

Opening

Chris: "Good Afternoon. My name is Eagle Scout Chris Szabo and I'll be your Master of Ceremonies today. Welcome to Kyle Schmidt's Eagle Scout Court of Honor on this day Sunday July 8, 2012.

Color Guard, Attention!

Audience, Please Rise!

Scout Salute! Those not in uniform, please place your right hand over your heart.

Color Guard, Forward March!

Color Guard, Halt!

Color Guard, Cross the Colors!

Color Guard, Post the Flag of Troop 175!

Please recite the Pledge of Allegiance!

TWO!

Scout Sign!

Please join us in reciting the Scout Law!

TWO!

Color Guard, Post the Flag of the United States of America!

Color Guard, Honor your Colors!

Color Guard, return to ranks!

Audience, please be seated!

Invocation

Chris: "I would like to call upon Assistant Scout Master and Troop Chaplain Ray Polson to come forward and give the invocation"

Mr. Polson: (say prayer\poem)

Recognition of Existing Eagle Scouts

Chris: "Would any Eagle Scouts sitting in the audience please stand up. Starting from here to there (left to right), please state when you became Eagle and with what troop.

(They recite.)

Thank you. You may be seated."

Introduction of Honored Guests

Chris: "I would also like to thank for attending today's ceremony, it is an honor to have them present.

(After applause subsides)

It is my pleasure to introduce to you Kyle's grandfather, a former Cubmaster and Troop Committee Chairman, Rod Schmidt, to talk about the importance of the Eagle Scout award and the Eagle Scout trail up the mountain."

Eagle Scout Importance

Mr. Schmidt: "Webster's dictionary describes an eagle as a large bird of prey with sharp vision and powerful wings, famous for their strength, size, grace, and keen vision. It is the national emblem for the United States. Even though the eagle is found throughout the world, it is never found in

abundance; it is always rare and it is always a superb specimen.

In Scouting the eagle stands for strength of character, and for knowledge of all phases of Scouting. The eagle represents an understanding of community and nation, and a deep respect for both. The eagle is a symbol of what a young man has done as well as what that young man will do, and will be, when he grows to manhood. The eagle is a leader. The eagle is respected, both by his peers and by his adult leaders.

The EAGLE SCOUT AWARD is the highest award available to youth members of the Boy Scouts of America. It is recognition by the National Court of Honor, presented through the local council and a local court of honor. It represents many years of dedicated effort, and the successful completion of a long process which started when the young man became a Boy Scout. It is a demonstration of how people, working together, can truly help mold a young man with a solid sense of leadership, citizenship, and responsibility. Not every Scout qualifies for the high rank of Eagle.

1. The physical requirements are strenuous, as set forth in the required merit badges.
2. Mental requirements are unusual and require much more than average intelligence.
3. Perhaps an even more difficult and more important requirement for the Eagle rank is the personal character of the Scout as reflected in his right attitudes toward God and the ideals of Scouting. This is exemplified in his cooperation and service to others in the home, school and

community. The applicant must possess a high degree of the spirit of cheerful service to others which is a basis of good citizenship.

The attainment of the Eagle Scout Rank is indeed the highest honor that a Scout may achieve. When a boy enters Scouting, in the three parts of the Scout Oath, he promises upon his honor to do his best to do his duty: first, to God and his country; second, to other people, by helping them at all times; and third, to himself, by keeping himself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

Likewise, the Scout Law which he promises to obey is put into effect as the occasion may demand. He is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

Each is an important foundation stone in the building of strong character. An Eagle Scout is one who has taken the Scout Oath and Law, to which he has promised, and embodied them within his character. The Oath and Law have become a part of him; they guide and direct him.

Very few Scouts make it this far, only about 3-4% of all scouts; it is a great achievement for all parties involved: the Scout, his family, his community, his unit, and the Boy Scouts of America.

Many Eagle Scouts have gone on to assume important positions:

- One of our Presidents was an Eagle Scout: Gerald Ford.

