

SCOUT CEREMONIES

Boy Scouts of America

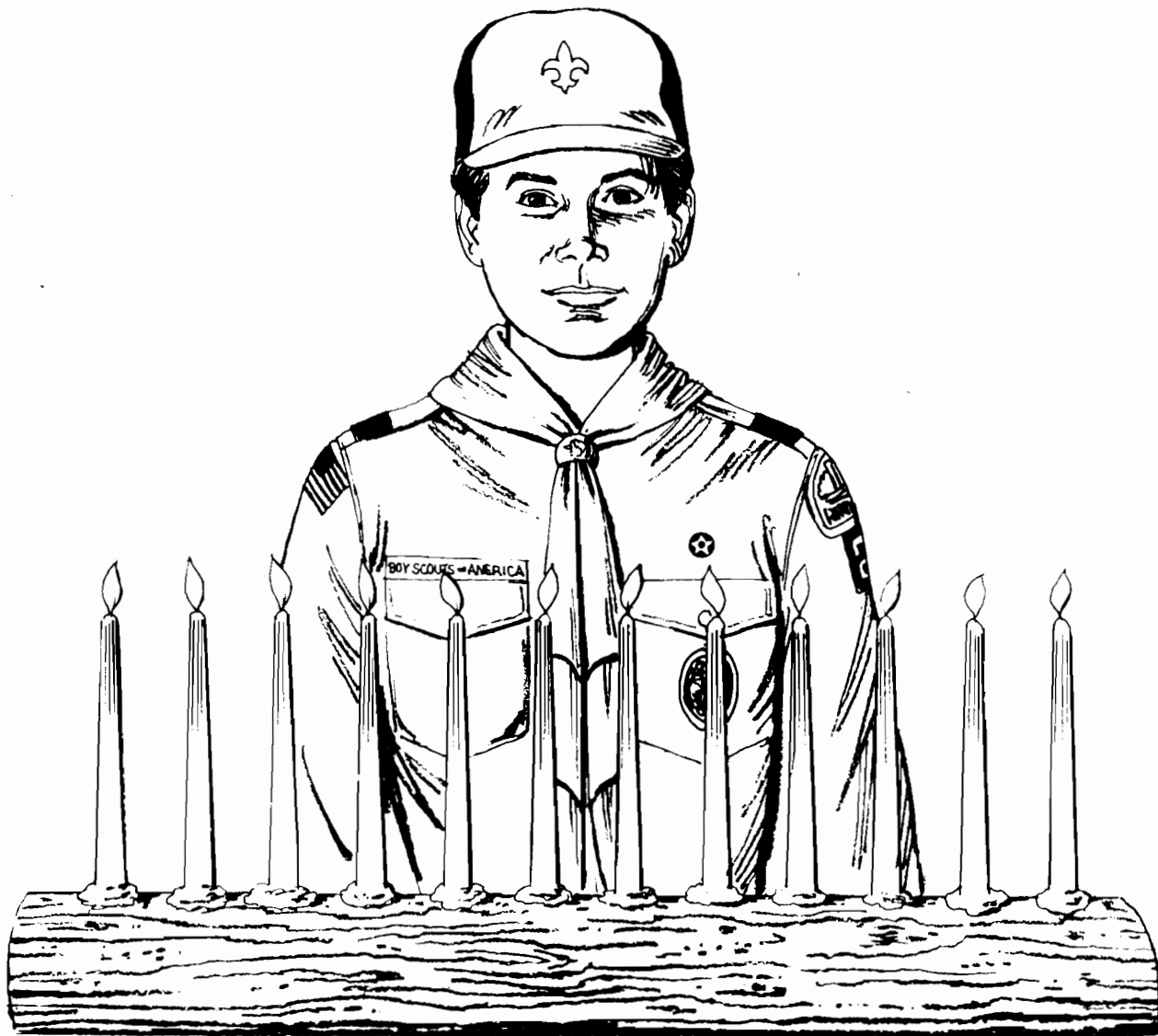


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Purpose	2
Importance of Good Ceremonies	2
Boy Scout Investitures	5
Installation and Rededication Ceremonies	11
Opening Ceremonies	19
Closing Ceremonies	23
Court of Honor Ceremonies	26
Eagle Court of Honor Ceremonies	39
Campfire Ceremonies	56
Flag Ceremonies	60
Webelos-to-Scout Transition Ceremonies	65
Appendix	69

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Carl Nelson and Captain D. W. Simons, USN (Ret.),
for their work in compiling this book.*

INTRODUCTION



Ceremonies have been part of man's culture since the earliest recordings of history. From primitive rituals of medicine men and witch doctors to coronations and national holidays, man through the ages has participated in a variety of ceremonies all his life. Each society has developed ceremonies or rituals to celebrate important events, honor heroic actions, and recognize notable achievements. So it is in Scouting!

In the early years of Scouting, ceremonies were associated primarily with courts of honor and advancement of rank. We realize the benefits of taking every possible opportunity to recognize participants in the Scouting program. These ceremonies can be made much more impressive by planning and a little showmanship.

Importance of Good Ceremonies

If a Scout earns an advancement in rank or points for troop meeting uniform inspection, he deserves prompt and public recognition. The major way we hold the interest of boys in Scouting (and that's the only way we can influence their development) is by recognizing their achievements. Prompt, dignified, impressive public ceremonies influence attendance, advancement, and tenure!

Planning and Performance

"Proper planning prevents poor performance." This slogan certainly applies to troop ceremonies. The formula for super ceremonies is:

PLAN—PROMOTE—PRACTICE—PERFORM
IF YOU DON'T PLAN IT, IT WON'T HAPPEN
THE WAY YOU WANT IT TO HAPPEN

Monotony often is a major contributor to carelessness, and it easily can pertain to our more routine ceremonies. It may be the Scoutmaster's 67th and the senior patrol leader's 12th investiture, but it is the *first* and *only* investiture for the boy on the other side of the table. Since first impressions are lasting, each boy and his parents deserve the best effort we can provide.

Most experienced Scouts and Scouters have seen enough ceremonies to have their own ideas on how it should be done. Any one of them could put on a good one-man show, but one-man shows are rarely impressive and deny opportunity for involvement of others, both youth and adults, in the program. The easiest way to avoid one-man shows is to document your ceremony well ahead of time. First, examine

the elements and sequence of events desired or required. Then, think them through—several times. When you have what you believe is an acceptable program, put it on paper. Don't make just a few scribbles on the back of an old grocery list, but make a legible, complete list of events and participants from which some copies can be made. Next, review the plan with appropriate Scouts and Scouters, keeping an open mind for suggestions. Don't limit the ideas available to the scope of your own background. Solicit suggestions from key leaders involved—particularly the Scouts.

Once your team has agreed on the plan, copies should be made and delivered well ahead of time to the key participants. A copy handed to the committee chairman as he walks to the stage for the opening ceremony hardly ensures his best effort.

What should go into the making of a good Scout ceremony? The ingredients will vary with the end product desired but the following should be considered.

Ceremonies should:

- Contain some element of rededication to the Scout Oath—Scout Law—a reminder of the ideals of our organization.
- Be based on building Scout spirit, or improving Scout participation.
- Include some element of patriotism, or appreciation of the American way of life.
- Include enthusiasm and sincerity.
- Be impressive, dignified, and brief.
- Tolerate neither horseplay nor embarrassment.
- Avoid elements or suggestion of initiation.
- Be planned by boys or a committee that includes boys, to ensure maximum boy appeal and perhaps greater effectiveness.
- Start on time and end as close to announced (or expected) time as possible.
- Feature boys, but where possible and appropriate, acknowledge the unit's chartered organization and key adults supporting the unit.
- Avoid discomfort, such as poor visibility, inability to hear speakers, frequent stand-up, sit-down situations, long periods of standing at attention, no ventilation, etc.
- Honor one Scout at a time, ensuring that he feels it is his special recognition.
- Ensure that the recipient is facing the audience, not the presenter.
- Be conducted as though a young man's future depends on it—often it does!

Promote

For a patrol leader installation at a regular troop meeting, the only promotion desired may be to request the troop photographer to bring his camera to get a picture for the troop scrapbook. However, efforts for a troop charter presentation, an Eagle Scout court of honor, or a troop open-house ceremony should be promoted vigorously.

First, determine the seating capacity of the facility. If the size of the room limits the size of your crowd, you will need to estimate more carefully what your maximum attendance can be. For example, if space is limited, you may have to limit attendance to boys and parents—without other members of the families.

Good attendance will not just happen, it must be promoted. Putting a notice in a troop newspaper or listing an event on an annual schedule will help, but may not be successful. If parents are expected to attend, consider sending flyers home with Scouts the week before an event. A personal letter to invitees usually works better. A personal phone call will do more than anything to ensure attendance.

Your invitation list may include the following persons:

1. Head of the chartered organization.
2. Key members of the chartered organization.
3. Scouting coordinator.
4. Unit commissioner, assistant district commissioner, district commissioner, district chairman, and district executive.
5. Webelos Scouts and their parents—particularly those who are about to graduate.
6. Your own Scouts, their parents, and Scouters (leaders, committee members, and their spouses).
7. The leaders of other units within both your chartered organizations and your neighborhood.
8. Alumni—if your unit is a veteran unit and there are former members in the area.
9. Community leaders.
10. Local news media.

Practice

The only way to eliminate mishaps at the real event is to let the “goof” happen at practice sessions. Only by seeing the color guard in formation can you ensure that they are about the same height, don't have two left feet, know where

the flags actually go, and are not scheduled to be in two parts of the ceremony at the same time.

Often, we have heard that practice makes perfect. We don't really need to practice troop ceremonies to the point of perfection. Our goals are to become familiar with the routine, instill confidence in participants, and prevent embarrassment during the ceremony.

Whenever possible, participants should practice in the actual place and at the actual time of day of the ceremony. It is the best possible way to avoid major errors or oversights.

Purpose

The purpose of this book is to provide ideas, outlines, how to's, etc., for use in developing troop ceremonies. More than just providing scripts, we

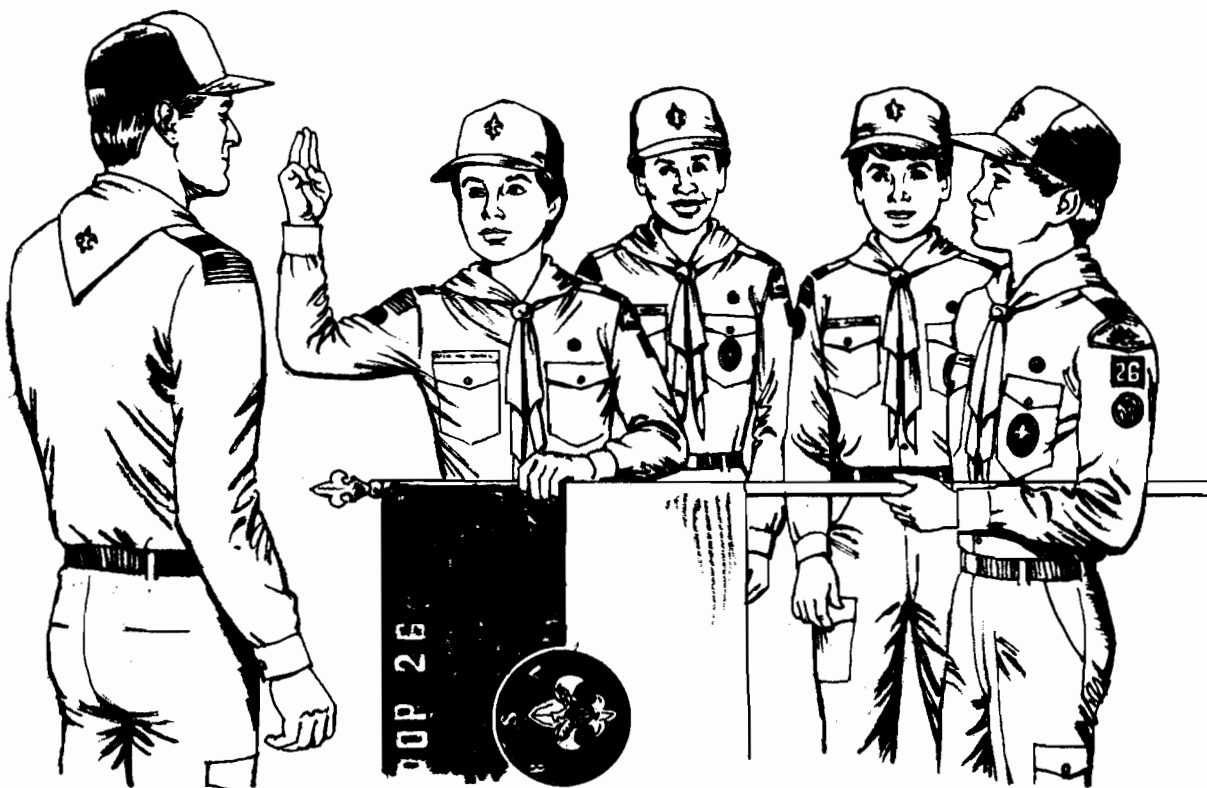
hope to spur the imaginations of troop leaders—adults and boys. An original ceremony tailored to the troop and its traditions can be much more effective than a canned ceremony.

Included in this book are many types of ceremonies, from the simple to formal Eagle courts of honor.

Read the book throughout and use whatever appeals to you and your troop. The important thing is to use ceremonies that help achieve the aims of the Boy Scouting. If used, a ceremony can be a tremendous tool.

Materials for this book were derived from many sources: council and district booklets, individual troop ceremonies, etc. The Boy Scouts of America gratefully acknowledges the contributions of all persons involved.

BOY SCOUT INVESTITURES



A new Boy Scout recruit should be inducted into the troop as soon as he has completed the requirements and turned in his membership application and registration fee to the Scoutmaster. An informal ceremony should be conducted at the next troop meeting. A more formal ceremony can be held later at a court of honor. It is preferable to hold the ceremony as part of the regular troop meeting at a time convenient for the parents of boys being recognized. If a troop campout is scheduled soon, this makes an excellent setting for the induction ceremony. The induction ceremony is the boys' introduction to Boy Scout advancement and recognition. It is extremely important that they are impressed with the principles of the Scout Oath and Law and their obligation to their troop and patrol.

The ceremony should involve the Scoutmaster (or assistant if Scoutmaster is not available), senior patrol leader, and boys involved. Aside from those who directly participate in the ceremony, the entire troop should be present for support. Do your best to make this a special event.

There are many, many investiture ceremonies. We have provided a few examples. Use them or build your own.

Ceremony With Parents

(On an attractively draped table, place a long candelabrum with 12 white candles for the 12 points of the Scout Law. Place three longer candles—a white one in the center and a green one on each side—for the three parts of the Scout Oath behind the candelabrum. Use a red candle as a lighter. Position the U.S. and troop flags in their appropriate place. The chairman of the troop committee presides.)

Chairman: We are to welcome a new Scout and his parents to our troop tonight. Patrol Leader _____ (name) of the _____ Patrol, please bring forward Candidate _____ (name). Senior Patrol Leader _____ (name) will please escort candidate's parents to the front. Thank you.

(Patrol leader accompanies candidate to the side of the table, where they turn and face the audience. The senior patrol leader and the candidate's parents follow and take places behind candidate and patrol leader.)

Chairman: It is now my privilege as chairman of the troop committee to pass this burning candle

(the red one), which represents the spirit of Scouting, to Scoutmaster _____ (name) who will formally invest the candidate. (Chairman lights candle; as he hands it to the Scoutmaster, the room lights are turned off.)

Scoutmaster: Thank you, Mr.

_____ (name). My happiest duty as Scoutmaster is to receive new boys and their parents into our troop family. Candidate _____ (name), we are going to bring to light these candles representing the 12 points of the Scout Law. Let these ever be your guide in life. Patrol Leader _____ (name), take this, the spirit of Scouting, and light our way. (Patrol leader lights the first candle.)

Patrol Leader: A Scout is trustworthy. (Narrator with a good voice, who is behind a curtain or offstage with a Boy Scout Handbook and a flashlight, reads the explanatory text for this part of the Scout Law. Patrol leader and narrator carry on in this manner until the 12 candles are lighted and the 12 points of the Scout Law have been read. Patrol leader then returns candle to Scoutmaster.)

Scoutmaster: Thank you, Patrol Leader _____ (name). Senior Patrol Leader _____ (name), you will now bring to light the three central candles which symbolize the three parts of our Scout Oath or Promise. Candidate _____ (name), you are about to pledge yourself to a way of life that has guided millions of boys and men before you. It is not a promise to be taken lightly. Think well now before you take it. (Scoutmaster pauses and allows 5 or 6 seconds to elapse.) Are you ready to take this promise?

Candidate: I am.

Scoutmaster: Will the members of the troop please stand and give the Scout sign. Candidate _____ (name), repeat after me the Scout Oath. (Scoutmaster leads in the Scout Oath.)

Scoutmaster: On my honor I will do my best. (Candidate repeats.)

Scoutmaster: To do my duty to God and my country, and to obey the Scout Law. (Candidate repeats. Senior patrol leader lights center white candle.)

Scoutmaster: To help other people at all times. (Candidate repeats. Senior patrol leader lights one green candle.)

Scoutmaster: To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight. (Candidate

repeats. Senior patrol leader lights other green candle. Room lights should be turned on at this moment.)

Scoutmaster (to parents): Here is the Scout badge. Will you please attach it to the center of your son's left shirt pocket. Pin it on upside down. When your son has done his first Good Turn as a Scout, he may ask you to turn the badge right side up. (Pin badge on pocket. If using cloth emblem, provide straight pin with which to fasten.)

Scoutmaster: Now that your son is a Boy Scout, I'm sure you want him to get full value from the program. Here is an information folder welcoming you to our troop and telling you how you can help your son and the troop. I know we can count on your support. (Present the information and shake hands with each parent.)

Scoutmaster (to new Scout): Now that you are a Boy Scout, you have the privilege of presenting your mother with a miniature of your new badge. As you advance in Scouting, her badge will be changed each time you complete a rank. (Give Scout miniature universal pin with pin already open. Scout pins miniature badge on mother's dress.)

Scoutmaster (to Scout): As a new Scout in Troop _____, we expect you to uphold the ideals and program of the troop. You will be expected to live according to the Scout Law and the Scout Oath you took tonight and to be regular in attendance at troop activities including troop and patrol meetings, hikes, camps, and Good Turn projects. We know you will be a fine addition to our troop, and we welcome you. (Scoutmaster gives Scout handclasp to new Scout.)

Scoutmaster (to troop members): Troop attention! We salute our new Scout. Troop, salute—one—two. Scouts be seated. (The senior patrol leader escorts parents back to seats and patrol leader takes the Scout to his patrol, where they give their patrol cheer for the new member.)

Scout Oath Ceremony

This informal Scout Oath ceremony takes place in the meeting room by the light of three candles, representing the three points of the Scout Oath. Roll is called by the scribe; each boy stands, answers the roll call, gives his rank, and sits down.

All stand for Pledge of Allegiance, led by the Scoutmaster.

Scoutmaster then makes brief comments on the significance of the points of the Scout Oath, while

referring to their visible symbols, the lighted candles. The names are called and the prospective Scouts step forward. The troop stands and the candidates face them. All give the Scout sign. The candidates dedicate themselves to the high ideals of Scouting by repeating slowly the Scout Oath.

New members remain standing to receive badges. They receive congratulations and three rousing "How's" from the troop. Ceremony ends.

Circle Formation

(Senior patrol leader takes the candidate into an anteroom and blindfolds him. The U.S. and troop flags are placed in the center of the meeting room. The troop falls in, facing out, with their backs to the flags and their hands joined. The troop leaders are inside the circle.)

Scoutmaster: Be Prepared!

Scouts *(in chorus):* We are prepared! *(This is the signal for the senior patrol leader to lead in the candidate, halting him outside the circle, opposite the Scoutmaster.)*

Scoutmaster: Senior Patrol Leader, who is with you?

Senior patrol leader: He is Candidate _____ (name), who wishes to join our troop and become a Scout. He has met the requirements and is duly qualified.

Scoutmaster: Remove his blindfold. *(To candidate)* Candidate, you come from the darkness into the light of Scouting, and you see before you the Scouts of Troop _____ in an unbroken circle of comradeship, guarding the flags of their country and their troop. How will you, an outsider, secure a place in this circle?

Patrol leader *(of the patrol the candidate is joining, from his position in the circle):* Sir, the _____ Patrol will open the circle and admit the candidate.

Scoutmaster: Good. In doing so, remember, you vouch for him. *(Senior patrol leader conducts the candidate to the opening the patrol leader has made by dropping his hand and leads him into the center of the circle in front of the Scoutmaster.)*

Scoutmaster *(to troop):* Unclasp hands, about face! *(Circle now faces in.) (To Candidate)* You have been admitted to our troop circle to be made a member of the greatest boys' movement in the world. Place your left hand upon the flag of your troop and raise your right hand in the Scout sign.

(Color bearer inclines troop flag toward candidate.)
Dedicate yourself through giving the Scout Oath.
(Candidate recites the Scout Oath, then drops his hand.)

Scoutmaster: Now, where will I get a badge for this candidate?

Boy Scout *(previously designated, steps forward, salutes, and says):* Sir, I offer my Scout badge for this candidate. *(This Scout may be a personal friend of the candidate or some Scout whom the candidate respects. If possible, he should be a Second Class or First Class Scout actually passing on his own Boy Scout badge. Candidate should face the audience. Scoutmaster nods to the donor who steps to the candidate and pins the badge on him.)*

Scoutmaster: Candidate, you have been given a badge that has been worn with honor and distinction by a Scout who has gone before you. This shows our friendship for you and the trust we place in you. By the authority vested in me by the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, I declare you a Boy Scout. *(The Scoutmaster brings his right hand down sharply on the candidate's left shoulder.)*

Scoutmaster: Fall out. *(The Scouts shake hands with the new Boy Scout. His patrol leader then walks with the new Scout until they reach his place in the patrol.)*

The Light of Scouting

This ceremony requires 15 Boy Scouts and 15 flashlights. The candidate stands in the center of a circle formed by the troop and the flashlight bearers. The room is darkened. Starting with the Scout Oath and continuing through the 12 points of the Law, each Scout (one at a time) lights his light, points it to the ceiling, and recites his portion of the Scout Oath or Law. At a given signal, all lights are pointed at the candidate—but not in his eyes! The Scoutmaster tells him that he is now bathed in the light of Scouting. Inasmuch as the candidate intends to follow its gleam, he will now take the pledge. The candidate makes the Scout sign and recites the Scout Oath, after which all lights are turned on and the boy joins his patrol.

Horseshoe Formation

During an evening troop meeting or campfire, have the prospective Scout stand before the Scoutmaster and the troop for the investiture

ceremony. The ceremony should not be elaborate. A simple, dignified ceremony is far more impressive.

Each troop has its own traditions. If a troop is part of a church or a synagogue, the troop and the institution may have developed an investiture of a religious nature. The following ceremony is simple and may appeal to you.

(The troop stands in horseshoe formation, with the Scoutmaster and the senior patrol leader (or assistant Scoutmaster) in the gap. The candidate and his patrol leader stand in front of his patrol. The senior patrol leader holds the Scout badge and the neckerchief that will be presented. The Scoutmaster gives a sign, and the patrol leader brings the candidate to the center. At the same time a flag bearer carries the troop flag forward. The candidate and the Scoutmaster place their left hand on the staff of the troop flag and raise their right hand in the Scout sign. The whole troop comes to attention with the Scout sign.)

Candidate *(looking at his Scoutmaster, as he slowly and solemnly dedicates himself to the Scout Oath):*
On my honor . . .

Scoutmaster *(gives candidate his left hand in a firm grasp):* I trust you Scout _____ (name), on your honor, to keep this promise. You are now one of us, and to remind you of this, we present you with this badge of our Scout world brotherhood and the neckerchief of our troop. *(Scoutmaster puts the neckerchief over candidate's shoulders and the senior patrol leader pins the badge on the candidate's shirt. The Scout turns around and salutes the troop. The troop salutes him. The patrol leader takes the new Boy Scout to his patrol where he is received with the patrol yell and with the patrol medallion.)*

Note. If spectators are present, the candidate should face the audience during the final presentation.

Investiture 1

The notable thing about the investiture is its simplicity. There are many more elaborate, more impressive ceremonies, but they can be unsuccessful. Many fail because a Scout forgets his lines or the staging is too complicated.

Note how this ceremony is kept simple and natural, yet impressive from beginning to end.

(The troop is lined up along two sides of the room, troop officers are at the front of the room, parents are seated. The patrol leader accompanies the

candidate into the shadowy room. Only one candle is burning.)

Patrol Leader *(replying to the Scoutmaster's challenge):* I bring Candidate _____, who has completed his Scout work and is ready to be received into the fellowship of our troop. *(The two walk together across the room and stop in front of the table holding a rough log candelabrum. The patrol leader steps back a pace and the candidate stands there, his eyes gradually adjusting to the dim light, aware that there are Scouts on either side and his parents and others are in the darkness behind him. But his eyes are on the Scoutmaster and troop leaders who face him across the burning candle's glow.)*

Patrol Leader *(steps from his position behind the table, picks up the lighted candle, and speaks directly to the candidate):* This candle represents the spirit of Scouting. As we welcome you into the fellowship of Troop _____, we want you to stop and think what it means to be a Boy Scout. Sure, it's a lot of fun, but more than that, it's getting along with other fellows. It's doing your part, helping others all the time, learning to lead, too. It's living up to the Scout Oath and Law—and believe me—that's a man's job! It's a Good Turn daily and the motto "Be Prepared." That's what the spirit of Scouting means to us in Troop _____. Now, listen to the Scout Law. *(Patrol leader hands burning candle to a Scout who steps up to the table.)*

Boy Scout *(lights the first candle on the log and turns to candidate):* _____ (name), a Scout is trustworthy. That means that everybody you live and work with can always trust your word. *(The Scout hands the spirit of Scouting candle to the Scout next to him and that boy lights the second candle, turns to candidate, and speaks simply but impressively about the meaning of loyalty. So it goes through the 12 points of the Scout Law. Each Scout says only one or two sincere, forceful sentences. There should be none of the groping for words that so often spoils ceremonies. The twelfth Scout returns candle to the senior patrol leader.)*

Patrol Leader: _____ (name), you have heard the Scout Law. Will you do your best to live up to it?

Candidate *(his face glowing in the light of the 12 burning candles):* I will.

Patrol Leader: You will now be given the Scout Oath by our Scoutmaster, Mr. _____ (name). Please raise your right hand in the Scout sign.

Scoutmaster: Repeat each part of the Scout Oath with me, _____ (name), because it's your oath, your promise to live the life of a Scout. On my honor . . . (Candidate picks up the words with him. As they repeat the Oath, the Scoutmaster lights the three candles which represent the three parts.)

(Candidate is asked to face the audience. The Scoutmaster steps forward, pins the badge on candidate's shirt, and, in a few words, tells what it means to be a member of the Boy Scouts of America. The assistant Scoutmaster then puts a new troop neckerchief around the candidate's neck and says a word about what is expected of him as a member of Troop _____—the best troop in town!

That is the cue for the patrol leader to pin a patrol medallion on the new Boy Scout's right sleeve and to tell him that (name) Patrol _____ (the best patrol in Troop _____) is glad to have him as a member. Then the patrol leader takes the new Boy Scout by the arm to where the other Scouts are standing in line. They shake hands and everything is informal.)

Nothing is memorized. A little equipment, a properly set stage, and a few Scouts and leaders speaking from the heart are all that's needed to make this an evening the new Boy Scout will remember for a long, long time.

Flag Ceremony

(The U.S. and troop flags are placed at the end of room. Scoutmaster stands between the flags; senior officers line up behind him. Small table with three lighted candles is set before the U.S. flag. Scouts form a semicircle with opening in center of line. Senior patrol leader stands inside the circle. The guide and candidate stand in the rear of the room. Lights are out.)

Guide (knocking from outside): I have a boy with me who desires to become a Scout in Troop _____.

Senior Patrol Leader: Has the candidate completed his Scout requirements?

Guide: He has.

Senior Patrol Leader: Bring him inside our circle. (Pause) Does some member of the troop recommend this candidate?

Boy Scout: I recommend that he be admitted to our troop.

Guide (to Scoutmaster): Candidate _____ (name) is now ready to become a member of our Scouting family.

Scoutmaster: You may proceed with the installation.

Guide: The flag of the United States stands before you, made visible by the light of the three candles representing the three parts of the Scout Oath. In taking the Scout Oath and making it a part of yourself, you will have a clearly lighted path that leads to good citizenship. Please grasp the flag in your left hand, raise your right hand in the Scout sign, and repeat the Scout Oath.

Candidate (gives Scout Oath): On my honor . . .

Guide (to Scoutmaster): Sir, Candidate _____ (name) is now ready to be invested as a Boy Scout of Troop _____.

Scoutmaster (to candidate): Please face the audience. (Scoutmaster presents card and insignia, asks candidate's parent to present the badge, and says a few appropriate words.) (To senior patrol leader): Senior patrol leader, I now turn over Boy Scout _____ (name) of the _____ Patrol to you as a new member of the troop.

