

EAGLE CEREMONY
CHRISTOPHER J. SZABO
NOVEMBER 15, 2009 ----- 2:00 P.M.

(Greg: 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 Member Lori Akdogan

This Eagle Scout Court of Honor is now called to order. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Lori Akdogan, and as a committee member of Troop 175, it is my privilege to welcome you to this Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Chris Szabo.

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

(Audience stands. Ed Bahle to podium)

Presentation Of Colors

Senior Patrol Leader Troop 175 Ed Bahle

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.

(Ed Bahle may be seated)

Recognition of Special Guests

Committee Member Lori Akdogan

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 Chris up to the front and face the audience.

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

Now, Committee Member Scott Kubit will help us understand the Scout Law better.

John Wayne Explains the Scout Law

Committee Member Scott Kubit

John Wayne, the famous actor and a great American, passed away many years ago. One of his last public appearances was at a dinner. The purpose of the dinner was to benefit a land purchase for a Scout Reservation called The John Wayne Outpost Camp.

At this dinner, Wayne recited the Scout Law as we did just a few minutes ago. Then he did something unusual. He said the twelve points of the Scout Law are "nice words". "Trouble is" he continued, "We learn them so young we sometimes don't get all the understanding that goes with them. I take care of that in my family. As each boy reaches Scout age, I make sure he learns the Scout Law. Then I break it down for him, with a few things I've picked up in more than half a century since I learned it."

Then Wayne proceeded to explain the importance of the Scout Law, breaking it down for the guests at the dinner, much like he would have for his grandson.

A Scout is trustworthy. The badge of honesty. Having it lets you look back any man straight in the eye. Lacking it, he won't look back. Keep it at the top of your list.

A Scout is loyal. The very word is life itself, for without loyalty, we have no love of person or country.

A Scout is helpful. Part sharing, part caring. By helping each other, we help ourselves, not to mention mankind. Be always full of help- the dying man's last word.

A Scout is friendly. Brotherhood is part of that word. You can take it in a lot of directions- but make sure and start it with brotherhood.

A Scout is courteous. Allow each person his human dignity, which means a lot more than saying “Yes ma'am” and “Thank you, sir.” It reflects an attitude that later in life you “wish you honored more...earlier in life.” Save yourself that problem. Do it now.

A Scout is kind. This one word would stop wars and erase hatreds. But it is like your bicycle. It's just no good unless you get out and use it.

A Scout is obedient. Start at home, practice it on your family, enlarge it to your friends, share it with humanity.

A Scout is cheerful. Anyone can put on a happy face when the going is good. The secret is to wear it as a mask for your problems. It might surprise you how many others do the same thing.

A Scout is thrifty. Means a lot more than putting pennies away and it's the opposite of cheap. Common sense covers it just about as well as anything.

A Scout is brave. You don't have to fight to be brave. Millions of good, fine, decent folks show more bravery than heavyweight champs just by getting out of bed every morning, going out to do a good day's work, and living the best life they know how against a lot of odds. Brave. Keep the word handy everyday of your life.

A Scout is clean. Soap and water help a lot on the outside. But it's the inside that counts, and don't you ever forget it.

A Scout is reverent. Believe in anything you want to believe in, but keep God at the top of it. With Him, life can be a beautiful experience. Without Him, you're just biding time.

Up next is Kathy Corbin

One Hundred Scouts

Committee Member Kathy Corbin

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 that belong to no church. Through Scouting, these 12 and many of their families will be brought into contact with a church and will continue to be active all their lives. Six of the 100 will become pastors.

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

Two of the 100 will reach the rank of Eagle, and at least one will later say 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 Scouts, but it is interesting to know that of the leaders of this nation in business, religion and politics, three out of four were Scouts.

Today 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.

Next, Joe Panaccione will tell us about the Eagle Mountain.

The Eagle Mountain

Committee Member, Joe Panaccione

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.

Jim White will now take us along Chris' trail to Eagle.

The Eagle Trail

Committee Member Jim White

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

5½ years ago, Chris 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.

(Chris 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.

(Chris 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

(Chris 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 6th, 2005, he became a First Class Scout.

(Chris 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

(Chris 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, Communications and Camping. He worked hard as a troop leader, completed more service hours, and became a Life Scout – one step away from Eagle

(Chris 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.

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

Troop 175 Advancement Chair Meme Robinson will now review Chris' Eagle Scout Rank requirements.

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.

Chris has been an active member of Troop 175 for 5 ½ years. He has earned a total of 37 merit badges and has served as Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, Den Chief for Pack 100, Troop Guide and Computer Scribe. He is also a Brotherhood member of the Order of Arrow.

Chris's Eagle project was painting and redecorating the nursery here at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

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

We would like to ask Eagle Scout Tim Szabo, Chris's cousin to come forward for the Eagle Charge.

The Eagle Charge

Chris's cousin- Eagle Scout Tim Szabo, Troop 630, North Olmsted

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

We are here this afternoon, of course, to celebrate a great success. Now it is my job to tell you how to turn that success into more successes throughout the rest of your life.

So how can you be successful? What's the secret? It's simple. Be a failure.

That may seem like strange advice, but when you think about it, you've been failing ever since you became a Scout.

Do you remember the first time you tried to build a fire? You failed, didn't you? And what about your first hike, the one that ended in sore muscles and blisters? You didn't win the first time you ran for patrol leader, and when you did win, you made plenty of mistakes when you tried to lead your patrol.

You're not the only one who has failed. Thomas Edison discovered 1,800 ways NOT to make a light bulb before he invented one that worked. R.H. Macy failed seven times before his

New York department store caught on. Babe Ruth struck out 1,330 times on his way to hitting a record 714 home runs. Abraham Lincoln dropped out of school, lost two elections for House of Representatives and two elections for Senate before becoming President.

But these men never let their failures get them down. Instead, they learned from their mistakes, improved themselves and went on to enjoy great success.

So don't be afraid to make mistakes; don't be afraid to fail. Remember, if you've tried to do something and failed, you're vastly better off than if you'd tried to do nothing and succeeded.

I would like to ask Chris's Scoutmaster, Greg Coghlan to come forward for the Eagle Scout Oath.

The Eagle Scout Oath

Scoutmaster Greg Coghlan

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

Chris, 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.

Chris, 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 Chris's mother which have helped lead us to this day. As a symbol of what his mother helped make possible, the court now asks Chris to present his mother with a miniature Eagle pin.

Chris , 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.

I now present to you Eagle Scout Chris Szabo

(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

Troop 175 Scoutmaster Greg Coghlan

Chris, 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 Chris is the 36th 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, Chris, 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 Chris Szabo, 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 Chris's parents back to their seat.

Letters Of Congratulations

Committee Member Kathy Corbin

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 Chris.

Chris 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.

Kathy Corbin

Jim White

Scott Kubit

Joe Panaccione

Scoutmaster's Remarks

Greg Coghlan, Scoutmaster

BLAH, BLAH, BLAH

I now present to you Eagle Scout Chris Szabo, who has a few words to say.

The Eagle's Remarks

Eagle Scout, Chris Szabo

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 Member Lori Akdogan

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

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

Senior Patrol Leader –Ed Bahle
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!