

# Eagle Scout Court of Honor

For

## **Cory Kokensparger**

Sunday April 23, 2006 2:00 pm

VFW Post 9871

N. Ridgeville, Ohio

### **AGENDA**

Opening

Flag procession

The Eagle Trail

The Requirements of an Eagle

Eagle Scout Charge

Presentation of Eagle Scout Award

Letters of Congratulation

Scoutmasters' Comments

Address by new Eagle

Closing

Flag Procession

Reception

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### ***Adult Participants***

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES**..... John Volchko  
**CHAPLAIN** .....

**BSA OFFICIAL** .....

**EAGLE TRAIL**..... Bryan Maxwell  
**EAGLE SIGNIFICANCE** ..... Justin Jeffery  
**EAGLE REQUIREMENTS**..... JoAnn Klinger  
**ADVANCEMENT CHAIR** ..... Kathy Corbin  
**CHARGE Administrator** ..... Randy Klinger  
**SCOUTMASTER**..... Greg Coghlan  
**TROOP EAGLE** .....

### ***Scout Participants***

**Senior Patrol Leader** ..... Jordan Akdogan  
**American Flag**.....  
**Troop Flag**.....

**Eagle Honor Guard** ..... Jimmy Hoover  
**Eagle Honor Guard** ..... Justin Jeffery

## Opening Ceremony

**JOHN** Good afternoon. My name is John Volchko, and I'm pleased to serve as Master of Ceremonies as we honor Cory Kokensparger for attaining Scouting's highest rank, the Eagle Scout Award. This is a great moment worthy of celebration.

Before opening this Eagle Court of Honor, I would like to recognize some people. Would all the past and present Troop 175 adult leaders and committee members please stand at this time?

*Pause while they stand.*

This group of leaders guided Cory through his first years as a Boy Scout, and then again during the past few years. We would like to thank you for your time and efforts you have all given Cory and the other Scouts in our Troop.

*Lead applause.*

Thank You, you may be seated.

**JOHN** I would now ask that all Eagle Scouts please stand.

*Wait for them to stand.*

Before us stands an elite group of men. As you may have noticed when I requested they stand, I did not say current and former Eagle Scouts. This is because there is no such thing as a former Eagle. Once you become an Eagle you are one the rest of your life! You become a part of a very special fraternity. One that is as old as scouting itself. Let us honor this special group with a round of applause!

*Leads applause.*

Congratulations to you and thank you! You may now be seated.

**JOHN** I would now like to take this time to introduce to you the rest of the special guests here today.

*Introduce other Scout leaders, VFW members, Eagle Counselor, and any others.*

**JOHN** I would now ask Senior Patrol Leader Jordan Akdogan to come forward and lead us in our opening Ceremony.

**JORDAN** Please rise for the presentation of our country's colors...

*Wait for everyone to stand.*

Color guard, present the colors! Scout salute!

*Wait for them to get up to the front*

Color guard, post the colors.

*Color Guard places the flags in the holders, then steps back.*

Please join me in 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.

Two! Please remain standing.

**JORDAN** Would all Scouts and Scouters present please raise your hand in the Scout Sign and join me in saying the Scout Law.

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

**JORDAN** Two! Color guard, dismissed! Please be seated.

## Official Opening

*If someone from District or Council is present:*

**JOHN** I would now like to ask \_\_\_\_\_ to come forward and officially open our ceremony. \_\_\_\_\_ holds the position of \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_.

**BSA OFFICIAL** By the authority vested in me by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, I now declare this Eagle Court of Honor, for Cory Kokensparger open and in session!

**JOHN** Thank you.

*If no one from District or Council is present, do it yourself*

**JOHN** By the authority vested in me by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, I now declare this Eagle Court of Honor, for Cory Kokensparger open and in session!

## Invocation

*If VFW Chaplain is present*

**JOHN** Would \_\_\_\_\_ please come forward for the invocation?

**CHAPLAIN** Gives an invocation

## The Eagle Trail

*As the text is read, the Candidate walks from the back of the room to the stage, stopping at each rank. The Life Rank should be at the base of the stage, with the Eagle badge in the center of the stage.*

**JOHN** At this time, I would like to ask the Eagle Honor Guard to escort our candidate forward as we review his Trail to Eagle Scout.

**JOHN** I would also like to ask Troop Eagle Scout Bryan Maxwell, to lead us through Cory's Trail.

**BRYAN** We are gathered here today to mark the end of a long journey, a journey up the Trail to Eagle.

A little over seven years ago, Cory joined Troop 175.