- A previous survey of leaders revealed that: 17 of our United States Senators, over 60 of our Congressmen, 11 of our state Governors, 14 of our senior military officers, and over 1700 chief executive officers/ presidents/heads of corporations are all Eagle Scouts.

You will notice that I said "are" Eagle Scouts, because an Eagle Scout is an Eagle Scout for life.

Other Famous Eagles include:

- Steven Spielberg, Film Director/Producer
- James Brady, Former Press Secretary to President Reagan.
- Of the 214 former and present astronauts, 142 have taken part in Scouting. 33 became Eagle Scouts, including Neil Armstrong, the first man to set foot on the moon.

Awarding the Eagle is an important and serious matter. It is the climax and goal toward which this Scout has been working for several years. It is the culmination of the efforts of the parents and leaders of this Scout. It is an occasion for pride and for joy.

Eagle is the highest and most coveted award in all of Scouting, and it is the last major step in the advancement program. It is, at this point, that Scouting has achieved its purpose in these Eagles: In building participating citizenship, in growth in moral strength and character, and in development in physical, mental, and emotional fitness.”

Eagle Scout Trail up the mountain

Mr. Schmidt: "Each scout is shown the trail up the mountain to attain the rank of Eagle Scout, this is that story...."

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 to the 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 evening time, 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 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. On this day he would rest and celebrate and ponder the journey that he had completed. And so on this day, we pause to rest and celebrate and honor this fine young man, Eagle Scout candidate Kyle Schmidt, as he stands at the top of the world and looks around him.”

Chris: “Thank you Mr. Schmidt. Will Scoutmaster Greg Coghlan please come forward to review the qualifications for the Eagle Scout award.”

Qualifications

Mr. Coghlan: “I have the honor and pleasure of recognizing the candidate for the rank of Eagle Scout. This is an important and serious matter. The parents and Scout leaders of this candidate have labored long and faithfully to guide him through the Boy Scout program. Their efforts culminate today in the presentation of this Eagle badge.

The Boy Scout movement constitutes one of the most wholesome and significant developments of our day. This

scout has worked in the troop, school and community. The eagle board of review has found that he has demonstrated this ability in activities that are constructive and worthwhile. We believe that he qualifies for the Eagle rank. Last and most importantly is the character of this candidate. It was the findings that this candidate is endeavoring to put into daily practice the principles of the Scout Oath and Law which include integrity and honor. It is believed he is qualified as an Eagle Scout and that he will continue those habits of conduct in the future.

In light of these inquiries by the Eagle board of review, the court of honor finds the candidate qualified to receive the rank of Eagle Scout.

Would the Eagle Honor Guard made up of Eagle Scout Rick Schmidt, Kyle's Uncle and (TBD), please escort the Eagle candidate and his parents to the front."

(Parents and scout are escorted by Rick Schmidt and ???)

Eagle Charge

Mr. Coghlan: "Scouts of all nations make up one of the most wholesome and significant movements in the world's history. You have been judged by the Boy Scouts of America as being worthy of this honor. All who know you rejoice in your achievement. This award, as you will 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.

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 even 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 to your fellow man.

So live and serve, that those who know you will be inspired to finer living. I charge you to be among those who dedicate their hearts, hands, skills, and abilities to the common good. Help to build America's future by continuing to set an example of clean living, honest work, unselfish citizenship and reverence for God, whatever others may do. You will leave behind you a record of which you may be justly proud.

Eagle Candidate Kyle Schmidt, I charge you to enter this Eagle Scout brotherhood holding without reservation and ever before you the ideals of honor and service. By the repetition of the Eagle Scout promise before your fellow members, you will become an Eagle Scout. When you pledge yourself on your sacred honor, you will be sealing your eternal loyalty to the code of the Eagle Scout with the same words which closed the Declaration of Independence.

Will all Eagle Scouts here this afternoon please stand and join us to renew your Eagle Scout promise as Kyle Schmidt joins our brotherhood

(Pause)

Scout sign; 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 an example and my status 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!