Senior Patrol Leader: Patrol Leader _____ (name) of the _____ Patrol will receive you as a member of his patrol. (Patrol leader receives new Boy Scout, presents him with patrol emblem, and closes circle with new Scout in his patrol. Lights are turned on. Patrol members welcome him.)

Investiture 2

The troop is assembled in horseshoe formation, with Scoutmaster and assistant Scoutmaster in the gap.

The candidate with his patrol leader stands just inside the circle, opposite to the Scoutmaster. The assistant Scoutmaster holds the staff and hat of the candidate. When ordered to come forward by the Scoutmaster, the patrol leader brings the candidate to the center.

Scoutmaster: Do you know what your honor is?

Candidate: Yes. It means that I can be trusted to be truthful and honest (or words to that effect).

Scoutmaster: Do you know the Scout Law?

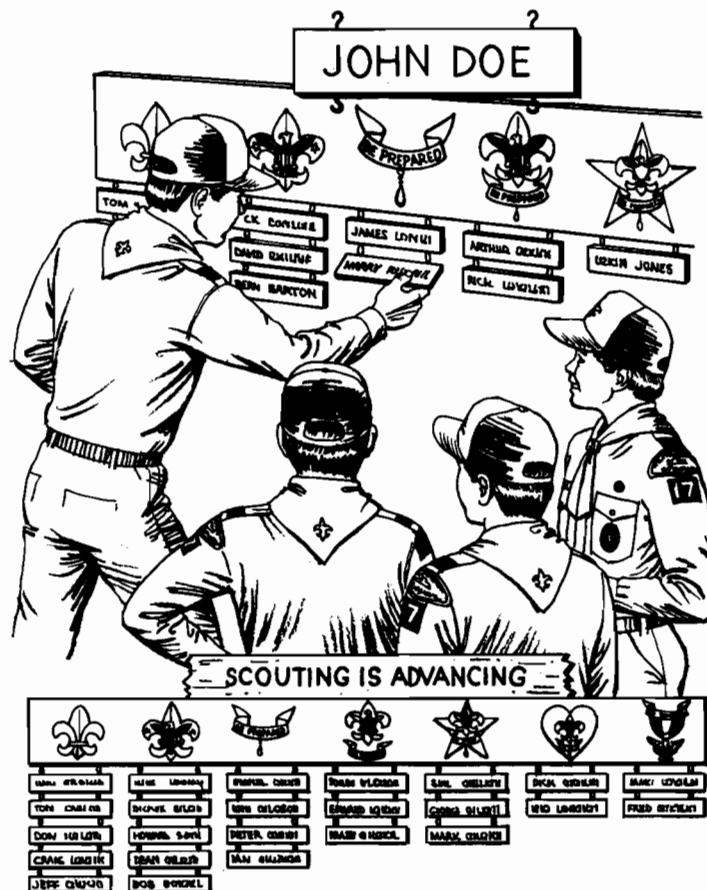
Candidate: Yes.

Scoutmaster: Can I trust you, on your honor, to do your best to live up to the Scout Promise?

(Candidate then makes the Scout sign, and so does the whole troop while he gives the Scout Promise.)

Scoutmaster: I trust you, on your honor, to keep this promise. You are now one of the great world

brotherhood of Scouts. (Assistant Scoutmaster places the hat on his head and gives him his staff. With his left hand, the Scoutmaster shakes the candidate's left hand. The new Boy Scout faces about and salutes the troop. The troop salutes.) To your patrol, quick march. (The troop shoulders staves, and the new Boy Scout and his patrol leader march back to their patrol.)



INSTALLATION AND REDEDICATION CEREMONIES



Ceremonies of this nature cover a variety of applications. Such ceremonies add a touch of formality or "officialness" to the happening. They add importance to the offices and elements of troops. It is important to tailor the ceremony to the specific event.

Patrol Leader Installation 1

The troop forms a circle of its patrols.

The Scoutmaster speaks a few words about the importance of good patrol leadership and announces the appointment of the new patrol leader of the _____ Patrol.

The new patrol leader is called forward. He places his left hand on the pole of the troop flag, above that of the Scoutmaster, salutes, and gives the patrol leader's promise: "I promise to do my best to be worthy of my office as patrol leader, for the sake of my fellow Scouts, my patrol, my troop, and the world brotherhood of Scouting."

The Scoutmaster pins the patrol leader's badge on the boy's left sleeve and presents him with a copy of *The Official Patrol Leader Handbook*, No. 6512. The youngest member of the patrol steps forward and gives him the patrol flag.

The troop gives a cheer for the new patrol leader who steps back into his patrol where he is congratulated by his fellow Scouts.

Patrol Leader Installation 2

Scoutmaster: You have been selected to serve as a patrol leader because of your work in the troop. You have been trained by the officers of the troop to help you to conduct your patrol meetings, so that your Scouts will benefit from your Scouting experience. Your work has been done well. I know this troop will serve its members better because you are one of the patrol leaders. Scouting does not pay you for this service, but the satisfaction of seeing Scouts grow into strong, upright men will be far greater than any other reward could be. You will now repeat the patrol leader's promise.

Patrol Leader: I promise to do my best to be worthy of my office as patrol leader for the sake of my fellow Scouts, my troop, and the world brotherhood of Scouting.

Scoutmaster: It is now my pleasant duty to present you with your badge of office and your patrol

flag. They signify that you are a leader of Scouts in this troop. The success of the patrol is now in your hands. I know that I can depend on you to do your part.

Troop Leader Installation

(The troop is formed in a circle or a semicircle. The Scoutmaster or (chairman of the troop committee if Scoutmaster is being installed) explains in a few words the importance of the office and announces the appointment of a Scout or Scouter for this position.)

New Officer (having been called forward, places his left hand on the pole of the troop flag, above that of the Scoutmaster or the chairman, salutes, and gives the troop leader's promise (Scouter's promise): I promise to do my best to be worthy of my office as _____ (name) for the sake of my fellow Scouts, my troop, and the world brotherhood of Scouting.

Troop Leader: I promise to do my best to be worthy of my office as _____ for the sake of my fellow Scouts, and my troop.

Scoutmaster: I trust you to keep your promise and herewith present to you the insignia of your new office. (Scoutmaster pins insignia on sleeve of new leader, salutes, and shakes his left hand.)
(The troop is led in a cheer for the new leader.)

Den Chief Installation

The den chief installation may take place at a troop meeting, or a troop court of honor.

Invite the Cubmaster. The following equipment is required: Den chief's cord, troop leader's warrant, Den Chief Handbook, a blue and a yellow cord each made of many strands.

Form troop in a semicircle with an artificial or a real campfire (if outdoors) in the center. The Scoutmaster is assisted by two Scouts—one holding the blue cord, the den chief's cord, and the warrant, the other holding the book and the yellow cord.

Scoutmaster: We shall now honor a new chief. Scout _____, you have been selected to serve your troop in this position of leadership. (Scoutmaster takes gold cord from Scout assistant.) This gold cord represents your Scout troop, the Scout Oath and Law. It stands for leadership and Good Turns. (Scoutmaster takes blue cord from Scout.) This blue cord represents the pack with its Cub Scouts, leaders, and parents. It stands for

the Cub Scout Promise, the Law of the Pack, and for goodwill. Notice that these cords have many strands as the pack and troop have many boys. Let us bind these cords together to show how the pack and troop are bound together in friendship. (Scoutmaster and den chief each grasp an end of the cords and twist in opposite directions three or four turns. The Scoutmaster then holds up the combined cord.)

Scoutmaster: This symbol of friendship between the pack and troop now becomes the totem of your office as den chief. It is known as the den chief's cord. (Hands twisted cords to one of the Scout assistants.) Because you are a good Scout and we believe that you can lead others, you have been chosen to be a den chief in Pack _____. This means that you are being given the responsibility of leading boys who someday will become Boy Scouts like you and practicing the third point of the Scout Law—"A Scout is helpful." In accepting these responsibilities will you give the Scout sign and repeat the den chief's pledge after me?

Scoutmaster (reads a phrase; den chief repeats it): I, _____ (name), promise to help the Cub Scouts in my den to the best of my ability, to encourage and guide them by my example of what a Boy Scout is. I will strive to be prompt and dependable and to cooperate with the den leader in carrying out the Cub Scout program. I will help him to join a Webelos den. As he approaches age 11, I will do all in my power to interest him in becoming a Boy Scout.

Scoutmaster: Scout _____, in recognition of the office you are assuming and the importance of the services you will be rendering your troop, I award you this den chief's cord and troop leader's warrant.

Cubmaster: Welcome to Pack _____. The Cub Scouts in your den, the den leader, your parents, and I are counting on you to do your best as den chief. We know you will help the boys get the most out of their Cub Scout experience. Your example will mean a lot. Count on me to assist you in every way possible.

Installation of Patrol

(The troop is lined up in a semicircle, the Scoutmaster, assistants, and troop committee are facing it.)

Senior Patrol Leader (to Scoutmaster): Sir, a new patrol has been formed in Troop _____. Scout

_____ has been chosen patrol leader and Scouts _____, etc., are the other members. (*Faces the troop and says*): Old and new patrol members of Troop _____, front and center. (*The patrol leaders form a line in front of the semicircle, with the new patrol leader facing the other leaders. All patrol leaders are carrying unlighted candles.*)

Senior Patrol Leader (*to Scoutmaster*): I am willing to vouch for this new patrol, sir, and I believe it to be worthy of having a part in the life of Troop _____. (*Turning to new patrol leader*): What name has been chosen for this new patrol?

New Patrol Leader: The _____, sir!

Scoutmaster (*to old patrol leaders*): Old patrol leaders light your candles to light the way of our new patrol. (All candles are lighted, except that of the _____ (patrol name) patrol leader. Announcement to electrician, lights out.) May the Scout Oath and the Scout Law guide and aid this new patrol in Troop _____. May their quest for adventure in the troop room, the patrol den, and in the out-of-doors always be governed by the golden rule of playing the game squarely. May the light of these flickering candles and the one to be lighted, ever stand as a beacon for all that is good in Scouting. (*To new patrol leader*): Knowing your previous record in Troop _____, it gives me a great deal of satisfaction to place the flag of this new patrol in your hands. (New patrol leader makes the patrol leader's promise, the Scouts of the new patrol stand at attention.)

Scoutmaster (*to the boys of the new patrol*): The second point of the Scout Law is, "A Scout is loyal." He is loyal to his patrol leader, his troop, his home, and his country. We are expecting great things from the _____ Patrol. Do not disappoint us. Light the unlit candle and may the light of your patrol ever shine with the others in Troop _____. (Candle is lighted by new patrol leader.)

Scoutmaster (*to electrician*): Lights! Patrol leaders, take your posts!

Installation of New Troop

Make this ceremony impressive, but not too long. A formal installation ties the new unit to the chartered organization and gives it the stamp of public approval. It offers a great opportunity for the local council to present its readiness to render service to the chartered organization and the unit.

Attendance is vital. Personal invitations should go to the head of chartered organization, unit committee, council and district officials, and all parents. The head of the chartered organization should take an active part in setting up the program and issuing the invitations.

Keep the program moving. Don't let it drag. A typewritten order of business will help. Have brief comments, but no long speeches.

Program

Invocation—color ceremony. Introductions by head of the organization. A good word for Scouting coordinator, unit committee chairman, Scoutmaster, and guests.

Installation. The council Scouters who have assisted with the organization of the troop are introduced. One of them, representing the council, presents the troop charter to the head of the chartered organization with appropriate words on the responsibility involved. He installs the Scouting coordinator, troop committee, Scoutmaster, and assistant Scoutmasters, charging them with their responsibilities as set forth in the bylaws, and presenting them with their commissions.

Investiture. The Scoutmaster (or visiting troop) proceeds with the Scout investiture ceremony. Simple and effective ceremonies are covered in this book. If the chartered organization is a religious body, impressive church investiture ceremonies are available. Another troop can be asked to stage this ceremony for the charter members of a new troop.

The Scoutmaster explains the duties of the patrol leaders and presents them their badges of office. He should tell of the troop's plans and beseech the cooperation of the parents and sponsors.

The troop organizer presents the troop to the neighborhood commissioner for service. This gives the commissioner an opportunity to indicate the part the local council plays.

Demonstration. If time permits, the Scouts may demonstrate some of their new Scouting skills for the parents and sponsors.

Social get-acquainted hour. Serve refreshments and play icebreaker games.

Benediction or "dismissal" by head of chartered organization.

See to it that the installation of the new troop is properly reported to the local press, with names of all involved, including organizers, names of all Scouters, and names of charter members.

New Troop Candlelighting Installation Ceremony

This installation is designed for use especially in area councils where it may be necessary to bring the visiting Scouts from long distances. There are only two Scouts who must memorize their parts. Other available Scouts can fill in without practice. The Scouts should be arranged so that these two special Scouts are in a position to open and close the ceremony of the Scout Law. Scouts—2, 3, 6, or 12—can be detailed at a moment's notice. This ceremony has been used again and again under varied conditions and has proved satisfactory.

(Table is at the front with 12 small candles, not lighted, and a larger lighted one in the center of the group. There should be no light except this one candle. The visiting Scouts taking part in the ceremony are lined up behind the table. The new troop, when brought in, is lined up in front. Scouts may be seated until called to attention.)

Scoutmaster of an old troop (or other official):

Friends and fellow Scouts, tonight we have the pleasure of welcoming a new troop into the Scouting movement. Mr. _____ (name), will you present the new troop. (New troop is brought to attention and lined up as directed, with new Scoutmaster on the right of the line.)

First Scout: Fellows, we are here tonight to welcome you into the brotherhood of Scouting. There are millions of us, all doing our best to do our duty to God and our country and to live the Scout Oath and Scout Law. We are trying to prepare ourselves for the duties and obligations of today, as well as for those that await us in the years to come. *(Scout picks up lighted candle.)* This lighted candle is a symbol of the spirit of Scouting which must burn in the heart of every true Scout. With this spirit to guide us, all things are possible; without it the road is long and dark and difficult to follow. With the spirit of Scouting I now bring to light the first point of the Scout Law—"A Scout is trustworthy." *(He lights the first candle representing the first point of the Scout Law.)*

Second Scout *(Steps forward and takes the tall candle from the first Scout and lights the second small candle):* I bring to light the second point of the Scout Law—"A Scout is loyal." *(THIRD SCOUT steps forward and lights the third candle, and so on down the line until the twelfth part of the Law is reached.)*

Twelfth (and last) Scout: I bring to light the twelfth part of the Scout Law—"A Scout is

reverent." The spirit of Scouting here tonight has set alight the beacons along the Scout trail. Take heed, those of you starting out along the road: see to it that the spirit of Scouting burns ever brightly in your heart, so that you not only find the way, but that you may help those who follow. *(He places the large candle back on the table and steps back.)*

Scouting Official: Make the Scout sign. Repeat with me the Scout Oath. *(New troop takes the Scout Oath and then is seated. Now, the new Scoutmaster is called. He outlines briefly the plans for the troop and calls upon the committee and parents to cooperate. He brings the troop to attention and proceeds to pin the Tenderfoot badge on uniforms of the new Scouts, who, when their names are called, step forward one pace and give the Scout salute. One of the old Scouts holds the membership cards and calls the names from them. He hands the card to the Scout after the Scoutmaster has pinned on the Tenderfoot badge. The assistant Scoutmaster helps with the badges. At this point the program proceeds as planned.)*

New Church Troop Installation

(The investiture of a new church or synagogue troop should be conducted by a recognized official of the local council. This investiture should take place in the presence of the congregation, preferably at the regular service. Religious leader should have an active part in the planning. If the chartered organization has an official ceremony, this should be used.)

Opening Remarks by Council Official

Council Official: The beginning of the Scout obligation is "Duty to God." The first part of the Scout Oath is a promise on the part of the Scout to do his duty to God. The twelfth part of the Scout Law reads, "A Scout is reverent. He is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties, and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion." Scouting, though nonsectarian, is essentially religious. It is fitting that the church (synagogue) be the sponsor and home for a Boy Scout troop. The church (synagogue) can provide a home: it can mobilize people of good moral character, it has the confidence of the community, and it is important to a boy from the cradle to the grave. These are all good reasons why many Scout

troops are affiliated with religious chartered organizations. From the standpoint of the church, Scouting affords a sound, character-building program that works. It affords a strong tie by which the church may hold the interest of its boys. The Boy Scout councils—local and national—do not administer Boy Scout troops anywhere. The chartered organization administers its own troop. Boy Scouting provides a program, trains leaders, helps chartered organizations maintain standards and carry out the policies of the national Scouting movement, and provides camping facilities. Church leaders, however, clearly understand they have full charge of the administration of their own troop. To carry this out, the church appoints a Scouting coordinator and a troop committee. This troop committee secures a Scoutmaster and assistants to conduct the work of the troop, serves continually as a supervisory committee, and actively supports the troop leaders. Through the Scouting coordinator, this committee is always responsible to the church for the conduct of the troop. The Scoutmaster, in turn, is responsible to them.

Charge To Scouting Coordinator

Council Official: Will the Scouting coordinator rise. Mr. _____ (name), as one of the leading men of this church (synagogue), you have been selected to serve as its Scouting coordinator. You are responsible to the governing body of this church for the proper use of the Scouting program. You will see that high-quality individuals are secured as committee members and unit leaders, and you will coordinate their work. When more than one unit is chartered here, you will serve as the group chairman of the combined committees. The governing body here will expect you to report regularly on the progress made under your supervision. By virtue of your appointment as Scouting coordinator, you are also a member of the district committee of this council. In the spirit of Scouting and the principle that you are your brother's keeper, you will be expected to join hands cooperatively with other Scouting coordinators and members at large to extend the program to other groups of people and through them, ultimately, to all boys. To the extent of your time and talents, do you pledge yourself to the fulfillment of these responsibilities?

Scouting Coordinator: I do.

Charge To the Troop Committee

Council Official: Will the troop committee please rise. The troop committee is responsible for the selection of a Scoutmaster and assistants, advising with the Scoutmaster on questions affecting the proper interpretation of Scouting and the requirements of this church, the observance of the rules and regulations and policies of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, encouraging the Scoutmaster and his assistants and the members of the troop to carry out the Boy Scout phase of the program. The troop committee is responsible for the operation of the troop in such a way as to ensure its permanency; the finances, including the securing of adequate support and the proper disbursement of funds; and the care of troop property. It assumes active direction of the troop in case of the inability of the Scoutmaster to serve, until his successor has been duly appointed and commissioned. Do you accept these responsibilities and will you actively assist the Scoutmaster in carrying out the troop program?

Troop Committeemen: We do.

Charge To Scoutmaster and Assistants

Council Official: Will the Scoutmaster and assistant Scoutmaster(s) please rise. Do you, as the leaders of this troop, pledge your loyal support? Will you stimulate the individual Scout and the troop as a whole to work sympathetically with the program of the church?

Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster(s): We will.

Charge To Scouts

Council Official: Will the Scouts please rise. You have heard the pledge of your troop leaders in their efforts to maintain a troop that will be a credit to this church and to the Boy Scouts of America. Will you, as individual Scouts and members of this troop, try to cooperate conscientiously at all times with your troop leaders in realizing this objective?

Scouts: We will.

Council Official (to head of the chartered organization or the Scouting coordinator): _____ (name), inasmuch as (name of church or synagogue) is properly organized to carry out the program of the Boy Scouts of

America in this troop and has declared its intention to do so, I hereby present to this body through you this charter for Troop No. _____ and, at the same time, renew the pledge of support and cooperation of the _____ (name) Council, Boy Scouts of America. May I offer my congratulations to you and to the members of this church. *(He presents the charter.)*

NOTE: Where church authorities have set up a definite troop installation ceremony, it should be used under their direction and supervision.

Rededication of Troop Leaders

(This rededication of the troop leaders of the troop can be significant for the young participants and also for the Scouts and parents watching the ceremony. This honoring of boy leaders may be done in connection with the fall roundup, during charter presentation, as a part of a parents' night, during Scouting Anniversary Week, or at any time desired. This ceremony should build a stronger sense of morale and teamwork between adults, boy leaders, troop members, and parents.)

Scoutmaster: Will the patrol leaders, assistant patrol leaders, the troop scribe, quartermaster, and librarian come forward and face the audience? *(Other boy leaders may be included if desired.)* Will the senior patrol leader and junior assistant Scoutmasters join me and the assistant Scoutmasters? Friends, without the devotion of these (number) young men who stand before you, this troop could not perform the important work that it does. These young men are the "spark plugs" of our troop. Once each year we present their warrants to them. We want them to know we value them highly and we feel a deep sense of indebtedness to them. First, we ask that the assistant patrol leaders step forward.
Mr. _____ (name), the assistant Scoutmaster will present their warrants.

Assistant Scoutmaster: The patrol is the unit of operation in a Scout troop. You Scouts have an important and a necessary job. You are carrying it through in a way that makes us proud of you. I am happy to present warrants as assistant patrol leaders to _____ (name), _____ (name), _____ (name), and _____ (name). Good luck!

Scoutmaster: As _____ (name) has said, the patrol is the unit of operation. The Scout at the head of the patrol has a large part in making that patrol succeed. Too often we take our patrol

leaders for granted. I'm particularly proud of the patrol leaders of this troop, and I am happy to present their warrants to them. With the warrants go our appreciation for the great job they are doing. We have full confidence that they will continue this outstanding work. *(Presents warrants with personal word to each.)*

Now we come to those leaders who work with all the patrols of our troop. They, too, have a task which takes devotion, dependability, imagination, and follow-through. On hikes, in camp, in troop meetings week after week, Troop _____ (number) can always depend on them. Will the troop scribe, quartermaster, librarian, senior patrol leader, *(others as applicable)*, and junior assistant Scoutmasters come forward? I'm going to ask our assistant Scoutmasters and troop committee chairman to join me in making these presentations. *(The work performed by various leaders may be analyzed as the warrants are presented.)*

There is a very young Scout here tonight. Perhaps a year from now—when we hold our next junior leaders' rededication—that new Scout will be up here in front as an assistant patrol leader. Who knows—someday he may be a senior patrol leader—even the Scoutmaster of this troop.

Tonight, your troop leaders ask every Scout, every parent in the room, all of our members, and visitors to stand as we rededicate ourselves to the leadership of these patrols and of this troop in the months ahead. Will you stand as our senior patrol leader leads us in the words of the Scout Oath? Let us speak quietly, earnestly, from the bottom of our hearts.

Senior Patrol Leader *(leads in Scout Oath):* "On my honor . . ."

Scoutmaster: This concludes the rededication of the junior leaders of Troop _____ (number). We now will proceed to . . . *(carry on with program).*

Charter Presentation Ceremony

Participants in the charter ceremony should include the head of the chartered organization, the Scouting coordinator, chairmen and members of the unit committee, unit leaders and assistants, den leaders, and Webelos den leaders (if a Cub Scout pack), junior leaders (if elected), and youth members of the unit. This ceremony may be used at a meeting of a service club or as a part of the regular religious service of a chartered organization religious group.

Opening Statement

I am pleased to be with you to recognize the great relationship that exists between the Boy Scouts of America and your chartered organization. The Boy Scouts of America is a program that exists primarily to serve chartered organizations and their needs as they reach out to serve youth of their respective organizations and youth in the nearby community.

At this time, in recognition of this great relationship, I would like to call forward the chairman and members of the unit committee.

Charge to the Unit Committee

Your committee members have assumed the responsibility of being the board of directors for this Scout troop in your chartered organization. The chairman of the committee presides over the monthly meetings of the troop committee and also assumes the direction of the Scout troop should the Scoutmaster and/or assistants be unable to serve in their leadership capacities. All of you have assumed the obligation and role of providing the troop with 10 days and nights of camping experience; providing advancement opportunities; providing the troop with information on events and activities conducted by the district and council; providing transportation if the need exists for troop activities; providing the financial stability in support of approved money-earning project for troop activities; and, last, guaranteeing continuity of the troop through the years.

On behalf of the chartered organization, do you accept these responsibilities to be accomplished to the best of your ability. If so, answer "We do." Congratulations! Here are your registration cards. (Present cards to each person.)

Charge to the Scoutmaster and/or assistants.

(Call forward the Scoutmaster and assistants before the combined assembly.)

You men have accepted a major role on behalf of this chartered organization by assuming leadership of young people who will enjoy the Scouting program. You have accepted the responsibility of providing weekly programs, monthly camping trips, and participation in council and district events for your troop members. The time you devote to the sons of members of this congregation and

neighborhood will be rewarded only in the satisfaction you get from seeing these young men grow into great American citizens who will live by the Scout Oath and Law. Do you accept the mantle of this great responsibility? If so, answer "We do." Congratulations! Please accept these registration cards as a token of your commission in Scouting.

Charge to the Scouting Coordinator.

(Call forth the Scouting coordinator.)

You have been accepted by your chartered organization to represent it as a voice in the local council of the Boy Scouts of America. You become an automatic voting member of the local council and represent your congregation (organization) at the annual council meeting which selects leadership for the council for each ensuing year. In addition, you have the responsibility of coordinating the various Scouting units that exist in your chartered organization, making sure they work one with the other to coordinate a natural graduation program from the Cub Scout pack to the Boy Scout troop to the Explorer post. In addition to your responsibilities to your local organization and the local council, we hope you also will provide assistance to the district whenever and wherever your time allows. Will you accept this responsibility? If so, answer "I will." (Present registration card.)

Junior Leaders.

(Call forth all patrol and troop youth leadership.)

You have been selected as the youth leaders of this troop. You will be expected to be an example and you will be asked to provide leadership, program ideas, and initiative to all members of the troop who fall under your influence. You are, above all, expected to abide by the Scout Oath and Law and set a leadership pattern for all to follow. Will you accept these responsibilities? If so, answer "We will." (Present registration cards.)

Members of the Troop

Will all members of the troop please stand? As members of Troop _____, will you do your best to attend meetings regularly, provide assistance to your leaders, take the opportunity to pursue advancement, and demonstrate your willingness at all times to abide by the Scout Oath and Law? If so, please answer "We will." (Present cards.)

Charge to Parents

Will all parents please stand? As parents, you are expected to attend parents meetings of the troop, assist with needed transportation, provide leadership support when needed, and be willing helpers in time of need, in order to provide the troop with an outstanding program, quality leadership, and good parental support. If you are willing to do your best to support the leadership of the chartered organization and provide what assistance you can give to the program, please answer "We will."

Charge to the Congregation

Will all members of the congregation (organization) please stand? You have heard the troop committee, the troop leadership, the Scouting coordinator, the junior leaders, members of the troop, and parents all pledge their support to the Scouting program in this chartered organization. May we ask you to cooperate and work with the Scout leadership chosen by your chartered organization, provide assistance whenever called upon, and help to make this program a vibrant living part of the youth ministry and youth outreach of your congregation? If so, answer "We will."

Charge to the Pastor or Head of Chartered Organization.

(Call forth the pastor.)

Pastor, you have heard of the complete cooperation and willingness of not only the leaders but members of your congregation (organization) in supporting the Scouting program as a major youth program for your congregation. With the acknowledgment of this support, I am pleased to present to you the charter signifying your right to use the Scouting program for the year ahead in a way that conforms with both the rules and regulations of your chartered organization or congregation and those of Scouting. On behalf of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, I present your charter and pledge the cooperation of the local district, council, area, and region to help make the program a vibrant living part of your ministry to youth.

At this time I would also like to introduce the volunteers *(if these are present)* from our district who will provide support for you. May I introduce _____ *(the district chairman, your commissioner and/or district commissioner, and any other visiting Scouters)* who will help you carry out an effective program of Scouting for the year ahead.

Thank you for the opportunity of presenting this charter and thank you for accepting Scouting as a program of action for your organization.

OPENING CEREMONIES



The opening ceremony bridges the gap between all activities, conversations, and diversions and the beginning of the troop meeting. An opening should be used to begin all troop meetings and courts of honor. The opening will set the pace for all that follows. Openings, like all ceremonies, are important and deserve attention and planning.

A standard ceremony may be developed and used as a troop tradition, or vary the meetings with several ceremonies.

Your opening ceremony may be handled by the senior patrol leader or by an assigned patrol. Make this ceremony short, dignified, and impressive. The Scout Law may be used in troop ceremonies, but don't overdo it. Refrain from using the Scout Oath often in this manner. Use the Scout Oath for special occasions, such as investitures and rededication during Scouting Anniversary Week in February. Several examples and ideas are provided in this booklet.

Develop your own; you will find them meaningful.

Scout Law Ceremonies

1. The Scout Law itself is 12 separate ceremonies. One ceremony could devote itself to the first

point, plus a reading of the explanation. For example:

Troop: A Scout is trustworthy.

Leader: A Scout tells the truth. He keeps his promises . . .

Eleven meetings later, the subject of the ceremony would be "A Scout is reverent."

2. The Scout Law is recited by all new Scouts.
3. The newest and the oldest Scout lead the troop in reciting the Scout Law.
4. One point of the Scout Law is assigned to each of 12 boys. Each boy, in turn, takes a step forward, salutes, gives his point of the Law, and steps back in line.

