

EAGLE CEREMONY
BRANDEN C. HECK
AUGUST 23, 2009 ----- 2:00 P.M.

(Before the ceremony starts, we need someone to light all the candles to the ranks cards that we will have already set up)

Call To Order And Welcome

Committee Chairperson, Troop 175, Terri Szabo

This Eagle Scout Court of Honor is now called to order. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Terri Szabo, and as the Committee Chairperson of Troop 175, it is my privilege to welcome you to this Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Branden Heck.

At this time I would like to call forward Chris Szabo, our Senior Patrol Leader for the presentation of the Colors. Would everyone please stand.

(Audience stands. Chris Szabo to podium)

Presentation Of Colors

Senior Patrol Leader Troop 175 Chris Szabo

Scouts, Atten-SHUN

Color Guard, present the colors! Scout Salute !

(Wait for the flags to be brought up front)

Please now join me in saying the Pledge of Allegiance

I Pledge Allegiance to the flag
Of the United States of America
And to the republic for which it stands,
One nation, under God, indivisible,
With liberty and justice for all.

Color Guard, Post the Colors !

(wait for them to do so)

Two !

Please remain standing.

Would all Scouts and Scouters present please raise your hand in the Scout Sign and join me in saying the Scout Oath, followed by the Scout Law.

On my honor, I will do my best:
To do my duty to God and my country,
And to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself
Physically Strong, mentally awake and morally straight

A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous,
Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, Reverent

Two.

Please be seated.

(Chris Szabo may be seated)

Recognition of Special Guests

Committee Chairperson, Terri Szabo

At this time, we would like to recognize all the Eagle Scouts here with us today. Will all the Eagles in the audience please stand?

(Wait for them to do so and lead applause.)

Thank you. Please be seated.

We would also like to recognize our special guests with us here today. (IF ANY)

At this time, will the Eagle Escort please escort Branden up to the front and face the audience.

(Branden steps up to center stage in front of Eagle statue)

The Eagle Mountain

Committee Member, Harry Larsick

Early one morning a young boy stood at a trailhead. Before him rose a mighty mountain, which seemed all the mightier when compared with his smallness.

A trail led to the mountain and then up it to incredible heights before vanishing in the clouds. On this trail the boy could see other boys and young men, some of whom turned and beckoned him to follow.

The boy began to climb, refusing perhaps to believe that he could ever reach the top. At first the trail rose gently, and the boy had many companions. But soon he began to sweat and breathe heavily, and many of his companions turned away. And still the boy climbed.

At times he climbed quickly. At times he climbed slowly. At times he had to go down a little way to find another path or stop a while to catch his breath. But still he climbed. The trail became steeper, the air thinner, but the climber scarcely noticed for he had, along the way, become stronger of body and hardier of spirit. And still he climbed.

And finally in the cool peace of eveningtime, he stood alone at the top of the world and looked around him. To the left he saw a fiery golden sunset. To the right he saw a diamond-studded, silky black night sky. Behind him he saw the trail that he had followed and the hikers who were following in his footsteps.

And in the front of him he saw another mountain. And another. And another. And a whole procession of mountains marching off to the horizon. But the young man (for now he was a man) knew that none of these other mountains was insurmountable, that all could and would be climbed. For he had learned many skills in the climbing of the first mountain, and he would carry those skills with him long after this mountain was forgotten.

And besides, he could begin climbing the next mountain tomorrow. Today he would rest and celebrate and ponder the journey that he had completed. And so today, we pause to rest and celebrate and honor this fine young man, this Eagle Scout, as he stands at the top of the world and looks around him.

The Eagle Trail

Speaker _____

So today we gather here to mark the end of a long journey, a journey up the trail to Eagle.

7 ½ years ago, Branden joined our troop.

As a new scout, his first task was to learn about Scouting's ideals: the Oath and Law, the motto and slogan. By pledging to live by those guidelines, he became a full-fledged Scout and earned the Scout badge.

(Branden stands behind the Scout rank card).

His new badge did not stay on his uniform long, however. He quickly worked through the Tenderfoot requirements, memorizing the Oath and Law, going on his first campout, and learning basic first aid skills. He was now a Tenderfoot Scout.