*Cory moves to the end of the aisle leading up to the stage.*

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 on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1999. *Cory walks forward to the Scout Sign.*

He quickly worked through the Tenderfoot requirements, memorizing the Oath and Law, and learning about camping and basic first aid skills. On February 3, 2000 he became a Tenderfoot. *Cory walks forward to the Tenderfoot sign.*

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 on July 6, 2000. *Cory walks forward to the Second Class sign.*

Soon, a little more than two years had passed since he first joined the Troop. He had been on at least 10 campouts, and many other activities. He had mastered all the basic skills of Scouting. On May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2001, he became a First Class Scout. And he truly was first class. *Cory walks forward to the First Class sign.*

## **BRYAN**

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, and where to spend his service time. In addition to all of these challenges, Cory and his family had moved five hours away, and he was now a member of Troop 66 in Woolrich, Pennsylvania. He had to adjust to the new Scouts, Adult Leaders, and the operations of his new Troop.

With hard work and persistence, though, he made the decisions, completed the requirements, and earned the Star Rank on October 7, 2002. *Cory walks forward to the Star sign.*

The next rank at first seemed no harder than Star. But he had already done the easy merit badges; now he had to earn badges like: Camping, Citizenship in the World, Personal Fitness, and Basketry. During this time, his family moved back to North Ridgeville, and he rejoined our Troop. He worked hard as a Troop leader, completed more service hours, and became a Life Scout on May 5, 2005. He was now one step away from Eagle. *Cory walks forward to the Life sign.*

The going got pretty rough 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 a project.

But *finally* he persevered,; his project completed, his Merit Badges earned, he stands at the pinnacle of Scouting. *Cory walks forward to stand beside the Eagle sign.*

## **The Significance of Eagle**

**JOHN** But what exactly does it mean to be an Eagle? We've asked Eagle Scout Justin Jeffery to explain the significance of achieving the Eagle Rank.

**JUSTIN  
JEFFERY** The awarding of the Eagle rank is an important and serious occasion, the climax and the goal for which a Scout works for many years, an occasion for pride and joy, and a time for serious contemplation. It is the culmination of efforts of the various leaders of this scout. The Eagle Award has been the highest and most coveted rank since its creation in 1911, the last major step in the advancement program. Fewer than two percent of all Scouts in the United States reach the Eagle Rank.

## **The Requirements of Eagle Scout**

**JOHN** I now ask JoAnn Klinger, past Troop Advancement Chair, to give the requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout.

**JOANN** The requirements for the Eagle rank are as follows:

1. Be active in your troop and patrol for at least 6 months as a Life Scout. Cory was a Life Scout for just over six months.
2. Earn 21 merit badges, including 12 required badges and 9 electives. In addition to the required badges, Cory earned an additional 19 electives, for a total of 31 Merit Badges. These are listed in today's program.
3. Serve actively in a troop leadership position for a period of six months after becoming a Life Scout. The candidate served as a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster during this time.
4. Plan, develop, and carry out a service project worthy of an Eagle Scout. Cory's project was to organize the collection of goods and letters for the USO. These were then distributed to US soldiers serving in the military around the world.
5. Appear before a Board of Review of prominent adult Scouters and satisfy them that you have done your best to understand and live up to the Scout Oath and Law and, in all ways, qualify for the Eagle Scout Award.

**JOHN** Will the current Troop Advancement Chair, Kathy Corbin, give the findings of the Board of Review on this candidate?

**KATHY** The Board of Review met on November 17, 2005 and considered the qualifications of candidate Cory Kokensparger. It is our finding that he has endeavored to abide by the Scout Oath and Law, has demonstrated leadership to his troop and community, and has completed all requirements of the Eagle Rank to the satisfaction of everyone present.

## Eagle Scout Charge

**JOHN** I now ask Randy Klinger, one of our Troop's Eagle Scouts to come forward and give the Eagle Scout Charge.

**RANDY** Before I begin, I would ask that all other Eagles present join us on the stage. *Wait for them to assemble behind the Candidate.*

I have the honor to give you the Eagle Charge on the occasion of your elevation to the highest rank in Scouting.

The Boy Scouts of all nations constitute one of the most wholesome and significant influences in the world's history. You have been counted worthy of this high rank in the Boy Scouts of America. All who know you rejoice in your achievement.

Your position, as you well know, is one of honor and responsibility. You are a marked man. As an Eagle Scout, you have assumed a solemn obligation to do your duty to God, to country, to your fellow Scouts, and to mankind in general. This is a great undertaking. As you live up to your obligations you bring honor to yourself and to your brother Scouts.

Your responsibility goes beyond your fellow Scouts; it extends to your country and your God. America has many good things to give you and your children after you; but these good things depend for the most part on the quality of her citizens. Our country has had a great past. You can help make the future still greater.

I charge you to undertake your citizenship with solemn dedication. Be a good leader, but lead only toward the best. Lift up every task you do and every office you hold to a high level of service to God and your fellow men. So live and serve that those who know you will be inspired to their finest living. We have too many who use their strength and their brains to exploit others and to gain selfish ends. I charge you to be among those who dedicate their hearts and hands to the common good.