Scout Oath Ceremonies

1. Call troop to attention. All Scouts give the Scout sign and repeat together the Scout Oath and Law.
2. In another version, after the Scout Oath, read the points of the Scout Law with the Scouts repeating each point. For example, you say, "A Scout is trustworthy." The Scouts together repeat, "A Scout is trustworthy."

U.S. Flag Ceremonies

1. Troop is in single-rank formation. The flag is carried to the front; the patrol leader of the honor guard patrol leads the whole troop 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."
2. Troop is formed by patrols in two lines facing each other. The flag is marched up the aisle, between the lines, with Scouts saluting. The flag bearers halt at the head of the lines and march about, whereupon the whole troop gives the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Troop is in horseshoe formation, the flag in the center. Each Scout, in turn, steps forward one step, salutes, and steps back—or all salute together.
4. Troop is in single rank. Bring Scouts to attention and turn out all lights except a single spot or flashlight focused on the flag. A Scout from the color guard patrol recites (doesn't sing) the first verse of "The Star-Spangled Banner." The troop then sings the verse and lights are turned on.
5. Troop, in line, faces a wall where a small pulley or ring with a flag line is fastened. Troop comes to attention. The flag is slowly hoisted while the bugler plays "To the Colors" or the troop sings one verse of "America," "God Bless America," or "America the Beautiful."
6. In your own words, explain the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance. Then call troop to attention and give the Pledge of Allegiance.
7. Call troop to attention. Say "hand salute" and give the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Scout sign and give the Scout Oath. Pause after each part and in your own words give the meaning of it.
8. Call troop to attention. Salute the flag by holding hand over heart.
(When Scouts get their uniforms, they will salute the flag with the Scout salute.) Repeat the Pledge of Allegiance.

Troop Flag Ceremonies

1. Salute the troop flag. Give the troop yell or sing the special troop song.
2. The Scouts salute the troop flag and repeat after the senior patrol leader the troop's special pledge, along this line: "As a member of

Troop _____, I pledge that I shall always strive to be a good member of my patrol. I will take part in all troop activities, advance in Scoutcraft, and act as a Scout at all times."

3. Form the patrols as spokes in a wheel, with the troop flag in the center. Patrol leaders hold on to the flagpole with the left hand. Behind them, their Scouts place their hands on the shoulder of the boy in front of them. The troop sings an appropriate Scout song, such as "Hail, Hail Scouting Spirit" or "Trail the Eagle."

Patriotic Openings

1. **Scout 1** (lighting red candle): "The red of my flag is the life-blood of brave men ready to die or worthily live for this, our country."
Scout 2 (lighting white candle): "The white of my flag is for purity; cleanliness of purpose, thought, word, and deed."
Scout 3 (lighting blue candle): "The blue of my flag is for truth and justice, like the eternal blue of the star-filled heavens."
Scout 4 (all four salute): "My flag—the flag of America, home of liberty, land of opportunity, where men of all races and creeds live in peace and friendship together."
2. There are many varieties in patriotic ceremonies. In addition to saluting the flag and pledging allegiance, a good singing troop can sing a verse of any of several patriotic songs. Or a reader can read from the writings of any number of authors and poets who have helped us to understand what it means to love one's country. A single patriotic ceremony, no matter how good, is bound to lose some of its meaning by endless repetition. If a ceremony of any kind has lost its meaning to those involved, it is not worth doing.

Special Opening 1

Special openings can be used for courts of honor and other ceremonies.

(Table is flanked by flags. On the table are 18 candles—3 blue, 2 red, and 12 white candles. The gold candle can be used as a lighter.)

Leader: We want you to understand clearly the full significance of the ideals by which Scouts live, and through which we achieve worthy citizenship. Before you, a golden flame burns constantly. (Golden candle lighted, house lights out.) This golden flame symbolizes a Scout's

honor, which must never be dimmed. When a boy takes the Scout Oath, he is placing his honor, the brightest thing in his life, before his fellow Scouts, his Scouting officials, his parents, and his friends. A boy without honor is as nothing. So it is a serious thing to give the Scout Oath on one's honor.

From this golden flame of a Scout's honor is lighted the blue flame . . . duty to God . . . and to country . . . (First blue candle is lighted.)
"On my honor I will do my best: To do my duty to God and my country, and to obey the Scout Law . . ."

We light the blue flame of duty to other people. (Second blue candle is lighted.)
"On my honor I will do my best: To help other people at all times . . ."

We light the blue flame of duty to self. (Third blue candle is lighted.)
"On my honor I will do my best: To keep myself physically strong, Mentally awake, and morally straight."

In order that we may realize a new value in everyday life, and in helping others, through being alert and ready, the golden flame brings to light the red flame of the Scout motto, "Be Prepared"
(First red candle is lighted) and the red flame of the Scout slogan, "Do a Good Turn Daily."
(Second red candle is lighted.)

We now bring to light the 12 white flames of the Scout Law, which make bright and clear the trail which leads from boyhood to manhood. Scouts and Scouters, shall we stand and repeat together the 12 promises of the Scout Law?
(Pause until all stand—then light each candle, in turn, as the Law is repeated.) "A Scout is trustworthy . . . A Scout is loyal . . . A Scout is helpful . . . etc. (House lights on.)

Special Ceremony 2

(The equipment includes a small table covered with a dark cloth, a simple candelabrum with 12 candles to represent the 12 points of the Scout Law, 3 larger candles to represent the 3 parts of the Scout Oath, and a small one representing the spirit of Scouting. Twelve Scouts are detailed to take part. They line up, six at either side of the candelabrum, facing the audience, odd numbers on the right, even numbers on the left. The senior patrol leader stands directly behind the table. When all is in readiness, lights are turned out.)

Senior Patrol Leader (lights the small candle representing the spirit of Scouting): I now light this candle which represents the spirit of Scouting. "On my honor I will do my best . . ."
(He hands candle to first Scout designated to give the first point of the Scout Law.)

First Scout (lights the first candle on the right-hand side, makes the Scout sign, and recites the first point of the Scout Law): "A Scout is trustworthy."
(First Scout steps back and hands the candle to the second Scout who is to recite the second point the first candle on the left side and returns to his previous position. This is continued until all 12 points have been recited.) (The senior patrol leader calls the entire troop to attention and lights the three candles representing the three parts of the Scout Oath.)

Troop (reciting in unison each promise of the Scout Oath as the candles are lighted): "On my honor . . ."

This ceremony, though simple, is extremely effective when well done. Variation: As each main point of the Scout Law is given, an off-stage voice (a good reader) reads the explanatory part of that Law in full. He will need a flashlight, as this ceremony is given in darkness.

Special Ceremony 3

Senior Patrol Leader (gives command): Troop—Fall in.

Senior Patrol Leader (when troop is formed): Attention! Right DRESS! FRONT! (Color guard forms at far end of room.)

Senior Patrol Leader: Present colors. (Color guard brings the colors down to a position in front of the senior patrol leader and the troop, then halts.)

Senior Patrol Leader: Troop, SALUTE! Bugler, SOUND OFF! (Bugler plays "To the Colors.")

Senior Patrol Leader: TWO! (Senior patrol leader next calls on one Scout to lead the troop in the Pledge of Allegiance.)

Senior Patrol Leader: Colors, post. (After the colors have been posted, Senior Patrol Leader may call on a Scout to lead the troop in the Scout Oath, and another Scout to lead in the Scout Law. This is optional—it can be overdone.)

Senior Patrol Leader (faces the Scoutmaster and salutes): Sir, the troop is formed. (The Scoutmaster then takes over.)

Note: A color guard should never about face—it should march around as a unit to any desired position.

Special Ceremony 4

(The audience faces a draped table which holds a candelabrum. This carries 12 candles for the Scout Law and 3 larger ones for the points of the Scout Oath. The U.S. and unit flags in place. Leaders and special guests are seated behind the table. One small extra candle is lighted; other lights are dimmed.)

Scoutmaster: Honored guests, ladies and gentlemen: We all are members of the world's largest brotherhood of boys and men. We believe earnestly in the Scout motto, "Be Prepared," and in the ideals of service as given in the Scout slogan, "Do a Good Turn Daily." We meet here regularly to practice the skills of Scouting and to have fun. From time to time we go hiking and camping so we may learn more of the great outdoors and at the same time develop qualities of health and self-reliance. In Scouting, as in the game of football or any other sport or activity, we must have rules. The rules of Scouting are found in the 12 points of the Scout Law. As I light the 12 candles in front of me, representing

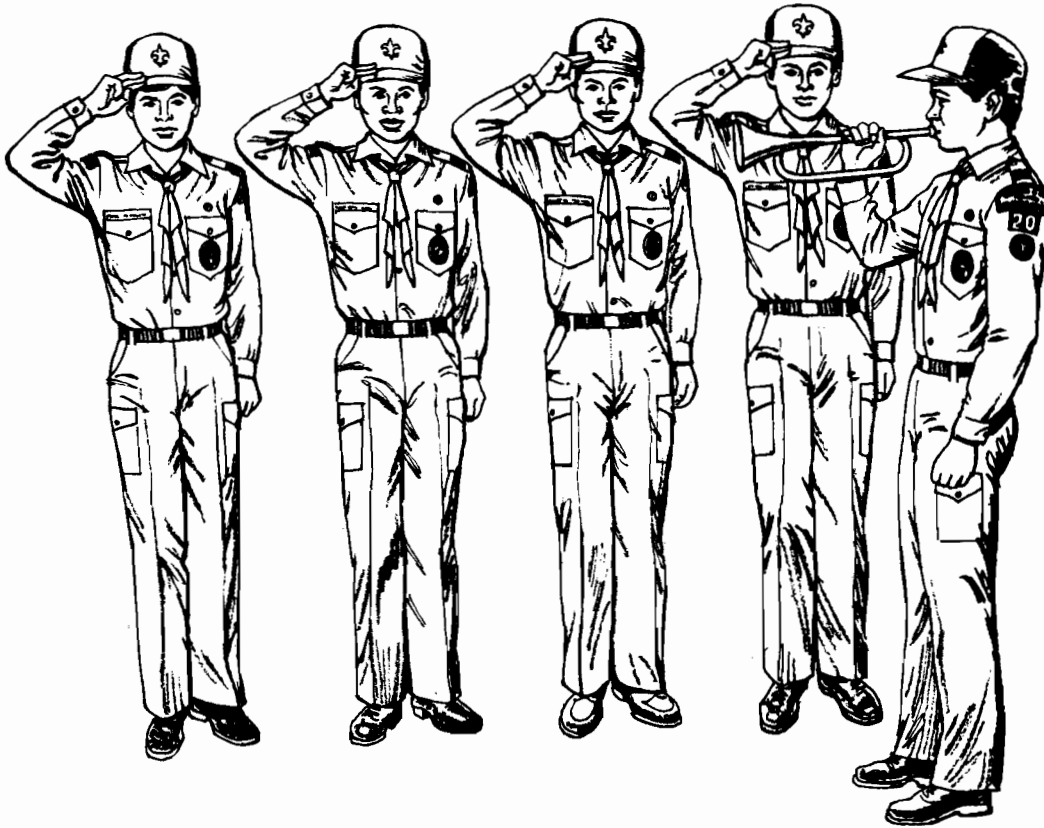
the 12 points of the Scout Law, I should like to have the troop repeat them after me. Troop, attention! Scout sign!

Scoutmaster *(lights first candle):* A Scout is trustworthy.

Troop *(repeats after him):* A Scout is trustworthy. *(Same procedure is followed for the other 11.)*

Scoutmaster: Another important part of the Scout's obligation is explained in the Scout Oath. Here he promises to do his best to live up to the Scout Law; he recognizes also that he has an obligation to God, to his country, to others, and to himself. A Scout takes this oath when he joins the troop and we repeat it from time to time, so it will always be fresh in mind. As I light the three remaining candles, the troop will repeat the Scout Oath with me. Scout sign! *(He then proceeds to lead the troop in the Scout Oath, lighting a candle before each of the three parts. When finished, he asks the troop to be seated. The house lights are turned on; the ceremony is completed.)*

CLOSING CEREMONIES



The end of the troop meeting is more serious and less lively than the beginning. The recognition and Scoutmaster's minute will have slowed the tone of the meeting from high spirits to quiet contemplation. The meeting begins with exuberance; it ends more calmly. Thus, the closing ceremony is quiet and permits individual thought about one's self and the point of the ceremony. The playing of "Taps," the singing of a quiet song, and the Scout benediction ("May the Great Master of all Scouts be with us till we meet again") are all traditional to this period. There are many other possibilities. They are at their best when they offer even a few brief moments for Scouts to reflect on themselves. Thus, the mood and the influence of a closing ceremony are destroyed by giggling, missed cues, bad bugling, or a forgotten announcement that is boomed out just when the mood begins to work.

If you have even a trace of showmanship, put it to work on your closing ceremonies. If that kind of thing is not your specialty, there is probably someone in the troop—man or boy—who can do it well. Let that be his job. There is the potential in there for 60 seconds that are worth a sack of diamonds, and it is worth a lot of effort to make use of it. Several closing ceremonies are listed below.

1. Close the meeting with troop singing "Taps," unaccompanied or led by a muffled bugle, the lights dimmed (or use two bugles, one giving the call, the other the echo effect). Each boy slowly raises his outstretched hands in front of him during the first two lines (to "... from the sky ..."), then lowers them as the song is being sung.
2. Troop formation. Scout benediction: "May the Great Master" (all make gesture toward heavens) "of all Scouts" (inclusive gesture from right to left at height of shoulder) "be with you till we meet again" (right hands being brought to hearts and heads bowed).
3. Form a circle. Have each boy make the Scout sign and with the left hand grasp the lifted right wrist of his left neighbor. Recite the Scout Law or a troop pledge.
4. Finish with America yell ("A-M-E-R-I-C-A, Boy SCOUTS, BOY Scouts, B-S-A"), followed by a Skyrocket ("Ssss," the hiss of the rising rocket; "Boom," the bursting; and then the soft exclamation as it spreads, "Ah-h," and the terrific boy-satisfying yell, "Scout").
5. Retire the flag with proper camp ceremony using bugle. If no bugle, whistle "To the Colors" and "Retreat."

6. One round of patrol calls. Troop yell.
Scoutmaster says, "Good night to you." Scouts respond, "Good night to you, Sir."
7. Form brotherhood circle, arms around each others' shoulders. Song leader leads troop in "Scout Vesper" song, or similar good-night song. When the song is ended, Scouts leave room in silence.
8. Form circle. Each Scout crosses arms in front of himself, grasps his neighbors' hands. Sing "Auld Lang Syne," swaying bodies softly in rhythm.
9. Troop in line. The Scoutmaster says, "Be Prepared." All Scouts respond in unison, "We are prepared!"
10. Have all make the Scout sign and repeat together the Scout Oath or Promise.
11. Have all Scouts hum "Taps" while one boy says the Scout Oath or Promise.
12. Bugler plays "Taps" while one Scout says the Scout Oath or Promise stating each phrase after bugler plays a phrase from "Taps."
13. (While the Scouts sing "God Bless America," the appointed leader recites slowly and clearly the Scout Oath, as outlined below. This may be used either for an opening or a closing ceremony.) Leader: On my honor I will do my best . . . Scouts (hum): God bless America, land that I love, Leader: To do my duty to God and my country . . . Scouts (hum): Stand beside her and guide her . . . Leader: And to obey the Scout Law; Scouts (hum): Through the night with the light from above; Leader: To help other people at all times, Scouts (hum): From the mountains . . . Leader: To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight. Scouts (hum): To the prairies, to the oceans white with foam, All: God bless America, my home sweet home, God bless America, my home sweet home!
14. If a flag ceremony was used in the opening it is appropriate to retire the flag as a closing ceremony. Scouts could whistle the bugle call "To the Colors" as the flag is retired.

Special Closing Ceremonies

Special closing ceremonies are to be used for special troop meetings such as court of honor, etc.

1. (A table is placed in the center of the meeting room between the flag of the U.S. and troop

flags. Upon this table are three lighted candles—one red, one white, one blue. Three Scouts are detailed to extinguish the candles. Partial darkness is suggested.)

Scout 1: As I put out this white candle, which represents purity, may we ever be mindful of this obligation, that a Scout is clean. He keeps clean in body and thought, stands for clean speech, clean sport, clean habits, and travels with a clean crowd.

Scout 2: As I put out this blue candle, which represents loyalty, may we ever be mindful of this obligation, that a Scout is loyal. He is loyal to all to whom loyalty is due—his Scout leader, his home, his parents, and his country.

Scout 3: As I put out this red candle, which represents courage and sacrifice, may we ever be mindful of our obligation to remember the sacrifices that have been made for us by many others, that we may enjoy the lives of good citizens in the American way.

Troop (in unison): So may it be!

2. (Materials: 12 small candles, 3 larger candles, table, pedestal, or any of the standards used for such ceremonies.) Light the 12 small candles. Let there be no other illumination in the room. In the hall outside of the room, the patrol leaders will tell the members of their patrols to enter the room silently, be seated, and consider the Scout Law and how it applies to their daily life! After a moment or two of complete silence, the Scoutmaster or officer in charge reads the following:

Fellow Scouts, we are fortunate. We are members of the world's greatest brotherhood of men and boys. There are Boy Scouts in almost every country of the world. It is a privilege to wear the Boy Scout uniform and badge. The whole world admires and respects us.

With these privileges, we also accept obligations. We promise to do our best to live up to the Scout Law. The world sees us as individual Scouts, but when one of us grossly violates one point of the Law, it is not of an individual that the world thinks, but of the entire Scouting movement.

These burning candles represent the 12 points of the Scout Law and how they brighten the life of the Scout who observes them. Will you name with me each point of

the Law, as I put out the candles? *(Put out candles one by one as each point is named. Pause momentarily.)* How dark the room is! It reminds me of a Scout who makes no attempt to live up to the Scout Law. The candles are still on the table, but, as for illumination, they are useless. It was the living flame that brightened the room, and so it is with the Scout Law. They, in themselves, are useless, but when, through practice, they become a part of our daily life, they brighten not only our own life, but the lives of **all** whom we contact. *(Light the three large candles.)* We too easily forget that the Scout Oath is a serious pledge. Habitually, we recite the Oath in a parrot-like manner, as if it were a group of meaningless words. Tonight, let us in full sincerity rededicate our lives to the principles of the Scout Oath and Law. *(Lead the group in the rededication of the Scout Oath and Law.)*

3. *(A record player is needed for this ceremony.)*

The troop is formed, with the troop colors marching into place with a stirring march tune.

When the colors are in position, the "Star-Spangled Banner" is played, and all will come to salute.

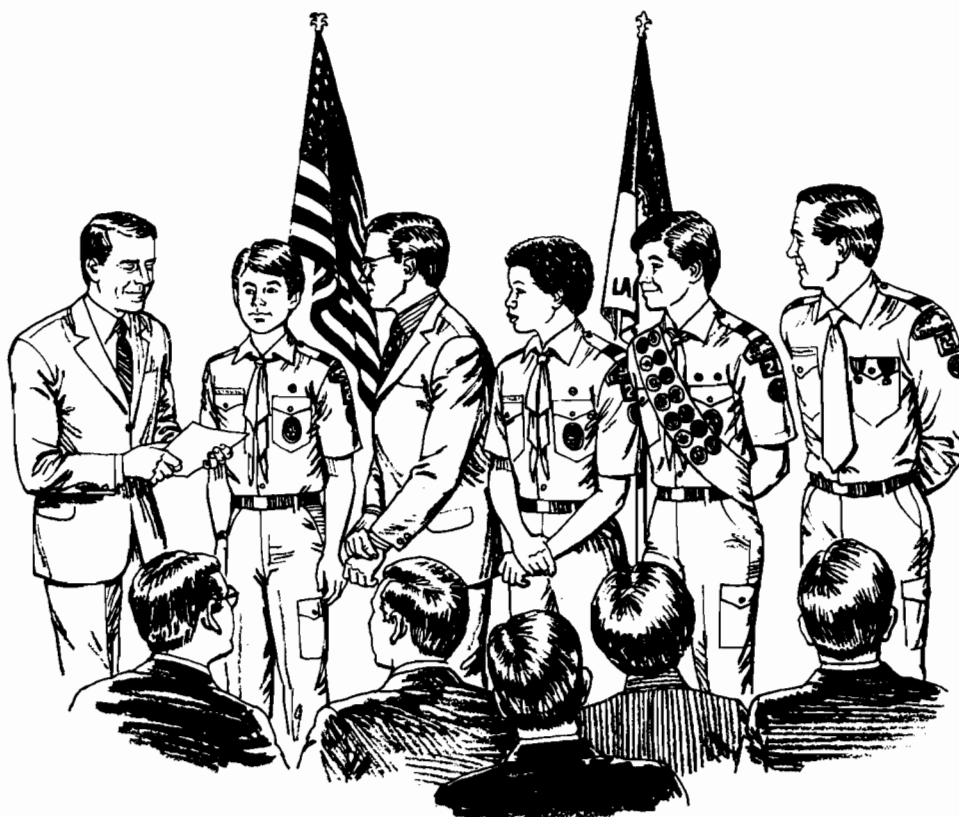
On completion of tune, another march is played, and the colors are paraded out of the room. The command is now given to repeat

the Scout Law, while the troop follows the colors out of the room; the object being for the Scout to stop repeating the law as he leaves the meeting room, and to practice throughout the week that part of the Law that he stopped on when he left the room.

4. *(A table is set up on the center of the floor. Upon this rests a set of 4 logs, forming a square, and into which are placed 12 candles. Another log holds 3 larger candles.)*

Leader: On this table you will observe 12 candles arranged in a square which represents the 12 points of the Scout Law. They are placed in a square because a square is made up of 4 equal parts, is similar to the 4-fold, well-balanced program of Scouting: physical, mental, social, and spiritual well being. The 3 large candles represent the 3 parts of the Scout Oath. As the candle gives out light, so you, as a Scout, shall shed the light of Scouting to those about you; in your home, your school, at work, and at play; in your religious duty you are to work willingly and with a smile. Should you fail to uphold even one point of the Law, such as trustworthiness, the act will stand out as a charred candle (puts out candle). Then too, you must remember that although there are 11 lights still burning, the most conspicuous is the light that is not burning. One point broken is more prominent than 11 kept.

COURTS OF HONOR



Recognition, one of the four steps toward advancement, is an important part of Scouting. By recognizing its significance and planning for it, any troop can do right by its boy and, incidentally, by so doing gain the interest of a Scout's parents.

A properly planned troop court of honor can be as dramatic and meaningful to the Scouts involved as a big district or council court. It has the advantage of recognizing Scouts for advancement in front of those who know them best—their parents and friends.

Parents come to the first court of honor because of their son. They will come again, if they enjoy the first one. Remember that they come to see their sons participate and be recognized, not to sit through lengthy speeches or a movie. Plan demonstrations, skits, and ceremonies featuring the Scouts.

Dignify your ceremony by inviting notable public figures to take part and assist in the presentations. Stage the program with dramatic and colorful touches but keep each of its parts simple and brief.

Conducting a court of honor is the responsibility of the troop committee. The Scoutmaster should be included in the program, but the conducting of the court of honor should not be his responsibility.

Courts of honor can be as varied in character as the troops which conduct them. They range from

highly structured to extremely informal, and from totally adult-led to completely boy-run events, although most are somewhere in between.

The important thing to remember is that their only purpose is to recognize boys. If you must recognize adults (such as introducing new adult leaders/committee members or making a presentation to retiring ones), it should be done at the beginning of the evening, prior to the opening of the court by your commissioner or other Scouting official. Once the court is formally opened, adults have no place in the proceedings except to honor boys for their achievements.

Points to Consider

1. Conduct courts of honor frequently—once every 2 to 3 months. Do not make a Scout wait 4 months to receive his award.
2. Planning is the key to successful courts of honor. Write out your plan, then rehearse key members' parts.
3. Refer to and use the checklist provided in the appendix of this book.
4. Be prepared—have an agenda or program for the boys and adults who will be making the award presentations. Rehearse as needed, in

- the actual setting. If scripts are required, make sure they are given out well in advance of the court.
5. Keep the ceremony simple, dignified, and understandable, with no obscure symbolism; it should be based on the ideals of Scouting. Avoid all "horseplay;" it has no place at a court of honor.
 6. Honor one Scout at a time and be sure he is facing the audience. Even if the number of awards (merit badges or skill awards) to be presented is so large boys come on stage by patrols, each boy's name and award should be given individually.
 7. Vary your courts of honor—don't use the same ceremonies too often. Boys tire of them and they lose their value.
 8. The boys are the "stars" of your production. The program must be impressive and interesting to boys, featuring their achievements. With the exception of Eagle Palms and some warrants, boy leaders of the troop should make the presentations of ranks and awards. The Scoutmaster should be standing by to applaud and shake hands. Why? Parents don't come to a court of honor to see other parents perform; they come to see their sons and their sons' friends. In addition, making the presentations helps the boys gain confidence in speaking before a group.
 9. Check all awards carefully to make sure you haven't forgotten anything or anyone; then, for insurance, double-check with all adult and boy leaders concerned. Make sure all cards and certificates are signed and filled out in advance; there are always a few last-minute awards, so do all that you can ahead of time. Also, check your props—candle log, fresh candles, matches or disposable lighter, flags, and other special props your troop traditionally uses.
 10. Be sure the boys' parents receive a special invitation to the court, and are included in their sons' recognition.
 11. Good uniforming by Scouts and adults is essential.
 12. Consider presenting a mothers' pin to the mother of each boy as he receives a rank badge.
 13. Check or develop special troop awards.
 - a. Certificate for 100 nights camping
 - b. Honor Scout awards (rules determined by patrol leaders' council)
 - c. Camping/participation awards
 14. Use the award/recognition materials available from the local council service centers.
 - a. Troop warrant officer certificates
 - b. First Class citation
 - c. Recognition certificates
 - d. Others
 15. Have all awards, badges, certificates, pins, etc., in separate envelopes.
 16. In making awards, be sure all who are helping know the following
 - a. Awards should be presented to one Scout at a time.
 - b. The Scout should face the audience.
 - c. Preferably, the Scout should stand on a box or be spotlighted when he receives recognition.
 - d. Tell Scout if he is to do anything other than receive his award.
 17. All participating in ceremony should know
 - a. Who they are to introduce and when.
 - b. Time limit they are to speak.
 - c. How to use the parents in award ceremonies.
 - d. Who is to be given recognition other than the Scouts.
 - e. If there is to be anything additional in the program.
 - f. Which awards they are to present.
 - g. What they are to do when their portion of the program is completed.
 18. After the program, the arrangements committee should
 - a. Know who is to return the equipment and where it goes.
 - b. Make arrangements for cleanup.
 - c. Follow up on any details from the court of honor.
 - d. Send thank-you notes to participants.
 19. Use as many presenters as practical. Put committee members to work, but be certain they know what to do and how to do it. Encourage uniforming by adults.
 20. Dress up your courts of honor. Develop and use special items, such as an advancement board, log/candle prop, posters, etc. (Refer to "Introduction.")

21. Take some good photos and write a good article for your local paper. Do a good job. Make it professional and give Scouting some good publicity.
22. Never include an Eagle Scout presentation as a part of a normal troop court of honor. (Refer to the chapter on "Eagle Court of Honor Ceremonies.")

Sample Agendas

The agenda provided herein should be used as guides. Variety is one key to success for courts of honor. Develop your own ideas and don't forget to get the boys' opinions as well as parents.

- Entry of Scouts carrying troop and patrol flags
- Court of honor members enter
- Color guard enters carrying colors. Scouts and audience stand at attention
- Parents and audience join Scouts in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance
- Use an appropriate opening ceremony
- Chairman convenes court of honor
- Court chairman calls on members of the court to make award presentations
- Special program features—Scout demonstrations, brief address, or singing
- Retiring of colors
- Closing. Court of honor may close with the troop's regular closing ceremony.

Opening flag ceremony by color guard or entire troop

- Welcome by senior patrol leader. Introduction of Scoutmaster and troop committee chairman, etc
- Brief announcement by troop committee chairman if necessary. (Adult recognitions are made at this time.)
- Introduction of opening patrol by senior patrol leader
- Opening by patrol
- New Scout induction ceremony, if needed—this would include Scout Oath and Law with candle-lighting. (If not induction, have Scout Oath and Law ceremony at this time, with entire troop participating.)
- Recognition of skill awards
- Presentation of Tenderfoot awards, with parents participating

- Presentation of Second Class awards, with parents
- Presentation of First Class awards, with parents
- Presentation of merit badges. If there are only a few, present them individually; if there are many, present them by patrols. Always have boys come on stage or up front and announce individual names and badges earned
- Presentation of Star awards, with parents
- Presentation of Life awards, with parents
- Presentation of special awards such as 50-Miler patches, Mile Swim, BSA; BSA Lifeguard; service stars; attendance pins; etc
- Presentation of warrants to new patrol leaders, local council members, troop officers
- Presentation of Eagle Palms, with parents participating
- Scoutmaster's Minute (no more than a minute)
- Closing by patrol
- Refreshments and fellowship.

The outline above is for a large court with all awards represented; few troops will have this much to present.