Please be seated.

Kyle Schmidt, your conduct along the trail has been excellent. You have rededicated yourself to the principles of Scouting. But one more thing is important ... your future. As an Eagle Scout, you become a guide to other Scouts. You become an example in your community. Remember that your actions are now a little more conspicuous and people will expect more of you. To falter in your responsibility would reflect not only on you, but on your fellow Eagles and all of Scouting. The torch you carry is not only yours, but it is also ours.”

Eagle Presentation

Mr. Coghlan: "I am honored to be able to present to you this certification of completion for the rank of Eagle Scout.

(Give certificate to scout)

We will now present the Eagle badge and neckerchief.

Your mother will pin the badge over your heart.

(mother pins badge on candidate)

Your father will place the neckerchief around your neck

(father removes old neckerchief and places new one around candidate's neck)

In recognition of the wisdom and guidance given to you by your father, present to him this Eagle tie-tack, which he will be proud to wear in your honor.

(candidate presents tie-tack to father)

And now, also in recognition of the many hours of patient guidance given by her in your efforts, will you pin the Eagle mother's pin over your mother's heart?

(candidate presents pin to mother)

It is my privilege and honor to welcome you to the rank of Eagle Scout. May the oath you have taken remain in your heart always.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Scouts, I am proud to present to you Eagle Scout, Kyle Schmidt."

(Speaker gives the new Eagle Scout the Scout handclasp with the left hand. Right handshake should be used for each of the parents.)

Troop Presentations

Mr. Coghlan: "Will (TBD) please come forward for the Troop presentations."

(TBD): "The Troop displays at the VFW the names of the Scouts that achieve the rank of Eagle Scout . It is my pleasure to present the plaque with the name Kyle Schmidt and the date of April 19, 2012 to our Troops newest Eagle Scout.

We also would like to present Kyle with (TBD) to commemorate his accomplishment."

Mr. Coghlan: "Thank you (TBD). Now Eagle Scout Kyle Schmidt would like to present a few mentor pins."

Eagle Scout presents Mentor pins

Kyle: (Present Mentor Pins)

Kyle: (Thank you Speech)

Mr. Coghlan: "May I congratulate you again, and may I remind you that Scouting should now become an even greater tie between son and parents, binding you even more closely as a family. To you, Eagle Scout Kyle Schmidt, I express confidence that you will honor Scouting with your life and service as tonight Scouting honors you."

Chris: "Thank you Scoutmaster Greg Coghlan. At this time Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt have some additional items of recognition to present to the new Eagle"

Parent Presentation

Joe\Michelle: (Present items)

Chris: “Eagle Honor guard, please escort the new eagle scout and his parents to their seats.

(Pause)

Please welcome (TBD) to the podium to read some congratulatory letters.”

Congratulatory Letters

TBD:“Good afternoon, people recognize that the achievement of eagle scout is an important accomplishments and have sent letters of congratulations to the new Eagle Scout. Here are a few of the many letters received. All letters will be on view after the ceremony.”

(Read some letters)

Chris: “Thank you TBD.

Now Scoutmaster Greg Coghlan would like to say a few words.”

Scoutmaster Remarks

Mr. Coghlan: (Personal Comments)

Chris: “Thank you Mr. Coghlan.”

Closing words

Chris: "I congratulate you as a new member to the brotherhood of Eagle Scouts. The eagle soars high and seeks to rest only upon the lofty peaks. As an Eagle Scout, you too must soar high. You must not swerve from the path of duty. Your ideals must be lofty. You must strive to obtain that which is the highest and noblest in life.

By the authority vested in me as a representative of Troop 175, I declare that this court of honor is now complete.

Retire colors

Chris: "Ladies and gentleman, please stand for the retiring of our colors.

Color guard advance

Color guard retire the colors

Scout Salute!

This ceremony is now adjourned. There will be refreshments served in the back, please stay and enjoy, thank you.