

Eagle Scout Court of Honor

For

Nicholas Volchko

And

Bradley Petcavage

Wednesday August 18, 2004 7:00 pm

Sandy Ridge Reservation

65195 Otten Road

N. Ridgeville, Ohio

AGENDA

Opening

Flag procession

The Requirements of an Eagle

Eagle Scout Charge

Presentation of Eagle Scout Award

Address by new Eagle

Closing

Flag Procession

Reception

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Adult Participants

MASTER OF CEREMONIES..... Bill Rundle
BSA Representative Bill Rundle
CHARGE Administrator Michael Hesmond
SCOUTMASTER..... Greg Coghlan

Scout Participants

Senior Patrol Leader
American Flag.....
Troop Flag.....
Eagle Honor Guard Michael Hesmond
Eagle Honor Guard

Opening Ceremony

BILL Good evening. My name is Bill Rundle and I will be representing the great Frontier District for this Court of Honor and I will also be your Master of Ceremonies for tonight. On behalf of our Eagle Candidates we would like to welcome everyone here as we honor Nick Volchko and Brad Petcavage for attaining Scouting's highest rank, the Eagle Scout Award. This is a great moment worthy of celebration.

BILL Before opening this Eagle Court of Honor, I would like to recognize some people. Would all Eagle Scouts in attendance 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.

BILL 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.

BILL I will now turn the rest of the program over to our Acting Senior Patrol Leader _____

_____ 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.

SPL I would now like to ask Mr. Bill Rundle, as a representative of the Boy Scouts of America, to officially convene this Court of Honor.

_____ **BILL** 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 Nick Volchko and Brad Petcavage open and in session!

The Requirements of an Eagle

SPL Before we continue, this Court would ask the Eagle Honor Guard to escort Eagle Candidates Nick Volchko and Brad Petcavage to the stage.

Wait for them to do so.

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

_____ 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.

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

SPL I now ask Mike Hesmond to come forward and give the Eagle Scout Charge.

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

During your time in Scouting, you have learned and lived the Cub Scout Promise, The Law of the Pack, The Cub Scout motto, and of course the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan. Tonight, for the first time, you will repeat the Eagle Scout Promise.

Making that new promise does not mean that you should forget all the other promises. Instead, I challenge you to always remember and live by all the promises you've made as Scouts, all the codes you've agreed to follow

MIKE Will all the Eagle Scouts present please stand for the reading of the Eagle Scout Oath?

(Wait for Eagles in the audience stand.)

Nick and Brad, please give the Scout Sign and repeat the Eagle Scout Oath 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, example, rank, and influence
count strongly for better Scouting
and for better citizenship
in my troop
in my community
and in contacts with other people.

Always

Two! The Eagles in the Audience may be seated.

Eagle Award Presentation

_____ 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 Candidates to escort their parents to the stage. *Wait for them 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 these Eagle Scouts 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 mothers 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 fathers 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)*

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

We have arranged for a gift that you can wear as part of your Uniform.

Present him with the Eagle Neckerchief.

GREG May I congratulate you, Nick and Brad, 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 Nick Volchko and Brad Petcavage, I express the confidence that you will honor Scouting with your life and service, as today Scouting honors you.

I now present to you Eagle Scouts Nick Volchko and Brad Petcavage.

Lead applause

Address by New Eagle

BILL I now present to you Eagle Scout Nick Volchko, who has a few words to say.

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

Also, may present Mentor Pin.

BILL I now present to you Eagle Scout Brad Petcavage, who has a few words to say.

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

Also, may present Mentor Pin.

The Eagle in History

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

BILL 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.

SPL 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!

BILL On behalf of the families of Nick and Brad 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.