(Branden stands behind the Tenderfoot rank card).

As he continued to be active in the troop, he learned about nature and orienteering and knot-tying. He participated in a service project and in a program on the dangers of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. Doing these things and more earned him the Second Class Badge

(Branden stands behind the 2nd class rank card).

Soon, a year has passed. He had been on 10 campouts and many hikes. He had mastered all the basic skills of Scouting. On October 2nd, 2003, he became a First Class Scout.

(Branden stands behind the 1st class rank card).

At this point, he paused for a well-deserved rest. The path ahead was less clear than the path he had been following. Now he had to make some choices: what merit badges to earn, what troop office to hold, where to spend his service hours. With hard work and persistence, though, he made the decisions, completed the requirements, and earned the Star rank

(Branden stands behind the Star rank card)

The next rank seemed no harder than Star. But he had already done most of the easy merit badges; now he had to earn badges like: Citizenship in the Nation, Emergency Preparedness, and Hiking. He worked hard as a troop leader, completed more service hours, and became a Life Scout – one step away from Eagle

(Branden stands behind the Life rank card).

The going got pretty tough now. He could no longer put off those really hard badges. And now he not only had to participate in a service project, but he had to plan and lead such a project. Now, finally, his Eagle project done, his merit badges earned, he stands poised at the pinnacle of Scouting.

(Branden steps onto the stage and stands besides the Eagle sign).

Review of Eagle Rank Criteria

Meme Robinson, Advancement Chair

The awarding of the Eagle Badge is an important and serious occasion, the climax and the goal for which a Scout works for many years. It is an occasion for pride and joy, and a time for serious contemplation. It is the culmination of the efforts of the various leaders of this Troop. The Eagle Award is the highest and most coveted rank in Scouting; the last major step in the advancement program. Less than 1 out of 50 scouts (or 2%) in the United States reach the rank of Eagle. At this point, we trust you have achieved our purpose in building of character, training of leadership, and the practice of service.

To become an Eagle Scout, a scout must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges including 12 of which are required. He must serve actively in a troop leadership position for a period of six months after achieving the rank of Life Scout. While a Life Scout, he must plan, develop, and carry out a service project helpful to a religious institution, school, or community in a manner worth of a Eagle Scout. He must demonstrate, through the testimony of character references and otherwise, that he lives by the principles of the Scout Oath and Law in his daily life. Finally, he must appear before a Board of Review.

Branden has been an active member of Troop 175 for 7 ½ years. He has earned a total of 37 merit badges and has served as Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, and Troop Guide. He is also a Brotherhood member of the Order of Arrow.

Branden's Eagle project was cleaning out and painting a room for a group called Constellation One at the First Church in Oberlin.

As Advancement Chair of Troop 175, it is my pleasure to report that after a thorough review of his qualifications, Branden Heck has qualified for the rank of Eagle Scout and is entitled to receive the Eagle Scout Award.

The Eagle Charge

Assistant Scoutmaster, Joe Panaccione

Branden, I have the honor of giving you the Eagle Scout Charge on this occasion of your elevation to the highest rank in Scouting.

The Boy Scouts of all nations constitute one of the most wholesome and significant movements in the world's history, and you have been counted worthy of the 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 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. When you fail, you bring down by so much the good name of all true and worthy Scouts.

Your responsibility goes beyond your fellow Scouts to your country and God. America has many good things to give you and your children after you; but these things depends, for the most part, on the character and leadership abilities of her citizens. You are to help her in all that she needs most. She has a great past. 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 highest level of service to God and fellowman. So live and serve, that those who know you will be inspired to the finest living. I 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 to God, and whatever others may do, you will leave behind a record of which every scout may be proud.

The Eagle Scout Oath

Scoutmaster Greg Coghlan

Will all the Eagle Scouts present please join us on stage for the Eagle Scout Oath.

Branden, would you and your fellow Eagles please give the Scout Sign and repeat the Eagle Scout Oath 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 !

Our fellow Eagles may be seated.

The Presentation of the Eagle Scout Award

Greg Coghlan, Scoutmaster

Will the Eagle Escort bring the parents of the Eagle candidate forward.