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

**RANDY**

To seal your acceptance to the Code of an Eagle Scout, I ask that you and your fellow Eagles raise your right hands in the Scout Sign and repeat after me.

*Say the following and pause after each line to allow the Eagle(s) to repeat it.*

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 and example  
my rank and influence  
count strongly  
for better Scouting  
and for better citizenship  
in my troop  
in my community  
and in contacts with other people.

To this I pledge my sacred honor.

Two! Your fellow Eagles may be seated.

## Eagle Award Presentation

**JOHN** It's now time for the highlight of our program: the presentation of the Eagle Scout award. I would ask Troop 175 Scoutmaster Greg Coghlan, to come forward and make the appropriate presentations.

**GREG** Before we continue, I would ask our Eagle Honor Guard to escort Cory's parents to the stage.

*Wait for him to do so.*

By virtue of the authority vested in this Court, and as Scoutmaster of Troop 175, it is my honor and privilege to award the highest rank in Scouting, the rank of Eagle Scout to Cory Kokensparger. I will ask your mother to pin it on your uniform.

*She does.*

No one will ever know the unnumbered acts of self-sacrifice and helpfulness from the mother of this Eagle Scout, which have led to this moment. As a symbol of what this mother has made possible, the court will now ask the Eagle Scout to present his mother with the miniature Eagle Scout lapel pin.

*He pins it on her lapel*

As a thanks for the advice and guidance along the trail, the court will give you this Eagle Father's tie clasp to present.

*He gives it to his father*

*Scoutmaster gives the new Eagle the Scout Handclasp, shakes hands of parents.*

## Troop Presentations

**GREG** Now I would ask Troop 175 Eagle Scout \_\_\_\_\_ to come forward for a special presentation.

**TROOP  
EAGLE** On behalf of myself and all of the other Eagle Scouts of Troop 175, I wish to welcome you into this elite group. I now present you with our Troop's Eagle Scout Honor Roll Plaque. This, along with our original plaque, contain the names of all the Eagle Scouts from our Troop. I should note that Cory is the 30<sup>th</sup> Eagle in our Troop's 30 year existence. Unfortunately, you don't get to keep this plaque - it will be prominently displayed in the back of our meeting hall here at the VFW.

*He presents him with the plaque & shakes his hand.*

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

*Present him with the Eagle Neckerchief.*

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

*Present him with other gift.*

**GREG** May I congratulate you, Cory, 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 Cory Kokensparger, I express the confidence that you will honor Scouting with your life and service, as today Scouting honors you.

At this time I would ask our newest Eagle Scout to light the Eagle candle.

*He does so.*

I now present to you Eagle Scout Cory Kokensparger.

*Lead applause*

## Letters of Congratulations

**JOHN** As has been stated before, earning the Eagle Award is an honor and a privilege not all obtain. Others, outside our troop understand this. Some of our honored guests here today have some presentations they would like to make.

*Guests come forward & read their letters, presenting them to Cory.*

**JOHN** Cory has also received letters from some other people who could not join us today. At this time, if you had been asked to read a letter, please now join us and do so.

*Choose a few interesting ones on either read or just mention them.*

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

## Scoutmasters' Comments

**JOHN** Our Scoutmaster, Greg Coghlan, now has a few comments about Cory's Scouting career.

**GREG** *Say something short, but meaningful.*

We would now ask Eagle Scout Cory Kokensparger to light the candle representing the Eagle Rank.

## Address by New Eagle

**JOHN** I now present to you Eagle Scout Cory Kokensparger, who has a few words to say.

**CORY** *Gives a short speech thanking all who helped him get to this stage. Or anything else he wishes to say.*

## Closing

**JOHN** Attainment of a worthy goal has been realized here today. One, that no matter how much is said about it, or how eloquently stated, cannot be properly justified with words. Years from now, when the medals and patches have been put away and everything seems to have changed, one thing, one very special thing will remain - You will still be an Eagle Scout. I now declare this Eagle Court of Honor closed.

## Benediction

*If VFW Chaplain is present*

**JOHN** Would \_\_\_\_\_ please come forward for the benediction?

**CHAPLAIN** *Gives a benediction*

## Flag Ceremony

**JOHN** Our Senior Patrol Leader, Jordan Akdogan, will now lead us in the closing flag ceremony.

**JORDAN** Would everyone please rise for the retiring of the colors.

*Wait for everyone to stand and the Color guard to line up in back.*

Scouts, Attention!

Color Guard Front and center!

*They take their places.*

Color Guard, retire the colors! Scout Salute!

*The color guard takes the flags to the back of the hall.*

Two!

**JOHN** On behalf of Troop 175 I would like to thank everyone who took the time to be with us today, especially our honored guests.

I would also like to encourage everyone to join us for refreshments in the back of the hall.