

Eagle Scout Court of Honor

For

Bryan W. Maxwell

Sunday March 28, 2004 2:00 pm

VFW Post 9871

N. Ridgeville, Ohio

AGENDA

Opening

Flag procession

Development of the Scout Law

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..... Justin Griffith
BSA Representative Gil Sanow
Reader 6 Bill Rundle
Reader 7 Randy Klinger
Leader Greg Coghlan
CHARGE Administrator..... Jim White III
TROOP EAGLE Jim White III
SCOUTMASTER..... Greg Coghlan

Scout Participants

Senior Patrol Leader Justin Griffith
American Flag..... Jordan Akdogan
Troop Flag..... Cody Herman
Reader 1 Justin Fletcher
Reader 2 Nick Volchko
Reader 3 Cory Kokensparger
Reader 4 Nick Mabe
Reader 5 Scott Simon
New Scout..... Mike Panaccione
Tenderfoot..... Jordan Akdogan
Second Class Sam Doll
First Class..... Branden Heck
Star Cody Herman
Life Nick Rundle

Eagle Honor Guard Randy Klinger
Eagle Honor Guard Scott Simon

Opening Ceremony

SUE Good afternoon. My name is Sue Mabe Committee Chair of Troop 175. On behalf of our Troop we would like to welcome everyone here as we honor Bryan Walter Maxwell 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 Bryan through the last four and a half years as a Boy Scout. We would like to thank you for your time and efforts you have all given him and the other Scouts in our Troop.

Lead applause.

Thank You, you may be seated.

SUE 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.

SUE 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.

SUE I will now turn the rest of the program over to our Senior Patrol Leader and Master of Ceremonies, Justin Griffith.

JUSTIN 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.

JUSTIN I would now like to ask Gil Sanow our District Commissioner, as a representative of the Boy Scouts of America, to officially convene this Court of Honor.

GIL By the power vested in me by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, I now declare this Eagle Court of Honor, for Bryan Walter Maxwell open and in session!

JUSTIN At this time some of our Scouts will explain to us the development of the Scout Law.

Development of the Scout Law

JUSTIN F One of the oldest surviving set of rules for how men should behave comes to us from the ancient Greeks. In the third century BC, young men of 17 took the following oath to become citizens of Athens.

We will never bring disgrace on this, our city, by an act of dishonesty or cowardice.

We will fight for the ideals and sacred things of the city both alone and with many.

We will revere and obey the city's laws, and will do our best to incite a like reverence and respect in those above us who are prone to annul them or set them at naught.

We will strive increasingly to quicken the public's sense of civic duty.

Thus in all these ways we will transmit this city, not only not less, but greater, better and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us.

NICK VOLCHKO With the growth of modern religions, another simpler idea of how men should behave was developed. Referred to as the Golden Rule, it is taught by religions as diverse as Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, and Brahmanism. Christianity's version is found in Matthew 7:12:

"So in everything, do to others as you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

CORY During the Middle Ages, the code of chivalry was developed to teach knights how they should behave. One form of this code read as follows:

Be always ready with your armor on, except when you are taking your rest at night.

Defend the poor, and help them that cannot defend themselves.

Do nothing to hurt or offend anyone else.

Be prepared to fight in the defense of your country.

At whatever you are working, try to win honor and a name for honesty.

Never break your promise.

Maintain the honor of your country with your life.

Chivalry requires that youth should be trained to perform the most laborious and humble offices with cheerfulness and grace, and to do good unto others.

**NICK
MABE**

In the early years of the twentieth century, a man named Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell took all these codes of conduct for men and turned them into a code of conduct for all boys. His Scout Law, as he called it, read as follows:

A Scout's honour is to be trusted.

A Scout is loyal to the king, and to his officers, and to his country, and to his employers.

A Scout's duty is to be useful and to help others.

A Scout is a friend to all, and a brother to every other Scout, no matter what social class the other belongs.

A Scout is courteous

A Scout is a friend to animals.

A Scout obeys orders of his patrol leader or Scoutmaster without question.

A Scout smiles and whistles under all circumstances.