Branden, by the authority vested in me by the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America, it is my privilege to pronounce you an Eagle Scout,, and it is with distinct honor and pleasure that I present you with the Eagle Scout Award, which I will ask your mother to pin over your heart.

I now ask your father to present you with the Eagle Scout Certificate signed by the Chief Scout Executive and the President of the United States.

No one will ever know the unnumbered acts of self-sacrifice and helpfulness from Branden's mother which have helped lead us to this day. As a symbol of what his mother helped make possible, the court now asks Branden to present his mother with a miniature Eagle pin.

Branden, your father has stood by you over the years and has offered his encouragement and assistance. As a symbol of what he has contributed to your attainment of this award, the court now asks you to present him with a miniature Eagle pin.

At this time I would like to read a poem called "A Fond Mother"

A fond mother watches her boy here 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 new Scout 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 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 learned how to value those fine attributes
 In the glorious days of his youth.

And the outflinging wings of that 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 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.

I now present to you Eagle Scout Branden Heck.

(Lead applause)

Now I would ask Troop 175 Eagle Scout Jordan Akdogan to come forward for some more presentations.

Presentation of Plaque, Neckerchief, and Gift

Jordan Akdogan, Troop 175 Eagle

Branden, on behalf of the Scouts, adult leaders, and other Eagle Scouts of Troop 175, I now present you with our Troop's Eagle Scout Honor Roll Plaque. This, along with our original plaques, contain the names of all the Eagle Scouts from our Troop. I should note that Branden is the 35th Eagle in our Troop's 33 year existence. Unfortunately, you don't get to keep this plaque – it will be prominently displayed in the back of our meeting hall at the VFW.

(He presents him with the plaque and shakes his hand)

However, we felt bad about presenting you with a plaque that you can't keep. So, the Troop has arranged for something that you can keep, and wear as part of your uniform.

(Present him with the Eagle Neckerchief)

The Troop has also purchased a small gift for you.....

(Present him with other gift)

May I congratulate you, Branden, and remind you that Scouting should now become an even greater tie between son and parents, binding you even more closely together as a family. To you Eagle Scout Branden Heck, I express the confidence that you will honor Scouting with your life and service, as today Scouting honors you.

I now ask our Eagle Escort to convey Branden's parents back to their seat.

Letters Of Congratulations

Troop Committee Chair Terri Szabo

As has been stated before, earning the Eagle Award is an honor and a privilege not all obtain. Others, outside our troop understand this.

(If any are present)

Some of our honored guests here today have some presentations they would like to make.

Guests come forward and read their letters, presenting them to Branden.

Branden has also received letters from other people who could not join us today. At this time, I would like to ask a few members from the Troop Committee to come forward and read some of them.

They choose a few interesting, short ones and read them.

In addition to these, the other letters we have received will be on display during the Reception after the Ceremony.

Terri Szabo

Jim White

Ray Polson

Harry Larsick

Scoutmaster's Remarks

Greg Coghlan, Scoutmaster

BLAH, BLAH, BLAH

I now present to you Eagle Scout Branden Heck, who has a few words to say.

The Eagle's Remarks

Eagle Scout, Branden Heck

Gives a short speech thanking all who helped him get to this stage, or anything else he wishes to say.

Also presents Mentor's pin(s)

Closing

Committee Chairperson, Terri Szabo

Thank you all for coming today to share in the celebration of Branden's Scouting achievements. After the ceremony is over, I invite you to attend, on behalf of Branden and his parents, a reception in the back.

Before we close, I would like all the Eagle scouts to come forward and lead us in the Benediction with the "Philmont Grace". Would everyone else please stand?

For food, for raiment,
For Life, for opportunity,
For friendship, and fellowship,
We thank thee, oh Lord.

Wait til grace is sang

I now declare this Eagle Scout Court of Honor adjourned. Please remain standing for the retiring of the Colors.

Retiring of the Colors

Senior Patrol Leader – Chris Szabo

Color Guard, front and center !

(Wait for them to assemble)

Scouts, Atten-SHUN! Color Guard, retire the Colors! Scout Salute!

(The flags are removed from the flag holders and taken to the back)

TWO!