; the motto and slogan take on new urgency.

As an Eagle, your first obligation is to live with honor. You are a marked man, a leader; for good or ill, people will follow the example you set. Give up anything before you give up your reputation and good name. As Shakespeare said, “Mine honour is my life; both grow in one. Take honour from me, and my life is done.” Let the white of the Eagle badge remind you of honor.

Your second obligation as an Eagle Scout is to be loyal. As a follower, you promised to be loyal to those above you. Now, as a leader, you must also be loyal to those below you, treating them as you would want to be treated. And you must also be loyal to your ideals, not letting others sway you from your course. Let the blue of the Eagle badge remind you of loyalty.

Your third obligation as an Eagle Scout is to be courageous. Stepping into your new role as a leader, you will face many challenges and obstacles. A ship in the harbor is safe, but that’s not what ships are for. You must have the courage to do what is right, whatever other people do or say. Let the red of the Eagle badge remind you of courage.

Your fourth obligation is to serve others, for a leader is above all a servant. Let the practice of the daily good turn become a lifetime of service, for only in giving of yourself do you give anything of value. Just as it always has, let the scroll on your badge remind you of service.

Your final obligation as an Eagle Scout is to have vision. As a leader, you must now blaze your own trail. Just as a bald eagle soaring high above the ground can look far into the distance, so too must you look far into the future. Many people will follow you; only with vision will you lead them in the right direction. Let the silver eagle hanging from your badge reminds you of vision.

These then are your obligations as an Eagle Scout: honor, loyalty, courage, service, and vision. By meeting those obligations, you can lead your troop, your community, your nation toward a better tomorrow.

**Ryan Caithaml (Eagle Scout):** *(Rising to his feet)* Mr. Scoutmaster, if this candidate is willing and eager to accept the mantle of responsibility as well as the honor of the badge, then I will be satisfied and will request that you proceed to administer the Eagle Scout Promise.

**Scoutmaster Coghlan:** *(Addressing the honoree)* Are you ready and willing to accept these responsibilities and to adopt the Eagle Scout Promise I read to you earlier?

**J.J.:** I am.

**Scoutmaster Coghlan:** I'd like all Eagle Scouts in the audience to come forward at this time and rededicate themselves by repeating the Eagle Scout Promise with our new Eagle Scout.

Please make 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 an Eagle Scout.  
 On my honor I will do my best  
 To make my training and example,  
 My rank and my influence  
 Count strongly 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. *(To Eagles in audience)* Please be seated.

## The Presentation of the Eagle Badge

**Scoutmaster Coghlan:** Would the honor guard please escort the candidate's parents forward.

*(Addressing the honoree)* J.J., your parents have undoubtedly been your primary source of help and strength.

No one will ever know the unnumbered acts of self-sacrifice from your mother. I'd like your mother to pin the Eagle medal on your uniform. *(She does so.)*

In recognition of your mother's devotion, please present her with this Eagle mother's pin. *(Scout pins on mother's pin.)*

Your father has been the source of much advice and guidance along the Eagle trail, so I'd like him to present the Eagle Scout certificate to you. *(He does so.)*

In return, please present your father with this Eagle lapel pin. *(He does so.)*

Scoutmaster Caithaml, please present our honoree with the Eagle neckerchief.

*(Facing the audience)* **And now, it gives me great pleasure to present to you our newest Eagle Scout, J.J. Conklin!**

*(The audience responds with a standing ovation, which you may need to initiate.)*

**Scoutmaster Caithaml:** We're not through yet, however.

We have delayed this Court of Honor just long enough that our new Eagle Scout has also earned his first palm ..... the Bronze Palm. *(Present the Bronze Palm.)*

We have also assembled an entire book of congratulatory letters received from friends, family and even a few dignitaries. *(Present the Congratulatory book.)* I would encourage you all to take a peek at the lovely letters of encouragement. *(Determine if there is any one in particular that should be highlighted.)*

**Eagle Scout JJ Conklin:** Reflection and recognitions.

## Closing Period

**Matt:** Today has indeed been a special day. Scout J.J. Conklin has accepted a weighty challenge: to live out the Eagle Scout Promise in his everyday life. It's a challenge worthy of each of us. Let's give our new Eagle Scout one more round of applause.

I now call on Mr. Ray Polson to give our benediction.

**Ray Polson:** *(Gives benediction.)*

**Matt:** Again, thank you for coming. Please join us at the reception. If you have not taken the time to sign the Eagle Scout book, please ensure you do so before leaving. It is located \_\_\_\_\_

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May the Great Master, of all Scouts, be with us until we meet again.