Presentations are arranged so that awards for advancement in rank are alternated with other awards. Individual parts of this court plan (or any other plan you may prefer) can be varied by developing and using different flag ceremonies, closing ceremonies, new ways of presenting ranks and other awards, etc., to keep it fresh for the boys and parents who have been with the troop for a while.

Start meeting at 7 p.m

- Bugler blows assembly
- Request parents to take seats on right-hand side of room, facing audience, or furnish ushers
- Senior patrol leader gives the following commands loud and clear "Troop attention." "Parents, please stand." "Color guard front and center."
- Color guard attaches flag to standard
- Senior patrol leader gives the command, "Scout hand salute."
- Bugler blows, "To the Colors."
- After colors, the command "Two" is given
- Senior patrol leader requests parents join in a Pledge of Allegiance
- Command "Scout hand salute." Lead audience in

Pledge of Allegiance. Command "Two." Ask audience to be seated

- Color guard dismissal is commanded by the senior patrol leader. Color guard marches to and is seated in the rear of room
- Senior patrol leader stands and welcomes the parents to Troop _____ (name) Court of Honor. He says, "We have courts of honor to award Scouts in our troop for outstanding performance and to award the various promotions in their endeavor to attain the rank of Eagle and, in doing so, to serve mankind. We appreciate your interest and patronage at each of our courts of honor."
- Senior patrol leader lights the master candle and says, "All things started with a beginning, ours was the father of Scouting, Baden-Powell." Command "Lights out." Begin the ceremony by lighting the first candle on the log of Laws and says, "A Scout is trustworthy." A Scout in rear of room with a flashlight focused on *The Official Boy Scout Handbook* reads the meaning of this point of the Scout Law. "A Scout is loyal." (Scout in rear reads the meaning of the 2d point.) "A Scout is helpful." (Scout in rear reads the meaning of the 3d point.) "A Scout is friendly." (Scout in rear reads the meaning of the 4th point.) "A Scout is courteous." (Scout in rear reads the meaning of the 5th point.) "A Scout is kind." (Scout in rear reads the meaning of the 6th point.) "A Scout is obedient." (Scout in rear reads the meaning of the 7th point.) "A Scout is cheerful." (Scout in rear reads the meaning of the 8th point.) "A Scout is thrifty." (Scout in rear reads the meaning of the 9th point.) "A Scout is brave." (Scout in rear reads the meaning of the 10th point.) "A Scout is clean." (Scout in rear reads the meaning of the 11th point.) "A Scout is reverent." (Scout in rear reads the meaning of the 12th point.)
- After the last Law is read, the senior patrol leader addresses the audience "Notice how the surrounding area grows brighter as each candle is lit. So it will be with each Scout in all his contacts as he climbs the advancement trail toward Eagle."
- Command "Lights on."
- Scoutmaster stands, welcomes parents, and introduces each person at the head table, explaining which award each will present. Each group of awards will be inside an envelope with the name of each Scout receiving the award on the outside.

Mr. _____, Tenderfoot.

Mr. _____, Second Class.

Mr. _____, First Class.

Mr. _____, Star.

Mr. _____, Life.

Mr. _____, merit badges.

After each award is given, the Scoutmaster will make a short statement on the merits of each rank, etc

- After presenting all awards, including all special awards, the Scoutmaster will announce points of interest to troop and parents about future meetings, campouts, etc
- This concludes the court of honor
- Scoutmaster says, "This concludes Troop _____ Court of Honor," and commands the senior patrol leader to take charge
- Senior patrol leader commands "Troop attention." "Parents, please stand." "Color guard front and center." After color guard is in place, command, "Scout Hand Salute." Flag is folded
- Senior patrol leader commands "Color guard dismissed." Lights out (after color guard retires). Command "Blow Taps." Command "Lights out."
- Parents are dismissed or asked to proceed to refreshment table. After parents have cleared the room, the command is given for troop dismissal.

IDEAS FOR COURTS OF HONOR

The following is a compilation of ideas on parts of courts of honor. You should develop your own agenda and traditions. The ideas presented here are just that—ideas. We hope each troop will develop personal and innovative courts of honor.

1. Opening Ceremonies.

(See pages 19–22.)

2. Closing Ceremonies.

(See pages 23–25.)

3. Spotlight Ceremony.

The chairman of the court directs the troop scribe to call the names of Scouts who are to receive the Tenderfoot rank. While he is calling the names, two Scouts place a cutout of the Tenderfoot badge on the wall so that a spotlight, when trained upon the Scout receiving the award, will cast his shadow on the badge.

The Scouts whose names have been called stand on one side of the room or stage. The member of the court who is presenting the Tenderfoot rank awards steps forward and makes a few appropriate remarks. He calls the name of the Scout on the first envelope. The Scout comes forward and steps onto a small, raised platform. The houselights go out, and the spotlight comes on.

The Scouter pins the Tenderfoot badge on the Scout's left shirt pocket and gives the Scout handclasp with the left hand. The Scout steps down and proceeds to the opposite side of the stage where he stands at attention until all Tenderfoot rank awards have been made.

After the awards have been made, turn the houselights on. Mothers of the Scouts are called to the stage, and each Scout presents his mother with a miniature Tenderfoot badge.

The same procedure is then repeated for each of the other awards, with the appropriate badge cutout displayed on the wall.

4. Escort Ceremony.

The Scout's leader escorts the Scout and his mother before the court and presents them. The chairman makes appropriate, commendable remarks and pins the badge on the pocket of the boy's shirt. They exchange Scout handclasps. The Scout faces his mother and pins a miniature badge on her. (Make certain there is adequate light to see the miniature clasp.)

5. Campfire Ceremony.

This outdoor ceremony is particularly appropriate to Scouting. The fire is allowed to die down to embers. The court lines up on one side of the fire, and the Scout who is to receive the award is on the other side. Other Scouts are in the background. The Scoutmaster tells the group of the accomplishments of the Scout. As he makes each point, the other Scouts shout "How! How!" or some other type of praise.

The chairman says, "All has been dark, but the Scoutmaster speaks good words. Let the light shine on the face of this Scout." (At this point, a handful of oil-soaked waste is thrown on the fire which blazes up immediately.) "By the light of this friendly fire, we see that Scout _____ (name) is worthy. He may step forward and receive his badge."

6. Book of Honor Ceremony.

The troop has a book or scroll in which the names of Scouts who have won honors are

recorded. This Book of Honor has a page for each rank. Before a boy is invested, the roll of those who have previously earned the same award is read. The chairman then proposes that the name of the Scout also be entered. He asks if there are any who object. There being no objections, the name is entered. The Scout is then called forward and met by one of the court who says, "I am happy to present Scout _____ (name) to this group as a _____ (rank) Scout." The Scoutmaster or the chairman pins on the badge, shakes hands, and the Scout returns to his place.

7. Campfire Ceremony.

(Scouts sit on the floor around an artificial campfire. The lights are dimmed. The red glow from the fire is showing.)

Master of Ceremonies: Scouts, we are gathered tonight in the circle of friendship to honor those who have proved themselves in the field of Scouting. Before we honor our fellow Scouts, it is fitting that we rededicate ourselves to the ideals of Scouting. Let us all stand while Scout _____ (name) of Troop _____ (number) leads us in the Scout Oath. *(All repeat the Scout Oath.)*

Master of Ceremonies: The bond of friendship around a campfire is always strengthened by the songs that Scouts sing all over the world. I am going to ask Mr. _____ (name) to lead us in some Scout songs. *(Song leader leads Scout songs—not too many.)*

Master of Ceremonies: The first group to come before us will be recognized as Second Class Scout. As I call your names, please come forward and form a semicircle around the campfire. *(He reads list.)* Will Mr. _____ (name) come forward and present these badges? *(Presentation. An aid carries the badges on a small tray.)*

Master of Ceremonies: We will now honor those Second Class Scouts who have qualified for merit badges. *(Read list.)* Will Mr. _____ (name) please present these awards? *(Presentation.)* Those of you who have just earned First Class rank have enjoyed many campfires with your own patrol and troop. We welcome you to this campfire, to be honored with the rank of First Class Scout. *(He reads list.)* Will Mr. _____ (name) please present these awards? *(Presentation.)* Few of us gathered around the circle have earned the badge of Star Scout. We now honor those who have reached this stepping stone toward Eagle rank. *(Read list.)*

Will Mr. _____ (name) please make presentation of these awards? (Presentation.) Life Scout rank is truly well named. Those who have qualified for this rank just below Eagle have enjoyed experiences and rendered service you will remember for the rest of your lives. I now call forward those who have just reached the rank of Life Scout. (Read list.)

Will Mr. _____ (name) please make the presentation? (Presentation.)

Also to be honored at our campfire tonight is a man who, as Scoutmaster, has enriched the lives of many of these Scouts. Scouts of Troop _____ (number) , tonight you have a reason to be proud of Scoutmaster _____ (name). He has received the Scouter's Key, a notable award for training and service.

Will Mr. _____ (name) , representing the National (or local) Council, Boy Scouts of America, please come forward to confer upon Scoutmaster _____ (name) the honored Scouter's Key? (Award is made.)

Master of Ceremonies: Will all Scouts please stand, join arms, and sing "Day Is Done." (Full house lights. Program is concluded as may have been arranged.)

8. Patriotic Court of Honor.

Opening. (Four Scouts take part. Room is in darkness except for spotlight on the United States flag. Three colored candles—red, white, and blue—are set on the table at front of the room.)

Scout 1: (lighting red candle) The red of my flag is the life blood of brave men ready to die or live for this, our country.

Scout 2: (lighting white candle) The white of my flag is for purity; cleanliness of purpose, thought, word, and deed.

Scout 3: (lighting blue candle) The blue of my flag is for faith and loyalty, like the eternal blue of the star-filled heavens.

Scout 4: (all four salute the flag) My flag—the United States flag—represents a home of liberty, and land of opportunity where men of all races and creeds live together in peace and friendship. Will everyone stand and repeat with me the Pledge of Allegiance. (Repeat Pledge.)

Presentation of Awards. Recognize new Tenderfoot Scouts (or conduct standard Tenderfoot investiture) by having them stand. Compare Tenderfoot Scout's accomplishment with the voyage of Columbus to a new land—the start of the United States as we know it today.

Call forward candidates for Second Class. Present awards and congratulate them. Then compare their progress with that of the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers and their tribulations in making a home in a strange land.

Call forward First Class candidates. Present their awards, congratulate them, and call to attention the American Revolution and the formation of a government and election of our first president.

Call Star candidates. Present their awards, congratulate them, and tell the story of the settlement of the West—the sacrifices of the pioneers who crossed the plains and mountains to make this one nation.

Call Life candidates. Present their awards, congratulate them, and tell a little about the wars that were fought by heroes dedicated to preserving our way of life.

Call forward Eagle candidates. Say a word about America today and its reliance on men of good character serving as responsible citizens. Then carry out the full Eagle Scout presentation ceremony as suggested in this chapter.

9. Closing.

(Four Scouts are assigned to this ceremony. The room is dark except for the candles which were lighted during the opening ceremony.)

Scout 1: As I put out this white candle representing purity, may we ever be mindful of this obligation that a Scout is clean. He is clean in body and thought, stands for clean speech, clean sport, clean habits, and travels with a clean crowd.

Scout 2: As I put out this blue candle representing loyalty, may we be ever mindful of this obligation that a Scout is loyal. He is loyal to all to whom loyalty is due—his Scout leader, his home, his parents, and his country.

Scout 3: As I put out this red candle representing courage and sacrifice, may we ever be mindful of our obligation that a Scout is brave. He has the courage to face danger in spite of fear, and to stand up for the right against the coaxing of friends and the jeers or threats of enemies, and defeat does not drown him.

Scout 4: May we close this court of honor by reminding ourselves of our duty according to the American's Creed:

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country
To love it;
To support its constitution;
To obey its laws;
To respect its flag; and
To defend it against all enemies.

Scripts for Rank Advancement

Again, these are provided for ideas. Use them or develop your own. In many cases, a script can be used for any rank. These should be used in your agenda when that specific rank is presented.

1. Boy Scout.

Refer to chapter on "Boy Scout Investitures." You may adopt some of the investiture ceremonies for your courts of honor.

2. Tenderfoot Rank.

Ceremony 1. The chairman directs the senior patrol leader to call the names of the new Tenderfoot Scouts. While he is calling the names, two Scouts place a large Tenderfoot badge cutout on the wall. This should be placed so that the spotlight, when trained upon the Scout receiving the award, will cast his shadow on the badge.

The Scouts who have been called form at one side of the room or stage. The member of the court of honor who is presenting the Tenderfoot Scout badges steps forward and makes a few appropriate remarks about this rank. The Scoutmaster calls the name of the first Scout to be recognized. He comes forward and steps up on a box or raised platform. The house lights go out and the spotlight comes on. This is the great moment for this Scout. Every eye is on him as he faces the audience.

The senior patrol leader or scribe helps the Scouter who makes the presentations by having the badges handy. The Scouter pins the Tenderfoot badge on the pleat of the left pocket, gives the Scout handclasp with the left hand. The Scout salutes, the Scouter returns the salute, and the Scout steps down and proceeds to the opposite side of the room or stage, where he stands at attention until all awards for this rank have been made. House lights go on. The audience then gives a rousing round of applause.

(Mothers of these Boy Scouts are now called to the stage, and each Scout presents his mother with the miniature Tenderfoot badge. Everyone applauds as mothers and Scouts return to seats. This same procedure is repeated for other ranks with appropriate badge placed on wall.)

Ceremony 2. Guide: Sirs, the candidates before you have been interviewed by a board of review and now appear to be advancing in rank.

Scoutmaster: Scouts, the troop board of review, of which Mr. _____ (name) is chairman, certifies that you have proven to their satisfaction that you should be advanced to the rank of

Tenderfoot Scout. As a Scout, you accepted the Scout Oath and Law and promised to do your best to make it a part of your daily life. As a Tenderfoot Scout, still more will be expected of you. The new skills which you have mastered are added to those which you have already learned. I know you will use them in the service of others.

I congratulate you on your achievement in attaining this new rank, and I hope you will continue to develop and advance in Scouting. Repeat after me:

As a Tenderfoot Scout of Troop _____, I _____ (name), will do my best to help the other Scouts of my patrol and troop to advance.

I will take an active part in the activities of the troop, and I will always conduct myself as a good Scout.

Scoutmaster: With the awarding of this badge, and with the permission of the local council, I certify that you are now a Tenderfoot Scout. Congratulations! *(Curtain goes up just far enough to reveal campfire. Tom-tom beats faintly.)*

Scouter *(standing at one side out of light of fire):* The fire blazes high and within its light, discloses a scene stirring and impressive even to the red men who gather about it. Behind all is a grove of tall, somber trees. On both sides of the fire are painted warriors, tried and proven. In front, elevated above the others, is the venerable old chief, whose war bonnet is decorated with many Eagle feathers. *(Curtain goes up full to reveal chief in full bonnet, standing behind fire. End of tom-tom. Chief stands motionless and silent.)*

Scouter: The tom-tom is silent, for the dance is ended. Now the council is in session. Black Beaver and Deerfoot have been away from the tee-pees for several moons on daring ventures, and each tells the stories of his coups (pronounced coos). Each receives an additional feather for his bonnet. *(Two braves appear, perform a simple dance, and receive feathers from chief. Braves squat by fire. Chief gestures, then all leave except Indian youth. Tom-tom for exit.)*

Scouter: The Indian youth dreams of the day when he too will be a warrior and will be able to go with the men of the tribe on the chase or in the far expeditions; to sit with them near their council fires; to attempt deeds of adventure and bravery! To do this, he must fast for many days and then go through an ordeal to show that he is

worthy and ready to become a warrior. (*Warrior appears, beckons to youth and, by means of signs, directs him to begin his ordeal. They leave. Curtain. Tom-tom for interlude.*)

Scouter: If he passes the ordeal successfully, he appears before the chief at the council fire to receive the eagle feather of the brave.

(*Curtain up on chief standing before the fire. Youth appears and kneels before him. Chief gestures, then places feather in headband of youth.*)

Scouter: As the chief placed the weapons of his rank in his hands, he bound the new brave to an oath—never to use his weapons in any way which would bring discredit to his tribe or to himself. (*Youth stands; chief presents him with weapons, directing him in sign language as he does so.*)

Scouter: The new brave then pledges himself to defend and uphold his tribe and his people, even to the giving of his life. (*Youth pledges himself in signs as chief directs. Curtain. Curtain goes up, revealing Scouter standing before fire, where chief was. Candidates present themselves before fire, facing Scouter.*)

Scouter: The days of the red men are gone, but their spirit lives on in the hearts of all true Scouts. Just as the Indian youth went through his ordeal to prove himself and his manhood, so you have completed your Tenderfoot requirements, to prove that you too can care for yourself in the great outdoors. Just as the Indian youth pledges himself to his tribe, so you pledge yourself to Scouting, and pledge to maintain the code of a Scout. If your growth in your Tenderfoot rank has been sufficient to give your Scout Oath this breadth of meaning, you are ready for this Second Class Scout rank. Now take your Scout Oath again, knowing it has gained a newer and fuller significance. Candidates, attention! Scout sign! Repeat the Scout Oath!

Candidates: On my honor I will do my best . . .

Scouter: Two! You will now face our audience. (*He pins a badge on each.*) This badge represents the wider opportunities which the weapons gave to the Indian brave. I place no weapons in your hands, but the honor of all Scouting rests as surely on your shoulders. (*Scouter gives each the Scout handclasp. Congratulations are received from all.*)

3. Second Class Rank

Ceremony 1. Leader: In the days of the red men, when the Indian boy prepared for manhood, he was required to go through a stern ordeal testing his worthiness and his fitness for a place among the braves of the tribe. If he passed through the ordeal successfully, he appeared before the chief at the council fire to receive the Eagle feather of the brave. As the chief placed in his hands the weapons of his rank, he pledged the new brave to an oath—he bound him in honor never to use his weapons in any way which would bring discredit to his tribe or to himself.

The days of the red men are gone, but their spirit lives on in the hearts of all true Scouts. Just as the Indian youth went through his ordeal to prove himself, so you have gone through your Second Class rank requirements to prove yourself a Scout hiker, who can care for himself in the outdoors. Just as the Indian youth pledged himself to his tribe, so should you pledge yourself to Scouting and maintain the Scout Oath and Law. In your growth toward becoming a Scout hiker, do you feel that the Scout Oath and Law have become more meaningful to you personally?

Scout: I do.

Leader: This rank of Second Class—Scout hiker—represents to you the opportunities for service to others, as the weapons did to the Indian youth. We place no weapons in your hands, but the honor of all Scouting rests as surely on your shoulders. (*Leader presents Second Class badge and congratulates the Scout and his parents.*)

Scoutmaster (to candidates): Once before you stood before this court and became Tenderfoot Scouts. Time has passed since then. You have used that time well in pursuing Scout activities and knowledge. You are now qualified to assume the title and duties of Second Class Scout, as the page of old became a squire in the age of chivalry. I know that you will wear this Second Class badge as a shield with honor and distinction. To prove that you know the rules by which this award may be borne honorably, you will repeat the Scout Law. (*Scout sign!*)

Candidates (repeat the Scout Law): A Scout is trustworthy . . .

Scoutmaster: Please face the audience, _____ (name). I present you with this badge. May you bring only credit and honor to it and to your troop.

The best part of Scouting happens outdoors. Therefore, let's remember that courts of honor may also take place outdoors. There's no indoor setting that will give the Scout flavor of a wooded glen or a rocky vantage point above a stream or lake. With the stars above, the noises of the night all around, a blazing campfire in the center of the circle, and a ring of logs to sit on, we are ready for a ceremony that will be long remembered—especially by those Scouts who receive awards.

Ceremony 2. Chairman: Senior Patrol Leader _____ (name), please call the names of the Scouts who have earned Second Class rank. *(As Scouts' names are called, they come forward and stand at one side.)*

Chairman: Mr. _____ (name) will make these awards.

Scouter *(making awards):* You Scouts have distinguished yourselves by qualifying for Second Class rank. You are now Scout hikers, but you are more than that. By living according to the Scout Oath and Law, you are adding your bit to the fires of good citizenship and world brotherhood, which, one day, will do away with the darkness of misunderstanding, hatred, and wars.

After I have pinned on your badge, you will place the stick which you hold in your hand on our fire and add to its brightness and warmth, just as your service as a Scout adds warmth and light to others. *(Scouts step forward one at a time. The Scouter pins on the badges. Scout places stick in fire. Scouter gives him the left handclasp. Scout salutes; Scouter returns the salute. Scout steps back to his place in line. After all have been awarded, the cheerleader leads in a big "HOW" for them.)*

The same procedure is followed when awarding the badges of other ranks and merit badges. Scouters will make remarks appropriate to each award of rank:

First Class—Scout Camper.

Merit badges—Exploration of special fields of Scoutcraft, hobbies, vocational interests, preparation for later life.

Star—Moving on to new heights.

Life—Life Scout—a Scout at heart for life. Show by your actions that the Scout spirit has reached deeply into your life.

4. First Class Rank.

The First Class rank represents a significant step in Scouting. It represents the "complete Scout."

Special attention should be given to the Scout earning the award. *(The presentation of the First Class citation should be included in the presentation.)*

Ceremony 1. Leader: In the days of chivalry, after a squire had earned the right to carry sword and shield, it was customary to retire to the privacy of the chapel on the evening before he was to be made a knight. There, surrounded by his weapons, he prayed that he might live worthy of the honor that was his, and that he might never bring disgrace on his knighthood, either in thought or in deed. Just as highly as the knights of old, we who are the Scouts of today value the distinction which is ours. As a First Class Scout, you have earned the right to demonstrate and abide by the Code to which a true and mature Scout is forever bound by his Scout Oath and Law. Do you accept this greater responsibility of First Class Scout in the spirit of service of the knights of old?

Scout: I do.

Leader: In qualifying for First Class rank, you have advanced from Scout hiker to more skillful living in the outdoors for longer periods of time. In this experience, you have become a Scout camper, better able to take care of yourself and others, as did the knights of old. As we present you with your First Class badge, I charge you to continue your development as a Scout camper, so that you may better serve your fellow men in the spirit of chivalry. *(Leader presents First Class badge and congratulates Scout and his parents.)*

Ceremony 2. The U.S. and the troop flags are posted on either side of a table, which is covered with dark cloth or bunting. On the center of the table rests the Bible. The first aid kit, compass, and ax are placed around it. Have a large First Class badge of painted plywood or heavy cardboard hung on the wall behind the table. The troop chaplain, chairman of troop committee, Scoutmaster, the senior patrol leader, and three Scouts are seated behind the table. The troop members are seated at any convenient place. (Senior patrol leader calls names of Scouts to be honored. They proceed front and center, turn and face the audience.)

Senior Patrol Leader *(coming forward):* Scouts of Troop _____, we are gathered here to honor you in your achievement of First Class rank. *(He presents troop chaplain, who comes forward.)*

Troop chaplain *(Carries out his part in this ceremony in any way he deems fitting. A suggestion follows.):* Scouts, you have committed

yourselves many times to the Scout Oath or Promise. As you know, it starts with your pledging to do your duty to God. As a Scout you are expected to fulfill your religious obligations and to respect the convictions of others. The Bible points the way to you. Let me read a passage, which will challenge you as you travel the trail to manhood, to live as God would have you. (Chaplain reads selected passage.)

(Senior patrol leader presents chairman of troop committee, who comes forward.)

Chairman of the Troop Committee: Scouts, I ask you to join with me in the Pledge of Allegiance. As First Class Scouts, you are better prepared to serve our country. I charge you to continue thus to do your duty. (Senior patrol leader presents Scoutmaster, who comes forward.)

Scoutmaster: The Scoutmaster's greatest reward is seeing young men advance through the ranks of Scouting and grow into stout-hearted, clean-thinking men. I have been privileged to work with you as you have traveled this trail to First Class. I am proud, mighty proud, of each one of you. Look with me at our troop flag. Let me remind you again of the significance of its colors: red for bravery, white for purity, green for the adventure of the great outdoors, and gold for the sunny warmth of the Scouting spirit. As you continue along life's trail, remember the significance of these colors and the part that Scouting has played to prepare you for good active citizenship. (Senior patrol leader presents the three Scouts who, in turn, take from the table one of the symbols and come forward.)

First Scout: When you and I became Scouts, we gave the Scout sign (gives sign) and took the Scout Oath or Promise—"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 . . ."—this is what we mean by Scouting spirit. This first aid kit, which I hold in my hands, is a reminder that as a First Class Scout you must 'Be Prepared' to serve others at all times.

Second Scout: I hold in my hand a compass. It has helped you find your way on hikes and in camp. It is symbolic of Scout participation in the activities of your patrol and our troop. Scouting is a compass, too. It will help you find your way along the trail of life.

Third Scout: I hold an ax. It is the tool that helped our forefathers build America. It stands for

Scoutcraft skills, which you learned in achieving First Class. It also represents physical fitness. May you always use your strength and skills to serve better God, your country, and others.

(Scoutmaster presents to each Scout a First Class citation, including a certificate.)

Chairman of the troop committee asks mothers of First Class Scouts to come forward and take their places behind their sons. He then presents each Scout with a miniature First Class badge. In unison, Scouts about-face and pin these badges on their mothers. Participants return to their seats. Scouts should face the audience when receiving awards.

Ceremony 3. (Attractively draped table on which burn two candles. The U.S. and unit flags flank the table. Scouter stands behind this table. The candidates are brought before the table.)

First Class Scout: The Scouts of Troop _____, District _____ present candidates _____ (name), _____ (name), _____ (name), and _____ (name) for the award of the First Class rank.

Scouter: In the days of chivalry, when a squire had earned for himself the right to carry sword and shield, it was customary for him to retire to the privacy of the chapel for a vigil of prayer. There, surrounded by his weapons, he communed through the night with his Maker, praying that he might prove worthy of the honor and that he might never bring disgrace on his knighthood, either in thought or in deed.

Just as highly as the knights of old, do we who are the Scouts of today value our honor? As a First Class Scout, yours will be the opportunity and the right to demonstrate to all the world our code, to which a true and mature Scout is forever bound. Are you ready to take this additional pledge, which will aid you in living as a true Scout?

Candidates: I am.

Scouter: Then take again the Scout Oath, knowing that you are now more able and more worthy of living up to its highest challenge. Candidates, attention! (All rise and give the Scout sign!) Repeat the Oath.

Candidates: On my honor I will do my best . . .

Scouter: Two! I congratulate you on having reached Scout maturity. You will now face our audience. (Scouter pins badges and gives each the Scout handclasp.)

5. Star Scout

Ceremony 1. Leader: Scouts, in receiving your Star rank tonight, you are taking a long step toward Eagle, the goal of all true Scouts. You have advanced toward manhood in a way which obligates you to give younger Scouts the service and experiences you have received. Tonight, you are leaving that group which receives Scouting. You are now to be admitted to a smaller group whose privilege and duty it is to give Scouting—to give leadership, guidance, and inspiration to younger Scouts who will follow your lead. Your willingness to do so will be a pledge of service and a sign that your understanding of the ideals of Scouting is growing with your increasing stature. The fun and fellowship of the past will be accompanied in the future by a deep satisfaction with your service to others and your leadership of younger Scouts. Do you accept this pledge of service to younger Scouts as a personal obligation?

Scout: I do.

Leader: I declare that you are qualified to receive the rank of Star Scout. I charge you to keep on the merit badge trail of Scouting spirit and participation, and Scoutcraft until you reach the Eagle rank. Somewhere along this trail you will find manhood in its finest form. Keep the spirit of service alive in your daily life, not for your sake and for the sake of the Scouts who follow where you lead. May this Star Scout badge be a constant reminder of the star of service which will shine as a guide to lead you, on the trail to manhood. *(Leader presents Star badge and congratulates Scout and his parents.)*

Ceremony 2. Star Scout: Scouts

_____ (name), _____ (name),
and _____ (name), you are no longer First Class Scouts. Whether you realize it or not, by meeting your Star Scout requirements, you have left the group of those who merely receive Scouting. Tonight, you will join a smaller and more significant group—those whose duty and privilege it is to give Scouting to others. As you receive your Star Scout badge, it must be with a full realization that you are accepting with that badge the giving of leadership, guidance, and inspiration to younger Scouts.

Life Scout: The Life Scouts of the _____ District, Troop _____, believe you are worthy of receiving the Star badge which will enable you to go on to your Life Scout badge and thus closer to the Eagle Scout goal. If you are ready

to take this obligation of service to younger Scouts, step forward into this circle of older Scouts. *(Candidates step forward, and circle is formed with arms clasped over shoulders.)*

Scouter: Scouts _____ (name), _____ (name), and _____ (name), by coming into this room as your escort, the older Scouts of Troop _____, District _____ vouch for your being qualified to receive the Star Scout badge.

Star Scout: These Scouts are prepared to take the service pledge with their Scout Oath.

Scouter: Fellow Scouts, you have left behind what may have been the receiving end of Scouting. Before you stretches a worthier, more mature part of your Scouting experience—the giving part. The merit badge trail holds much for a Scout who is earnest and courageous. If you follow this trail far enough, the highest Scouting goal will be yours. Somewhere along that trail you will find manhood in its finest form. Are you willing to accept the responsibilities as well as the privileges which accompany the Star Scout rank?