A Scout is Thrifty

SCOTT

A few years later, Baden-Powell's program and ideas crossed the Atlantic Ocean. With the founding of the Boy Scouts of America, Baden Powell's Scout Law was turned into a code that more than 90 million boys have learned and lived by.

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

The Eagle Trail

JUSTIN At this time, we will trace Bryan's Trail through the ranks to Eagle Scout.

MIKE P I represent a new Scout. I wear the *fleur-de-lis*, the symbol of Scouting around the world. The three parts of the *fleur-de-lis* represent the three parts of the Scout Oath, which I am beginning to learn and live. *Light the Scout candle.*

JORDAN I represent a Tenderfoot Scout. To the *fleur-de-lis* on my badge have been added an eagle and shield, representing my country, and two stars, representing truth and knowledge. *Light the Tenderfoot candle.*

SAM I am a Second Class Scout. My badge is a scroll inscribed with the Scout Motto, "Be Prepared." Suspended from this scroll is a knot, reminding me to do a good turn every day. *Light the Second Class candle.*

BRANDEN I am a First Class Scout. My badge shows the complete Scout emblem – *fleur-de-lis*, eagle and shield, stars and scroll – indicating that I have completed my basic Scout training. *Light the First Class candle.*

CODY I am a Star Scout. Before me lie unlimited opportunities, just like the stars in the night sky. I can shine as brightly as any of them. *Light the Star candle.*

NICK RUNDLE I am a Life Scout, almost an Eagle. The heart on my badge shows that I've taken Scouting's lessons to heart. I am ready to spread my wings and fly. *Light the Life candle.*

GREG In just a few short years, a Scout undergoes a miraculous transformation – from someone who struggles to memorize the Oath and Law to someone who lives those words, from someone who wants to go camping to someone whose gone camping many times, from someone who needs to be led to someone who can lead others.

But a more miraculous transformation is yet to come, as a boy becomes an Eagle Scout.

The Requirements of an Eagle

JUSTIN Before we continue, this Court would ask the Eagle Honor Guard to escort Eagle Candidate Bryan Maxwell to the stage.

Wait for them to do so.

But what exactly does it mean to be an Eagle? We've asked Mr. Bill Rundle to tell us.

BILL We are here tonight to honor a young man as he becomes an Eagle Scout. As we do, it's important to reflect on what it means to be an Eagle Scout. The 1938 *Handbook for Scoutmasters* put it this way:

The badges which accompany his advancement and he wears on his Uniform are *not* to show that he has "passed certain tests." There should be no past tense implied! On the contrary, each badge cries out "I *can*, right *now* and *here!*"

So what can the Eagle Scout do? Let's take a look at some of the things he has done in preparing to be an Eagle Scout.

As we've heard, he has earned the Scout badge, and the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and finally Eagle. Along the way he earned 12 required Merit Badges, and 9 elective Merit Badges, served in troop leadership positions for at least 16 months, and spent at least 13 hours on service projects, not including the many hours he spent on his Eagle Scout service project. In all, he has completed approximately 325 different requirements.

So what have the requirements taught him? Who *is* the Eagle Scout?

First and foremost, of course, he is an outdoorsman. He knows how to camp, swim, hike, use woods tools, build a fire, and find a way with map and compass. He's spent at least 20 days and nights camping out in a tent he pitched, on a site he selected. Many of those times he planned his own menu and cooked his own food.

The Eagle Scout is comfortable with nature. He can identify local animals and plants, including poisonous plants. He understands the causes of water, land, and air pollution. He's spent eight hours studying a 10-acre plot of land and reported what he saw.

BILL

He embodies the Scout motto, “Be Prepared.” He knows how to treat fractures, burns, hypothermia, and many other injuries that could occur while camping or doing other outdoor activities. He knows what to do for fires, explosions, motor vehicle accidents, and many other man-made accidents and natural disasters.

The Eagle Scout is a good citizen. He has been to a city council meeting, and knows how the city government is organized. He’s studied the city budget. He knows who his US Senators and Representatives are and has written a letter to one of them. He’s read the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution.

He knows how to manage his money and understands the benefits of putting his money in savings bonds, mutual funds, or common stocks. He can find foreign-currency exchange rates in the newspaper.