Candidates: I am.

Scouter: Then retake the Scout Oath. As you utter the words, let your heart repeat a pledge of service to the Scouts who follow where you lead. Scouts, attention! *(Scout sign!)* Repeat the Scout Oath!

Candidates: On my honor I will do my best . . .

Scouter: Two! *Your fellow Scouts congratulate you. You will now face our audience. *(Pins badges.)* The Star which I pin on you will always be a reminder of the star of service which will shine as a guide to lead you onward. *(Give Scout handclasp to each.)* Congratulations.

6. Life Scout

Ceremony 1. Leader: History will record two types of deeds—the deeds of the great Scouts of the past, through whom we have received America, and the deeds of the Scouts of today, which will determine the type of heritage we leave to the future. The simple, rugged characters of George Washington, Daniel Boone, George Rogers Clark, and a host of others were gained in the stern, virile life of the primitive outdoors. We cannot today perform the deeds of the old Scouts. But we can live the outdoor life they lived, and we can model our lives along the solid lines laid down by them. In this way, the heritage we leave

to those who follow will be worthy reflections of the heritage we received from the great Scouts of the past. In the light of this heritage, do you, as a Life Scout, renew the pledge of service to your fellowmen which you made as a Star Scout?

Scout I do.

Leader: This court of honor finds you fully qualified for the rank of Life Scout. The rank of Eagle Scout awaits you as you continue on the trail of Scouting. As I present you this rank of Life Scout, may the red heart of the badge be a constant reminder of the fine things you have received from Scouting, and of the fine things you carry in your heart as a pledge to Scouting and to your fellowman. *(Leader presents Life badge and congratulates Scout and his parents.)*

Ceremony 2. Scoutmaster: Scout

_____ (name), you have traveled far on the Eagle trail. Before you, two lighted candles shed their radiance on the heartshaped Life Scout badge. I am proud of the effort you have put forth and of your accomplishments in Scouting. *(Here add personal details that apply.)* The heart shape of the badge is symbolic of life and courage. For you, now, the Scout Oath and the Scout Law will mean more to you than ever before. You will ever strive to make them the keynote of your conduct. The spirit of helpfulness and alertness of mind, and the mastery of those Scout skills which make 'Be Prepared' really mean something—these are the inner qualities of the Scout who wears the Life Scout badge.

This miniature badge is for your mother—in recognition of her love, comradeship, encouragement, and her faith in you. Take it and pin it on her proudly! *(Scout pins badge on mother's dress.)*

Candidates will now face the audience. Mr.

_____ (name), will you pin the Life Scout badge upon your son's uniform? *(Badge is pinned.)* Attention! Scout salute! Two! Dismissed!

Ceremony 3. Junior Leader: Sir, as counselor to Life Scouts, I present these candidates for advancement to this high rank.

Scoutmaster: Candidates, the heart has always been an emblem of courage, strength, and service to others. Indeed, it is the emblem of life itself. You are now entering the final step and rocky trail that leads to the summit—the rank of Eagle Scout. This Life Scout heart symbolizes the

strength and courage that you will need to scale the final heights, at last to join the great brotherhood of Eagle Scouts.

It also reminds you to keep yourself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight and to be of service to others. Are you now prepared to meet these obligations?

Candidates: I am.

Scoutmaster: Color bearer, bring the colors forward. *(The color bearer presents the colors.)* Candidates, salute! You will recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Candidates: I pledge allegiance . . .

Scoutmaster: Colors, post! Candidates, please face the audience. *(Scoutmaster pins the badge on each uniform, the lights go up, and all offer their congratulations.)*

February: Scouting Anniversary Week Court of Honor

Every troop has at least one older Scout working on the Communications merit badge, and one of the things he has to do is give a 5-minute speech before a group. Keeping in mind that few parents know much about the history of Scouting, the Scout could develop an interesting speech on the subject and give it prior to the formal opening of the court. *(The "Norman Rockwell World of Scouting" is an excellent reference of work.)* This was done successfully in a Pleasant Hill troop; the parents thoroughly enjoyed it, and the Scout completed a merit badge requirement.

Early Fall Court

While the parents are gathering and getting seated prior to the court, show slides (with narration, if desired) of your recent summer camp and/or 50-Miler. This is also effective during a pot-luck dinner preceding a court. The parents love it—"Look at Bobby, hanging over that cliff!"—and so do the boys.

Troop Pot-Luck Dinner Preceding a Court

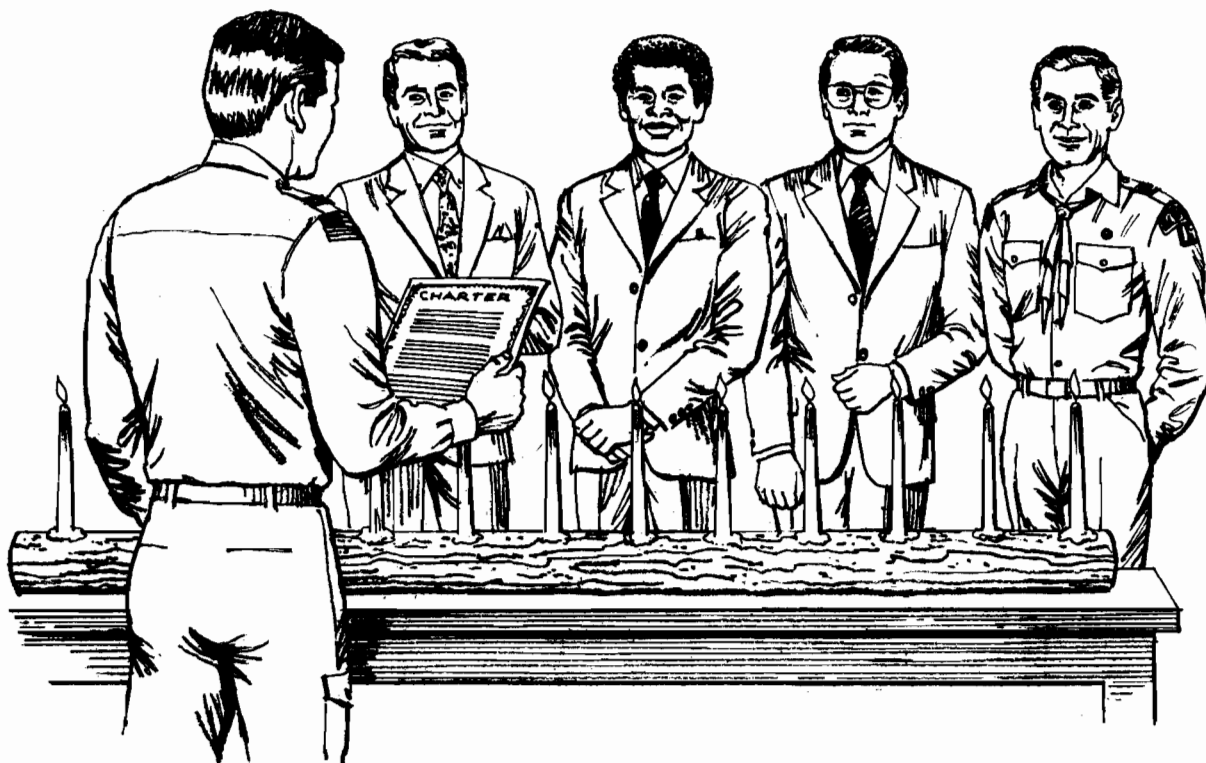
Boys usually eat faster than adults, so avoid noise and confusion by having a small floor show (brief patrol skits, patrol and troop songs) while the adults are finishing dinner and last-minute props for the court are being set up. This will keep the boys occupied and gives them a chance to show off, especially if they've developed a hiking or spirit song they really like.

Presentation of Ranks

If your boy leaders present them, have them begin their presentation by telling the parents what a boy must do to earn that award. A bit of humor is permissible here. (The thing to avoid is having the presenter sound as if he has memorized The Official Boy Scout Handbook.) Parents should know what their sons did, but sometimes they don't; this also gives the boy leader who is presenting the award experience in speaking before a group.

Tired of the "Same Old Thing"?

If you're tired of using the same ceremonies, challenge the boys to develop new and exciting ideas for opening and closing ceremonies, ways to present awards, etc. Have a contest among patrols, with the older Scouts (leadership corps) as consultants. Award a suitable patrol prize (a dutch oven, a "fun" outing) for the best idea.



THE EAGLE COURT OF HONOR



The presentation of the Eagle badge to a young man is one of the most important and exciting events in his life. It is an accomplishment that marks his progress toward manhood. Moreover, it is a rare distinction, since less than 2 percent of those entering the Scouting movement ever get to wear the coveted silver badge. Thus, it is essential that the presentation ceremony be appropriately impressive and have the proper focus and elements.

There are two ingredients in any successful Eagle court of honor; people and program. First, of course, is the Eagle Scout. Remember, this is his program, an important event for him and his family. Without the help of parents, few would have succeeded in their quests for Eagle. Thus, it is appropriate to have a meaningful recognition for mother and father or guardians. It is also appropriate to invite some of the people who have been especially helpful to the candidate in his life: minister, priest, or rabbi; teacher; school counselor; athletic coach; former Scoutmasters; other Scouters; etc. Also, inviting other Eagle Scouts symbolizes the fellowship of Eagles which he is entering. Some of these Eagles can be used in the ceremony, or to escort the new Eagle and his family.

The second basic element is the program. It

should be kept short, not marred by rambling speeches or the intrusion of unrelated matters. Those who are asked to speak should keep remarks brief and to the point, speaking about the Eagle Scout and his achievements. One of the speakers might be the Eagle himself. It often is interesting to hear his thoughts upon reaching his long-sought goal. The Eagle court of honor can be conducted in conjunction with a regular troop court of honor but should be totally separate (props, lighting, break, etc.). It is strongly recommended that Eagle courts of honor be a separate, special occasion.

Finally, the program must be well planned and rehearsed. All participants should know their parts. The facilities should be checked beforehand to see that the lights, sound system, and other equipment work properly. Things should not be left to chance in hopes that they will fall into place. They usually don't! A disappointed or embarrassed Eagle Scout is not the purpose of a court of honor. Refer to the checklist in the appendix of this book for a guide. Use it, don't just read it.

In a nutshell, make it short, impressive, and dignified. Keep other business out of the way. It's an event for the Eagle Scout; help make it one he'll remember proudly all of his life.

Points To Consider

1. It normally requires approximately 5 weeks following the Eagle board of review approval to receive the Eagle badge, certificate, etc., from the national office. Therefore, the Eagle court of honor should be scheduled approximately 6 weeks after board approval. If done properly, planning will require 6 weeks.
2. Many elected officials will send a personal letter to the Eagle Scout, if requested in sufficient time. These include the President, congressman, governors, mayors, etc. Request such letters using neat and proper format and address as soon after the board of review as possible. Be sure to provide the Eagle's full name and date of his court of honor.
3. The troop advancement chairman and/or Scoutmaster should call a meeting of two or three of the unit committee together with the Eagle's parents and senior patrol leader (providing he is not the Eagle) to plan the complete program. By using the suggestions and outlines in this manual and delegating specific responsibility to specific individuals, everything should go along fine. Be sure the plan is written to avoid misunderstandings.
4. The troop committee should establish a standard of presentation items to be provided to the Eagle at the court. This standard should be for all Eagles on a continuing basis. Establish who should pay for certain items—the troop, mothers' club, Eagle's parents, etc. Remember, do not set precedents which will be an economic hardship for any family. Items to be considered Eagle ring, neckerchief, belt buckle, as well as Eagle cake and refreshments.
5. Secure commitments from members of the court and speakers early. Send a friendly reminder or copy of the program about a week before the court of honor ceremony.
6. Invitations can be purchased at the local council service center. However, a simple but distinctive form can be prepared by the unit or the parents on a duplicating machine. Whichever method is selected, it should be done soon after the court date is selected for early mailings.

The planner should assist the Eagle's parents in composing a list of all persons who have helped the boy earn his Eagle, including Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, fellow Scouts (past and present), post Advisors or assistants,

parent's committees, sponsors, merit badge counselors, teachers, church members and leaders (past and present), community leaders, school pals, and the boy's relatives. Be sure to mail invitations to all parents of troop members. No other event can win parents' support better than a good Eagle court of honor.

7. An Eagle court is always newsworthy, and the newspapers usually like to have stories about the Eagle recognition ceremony. Relating news items to the media is important; a slip can damage the total impact of the recognition. Some guide items are listed below
 - Prepare an accurate story. Be sure all plans are approved and committed before writing the news release
 - Be sure the location is committed by the person responsible
 - Be sure the time approved does not conflict with another important event that would keep important people away
 - Be sure the participants have agreed to take part at the specified time
 - Include sufficient details of the Eagle's background, including other achievements, names of parents, Scoutmaster, and others who will participate in the recognition in the article
 - Include a clear, glossy photograph of the Eagle Scout in uniform, if possible
 - Submit the news release to the newspapers and radio station at least 10 days before the ceremony.
8. The place where the ceremony should be held should be an unusual setting so the evening will be a memorable one for the boy and those attending. Suggested places could be around a campfire, aboard a naval vessel, in a church, school auditorium, courtroom or chambers, or other place of dignity. Do not select a theater, country club, etc.
9. The type of ceremony depends on the desires of the troop committee and Scoutmaster. Most troops select a single ceremony which is used repeatedly and becomes a troop tradition. Many examples are contained herein. Select one which fits your needs or develop your own.
10. The selection of the participants again depends upon the place, unit preferences, and the type

of ceremony selected. Generally the boy's mother or father, Scouting coordinator, or Scoutmaster makes the presentation. It is preferable to have at least three people active in the presentation; one to give the charge, one to make the official presentation of the badge and credentials from national office, and one to pin the badge. Other Eagles of the unit or district, or the unit senior patrol leader may take an active role in the ceremony or act as usher, Eagle badge pillow bearers, flag bearers, etc.

11. If a speaker is to be used, a distinguished leader of the community, a key Scout layman, or executive of the district or council should be selected.
12. Printed programs add a touch of class to an Eagle court of honor. Again, these do not need to be expensive; a duplicated, typed copy will be acceptable. (Eagle program covers are available from the council service center.)
13. The Eagle should be encouraged to put together his Eagle scrapbook. He can include all Cub Scout and Boy Scout certificates, photographs, awards, etc. Also, include letters and other associated items with his Eagle Award. Display this book at the court of honor.
14. Following the ceremony, most units have the reception at the same place. Some units go to the usual unit meeting place; still others go to the boy's home. All who attend the ceremony should be invited. The usual punch, coffee, cake, and ice cream can be served. Most bakeries or cake shops can decorate cakes using the Eagle emblem. (Eagle napkins for souvenirs are available at the local council service center.) The reception is an event of honor, challenge, and fellowship for the boy, not a party for a party's sake.
15. Small gifts for remembrances to the boys are in keeping with the occasion. Some fathers like to present their son an Eagle ring at the reception or during the ceremony. (This should be planned ahead, if done.)
16. Review and use the checklist in the appendix of this book. The Eagle deserves the best you can give him, including planning and the other points on the list.
17. The following includes a sampling of successful ceremonies used across the country. Use one as is or develop your own. Make it special!

Representative Eagle Courts of Honor

Sample Outline

Introduction

Call to Order	Troop committee chairman
Invocation	Minister/priest/rabbi
Welcome	Scoutmaster
Introduction of Honored Guests	Committee chairman
Presentation of the Colors	Troop color guard
Pledge of Allegiance	Senior patrol leader
Opening of the Court of Honor	District/unit commissioner
Presentation of the Scout Law	Two Eagle Scouts from a troop

Trail of the Eagle

Review the Eagle candidate's Scouting history from induction to Eagle, stressing his growth in the ideals of Scouting. As this is being read, candidate walks from the back of the room to the front where he is to receive his Eagle badge. Somewhere along the "trail," it's a good idea for the Eagle candidate to rededicate himself by repeating the Scout Oath.

The Eagle Award

Pledge of the Eagle	District executive or other adult who is an Eagle Scout.
Presentation of the Award	Scoutmaster, parents, etc.
Challenge and Charge to the Eagle	Impressive Scouter or other guest speaker (Eagle)
The Eagle's Response	Short speech by new Eagle
Closing of the Court of Honor	Commissioner
Benediction	Minister/priest/rabbi
Retiring of the Colors	Troop color guard
Reception and Refreshments	

Voice of the Eagle Ceremony 1

Voice of the Eagle (VOE) ceremonies are popular throughout the country. Each unit seems to have its own version or adaption. Two VOE ceremonies are included in this book.

Senior Patrol Leader: Please stand for the presentation of Colors. Advance the colors.

Color Guard Leader: *(comes forward and lets color guard reach its position.)* Will the audience join us in the Pledge of Allegiance? Scouts, Salute. *(Dip troop flag. Lead the Pledge of Allegiance.)* Two. Post the Colors. Color Guard Retreat. *(Scouts return to seats.)* The audience may be seated. *(Leader be seated.)*

Senior Patrol Leader: I would like to welcome you to Troop _____ *(number)* Eagle Court of Honor. It is my pleasure to introduce Mr. _____, who is the chairman of this court of honor. *(Be seated.)*

Chairman: I would like to invite all Eagle Scouts, including adults, to stand at this time. *(Pause.)* Thank you, you may be seated. It is my pleasure to introduce _____ who will lead us in our invocation. *(VOE narrator remains out of sight, using microphone or sound system.)*

Narrator: Will Eagle Candidate(s) _____ please come forward? This is the voice of the Eagle. The Eagle whose heights you have struggled hard to reach. We remember well when you first came to the base of the cliff, and how you looked up with ambition and determination. Look back for a moment; look down the cliff you have climbed; look at the experiences you have encountered in your ascent. These experiences should not be forgotten. You should profit by making sure adverse experiences do not occur again. Experience is a valuable teacher, if you heed its teachings.

We remember when you took your first step upon the trail that leads upward. With that first step you began to build yourself physically, mentally, and morally. You started living the Scout Oath and Law. All the while you were on the trail, we watched you study and we say you learned by doing. First, you were only a Scout. *(A Scout steps out and takes designated place on stage.)* Then your brother Scouts called you a Tenderfoot . . . and they were right. You were indeed a Tenderfoot Scout. *(Tenderfoot steps out and takes place.)*

Soon, you reached the first ledge and there you were greeted by a large group of Second Class Scouts. *(Second Class Scout steps out and joins Scout and Tenderfoot Scout.)*

Some, like you, were stopping to catch their breath before continuing along the trail. You began to study more, you worked harder, and

almost before you knew it, you came to another ledge—the ledge where the First Class Scouts dwell. *(First Class Scout steps out and takes his place.)*

There you found a tempting green meadow by a crystal-clear stream bathed in the sun. Here you were tempted to remain. Yes, you could have remained there to live in First Class glory, but your ambition stirred you on. We remember your advancement to Star Scout. *(Star Scout steps out and takes his place.)*

The trail from First Class to Star rank was not as difficult as it had seemed. This spurred you on, and again you climbed further. The trail was steeper and less worn. Fewer Scouts seem to be headed in your direction. You looked down and saw the crowds below you. You looked up and saw a few above you and, with the same determination with which you started your climb, you continued up the trail. Soon, you earned the badge of Life rank. *(Life Scout steps out and takes his place.)*

The heart badge was then placed on your uniform. You will never forget the thought in your heart. This feeling has been experienced by all Scouts on reaching the ledge of Life Scout. Now I am close to the Eagle, I will carry on. The trail became tougher, but more interesting. The original principles, the Scout Oath and Law, now had a fuller meaning. Your understanding of them was greater.

Yes, we have watched your character unfold and become more manly. We have watched your leadership expand into a valuable asset. We have watched your mind develop and your wisdom increase. We have watched all these things in you and now that you are on the threshold of your goal, we welcome you, for you have done your climbing in a true Scoutlike manner.

This is the voice of the Eagle. *(Chairman steps forward.) (Scouts be seated.)*

Chairman: The awarding of the Eagle badge is an important and serious occasion; the climax and the goal of which a Scout works for many years. An occasion for pride and joy, a time for serious contemplation. It is the culmination of efforts of the various leaders of this (these) Scout(s). The Eagle Award is the highest and most coveted rank in Scouting; the last major step in the advancement program. Less than 2 percent of all Scouts in the United States reach the Eagle rank. At this point, we trust you have achieved our purpose in the building of character, training of leadership, and the practice of service.

The requirements of the Eagle rank are as follows:

- a. Earn * _____ merit badges including
* _____ which are required (specified).
- b. Serve actively in a troop leadership position for a period of six months after becoming Life.
- c. Plan, develop, and carry out a service project worthy of an Eagle.
- d. Appear before a board of review of prominent persons 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 Eagle Scout.

Careful examination has been made by the court as to the qualifications of this (these) applicant(s) for the Eagle Award.

Mr. _____, proficiency in the various crafts and skills prescribed for Eagle rank have been checked, and the records of merit badges earned by the Scout(s) have been approved and certified by the counselors appointed by the court. The Scout(s) has (have) qualified on the basis of merit badge achievement. Eagle candidate _____ has earned _____ merit badges.

Mr. _____, the applicant(s) has (have) demonstrated his (their) capacity and willingness to exert leadership ability in the activities that are constructive and worthwhile in this community. The record has been checked in troop leadership, school affairs, and in other fields of work and service. He (they) has (have) demonstrated loyalty and duty to God and country. We believe him (them) qualified to receive the rank of Eagle Scout.

Mr. _____, the following is a resume of _____ personal and Scouting history.
(Read resume.)

Narrator: This is the voice of the Eagle. I speak for the Eagle Scouts of this council. We challenge the Scout to accept the responsibility as well as the honor of the Eagle Award. These responsibilities are as follows An Eagle Scout is to live with honor. His honor is sacred; the foundation of all character. An Eagle will live so that he reflects credit upon his home, church, school, friends, and himself. May the white of your badge remind you to live with honor.

An Eagle Scout is to be loyal. "To thine own self

be true, and it must follow as the night the day, thou can'st not then be false to any man."

Neither pain nor profit, pride nor personal loss shall sway his loyalty. The blue on your badge is the emblem of loyalty.

An Eagle Scout is courageous. Courage gives all character force and strength. With trust in God and faith in the fellowman, he faces each day unafraid, and seeks his share of the world's work to do. Let the red of your badge remind you of courage.

Finally, an Eagle Scout is service-oriented. Extend a helping hand to those who toil along the Scouting trail you have completed, just as others have aided you. The daily Good Turn must take on a new meaning and better the life pattern of service. Protect and defend the weak and helpless; comfort the unfortunate and oppressed. Uphold the rights of others as well as your own. Remember, real leadership is founded upon real service.

Chairman: In recognition of these obligations, I ask you to reaffirm the Scout Oath or Promise.
(Applicants give Scout Oath.)

Will Mr. _____ come forward as a representative of the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, and administer the Eagle pledge? (Read National Council letter.) Please give the Scout sign and repeat the Pledge of the Eagle after me:

I, _____ (name), realize my obligation
To my fellows, my home, my country, and my
God.

I will at all times do my best
To assist other Scouts
Who are climbing the trail of the Eagle
And give back more to Scouting
More than it has given me
And to assist my troop as much as possible,
And to be a living example of the Scout Oath
and Law
To the best of my ability.

Chairman: Will the Eagle applicant(s) escort his (their) parents to the front? Fellow Eagle(s), we now proclaim to all the world your accomplishments. The symbol of your success is the Eagle badge and neckerchief, which will now be presented to your parents by _____. Your parents will, in turn, pin the badge over your heart and place the neckerchief around your neck. (Presentation of badge.)

Mr. _____, in recognition of the wisdom and guidance given to you by your father, will you present to him this Eagle tie bar which he will

*Insert current requirements.

be proud to wear in your honor? (Pause.) And now, also in recognition of the many hours of patient guidance given by her to you in your efforts, will you pin over your mother's heart, the Eagle Mother's Pin? (Scout gives his mother a kiss.) Eagle Scout(s), will you now escort your parents back to their seats, and return to the front.

Now Eagle Scout(s) _____, will you advance your name on our board to Eagle rank? (Pause until return.) As you see (display plaque), your name(s) has (have) been placed on our permanent Eagle plaque for all time.

Chairman: I would like to read the following letters. (Read any letters, etc.) I now have the honor to present to you this gift (if any) from Troop _____ in recognition of your outstanding service to this troop and of becoming an Eagle Scout. I would like to introduce _____, who will now give the Eagle charge. Mr.

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

Eagle charge (speaker may use own text if desired).

The Boy Scouts of all nations constitute one of the most wholesome and significant movements in the world's history and you have been counted worthy of high rank in its membership. 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 (men). As (an) Eagle Scout(s), you have assumed a solemn obligation to do your duty to God, to country, to fellow Scouts, and to mankind in general. This is a great undertaking. As you live up to your obligations, you bring honor to yourself (yourselves) and your brother Scouts. When you fail, you bring down by so much, the good name of all true and worthy Scouts.

Your responsibility goes beyond your fellow Scouts, to your country and 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 character and leadership abilities of her citizens. You are to help her in all that she needs most. She has a great past. You are here to help make her future 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 your fellowmen. So live and serve, that those who know you will be inspired to the 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 skills and abilities to the common good.

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

Chairman (closing remarks as desired, followed by benediction): You are invited to remain for the reception for Eagle Scout(s) _____ following our benediction by _____.

Benediction

Chairman: This Eagle court stands adjourned.

Voice of the Eagle Ceremony 2

The candle-lighting Scout Oath and Law ceremony is done by the Scoutmaster and 12 Scouts.

The candidate(s) move along the "Eagle Trail" as the Voice of the Eagle explains each rank. The Trail ceremony also includes the Scout Oath spoken by the new Eagles.

This court begins with a welcome, invocation, introduction of honored guests, and flag ceremony/Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a Scout Oath and Law ceremony:

(Twelve Scouts, each having an assigned point of the Law to present, proceed onto the stage and line up directly behind the candle log, in the order that they are to speak. They should be at least 2 feet behind the log. The Scoutmaster lights the Spirit of Scouting candle.)

Scoutmaster: Before you stands a single, lighted candle. It represents the spirit of Scouting. The law of this troop is Scout Law. Scouts also live by another code, which is the Scout Oath or Promise. The Scout Oath describes three duties that every Scout must accept—duty to God and country, duty to others, and duty to self.

Repeat with me this Oath as I light the three candles representing these duties. (The Scoutmaster uses the Spirit of Scouting candle to light the 3 Oath candles as Oath is spoken. The Scout reciting the first point of the Law on trustworthiness moves up to the log, lights his candle, gives the Scout sign and says the "trustworthy" text loudly and clearly. See The Official Boy Scout Handbook. The other 11 Scouts follow the same procedure, in order. Each Scout uses the Spirit of Scouting candle to light his candle. After the 12th point of the Law, the Scoutmaster and Scouts return to their seats.

The court is now officially opened, and the "Trail of Eagle" begins. *(The voice of the Eagle can be taped before the court of honor; if done "live," the VOE should stand where he cannot be seen readily, using a microphone, if necessary, in order not to distract the audience from the Eagle candidates as they advance down the center aisle.)*

Master of Ceremonies: At this time, we wish to present Eagle candidates _____ and _____, who will be taken to the foot of the Eagle ladder by their honor guard escort. *(As the Eagle candidates reach the back of the room, the lights dim—selected spots stay on.)*

Voice of the Eagle: This is the voice of the Eagle. The Eagle whose heights you have struggled hard to reach. We remember well when you first came to the base of the cliff, and how you looked up with ambition and determination. Look back for a moment; look down the cliff you have climbed; look at the experiences you have encountered in your ascent.

These experiences should not be forgotten. You should profit by making sure adverse experiences do not occur again. Experience is a valuable teacher, if you heed its teachings.

We remember when you took your first step upon the trail that leads upward. With that first step you began to build yourself physically, mentally, and morally. You started living the Scout Oath and Law. All the while you were on the trail, we watched you study and we say you learned by doing. First, you were only a Scout. Then your brother Scouts called you a Tenderfoot . . . and they were right, you were indeed a Tenderfoot Scout. *(Honor guard and candidates walk slowly to Tenderfoot sign.)*

Soon, you reached the second ledge and there you were greeted by a large group of Second Class Scouts. To reach the rank of Second Class, a Scout learns to work with members of his patrol and he begins to develop patrol spirit. *(Honor guard and candidates walk slowly to Second Class sign.)*

Some, like you, were stopping to catch their breaths before continuing along the trail. You began to study more, you worked harder, and almost before you knew it, you came to another ledge where First Class Scouts dwell. When a Scout reaches the rank of First Class in Troop _____, he is really first class. He is an expert in the outdoor skills of camping, cooking, hiking, and first aid. *(Honor guard and candidates walk slowly to First Class sign.)*

There you found a tempting green meadow by a crystal-clear stream bathed in the sun. Here you were tempted to remain. Yes, you could have remained there to live in First Class glory, but your ambition stirred you on. We remember your advancement to Star Scout. A Star Scout learns to work with the younger boys in the troop, passing along the knowledge he has gained. *(Honor guard and candidates walk slowly to Star sign.)*

The trail from First Class to Star was not as difficult as it had seemed. This spurred you on, and again you climbed further. The trail was steeper, and was less worn. Fewer Scouts seemed to be headed in your direction. You looked down and saw the crowds below you. You looked up and saw a few above you and, with the same determination with which you started your climb, you continued up the trail. A Life Scout demonstrates leadership in the troop, and takes part in community service projects. *(Honor guard and candidates walk slowly to Life sign.)*

Soon, the Life Scout badge—the heart badge—was placed on your uniform. You will never forget the thoughts in your heart—a feeling that has been experienced by most Scouts on reaching the ledge of Life. Now I am close to the Eagle; I will carry on. The trail became tougher, but more interesting. The original principles, the Scout Oath and Law, now had a fuller meaning. Your understanding of them was greater. The rank of Eagle is Scouting's highest award. The Eagle Scout must earn the specified number of merit badges and must plan, develop, and carry out an extensive service project, giving leadership to others. He must also serve as a troop officer for a specified time. *(Honor guard and candidates walk slowly to Eagle sign.)*

Yes, we have watched your character unfold and become mature; we have seen your understanding of citizenship expand; we have watched your mind develop and your wisdom increase; and we observed your leadership ability growing into a valuable asset. We have seen all these things in you, and now that you are at the threshold of your goal, we welcome you, for you have done your climbing in a true Scoutlike manner. *(Stage lights on full; house lights on one-half.)*

Will the escorts for the Eagle candidates please escort them to the stage? *(Escorts then return to their seats.)* Scoutmaster _____, have Eagle Candidates _____ and _____ conducted themselves in a manner

that exemplifies real Scouting? (Scoutmaster responds, "They have.")

Eagle candidates, you will rededicate yourselves by repeating the Scout Oath. Repeat it slowly as you stand beside the three lighted candles. Each one represents a part of the Oath. Resolve to uphold forever its principles with the same ambition and perseverance that has brought you this far. (Candidates repeat Oath.)

The law of the Eagle is the Scout Law. Your fellow Scouts have told you the Law which you know so well. Take heed of this advice and wisdom. Your conduct along the trail has been excellent. You have rededicated yourselves to the principles of Scouting. You have heard again the call of the Eagle. But, one more thing is important—your future. As an Eagle, you become a guide to other Scouts. You become an example in your community. Remember, your actions are then a little more conspicuous, and people will expect more of you. To falter in your duties would not only reflect upon you, but on your fellow Eagles. The torch you carry is not only yours, but ours.

Now, my fellow Eagles, let this not be the end of your Scouting, but go on and on to greater heights, and give other boys the benefits of your experiences.

(The Eagle candidates are given the pledge of the Eagle, their parents are escorted to the stage, and the Eagle badges and parents' recognitions are presented. A guest speaker gives the Eagle challenge and charge, and the court of honor closes with a benediction and the retiring of the colors.)

(Reception and refreshments follow.)

Room Arrangement for Voice of Eagle Ceremony 2

(See bottom of page 71 for arrangement of candles and badges.)

The voice of the Eagle is hidden off stage or behind a curtain with record player, bell, and mike. White gloves are worn by flag bearers and escorts. Escorts and candidates line up at U.S. flag (right face, single file) march to next sign at tinkle of the bell.

Legal-Type Eagle Ceremony

Municipal court building or stage set up as official court room.

Presiding The Honorable Mr. Judge,
Municipal Court

Bailiff	Mr. District Commissioner
Chief Counsel	Mr. Attorney at Law, Chairman, Advancement Committee
Counsel	Former Eagle Scouts from
Assistants	Candidate's Unit
Witnesses	Mr. District Executive
	Mr. Chairman, Unit Advancement Committee
	Mr. Unit Chairman
	Mr. Unit Commissioner
	Mr. H., Mr. I., Mr. J., Mr. K., Mr. L., Teachers, Merit Badge Counselors, etc.
	Former Cubmasters

Be it known that this court convened on _____ (date) at 8 p.m. and awarded the honorable rank of Eagle to Scout _____ for his noble achievement in Scouting.

Program. All participants and guests are requested to be present in advance of starting time so that proceedings may open promptly. At 8 p.m. or as close as is possible, court will convene. Judge John Doe will enter courtroom from his chambers.

Bailiff Request everyone to rise, and face the flag. Lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Announce that the court is in session. The Honorable John Doe, judge of the _____ (number) Municipal Court, presiding.

Judge Ask counsel to state his name, interest in the proceedings, and to answer if he is ready to proceed.

Chief Counsel Identify self and representatives of Eagle Scout _____ of Unit _____, _____ district. We are ready to proceed, your honor. (Make brief [1–2 minutes] opening statement to court, proposing to show that the candidate is worthy of being awarded the Eagle badge.) Point out that the brief has been filed in behalf of the candidate. Request court to direct that all witnesses in the evening's proceedings take oath.

Judge Direct bailiff to swear in all witnesses including candidate, parents, unit leaders, and others who will be testifying.

Bailiff Direct all witnesses to rise, raise their right hand (Scouts to use

Scout sign), and be sworn. Do you promise that the evidence you will give before this court shall be the truth, upon Scouting's honor?

Witness Yes.

Chief Counsel Request that the district executive be called as the first witness.

Bailiff Call District Executive Dorn.

Mr. Dorn Take witness stand.

Chief Counsel

1. Determine Mr. Dorn's position in Scouting.
2. Are all district records processed through his direction?
3. Has he verified the candidate's records including dates of ranks, merit badges, service, etc., and that all records are in order?
4. Thank witness. Request that the chairman of the unit advancement committee (Mr. Engle) be called.

Mr. Engle Take witness stand.

Chief Counsel

1. Determine Mr. Engle's position in Scouting.
2. Have him explain purposes of a board of review.
3. Verify that candidate has successfully passed board.
4. Thank witness. Request that Mr. Fry, unit chairman, be called.

Mr. Fry Take witness stand.

Chief Counsel

1. Determine Mr. Fry's position in Scouting.
2. Question him regarding significance of Eagle.
3. Value in obtaining.
4. How many boys attain rank nationally, in unit?
5. What does the Eagle rank mean and represent?
6. Thank witness. Request that Mr. Good, unit commissioner, be called.

Mr. Good Take witness stand.

Chief Counsel

1. Determine Mr. Good's position in community and Scouting.
2. Ask what qualities are needed in today's young men, and tie them to the qualifications of Eagle rank and these candidates. Thank witness.

Unit Leader Request that unit leader be called.

Chief Counsel Take witness stand.

1. Question unit leader as to his candidate's service in his unit.
2. Determine his opinion of candidate's worthiness for this award. Thank witnesses. Request that the parents of candidate be called.

Parents Take the stand together.

Chief Counsel

1. Question parents as to whether their son has been living the principles of the Scout Oath and Law in his everyday life.
2. Determine parents' opinion of son's worthiness to receive award.
3. Thank witnesses. Make closing summation (brief, 2-3 minutes) on candidate's worthiness to receive the Eagle Award.

Judge Render verdict. (Suggested theme: A judge must sit in a courtroom day in and out passing judgment on his fellowmen for their transgressions, errors, etc. It is a pleasure and privilege to sit in judgment of this court where testimony is focused on this young man for his quality and merit.) Ask candidate if he is ready to receive judgment.

Counsel Assistants (Ask clients to rise.) Candidate answers, I am, Your Honor. Lead client to position in rear of mother and father's chairs.

Judge Request bailiff to have candidate rededicate himself to the principles of the Boy Scouts of America by repeating his Scout Oath.

Bailiff Lead candidate in Scout Oath.

Judge Render judgment that candidate be awarded his Eagle badge. If unit leader has memento from his unit, make presentation at this time.

Unit Leader Present Eagle cloth badge to new Eagle Scout and offer congratulations.

Judge Request any representative of unit committees who have awards to present on said committee's behalf to come forward and make presentation.

Troop Committee Present Eagle miniature (on small ribbon) to candidate. He will pin it on mother later in ceremony. Offer congratulations.

Judge Request that the representatives from any of the chartered organizations who have awards to make in their behalf come forward and make presentations.

Chartered Partner Come forward and present Eagle ring. Do not give it directly to the candidate, but rather entrust it to boy's father until he has been officially pinned with his Eagle badge. Congratulate candidate and return to seat.

Judge Challenge candidate now to receive his next and final award, the Eagle badge, not just for his completed accomplishments, but also for the challenge of the future. Direct bailiff to present Eagle badge to candidate's father.

Counsel Assistants Come forward with Eagle pillow on which the Eagle badge is affixed.

Bailiff Request everyone present to stand during pinning of Eagle badge.

Judge

1. Direct father to hand badge to mother.
2. Direct mother to pin badge on son's left chest just above the pocket, and ask son to show acceptance of award by pinning his miniature badge on his mother's dress and sealing the acceptance with the traditional Eagle's mother's kiss, then to turn to his father and receive his father's handshake and his Eagle ring.

Counsel Assistants Assist mother in pinning badge on son. See that she does not start pinning until judge has given his full instructions. Make sure she understands the following directions. Watch out for dropping of miniature or purse, etc. Help pinning go off without a hitch.

Pastor Have troop chaplain, boy's pastor, or someone of his choosing offer a prayer after the Eagle pins the miniature badge upon his mother.

Judge Thank everyone for attending and dismiss court. Thank you, everyone, for making this a great court of honor!

Trail to Eagle Ceremony 1

The voice of the Eagle challenges the candidate and informs him of his responsibilities after he and his parents are on stage. The candidate accepts the challenge.

The Eagle charge is made before presentation of badge. (The court of honor begins with a flag ceremony, invocation, welcome, introduction of honored guests. All Eagle Scouts in the audience are asked to stand and introduce themselves.)

Master of Ceremonies: Our theme tonight is "The Trail to Eagle." The pathway to Eagle can be described as a steep trail leading up to three peaks, the highest being that of Eagle Scout. Officially, the trail starts with the Scout and Tenderfoot ranks and continues through Second and First Class ranks. Then, the mountain climbing begins. The path is marked with merit badges, leadership responsibilities, service projects, and the practice of Scouting skills. The first peak reached is that of Star Scout, the second is Life Scout and, finally, Eagle.

(The troop members are asked to rededicate themselves to the Scout Law so they may be reminded of the guiding principles of the Scouting program. The master of ceremonies requests the Eagle candidate to escort his parents to the stage, they are introduced, and his mother is presented with flowers. The master of ceremonies or other special guest reads the candidate's Scouting biography, and asks the candidate to stand.)

Master of Ceremonies: This candidate for Eagle Scout has passed all of the requirements for the rank of Eagle. A total of _____ merit badges have been earned. He has completed a service project and has served the troop as a leader. He sat before the Eagle board of review, and his records have been reviewed and passed on by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He stands before us, ready to receive the highest award in Scouting. I see no reason why the Eagle Award should not be presented to this applicant. However, if anyone knows of any reason why this Scout should not be awarded the rank of Eagle Scout, let him speak now.

First Voice of the Eagle: Gentlemen of the court, I represent all Scouts who have received the Eagle Award in the _____ Council. We do not

object to the awarding of this badge, but we do believe that this applicant should understand that the Eagle rank is a responsibility as well as an honor. We respectfully ask that this applicant be informed of the responsibilities of an Eagle Scout before the badge is awarded.

Master of Ceremonies: I concur. Please state the responsibilities of an Eagle Scout for this applicant.

First Voice: The white section of the Eagle badge stands for honor. The first responsibility of an Eagle Scout is to live with honor. An Eagle's honor is sacred. Honor is the foundation of all character. Character is what one really is; not what one thinks he is. An Eagle's life should influence his family, church, school, and friends in a positive manner. May the white of your badge remind you to live with honor always.

Second Voice: The second obligation of an Eagle Scout is *loyalty*. It is designated by the blue in the badge. Without loyalty, all character lacks direction. "To thine own self be true, and it must follow as day follows night, thou can'st not be false to any man." Neither pain nor profit, pride nor personal loss shall change him in his loyalty. The blue is an emblem of loyalty.

Third Voice: The third obligation of an Eagle Scout is *courage*, symbolized by the red in the badge. Courage gives character force and strength. Trusting in God and with faith in his fellowmen, he faces each day unafraid, and seeks his share of the world's work to do. Let red remind you always of courage.

Fourth Voice: The final obligation of an Eagle Scout is *service*. He extends a helping hand to those who still toil along the Scouting trail, just as others helped him in his achievement of Eagle rank. The habit of the daily Good Turn must take on a new meaning through a life of service to all those who need him. He protects and defends the weak and helpless. He aids and comforts the unfortunate and oppressed. He upholds the rights of others while defending his own. He well knows and always will be prepared to put forth his best.

First Voice: Are you willing and eager to accept the responsibilities as well as the honor of the badge of an Eagle Scout?

Candidate: I am.

First Voice: Because of your reply, the Eagle Scouts of the _____ Council welcome you as a new member of the highest order among Scouts.

(The master of ceremonies asks the candidate to be seated and introduces the guest speaker. Following the speaker, an appropriate poem is read and the candidate and entire troop are asked to stand. The presenter of the Eagle badge is introduced.)

Presenter: By virtue of the authority vested in this court by the National Council, the Boy Scouts of America, upon recommendation of various responsible persons and after thorough investigation of the applicant, I now award the rank of Eagle Scout to _____. I have the honor to give you the Eagle Scout charge on this occasion of your elevation to the highest rank in Scouting.

The Boy Scouts of all nations constitute one of the most wholesome and significant movements in the world's history, and you have been found worthy of the highest rank in its membership. 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 others. This is a great undertaking. You will live up to these obligations and bring honor to yourself and your brother Scouts. You cannot fail and bring down the standard of all others. Your responsibility goes beyond your fellow Scouts, to God and your country. America has many good things to give to you and those who follow you, but these good things depend, for the most part, on the character and leadership abilities of her citizens. You come to help her in all that she needs most. You are here to help make her future 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. By doing so, all may live better.

(Following the charge, the candidate's parents are asked to stand, and the Eagle badge and mother's recognition are presented. The new Eagle Scout and his parents are congratulated, and the guest speaker is thanked. The benediction is given, and the colors are retired while "Taps" is played.)

Portrait of an Eagle Ceremony

(Use desired opening and invocation. Then the chairman formally begins the court of honor.)

Chairman: Tonight I am going to paint a portrait. The central figure in this portrait is to be the candidate for the Eagle Award. *(The candidate is*

then escorted to the stage. He takes his place front and center on the stage. Escorts return to their seats.)

Chairman: The next step in the painting of the portrait is to fill in the background. For this purpose several persons are being asked to help with the presentation of the Eagle badge. (Whenever possible, use each of the following members. Introduce them properly and have them take their place on the stage, forming a semicircle in back of the Eagle Scout. If not available, improvise.)

Chairman: Each local council in the United States is represented on the National Council by one person for each 1,000 boy members. This council has _____ (number) people who are National Council representatives. The Eagle badge is issued by the National Council (all others are issued by the local council) and sent to the local council service center.

The council officers include the president, vice-president, district chairmen who represent their district on the council's executive board, executive board members, and committee chairmen appointed by the council president. Because the National Council forwards the Eagle badge to the local council to be awarded, we will ask _____ (name), who is the _____ (title), to be the first man to start the Eagle badge on its journey to the candidate. (Pause while taking place in portrait.)

The district officers of the _____ District are the district chairmen, vice-chairmen, district committee members at large, and members of the district committee appointed by the district chairman. Just as the National Council forwards the badge to the council to be awarded, the council forwards the badge to the district. We, therefore, will ask Mr. _____, who is the district _____, to represent the _____ District this evening.

The one institution which helps all of us most is the church. From the cradle to the grave, we are reminded of her teachings. We are proud that Scouting is privileged to help her in her work. We have asked the Eagle candidate's pastor to be with us for the awarding of this badge. Reverend _____ of the _____ Church, we ask that you to take your place next to the district officer.

The next institution which helps us most, second only to the church, is the school. While many teachers and schools have helped in the development of our candidate, we have asked one man to speak for them all. Mr. _____,

will you please take your place next to the clergyman in our portrait?

The troop committee chairman is the person who received the Eagle badge from the district for this presentation. Tonight we are honored to have this man with us. Mr. _____, will you please come and take your place in our portrait next to the school representative?

The addition of the next two men will almost complete our portrait. These men are the Eagle candidate's Scoutmaster and assistant Scoutmaster. Mr. _____ and Mr. _____ of Troop _____. You must indeed be proud of the achievement of the Eagle candidate and, in some degree, feel recompensed for the many hours you have given voluntarily and cheerfully to the boys in your troop. Will you please take your places in our portrait next to Mr. _____, the troop chairman.

The next person to become a part of the background of our Eagle portrait represents the many merit badge counselors who have assisted our candidate in earning the _____ merit badges which are required for this high rank. The assistance these men give is greatly appreciated. Mr. _____, please join the group on stage.

(The presenter explains that our portrait is now complete, except for the one person who has done the most for the Eagle candidate, his mother. I now call _____ to the stage. Escorted by two Eagle Scouts, she stands on the right side of her son, the Eagle candidate.)

(The presenter points out that the candidate is now going to be asked to subscribe to the Eagle Scout Oath or Promise. He asks the candidate if he is ready and willing to assume this high obligation. The candidate is asked to give the Scout sign and to repeat the following after the presenter. All Eagle Scouts present are asked to stand during the reading of the obligation.)

Chairman: Repeat after me.

I reaffirm my allegiance to the three promises of the Scout Oath. I thoughtfully recognize and take upon myself the high responsibility and duty 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 in my troop, in my community, and in my contacts with people, always.

(Addressing the candidate, the chairman informs him that it has been a pleasure to have had a part in the ceremony and that he is happy to give the badge to the council representative for presentation to the candidate. The council representative addresses the candidate and, after a few remarks of a personal nature, he ends by passing the award to the candidate's pastor. The school representative, troop committee chairman, Scoutmaster, assistant Scoutmaster, merit badge counselor, each, in turn, passes the badge to the next man after a few remarks to the candidate. The merit badge counselor presents the badge to the candidate's mother, who pins it over the heart of the candidate.)

The new Eagle will get a miniature Eagle pin from the chairman and present it to his mother. (Flowers and a kiss are appropriate.)

He may present his father the Eagle tie bar, if so desired.

If the Eagle ring, buckle, or neckerchief is to be presented, now is the time to do so.

The chairman invites audience to reception following.

Following the closing, he formally closes the Eagle court of honor.)

Hall of Fame Eagle Ceremony

Almost all of the ceremony depicts the trail to Eagle. It gives recognition to Eagles from the troop's past as well as to the new ones, and it incorporates the use of "still life" or pantomime scenes portrayed within two or three life-size "picture frames" on stage by members and adults of the troop. The center picture frame is used to highlight each new Eagle as he receives his badge. For maximum effectiveness, several spotlights are needed, and their use should be carefully rehearsed.

Setup: Stage curtains are closed; large Eagle emblem is mounted above the stage. At right and left stage front, there is a lectern with light and microphone. Three people-size picture frames are set upon the stage, behind curtain; spotlights are preset. Aisle seats, except in the first two rows, are saved for the troop. The front two rows are saved for honored guests, minister, Scoutmaster, committee chairmen and their wives, new Eagles and escorts, and new Eagles' families. Two rows in the rear area also saved for Scouts.

The house lights are dimmed. The new Eagles and escorts enter and seat themselves in the front row. House lights are turned off, except blue spot on stage curtains. From the rear of the auditorium,

the troop comes down the center aisle in pairs, with the first pair stopping at the third row of seats. Each boy has a penlight, held as a candle. They turn and face each other.

The color guard comes down center aisle. Each Scout turns off penlight as flag passes. Color guard turns and faces audience to present colors; the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation follow. Then the court is officially opened.

(Master of ceremonies to the lectern at audience's left lectern light on ; spotlight on Eagle emblem is mounted above the stage.)

Master of Ceremonies: This is the Troop _____ Eagle Scout Honor Roll. Tonight, _____ (number) new Eagle Scouts will be honored and their names will be entered in this gallery. They will join _____ (number) other fine young men from our troop who have achieved this distinction in the troop's _____ (number)-year history, including . . . (Give several names of earlier troop Eagles, voice fading out.)

Master of Ceremonies: What is there about these boys that brings them to this highest level in Scouting? Every Eagle Scout has earned more than 20 merit badges, including those in the required areas of proficiency.

Today's requirements are (read required list of merit badges).

Eagle Candidate _____ has advanced through the ranks of Scouting—Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, and Life. The skills learned along the way will help him throughout his life. Contained within these formal requirements is the general outline for the picture of an Eagle Scout.

To complete the picture, there are some less tangible and equally important qualities these young men have developed with the aid of Scouting—ambition, determination, and knowledge. When did each Scout first decide he might become an Eagle? Who encouraged him when his interest lagged? What has he gained from the merit badge program beyond the listed skills?

Let us consider the experiences and associations that helped form the character of our Scouts as we create in our minds the portraits of those entering Troop _____ (number)'s gallery of Eagle Scouts. From these experiences, these challenges, these relationships, traits of character are molded and shaped to complete the picture of the Eagle Scout. They add another dimension to a boy—the difference between completing a list of requirements, and being an Eagle Scout.

(Curtains open; spotlight on frame at stage right. Scene: Small boy, age 11, studying The Official Boy Scout Handbook.)

Master of Ceremonies: A young boy wants to be a Scout. He memorizes the Scout Oath and the Scout Law, perhaps scarcely knowing the meaning of the words he says. But he commits them to memory—the meaning will come later as he lives the Scout Oath and Law . . . “On my honor, I will do my best . . .”

(Spotlight shifts to frame at stage left. Scene Older Scout instructing a younger Scout who is dressed in summer trip uniform with backpack—pantomime.)

Master of Ceremonies: Our future Eagle Scout comes under the influence of older Scouts in the patrol. He learns to follow and respect authority here and in his home, school, and community. He feels good about working as a team member and doing a job well. He has enjoyable weekends—camping, water skiing, beachcombing, learning new skills, and developing friendships. He competes with his patrol in the district camporee. He finds that the year’s highlight is the summer backpacking trip. From year to year, the Scout’s role changes, and his responsibilities and enjoyment increase. With them, so does his self-confidence. He usually singles out one or two older boys as models—boys he can admire and emulate—and, about this time, he sees his first Eagle Scout court of honor. He begins to understand what sets an Eagle Scout apart from others.

(Spotlight shifts to frame at stage left. Scene: Medium-size Scout with parents.)

Master of Ceremonies: In the requirements it is not specified that the boy’s parents must be participating, and Scouting is for boys, but Eagle Scouts who cannot recall the encouragement, counsel, or just the look of a proud mother or father are rare. The troop’s program depends in many ways on the parents—the practice trips for camporee and for the summer backpacking and other outings, dinners, parties, and money-earning projects, all of these events depend on the mothers and dads and the participation of all.

(Spotlight to frame at stage left. Scene: Scoutmaster facing a Scout.)

Master of Ceremonies: Week after week, from the Scoutmaster’s study and experience, comes an understanding of a boy’s mind, spirit, humor, and need. And from this understanding, the

Scoutmaster challenges the boy and provides an opportunity and lots of encouragement. Leadership training is offered at the right time for that boy. Now, when he hears the words, “trustworthy” and “loyal,” he truly knows their meaning.

(Spotlight to frame at stage right. Scene: Scout in uniform with man in business suit—pantomime.)

Master of Ceremonies: Our Scout encounters new adult friends in the merit badge program. He learns from them the required material and, in addition, something of what it means to give back to youth the wisdom acquired with age. The Scout Law becomes more meaningful as the boy recognizes “helpful” and “friendly.” He learns to work with persons of varied personality and background, and to respect each—occasionally forming lasting friendships with these truly helpful men and women. The image of an Eagle Scout develops further still, as he works on community service projects and finally develops his own initiative in planning, leading, and completing his Eagle project. This part of Scouting offers boys the opportunity to help those less fortunate than themselves.

(Spotlight off last scene in frame at stage left and put on Eagle emblem.)

Master of Ceremonies: Scouting offers a boy everything we have mentioned and more. Some boys reach out for more than others, and only a few, one in 80 to 90 Scouts, attain the Eagle rank. We are proud of the Troop _____ (number)’s program. In recent years _____ (number) of every 10 boys joining the troop have progressed to Eagle. From play to work, fun to frustration, following to leading, the beginning until now, _____ (number) boys in Troop _____ (number) have become Eagle Scouts. None developed alike, but all met the Eagle standard.

Tonight, _____ (number) new portraits are being placed among those of other outstanding young men of Troop _____ (number)’s Hall of Fame. They are joining those from the past *(repeat 7–8 names of earlier Eagles, voice gradually fades:)* Now, this year . . .

(Spotlight drops to center frame where first new Eagle is standing. Second speaker steps up to lectern at audience’s right. Second speaker gives first new Eagle Scouts full name. Eagle stands a moment longer in frame, then steps out, meeting Scoutmaster who pins Eagle badge on him. As second speaker begins to read biographical

material, first new Eagle steps back into frame for a moment, then advances forward and down the steps from stage to waiting parents. He shakes his father's hand, places pin on mother, and slowly escorts both to rear of auditorium as second speaker continues to read biographical material. As Eagle and parents begin to walk slowly toward the rear, Scouts seated on aisle rise and come to attention. They salute, in turn, as Eagle and his parents pass. The second speaker finishes biographical material as Eagle and parents reach rear and are seated. The spotlight follows them to the rear of the auditorium.)

Master of Ceremonies (repeats 7-8 names of earlier Eagles, voice gradually fading out.) Now, this year

(Spotlight goes back to center frame where second new Eagle now stands. Repeat same procedure above as for first new Eagle—with Scoutmaster, second speaker, and troop saluting. Repeat for as many new Eagles as are being honored.)

(Spotlight to master of ceremonies; curtain closes.)

Master of Ceremonies: We have placed the portraits of _____ (number) new Eagle Scouts in our hall of fame. These young men have excelled in what Scouting professes to teach, and we are here tonight in recognition of this achievement.

The Eagle rank, however, is not an end in itself. Eagle Scouts, we charge you to build on what you have accomplished. We admonish you to remember always that your position is one of honor and responsibility. You are marked men. As Eagle Scouts you have assumed a solemn responsibility to do your duty to God, to your country, to your fellow Scouts, and to all people. As you live up to your obligations, you bring honor to yourselves and your brother Scouts. (Master of ceremonies pauses, then states slowly and clearly the date and the full names of the new Eagle Scouts.)

(The house lights come on. The court is officially closed and the master of ceremonies thanks the guests for attending and invites audience to reception.)

Scout Oath Eagle Ceremony

This ceremony is based on the Scout Oath and relates each phrase of the ranks required to reach Eagle. It can be used with the sample outline provided at the front of this section, with the exception that the Scout Law ceremony has been incorporated into the "trail" rather than occurring separately.

The ceremony can be taped ahead of time, with background music added where appropriate. For most troops, it is simpler to do it "live" with the speakers hidden from the audience but where they can be heard well (use a microphone if necessary). All speakers should be boy or adult Eagles. If few are available, speakers can double up on parts, though some effectiveness is lost. As given here, the script requires two adult and three older boy Eagles.

Use a patrol as a guard of honor for each Eagle candidate (in addition to the Eagle's escort) at the end of the "trail" ceremony, with the patrol leader reading the Eagle's biography. (The purpose of this is to allow more troop participation in the Eagle court.)

(As the master of ceremonies is saying, "Now, we are proud to present our Eagle candidates, _____ (names), who will be guided by their escorts to the base of the Eagle Trail," the candidates and escorts who have been seated in the front row on either side of the center aisle walk slowly to the rear of the auditorium, turn, and face stage with escorts on right side.)

Adult Eagle 1: We who speak to you now are Eagles. We have earned the Eagle badge. Now, back to the time when you first became Scouts.

Scout Eagle 1: The first thing we learned as new members of our troop was the Oath by which Scouts do their best to live. Although we easily learned to repeat the words, we soon found that to live by the meaning presented us with a real challenge. To be a good citizen, to do the right thing not for fear of punishment but because we felt the obligation to live up to the best within ourselves, to keep our minds and bodies healthy—in all these things we have tried our best to do. So have each of you—and this is why you stand here tonight.

(Eagle candidates and escorts move to Tenderfoot sign.)

Scout Eagle 2: On my honor, I will do my best . . .
(First escort lights Tenderfoot candle at top of sign.)

Adult Eagle 2: Let us look at the phrase, "Scout's Honor." When a Scout stands before his fellow Scouts and pledges 'On my honor, I will do my best,' he should not take the words lightly. That phrase should help him to focus upon his personal integrity, so that his earnest desire to do his best is strengthened and reinforced.

Scout Eagle 3: As Tenderfoot Scouts, we said to ourselves, "These are my rules. I believe in them

and accept them.' We became Scouts on the Eagle trail, taking a bearing on our future and moving toward honor. Behind us, on that same trail, came each of you.

(Eagle candidates and escorts move to Second Class sign.)

Scout Eagle 2: . . . to do my duty to God and my country . . .

(First escort lights Second Class candle on top of sign.)

Adult Eagle 1: And your duty to your country? There is an old Chinese saying that each generation builds a road for the next. The road has been well built for you. It is incumbent upon you to build your road even better for the next generation. We hope you will never be called upon to die for your country, but you will be expected, and America has every right to expect, that you live for it.