He’s a good family member. He knows what things are important to his family and talked with them about finances, drug abuse, and growing up. He’s done a safety inspection on his family’s home and reviewed his family’s escape plan.

All of these things he did in order to earn the Merit Badges required for Eagle. Beyond those he earned nine elective Merit Badges, which introduced him to such subjects as: fishing, canoeing, sailing, various crafts, electronics, and auto mechanics.

So what *is* an Eagle Scout? Well, to quote that old *Handbook for Scoutmasters* again, he is a young man “who is qualified to help others as well as take care of himself.” His badge is not “a decoration, but rather a symbol of knowledge and ability.”

Eagle Scout Charge

JUSTIN I now ask Jim White to come forward and give the Eagle Scout Charge.

JIM 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 the 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 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.

JIM

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

JUSTIN 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 Candidate to escort his parents to the stage. *Wait for him to do so.*

No words of this Court of Honor could do justice to the devotion and patient perseverance with which his Leaders and parents have helped this Eagle Scout toward worthy manhood. In recognition of this, it is very fitting that this young man receive his Eagle Scout Progress Award from the hand of his mother. I now ask the mother of the Eagle Candidate to pin the Eagle Award on his chest. *(she does so)*

As a rich dividend of fatherly advice and guidance along the trail to the Eagle Rank, I will ask the father now to present his son with the Eagle Scout certificate from the National Council. *(he does so)*

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 fatherly advice and guidance along the trail, the court will now ask the Eagle Scout to present his father with the Eagle Father's tie clasp. *(he gives it to his father)*

Since earning his Eagle, Bryan has also earned a Bronze and a Gold Eagle Palm. When he received his Eagle Ribbon a few minutes ago, his Gold Palm was already attached to it, but I have his Bronze Palm and the cards to present to him now.

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

GREG Now I would ask Troop 175 Eagle Scout Jim White to come forward for a special presentation.

JIM 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 Bryan is the 26th Eagle in our Troop's 28 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.

JIM 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, Bryan, 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 Bryan Maxwell, 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 Bryan Maxwell.

Lead applause

Letters of Congratulations

JUSTIN 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 Mike.

JUSTIN Bryan has also received letters from some other people who could not join us today. We would now like to convey their thoughts to Bryan, by reading some of the letters received by them.

Troop Scouters come up to read Letters of Congratulation.

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

Scoutmasters' Comments

JUSTIN Our Scoutmaster, Greg Coghlan, now has a few comments about Bryan's Scouting career.

GREG *Say something short, but meaningful.*

Address by New Eagle

JUSTIN I now present to you Eagle Scout Bryan Maxwell, who has a few words to say.

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

Also, present Mentor Pin.

The Eagle in History

RANDY KLINGER The use of the eagle to represent Scouting's very best is very appropriate. The eagle is, of course, our national bird, adorning our coins, several state flags, and the Great Seal of the United States.

But the symbolism of the eagle goes back much farther in time. In fact, the eagle has symbolized humankind's best since dawn of recorded history.

The eagle has long been a symbol of good triumphing over evil. The ancient Greeks depicted the eagle holding a serpent in its claws, much as the American eagle holds arrows and an olive branch. So too the Eagle Scout battles evil in the world with the good in himself.

Armies from ancient Rome to nineteenth-century Europe have marched under eagle standards. Sioux warriors adorned their war bonnets with eagle feathers. In the twentieth-century, an army of Eagle Scouts, more than a million strong, has gone out to build a better world for themselves and their fellow men.

Many cultures, watching the eagle fly toward the sun, have associated the bird with their sun gods. To the Assyrians, for example, the eagle represented the sun god Ashur; and in early Christianity, the eagle symbolized the ascension of Christ into heaven. Today the Eagle Scout continues to fly high, his gaze fixed on his goals.

For countless centuries, the eagle has represented victory and valor, grace and beauty. The Eagle has represents those things, as well as the values embodied in the Scout Oath and Law.

The Eagle is a rare creature. When you see one flying, you can't help but stop and watch its graceful, exuberant soaring. The Eagle Scout is a rare creature, too. Just watch him fly.

Closing

JUSTIN 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.

JUSTIN 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!

JUSTIN On behalf of Troops 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.