Scout Eagle 1: By the time we become Second Class Scouts, we began to develop an increasing awareness of the meaning of this part of the Scout Oath. We began to learn the importance of good citizenship, its privileges and, more importantly, its responsibilities. The time we spent hiking and camping with the troop made us more appreciative of the beautiful world God created for us. We began to see that doing our best to live as God and our country expected us to live not only made each of us a better person, but it helped our fellow Scouts. As this awareness grew in each of us, it developed in each of you.

(Eagle candidates and escorts move to First Class sign.)

Scout Eagle 2: . . . to obey the Scout Law . . .

(First escort lights First Class candle on top of sign.)

Adult Eagle 1: Many times since you first became Scouts, you have repeated the 12 points of the Scout Law. When you were inducted as the newest members of the troop, you found these points impressive. Later, as you advanced in Scouting, you probably repeated them at various ceremonies without always giving thought to the implications behind the words. Now, as you relive your progress in Scouting and in personal maturity with us, we would like you to hear them again.

(Scout Law ceremony, done by two Eagles or older boy leaders, on stage. Eagle candidates and escorts remain in place.)

Scout Eagle 3: As First Class Scouts, we tried to demonstrate the points of the Scout Law by the way we lived. We gained some understanding of these 12 goals of personal conduct and we found that as we moved farther up the Eagle trail, living up to these goals became increasingly demanding and rewarding. Just as we were challenged, so were each of you.

(Eagle candidates and escorts move to Star sign.)

Scout Eagle 2: . . . to help other people at all times . . .

(First escort lights Star candle on top of sign.)

Adult Eagle 2: This should remind you of the Scout slogan, "Do a Good Turn Daily." If we do something regularly, it becomes a habit. This is the aim of this part of the Scout Oath. Doing personal Good Turns and community service is an important part of Scouting. Giving assistance to your family, friends, and fellow Scouts without thought of reward is a giant step toward maturity.

Scout Eagle 2: To become Star Scouts and earn the next rank, the heart badge of Life, we were required to do community service work. Sometimes we worked under the leadership of an older Scout whose immediate goal was Eagle, but we also planned and carried out projects of our own. We became increasingly aware of the value of the work we were doing and the personal satisfaction to be gained from making that work succeed.

Scout Eagle 3: As we served our community and assisted fellow Scouts, we also discovered something else—the importance of the example we were setting to those who watched us, who would later be more likely to accept such responsibilities in their turn because of our attitude and actions.

As we did our best to set the example, so have each of you.

(Eagle candidates and escorts move to Life sign.)

Adult Eagle 1: When a Scout makes a pledge to keep himself physically strong, he's not thinking of bulging muscles. He's speaking of physical fitness in its most complete sense . . . fitness to be able to enjoy life at its fullest . . . fitness so that he can fulfill his finest possible role in life with confidence in his own abilities.

Adult Eagle 2: The phrase "to keep myself mentally awake" sets a goal of mental health and vitality, initiative, and keenness of mind—an expanding concept that grows as a boy matures.

The mentally awake person finds many pathways to growth. He thinks the people who stimulate him are curious, alert, and creative. He uses all the available resources to help him understand the world in which he lives and to which he hopes to contribute his share.

Adult Eagle 1: “To keep morally straight” means to keep clean in mind and body, whether you are alone or in a crowd. Many times you will be alone, the decision for right or wrong will rest solely with you, and it may test your honor and your strength. Such battles may be the most gallant of your life, for in them you will win without praise and lose without blame.

Scout Eagle 1: In many ways we found this part of the Scout Oath to be the most challenging of all. As Life Scouts in the leadership roles to which we were appointed or elected, we found that more was expected of us than ever before. It was now assumed that as troop leaders we would accept responsibilities and see them through . . . and that we would set an example of physical, mental, and moral fitness for our fellow Scouts. We did our best to meet the challenge, and so have each of you.

Adult Eagle 1: Have you done—and been—all that you could have? Only you can answer that question, but because you stand here tonight, we know you have tried. (Pause) “On my honor I will do my best . . .”

(Eagle candidates and escorts move into position parallel with front-row seats.)

Adult Eagle 2: You have nearly completed your journey and there is one final thought we would like to share with you. (Pause.) The word “leadership” does not appear in the Scout Oath but it is implied in every phrase. Give thought now to your responsibility as leaders. A leader is a person who is going somewhere, but not alone . . . for he takes others with him as he goes. Where will you lead those who follow you? We challenge you to take pride in what you have learned so that through your leadership, as you move with purpose toward your goals, the principles of the Scout Oath become a living thing for those who follow.

Adult Eagle 1: Will you now, with those Eagles who have served as escorts on your journey, turn and face your fellow Scouts. *(Eagle candidates and escorts turn and face audience. Scoutmaster or assistant Scoutmaster rises, stands behind*

candle log.) Join in spirit with the thousands of young men who have attained the goal you have now achieved. Pledge yourselves once again to citizenship and service by repeating the Scout Oath.

(Eagle candidates and escorts give Scout sign, all repeat Oath. Scoutmaster or assistant Scoutmaster lights three candles at appropriate time.)

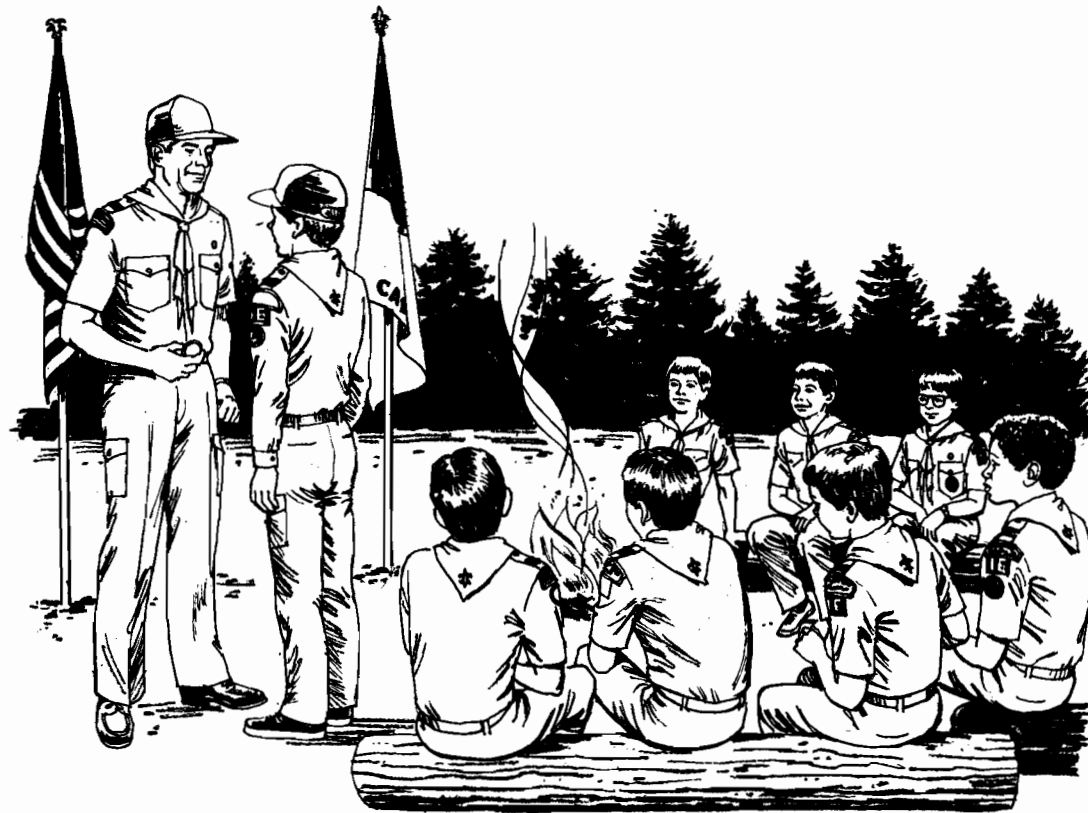
Adult Eagle 2: Those around you—your Scoutmaster, parents, and friends—have watched your character mature, your minds develop, and your leadership abilities expand into a valuable asset. This is a proud moment for each of you, but remember that the badge you are about to receive is not only yours, but ours. For what you do in the future reflects not only upon yourselves, but also upon your fellow Eagles. (Pause.) You have walked the Eagle trail with honor, and we welcome you.

(House lights up. Master of ceremonies stands by podium to continue court of honor.)

Summary on Eagle Court of Honor

- Plan well in advance.
- Involve the Eagle Scout and his parents.
- Request letters from prominent people. (President of the United States, Congressmen, Governor, others.)
- Make sure the Eagle court of honor is a special event.
- Send invitations to friends and all parents in the troop.
- Invite community, church, and school leaders.
- Print programs.
- Obtain local newspaper coverage.
- Consider presenting a special Eagle neckerchief, an Eagle ring or belt buckle, or a special plaque.
- Conduct a good court of honor.
 - Use a printed agenda.
 - Ensure that speakers know what to say.
 - Ensure that presenters know when to do it.
 - Practice (walk through).
 - Include all elements.
 - Be professional.
- Have a reception with refreshments—an Eagle cake is appropriate.

CAMPFIRE CEREMONIES



The campfire is a natural place for ceremonies. A troop may develop traditional opening, lighting, closing campfire ceremonies or try something new each time. The troop campfire is also an excellent place for most ceremonies from Scout investiture through a court of honor. With a little imagination most of the ceremonies in this book can be adapted for use at the campfire. You are encouraged to do so. Some random examples of ceremonies as they relate to campfires are included here. Use them as examples or ideas to develop your own.

A good campfire relaxes and inspires a boy. It is a center for wholesome entertainment and it provides the boy the opportunity for self-expression. Around a campfire, boys can develop a bond of fellowship and forget the selfishness or boastfulness which sometimes pervades patrols. Here is the place to really put the patrol method to work. The campfire is theirs; let the Scouts plan it, even though it may not be as good as one the adult leader could plan. But if you have trained your boy leaders correctly, they will keep the standards high.

Scout Promise Ceremony

In front of your large council fire, three small fire lays have been prepared with plenty of dry tinder

underneath. Bow-and-drill fire-lighting equipment, a torch, and an Indian drum will be needed.

There are six participants, all in Indian costume; the chief, the fire lighter, three warriors, and a drummer.

First, the drum is heard outside the council-fire area; it comes nearer and the chief and the other actors enter in single file, the drummer last. The chief takes up a central position with the others lined up in back of him. The drummer beats slowly and softly during the ceremony.

The chief steps forward and raises his right hand for silence. He motions the fire lighter forward and says, "Now we light the council fire after the manner of the forest children, even as the Great Spirit lights a fire by rubbing together two trees in a storm wind. So now comes forth the sacred fire from the wood of the forest."

The fire lighter walks forward, bows to the chief, then lights the council fire by the bow-and-drill method. He does this quietly and simply with no undue ceremony.

The chief lights the torch from the large fire, saying, "From the sacred council fire I light this torch which symbolizes the true spirit of Scouting. This will brighten our way along the trail of life. And now we light the fires that symbolize the ideals and traditions of good Scouting."

He passes the torch to the first warrior who lights the first small fire and says, "This fire is a symbol of a Scout's honor as he promises 'to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law.' "

The second warrior, after lighting the fire, says, "This fire stands for the spirit of this camp . . . 'to help other people at all times.' "

The third warrior lights his fire and says, "This fire represents what a Scout owes to himself and to the Great Spirit—to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.' "

The chief now advances and calls out dramatically, "I now declare the council fire open! As the sparks from this fire live in our memories, so let us always remember the spirit of Scouting and its ideals and traditions."

He now steps back and slowly stalks from the council-fire area, followed by the fire lighter, the three warriors, and finally, the drummer. At this point, the master of the campfire immediately takes over the program.

Variation. The chief is a buckskin pioneer, the other characters are Scouts of various ages. The pioneer calls for the fire to be lighted by flint and steel, the method of the Scout. The meaning of the rites is the same as for the previous ceremony.

A Recognition Ceremony

This simple ceremony welcomes new campers to their first council fire so they will have a feeling of belonging to the group as a whole. The master of campfire says, "Now we are to recognize and welcome a new group of campers. Some of you may remember the campfire when you received a similar welcome. As I call your names, let each new camper come forward and place a small stick on the fire, showing that you are now a member of your council-fire brotherhood. Then you will face the group and raise your right arm in greeting."

As each Scout raises his arm, the rest of the troop calls out "how." Then Scout resumes his seat in the campfire circle.

A Scout Law Ceremony

(This ceremony is similar to the first one described in this chapter, but you will need four small fires and four warriors or buckskin pioneers to light them.)

First Warrior: I have lighted the fire of truth to remind us that we must be trustworthy, loyal, and reverent.

Second Warrior: I have lighted the fire of friendship to remind us that we must be helpful, friendly, and kind.

Third Warrior: I have lighted the fire of citizenship to remind us that we must be clean, cheerful, and thrifty.

Fourth Warrior: I have lighted the fire of courage to remind us that we must be brave, courteous, and obedient.

(The master of the campfire asks all to stand and repeat together the 12 points of the Scout Law in their proper order. He then declares the council fire to be open.)

A Peace Pipe Ceremony

The peace pipe for this ceremony is not smoked. It may be whittled from wood, painted in bright colors, and decorated with feathers. Some real Indian pipes are described and illustrated in the Indian Lore merit badge pamphlet.

The actors include a chief, a fire lighter, a peace pipe bearer, a group of warriors, and the beater of the ceremonial drum. The fire lighter carries a lighted torch; he leads the procession in single file. Next in line is the peace pipe bearer followed by the chief, the warriors, and the drummer.

The chief occupies a central position, the warriors are grouped behind of him in a wide half-circle. The drummer stands to one side. The fire lighter bows to the chief.

Chief (gestures fire lighter toward the fire): Now let the council fire be lighted. *(While this is being done by means of the torch, the pipe bearer bows to the chief, who takes from him the pipe in both hands. The pipe bearer then retires to the half-circle.)*

Chief (steps forward holding the pipe in both hands, arms straight): To our Father, the Great Spirit (holds pipe aloft) that has given us so many blessings. *(Smokes pipe.)* To our Mother, the earth (extends arms downward) that has given us rich harvests. *(Smokes pipe.)* To the North Wind (gesture to the north) with its cold breath of winter that gives us endurance. *(Smokes pipe.)* To the East Wind (gesture to the east) from the land of the rising sun, sending the morning light across the plains and mountains. *(Smokes pipe.)* To the South Wind (gesture to the south) and the warm sunshine. *(Smokes pipe.)* To the West Wind (gesture to the west) from the land of tall mountains. *(Smokes.)* I now declare the council fire open!

(The pipe bearer takes the pipe to a warrior on the right, and he passes it along to all Scouts. The group may be seated as the master of ceremonies takes over the program. If desired, the Indian group may march out in single file in the same order as before. This gives them a chance to change their costumes.)

A Fire-Lighting Invocation

This parody on "Hiawatha" may be changed to fit the name and location of the camp. If your master of campfire can memorize this, it will be quite an impressive ceremony especially if accompanied by a trick method of lighting the fire.

On the shore of Old Lake . . .
By the brightly shining water,
Stand the wigwams of our campers.
Dark behind it stands the forest,
Stand the chestnut, oak, and hemlock,
Stand the firs with cones upon them.
Many things they learn and do here:
How Wakonda, the Great Spirit,
Cares for all his faithful children,
Cares for all the forest people;
Learn they of the stars in heaven,
Of the birds that fly and nest here,
Learn the language of all creatures,
Call them friends whene'er we meet them.
Oh Great Spirit, then, in heaven,
Send us flame to light our campfire
That we may for this be thankful;
Oh Great Spirit, this we ask thee,
Send us fire and we shall praise thee!

Following this invocation, possibly by a staff member in Indian costume, the fire is lighted.

A Campfire Pioneering Ceremony

Two small teepee fires are ready, one on each side of a large unlighted log-cabin type of council fire. The master of campfire, in buckskin or Scouting costume, calls the council fire to order. An Indian enters and lights the first teepee fire, using a bow-and-drill method. Immediately, a buckskin pioneer with a fur hat enters and lights the second teepee fire with flint and steel. These two characters may act simultaneously if desired.

Master of Ceremonies: You see before you the fires made by the Indian and the pioneer. The red man's fires lighted the forests and plains of

this great land many years before the white man came. His council fire was all-important; around it many tribal decisions were made. The fires of the hardy pioneers lighted the trails of the covered wagons and warmed the first American log cabins. The fires of these ancestors of ours lighted the way to those settlements that are now great cities in every corner of our land. We light our own council fire from the flames of the campfires of the Indian and the pioneer. May their ideals and their courage burn brightly in our hearts! *(Two Scouts come forward holding unlighted candles. They each stand near one of the fires and wait at attention.)*

Master of Ceremonies: We now light . . . *(Scouts take flame from the teepee fires and light the large council fire, one Scout standing on each side of it. Then they retire quietly. If this is done as an Indian ceremony, you will prefer to present it to the soft and very slow beat of an Indian drum, used as a musical background.)*

Opening Chants

1. As the flames point upward, so be our aim.
As the red logs glow, so be our sympathies.
As the gray ash fades, so be our errors.
As the good fire warms the circle, so may our ideals warm the world.
I now declare the campfire open.
2. Spirit Red, Spirit Red—thy hunger must be fed.
Spirit Hot, Spirit Hot—forget us not, forget us not.
As the year grows old, keep us from the cold.
Spirit White, Spirit White—in the darkness of the night, be our shining light.
I now declare the campfire open.

Closing Campfire Ceremonies

As the glowing campfire embers fade and die, the campfire should be closed on a note of quiet inspiration, with reference to the value of the ideals of Scouting in our daily lives.

The Scout Oath

Have all make the Scout sign and repeat together the Scout Oath. Do not follow this with the Scout Law, which may be repeated so much that it can lose much of its meaning.

The Scout Law

For a closing ceremony, repeat one point of the Scout Law in its entirety. The leader in charge

states the heading of this point and another leader responds with the explanatory portion of the same point.

The Scout Benediction

Have all stand, bow their heads, and repeat together "May the great Master of all Scouts be with us till we meet again." Then the Scouts leave the area quietly.

Silent Prayer

All campers bow their heads, and the leader says "A Scout is reverent . . . He is faithful in his religious duties, and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion. Amen."

Tattoo with Echo

Have the camp bugler stand some distance from the council fire area and play "Tattoo." Then have him repeat this quite softly. By using two buglers, the echo will be heightened.

Brotherhood Circle

Form circle, arms about each other's shoulders. Sing "Auld Lang Syne," and at the same time sway back and forth to the music.

Boy Scout Vesper: Sing (Boy Scout Songbook)

On My Honor: Sing (Boy Scout Songbook)

"Taps" (Boy Scout Songbook): Start with arms lifted high, lower them slowly as song progresses.

From the suggestions above, campfires may be developed to fit many occasions. Be sure that a varied, yet balanced, mixture of these ingredients is used.

Special Campfires

First Campfire

Ashes from the previous year's last campfire have been kept and are used in a ceremony for new campers. The boys are called forward, and the Scoutmaster says, "Scouts, you have now been in camp one day and have attended part of our first campfire. Earlier in the evening you listened to the traditions of our troop and the responsibilities of every Scout. Will you help us keep these traditions as good campers should?" Answer: "I will."

Scoutmaster: "I hold in this vessel some of the ashes of last year's campfire. They stand for all that we enjoyed in our past. I now place some of these ashes on the right shoulder of each of you and pronounce you campers in good standing, entitled to the rights and obligations of our camp."

Tall-Story Campfire

Tell Paul Bunyan or John Henry tales. Have a patrol contest to find the champion tall storyteller of the troop. Announce the contest early in the day so that the boys can prepare for it.

Indian Campfire

The boys arrive at the campfire in Indian file, stripped to the waist, but covered with a blanket, and made up with war paint and feathers. Indian ceremonies, songs, and dances are featured.

Patrol Campfires

One or more evenings in camp should be designated for patrol campfires for which the patrols will make up their own programs entirely.

Intertroop Campfires

If the troop is camping in an intertroop camp, the biggest evening events, undoubtedly, will be when the troops gather for big campfires together. For such events each troop provides its best talent and best efforts for mutual enjoyment.

Campfires in the Rain

Building the fire near the edge of a mess fly, or as near the most compact group of several tents as possible, or near opening of the troop general assembly area, leaving Scouts under some cover.

Awards Campfires

The presentation of skill awards and other "instant recognitions" earned at camp focuses on the true outdoor spirit of Scouting. An outdoor "mini" court of honor, with a simple but dignified ceremony, puts real significance on advancement and remains in the boys' memories for a long time.

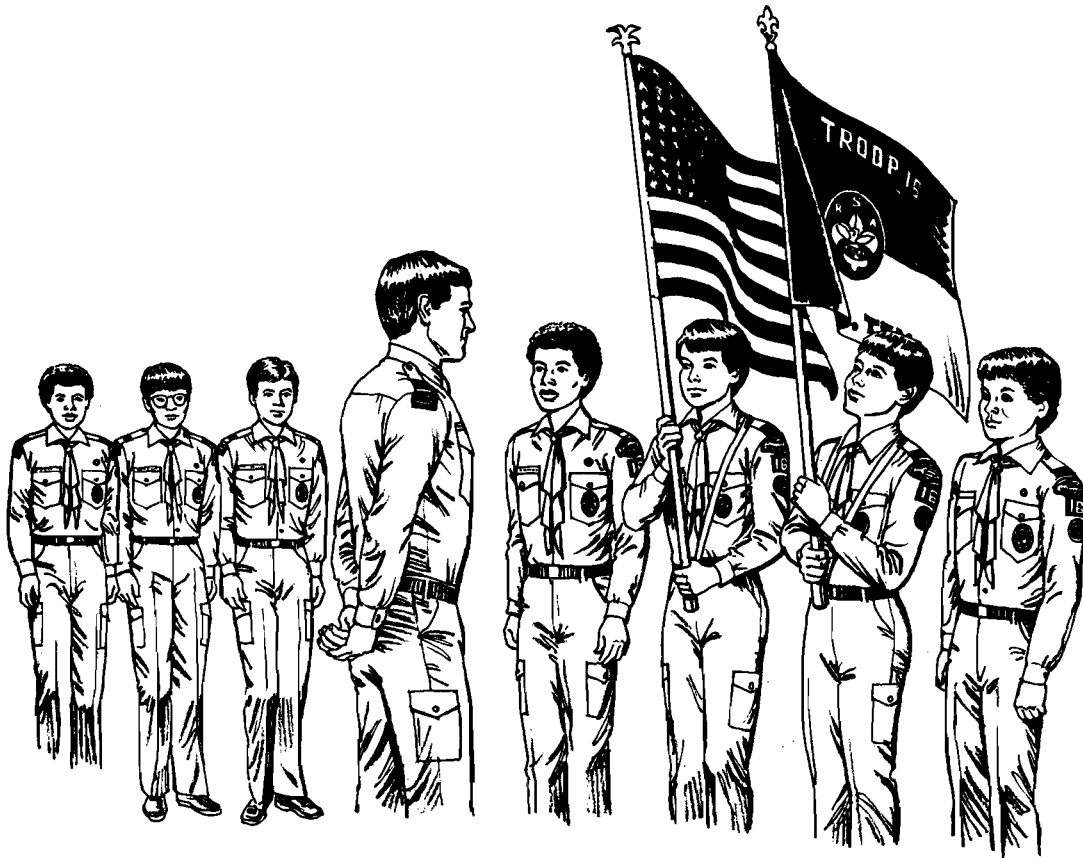
Parents' Campfire

If your troop has an annual family campout, be sure to involve family members in your campfire. Ask them to participate in skits, etc. Most parents enjoy it thoroughly!

Last Campfire

On an extended outing, this can be made the climax of the outing, with a more serious program tending toward the inspirational. Use the ashes for the next outing's campfire.

FLAG CEREMONIES



The use of the U.S. flag and state, church, and troop flags is encouraged in ceremonies as applicable. Certainly in courts of honor and other formal ceremonies, flags should be used. In most troop ceremonies, flags also are appropriate. However, care must be used to ensure the use is meaningful and does not become “habit.” When flags are used, it is important that they are used properly. Proper flag courtesies should be known and used (see *Your Flag*, No. 3188). Refer to the current literature on flags—proper uses, locations, procedures, etc.

A few examples of proper flag uses in ceremonies as well as flag-raising and flag-lowering ceremonies are provided here.

Opening Ceremony: Silent Pledge

(Leader stands at front of room, facing U.S. flag. Reader stands at side of room. Use penlight for light. One other person needed to shine light on flag with lantern or flashlight. All lights out except lantern or flashlight shining on flag. All stand.)

Leader: As I say the words to the Pledge of Allegiance, repeat them silently to yourselves. Hand salute—one. *(Leader—hand salute throughout.)* I Two. *(Immediately following*

each phrase of the Pledge, reader reads appropriate section below.)

Leader: I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

Reader: As our founding fathers pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to a new nation, so do we pledge our devotion and our loyalty.

Leader: TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Reader: An honored symbol of a nation’s unity, its hopes, achievements, glory, and high resolve—red for courage, white for purity, and blue for vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

Leader: AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS

Reader: Where sovereign power resides in a body elected by, representative of, and responsible to this nation’s citizens.

Leader: ONE NATION UNDER GOD

Reader: From the Atlantic to the Pacific; from Canada to Mexico; high mountains, wide prairies, great cities and tiny villages, vast ranches and small farms—we are united as one under the one to whom we turn for guidance,

whose blessings we ask, and who watches over us—as individual citizens, and collectively as a nation—for in His spirit America was founded.

Leader: INDIVISIBLE

Reader: The citizens of this great country come from different racial backgrounds, have differing traditions, and often worship in different houses. Because the people of America are so varied, so diverse, and so rich in heritage, the whole of this nation is far greater than the sum of its parts—and we stand together to face the world.

Leader: WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

Reader: We have both the right of freedom, and responsibility to respect and protect the freedom of others. From Revolutionary times to the present day, men have defended our flag with their blood and with their lives. Our flag is a symbol of the people . . . all the people . . . us . . . the people of the United States of America.

Flag Ceremony for a Court of Honor

(The troop lines up outside the meeting room in two columns, with a flag bearer at the head of each. The two columns march in, one down each side of the room. They stop. The leader of each column is at the end of the front row of seats. The Scoutmaster and the senior patrol leader stand at the front of the room, between the two flag stands.)

Senior Patrol Leader: Color guard, post the colors. *(The leader of the left-hand column carries the U.S. flag, and the leader of the right-hand column carries the troop flag; they advance to the front of the room below the stage, cross each other's path to the opposite side, and post the colors so the U.S. flag is on the audience's right. They remain standing by their flags.)*

Senior Patrol Leader: Troop, present yourselves. *(Each Scout, beginning with the first one in line in the left-hand column, then the first one in the right-hand column, and continuing with alternating Scouts in each column, steps one pace out of line toward the audience, salutes the flag, and states his name. After all the Scouts in each column have saluted the flag and given their names, the two members of the color guard do the same, followed by the senior patrol leader and Scoutmaster.)*

Senior Patrol Leader (to audience): Please join us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Birth of a Flag

Narrator: Have you ever stopped to think how a flag is made? Today, we are going to show you how our flag was made!

First, we add the red for courage. *(Boy raises red strip.)* The courage of those gallant men who have given their lives defending the freedom of our great country. Red is for the courage of those Scouts who have accepted the challenge of advancement and development of mind, body, and character.

Next, we add some white *(next boy raises white strip)* for purity. The purity of the birth of a new nation which struggled for life carved from virgin wilderness. The white is also for the purity of a new Cub Scout just beginning the great adventure of Scouting.

Then, let us add some blue *(next boy raises blue strip)* taken from the sky above and the water that surrounds our continent. The blue represents the life-supporting elements that sustain our very existence. The blue sky and the blue water that beckon Scouts of all nations to enjoy God's great natural beauty.

Next, we add just a dash of stars *(next boy drops stars into container)* to represent the 50 states that make up this grand land we call the United States of America. Stars that shine in the eyes of a lad as he succeeds in the accomplishments and goals achieved in the Scouting program.

Finally, we add this needle and thread *(next boy drops needle and thread)* with which to finish our flag. The steel of the needle signifies the strength of our nation, and the thread represents the fiber of brotherhood that binds us together in a united effort to continually defend the freedom our flag represents. Our flag! Old Glory! The Red, White, and Blue! Stars and Stripes Forever! The Flag of the United States of America! May it always fly with honor and respect!

The Birth of A Flag (With Props)

Materials

- One large container (such as a box, wash pot, etc.)
- One roll each of 1- or 2-inch red, white, and blue crepe paper
- Eight to 10 stars or disks constructed of aluminum foil or similar material

- One large spike or similar material to represent a needle (this object must be large enough to be seen by audience)
- One piece of brightly colored yarn which should be attached to the “needle.”
- One troop-size flag of the United States of America
- Five Scouts, or if available, a Cub Scout, a Boy Scout, a Varsity Scout, and an Explorer, or any combination.

(Place the container in the front center stage, with or without backdrop. The U.S. flag should be concealed within the interior of the container. Care should be taken to protect the flag from soiling or desecration during this procedure. Position or group the five Scouts around the container so that on cue during the narration each may deposit his property into the container.)

(At the conclusion of the narration and at the beginning of the accompanying music, the five Scouts should, in unison, bend, grasp, and withdraw the U.S. flag and hold in proper position until the conclusion of the music, then withdraw from the stage with the flag. Two Scouts should properly fold the flag after they have withdrawn into the wings.)

Scout No.1: (Deposit red, rolled crepe paper into container by holding loose end of roll allowing roll to “stream” into container. This should be done on this cue.) First, we add the red for courage.

Scout No. 2: (Deposit white rolled crepe paper into the container by holding loose end of roll allowing roll to “stream” into container. This should be done on this cue.) Next, we shall add white for purity.

Scout No. 3: (Deposit blue crepe paper roll into the container by holding loose end of roll allowing roll to “stream” into container. This should be done on this cue.) Then, let us add some blue taken from the sky above and the water . . .

Scout No. 4: (Deposit stars or disks of foil into container by letting each slip out of his hand one or two at a time into the container. This should be done on this cue.) Next we will add just a dash of stars to represent 50 United States that make up . . .

Scout No. 5: (Deposits “needle” and “thread” into the container by allowing the “needle” to be lowered slowly followed by the “thread” and finally allow end of “thread” to drop into container. This should be done on this cue.) Finally, we add this needle and thread with which to finish our flag.

All five Scouts: (Stand at ease [military position] until the narration cue.) . . . The fiber of brotherhood that binds us together in a united effort . . . (Then, all five Scouts in unison, should bend, grasp, and withdraw the flag, and hold in proper position while the National Anthem is being played. At the conclusion of the National Anthem, the five Scouts should do a half turn toward the Scout holding the part of the flag with the stars and withdraw from the stage into the wings. The Scout holding the flag position with the stars should be in command and give the order to “right face” or “left face” prior to giving the command to “retire the colors” upon which command the Scouts march off stage in military step.

The two Scouts responsible for holding the two ends of the flag will be responsible for proper folding of the flag as soon as the color guard has reached the wings of the stage.

Be sure that at least one rehearsal is held before the actual presentation of this ceremony.

Our Flag—A Symbol of Us

(The troop is lined up and stands at attention. Flag bearer at front with spotlight [flashlight] on flag.)

Narrator (at side); Franklin K. Lane, in *The Makers of the Flag*, makes the flag say to us “I am whatever you make me, nothing more. I am your belief in yourself, you dream of what a troop may become. I live a changing life, a life of moods and passions, of heartaches and tired muscles. Sometimes I am strong with pride, when boys do an honest work, fitting the rails together truly. Sometimes I droop, for then purpose has gone from me, and cynically I play the coward. Sometimes I am loud, garish, and full of that ego that blasts judgment. But always, I am all that you hope to be, and have the courage to try for.” Our flag is a symbol of US. To some people the flag is just a piece of cloth. To others it is just a flag. But to me it represents more than I could say here tonight in such short time. It represents the following.

It represents . . . what happened at camp one time—one of our boys cut his foot and had to be taken to the hospital.

It represents . . . the time I was invested as a Tenderfoot Scout; the times I help invest others.

It represents . . . a lot of cold nights in camper tents and a lot of hot joyous days in the sun.

It represents . . . the first night on camps when we get little sleep.

It represents . . . the long trail from Tenderfoot to Eagle and the joys and satisfaction that comes from attaining those ranks.

I believe our troop flags are neglected too much.

Our troop flags represent the Scoutmaster, assistant Scoutmaster, our committeemen, our Scouting coordinator and many others.

I think we might could say that our troop flags are the hearts of troops. We should fly our troop flags at every possible opportunity and especially when we go tent camping.

So fellows, let's keep our troop flags flying!

I Am Your Flag

I was born on June 14, 1777.

I am more than just cloth shaped into a design.

I am the refuge of the world's oppressed people.

I am the silent sentinel of freedom.

I am the emblem of the greatest sovereign nation on earth.

I am the inspiration for which American patriots gave their lives and fortunes.

I have led your sons into battle from Valley Forge to the streaming, treacherous jungles of Vietnam.

I walk in silence with each of your honored dead, to their final resting place beneath the silent white crosses—row upon row.

I have flown through peace and war, strife and prosperity, and amidst it all I have been respected.

My red stripes symbolize the blood spilled in defense of this glorious nation.

My white stripes signify the burning tears shed by Americans who lost their sons.

My blue field is indicative of God's heaven under which I fly.

My Stars, clustered together, unify 50 states as one, for God and Country.

"Old Glory" is my nickname, and proudly I wave on high.

Honor me, respect me, defend me with your lives and your fortunes.

Never let my enemies tear me down from my lofty position lest I never return.

Keep alight the fires of patriotism, strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy.

Worship Eternal God and keep His commandments, and I shall remain the bulwark of peace and freedom for all people.

Flag Ceremonies at Camp

Flag ceremonies at camp may vary with local conditions, but if we understand a good general pattern we can adapt this to any situation.

In a short-term camp the proper methods of showing respect to our flag are important. They build morale and patriotism. The flagpole may be merely a line run into a tree. In some areas it may be necessary to march the colors in and out, flanked by color guards, if no method of flag raising is possible.

A small council camp may find it convenient to assemble all Scouts around a central flagpole for ceremonies both morning and night. However, such a camp may prefer to raise the colors in the morning without ceremony and to hold a formal retreat at night.

Large council camps may have many decentralized unit camps. Some of these units may not be able to see the main flagpole. They may or may not be able to hear a centrally located bugler.

It is common practice in such camps to raise the flag at a central point in the morning without formal ceremony, at the first note of "Reveille," and to march the units to this flagpole for a formal retreat ceremony in the evening.

The important thing is to use flags and flag ceremonies at all troop outings. The displaying of the flags, troop and U.S., should be as much a normal scene as tents and Boy Scouts.

Morning Routine

The following morning routine is suggested for unit camps where a bugler is available. At the get-up hour the bugler plays "First Call." The unit leader gives the command "Fall in!" This brings the campers to attention.

The color detail is at the flagpole with the flag. At the command "Sound off!" the bugler plays "Reveille," and the flag is raised quickly. The Scouts salute without command at the first note and drop the hand at the last note of the bugle. The unit then proceeds with the morning schedule.

Evening Routine

In a unit camp, the Scouts assemble at "First Call." The color detail and bugler go to the flagpole.

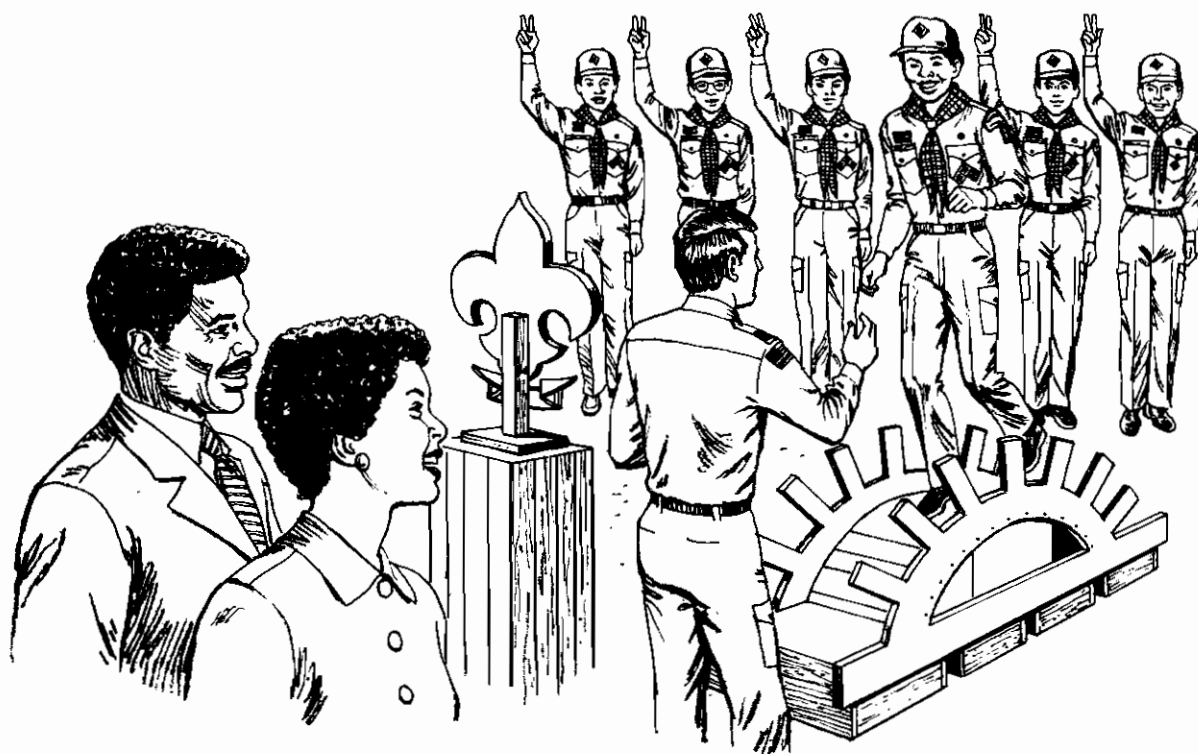
After assembling, the boys get the command "Fall in!" The command is given, "Parade rest! Sound off!" The bugler plays "Retreat." When he finishes, the command is "Attention! Sound off!" The bugler plays "To the Colors" and the flag comes down slowly, time to the bugle call. Scouts salute at the first note of the bugle and drop the hand at the finish of the call. The regular routine after retreat then follows. Sometimes mess call followed by the evening meal.

If the units march to (or assemble at) a central flagpole, the ceremony just described will still be in order, except that orders may be given by a member of the camp staff.

Gun Salute

If a gun salute is used, this is fired at the first note of "Reveille" and the last note of "Retreat."

WEBELOS-TO-SCOUT TRANSITION CEREMONIES



The importance of conducting a good Webelos-to-Scout ceremony cannot be overstated. This is the single most effective method to retain a boy and his parents in Scouting. Far too many Webelos Scouts never join a boy Scout troop simply because no troop made it easy for them to do so. To the Webelos Scout the troop does not appear to be a friendly place—the Scouts are all bigger than he is. A good transition ceremony can help make the newcomer welcome.

- Make the boy feel important. He has accomplished something and should be recognized for it. A part of this recognition is the fact that he has earned the right to take the next step up the ladder of Scouting into the troop. Emphasize that it is the expected thing for a Webelos Scout to do.
- Make him feel wanted in the patrol and in the troop.
- Welcome his family into the troop.

The transition (bridging) ceremony should be developed by the pack in collaboration with the troop leader. The elements could include a simple "bridge" made by Scouts. Some examples are presented here with more ideas in *Staging Den and Pack Ceremonies*.

Bridge to Scouting

This impressive ceremony for Webelos Scouts can be used indoors or outdoors. Advancement recognition ceremonies for the lower ranks may precede it.

Personnel. Webelos den leader (Akela), Scoutmaster, den chief as torchbearer, Scouts from troop, graduating Webelos Scout and his parents, senior patrol leader.

Equipment. A rustic bridge with railings made of dead tree branches and floored with scrap lumber; two campfires (artificial ones for indoors); camp candle lantern.

Arrangement. Graduating Webelos Scout and parents and Scouts are seated around their respective campfires at opposite ends of a rough bridge on an auditorium stage or on the ground. If indoors, the room should be darkened. Webelos den leader asks Webelos Scout to stand and repeat Cub Scout Promise. Then—

Webelos den leader (calls): Hello, Scouts of (name of Scout camp).

Scoutmaster (answers): Hello, Webelos Scouts of Akela, what do you desire?

Webelos den leader: We have a Webelos Scout of

Akela's council ring who has prepared himself for entrance into the council ring of (name of Scout camp).

Scoutmaster: Bring him forward to the bridge that joins our two council rings. (Webelos den leader, accompanied by torch bearer use candle lantern leads graduating Webelos Scout and his parents to bridge. Scoutmaster crosses over bridge and is introduced to parents and Webelos Scout.)

Webelos den leader: _____ (Name), you have contributed much to your den and pack and we shall miss you and your parents. Now you are leaving us to enter the Scout troop of your choice. There, we are sure, you will continue to grow in Scouting skills and friendships. An important part of your Webelos Scout uniform is your neckerchief. Now that you are leaving our pack and Cub Scouting, will you remove your neckerchief and give it to me. Soon, your new Scoutmaster will place around your neck the neckerchief of the troop you are to join. (Webelos Scout removes neckerchief and gives it to Webelos den leader. Scoutmaster now beckons the graduate to follow him across bridge.)

Scoutmaster (standing before Scout campfire): As Scoutmaster of Troop _____ (number) I welcome you and your parents. There are many traditions in Troop _____ (number)—so many that I would not attempt to relate them all to you now. (Scoutmaster may explain one or two traditions and tell of important troop activities planned for the near future.) Now it is my pleasure to present you with the neckerchief of our troop. (He places neckerchief around the neck of incoming Scout.) Wear it with pride as many have done before you. Your senior patrol leader, _____ (name), now wishes to express the troop's happiness in having you as a member. (Senior patrol leader leads troop in a cheer for new Scouts. This is followed by the troop song or a good Scout song such as "Trail the Eagle," and the Scout Oath.)

Crossing the Bridge

Personnel. Webelos den leader, Scoutmaster, a Scout, graduating Webelos Scout and his parents.

Equipment. A rustic bridge, two spotlights—one directed on each end of bridge, Scout neckerchief.

Arrangement. Place the bridge on the stage or in front of the pack meeting room. The Webelos den leader with the graduating Webelos Scout and his parents stands on one end of the bridge. On the

other end is the Scoutmaster with a Scout holding a rolled troop neckerchief.

Webelos Den Leader (to parents): During the years you and your son have been in Cub Scouting, we have had many opportunities to work together along the trail. Now _____ (Webelos Scout's name) has reached the age of 11 and is leaving the pack to enter Boy Scouting. I am sure you are going to find the same satisfactions there that you have found in Cub Scouting. As a symbol of the growth of your son and his entrance into Scouting, may I ask that he stand before me where I will divest him of his Webelos Scout neckerchief. You and he will then cross over the bridge into Scouting, to be welcomed by Scoutmaster _____ (name) of Troop _____ (number). (After Webelos den leader has removed the Webelos Scout's neckerchief and saluted him, the Webelos Scout and his parents cross bridge and stand before Scoutmaster.)

Scoutmaster (greet Webelos Scout and parents with handshake): As Scoutmaster of Troop _____ (number), it is indeed a pleasure for me to welcome you into the troop. We meet each week at _____ (time) at _____ (place). We shall look forward to welcoming you at our next meeting.

Scoutmaster (to boy): And now I present you with this Scout neckerchief. (Places rolled neckerchief around the boy's neck.) May you wear it with pride; its colors are those of Troop _____ (number), which welcomes you as its newest member. (All exit.)

The Milepost

Personnel. Cubmaster, Webelos den chief, graduating Webelos Scout and his parents, Scoutmaster, and two Scout aides.

Equipment. Troop neckerchief for graduate.

Cubmaster (addressing audience): Cub Scouting is the younger boy part of the great Scouting movement. In the final months of his Cub Scouting experience, a boy learns the requirements for the Scout badge. He decides what troop he will join and with his dad arranges for his entrance into Scouting on his 11th birthday. Tonight our pack has the privilege of bringing another Webelos Scout to this significant milepost. (Addressing den chief.) Den Chief _____ (name), will you escort Webelos Scout _____ (name) and his parents forward. (Cubmaster greets them.)

Webelos Scout _____ (name) has chosen Troop _____ (number). The Scoutmaster of Troop _____ (number), Mr. _____ (name), is here. We will ask him to come forward with his aides. (Cubmaster introduces Scoutmaster and his aides to Webelos Scout, his parents, and audience.)

Cubmaster: We are now going to relive the Cub Scout experiences of our boys who are ready to cross over the bridge into Boy Scouts. You started your Cub Scout careers as Bobcats. You were at least 8 years of age, or had completed the second grade. You had to learn the Cub Scout Promise, the Law of the Pack, the handshake, and the salute. So you started your journey on the Bobcat trail. You look ahead and see that the trail goes through a comparatively level "Wolf Valley." (Boys and parents move to Wolf Valley sign, led by Cubmaster.)

Cubmaster: As you go through "Wolf Valley," you work on your physical and mental skills until you have passed 12 achievements. You pass these achievements with your parents or at your den meetings. You are growing; you have mastered "Wolf Valley." Raise your heads and look where the trail leads now—up and up. Your next goal is "Bear Mountain." (Boys and parents are conducted by Cubmaster to Bear Mountain)

Cubmaster: As you progress up the trail toward Bear Mountain, you will find the achievements a little more difficult because you are growing both physically and mentally and more is expected of you. You pass your 12 required achievements and are encouraged to work on electives, both Wolf and Bear. A year passes and you have reached the top of Bear Mountain, and can now see ahead of you the Lodge of the Webelos. Your guides on the trail now change and fathers become the leaders who work with you. (Boys and parents are conducted to "Webelos Lodge" or council fire.)

Cubmaster: You are now a lodge member of Webelos. Now it is strictly between you and your leaders whether you wish to work for the Arrow of Light Award or just want to be a member. You will be a Webelos until you reach the age of 11, when you become eligible to join a Boy Scout troop. You've worked hard here at Webelos lodge and are now ready to take your next step on the Scouting trail by crossing over the bridge to further adventure.

(The Cubmaster calls each Webelos and his parents forward to the foot of the bridge. The mother is presented with the achievement board.

Enumerate the awards and achievements and then conduct the Webelos Scout and his parents across the bridge—one boy at a time. The Scoutmaster should be prepared to make a welcome speech to both the boys and their parents, plus other recognition as desired.)

Scoutmaster: _____ (name), it is a real privilege to welcome you into Troop _____ (number). As a Scout you will hike and camp. You will learn many useful things. You will have an opportunity to continue to grow into a useful citizen because you will participate in civic activities and learn the thrill of helping other people by practicing the habit of doing a Good Turn everyday. And now Scouts _____ (name) and _____ (name) will exchange your Webelos Scout neckerchief for our troop neckerchief, symbolic of graduation into Scouting. (Aides replace the Webelos Scout neckerchief with a Scout neckerchief, give the Scout handclasp, step back, and salute. The Webelos den chief leads the pack in a yell for the graduate.)

Cub Scout—Family Graduation

The graduation ceremony can be held indoors or outdoors, in uniform or in Indian costume.

Personnel. Webelos den leader, graduating Webelos Scout and his parents, Scoutmaster, patrol leader, five Cub Scouts to hold signs, den leaders, pack committee members.

Equipment. Display signs of all Cub Scout ranks, Scout neckerchief, and a slide.

Arrangement. All Cub Scouts, Webelos Scouts, den leaders, and committee members line up in two columns. Small signs or posters bearing the five Cub Scout ranks are held by Cub Scouts. The Webelos den leader, graduating Webelos Scout, and his parents stand at one end of the double column. The Scoutmaster of the troop the graduate is joining faces them at the other end of the column. With him is a patrol leader (of the patrol the graduate will join, if this is known).

(When all are in their places, the Webelos den leader reads a review of the graduate's accomplishments during his Cub Scout years, mentioning awards he has received.)

Webelos Den Leader: Our accomplishments are never made without help. And significant in _____ 's (graduate's name) growth has been the help he has received from his parents.

I thank you for the help you have given your son and your cooperation with his den and pack leaders. Of course, we shall miss you as you move on into Scouting, but we are honored to present Troop _____ (number) with such an outstanding family. All of us here wish you continued success as you climb the Scouting trail. (The graduate and his parents now pass down the line between the two columns, receiving the good wishes and good-byes from all pack members. Cub Scouts might sing "For They're a Jolly Good Family" to the tune of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" as the graduate and his parents pass down the line. When graduating Webelos Scout and his parents reach the end of the column, the Scoutmaster welcomes them.)

Scoutmaster: You have had a delightful experience in Cub Scouting and Webelos Scouting. Boy Scouting will introduce you to new skills that lead to great fun—hiking and camping. Mrs. _____ (name), we hope you will continue to help your son. Mr. _____ (name), we will look forward to your active participation with the other dads as they assist us in making our troop one of the best. In so doing you will be assured that your son is receiving full benefits from his Scouting experience. (The graduate's patrol leader now replaces his Webelos Scout neckerchief with the neckerchief of his new troop and gives him the Scout handclasp. Close with a graduation song, grand howl, or other appropriate closing.)

Appendix A

General Tips For Good Ceremonies

A few props and techniques can really spice up any ceremony. These can range from the simple to the elaborate, depending on need and budget. A few ideas have been included in this guide, but use your own imagination to develop your own.

Lighting

Lighting is important to most ceremonies. This ranges from performing a ceremony behind the campfire so the fire illuminates the participants to spotlighting recipients in a court of honor.

- **Room Lights.** Check out and be sure you know what/when to switch on and off. Know and plan the effects.
- **Stage Lighting.** Flood lighting can be accomplished using anything from yard reflector lights to desk lamps. Regular table lamps can be used simply by shielding the audience by using cardboard, etc.
- **Spotlighting.** Spotlighting should be used anytime a boy is recognized before an audience, such as court of honor, etc.

A flashlight may be used as a spotlight. A 35mm slide projector can be an effective spotlight. Try it first to be sure of distances. Masks in front of the lens will reduce the size of the spot.

Decorations

A few decorations can transform a room into a special place for appropriate ceremonies.

- Stand-by crepe paper.
- Boy Scout neckerchiefs.
- Posters—Boy Scout and other.
- Colored lights.
- Scout skill displays, merit badge displays, knot boards, etc.

Audiovisuals

A large number of commercial and BSA movies and slide programs are available and appropriate for more formal ceremonies. Good sound equipment (tape or record) and carefully selected music will enhance a court of honor or other special ceremony.

Special Props

Specially designed/developed props become tradition and add special flair to ceremonies.

- **Advancement boards.** Develop your own. Some suggestions will be found on pages 70–73. Arrange by rank or patrol. Names on individual cards punched for hanging when advanced.
- **Eagle Plaque.** Impressive plaque with troop number and etched eagle emblem. Engrave new Eagle's name to be added at Eagle Court.
- **Candle/Log.** Log(s) with holes drilled for candles. Many designs and uses for Scout Law, Oath, and ranks.
- **Artificial campfires.** Made with electric light bulbs or flashlights, logs and red/orange plastic. Be sure not to make a fire hazard.
- **Light boxes.** Build your own for the occasion.
- **Badge holder.** Have some device to hold your advancement badges, pins and cards. This could be a felt covered tray or table or a Boy Scout emblem covered with cork, etc. Divide all items by boy's name and be sure the presenter knows how to get them off.

Flags

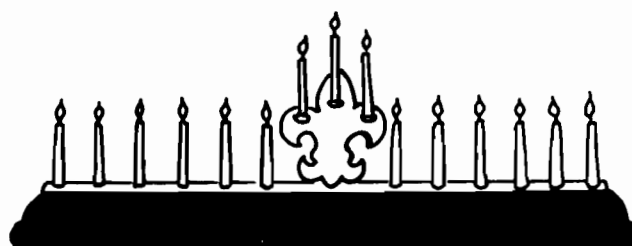
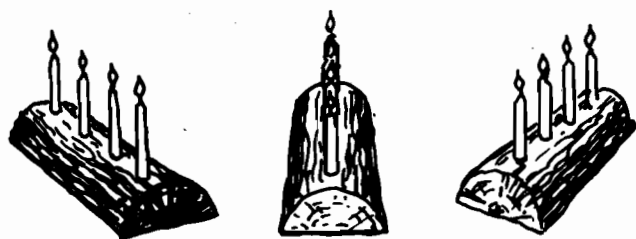
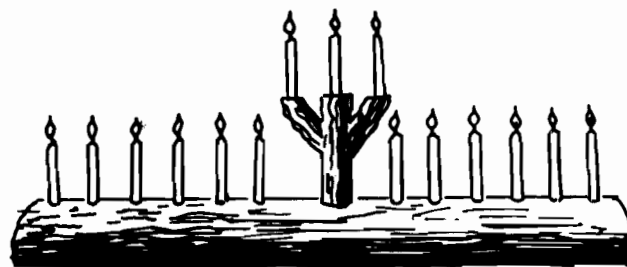
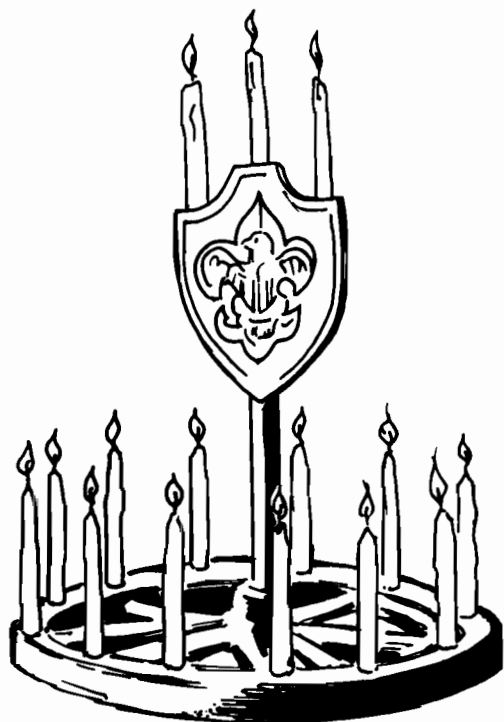
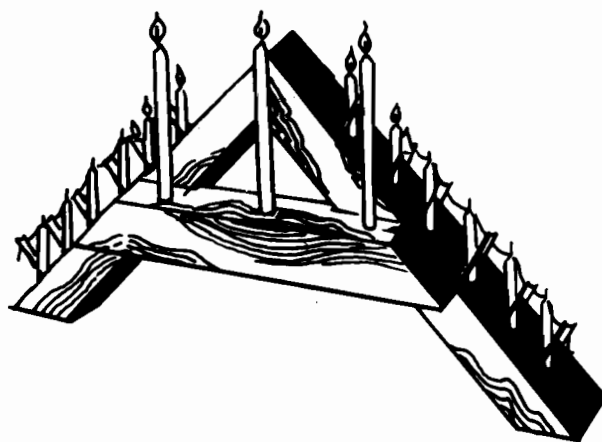
The use of troop, church, state, and U.S. flag is appropriate in ceremonies. Be certain you display and carry correctly. A spotlight on the flag(s) is a nice highlight.

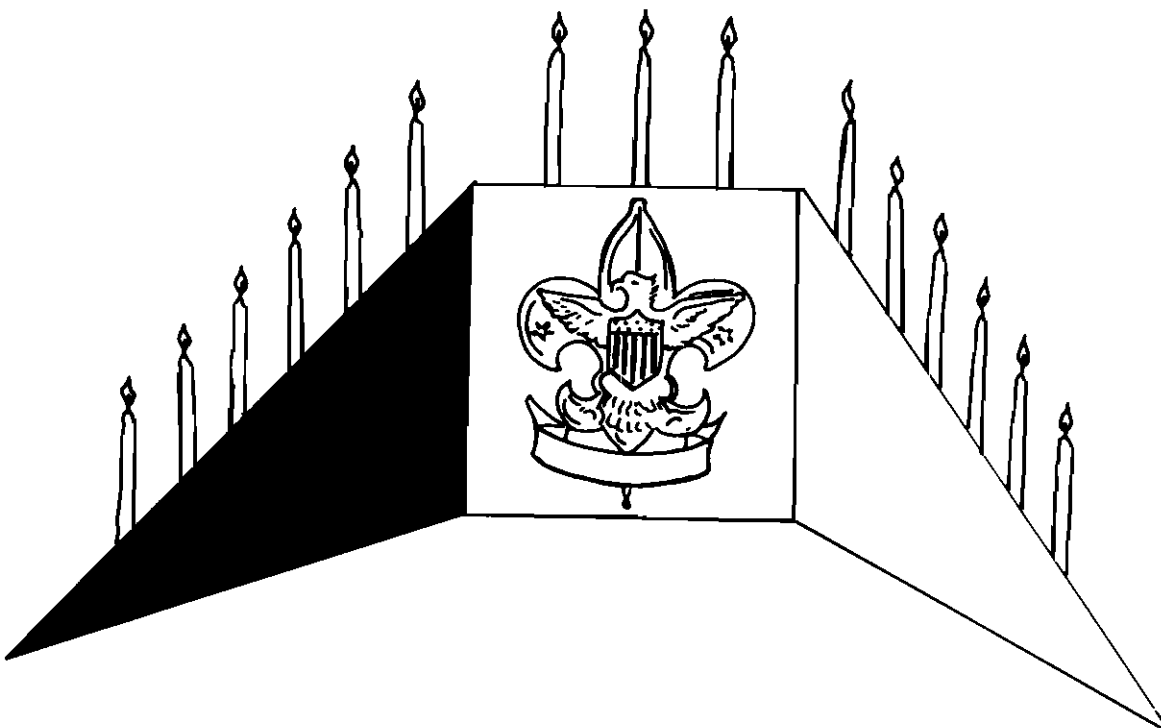
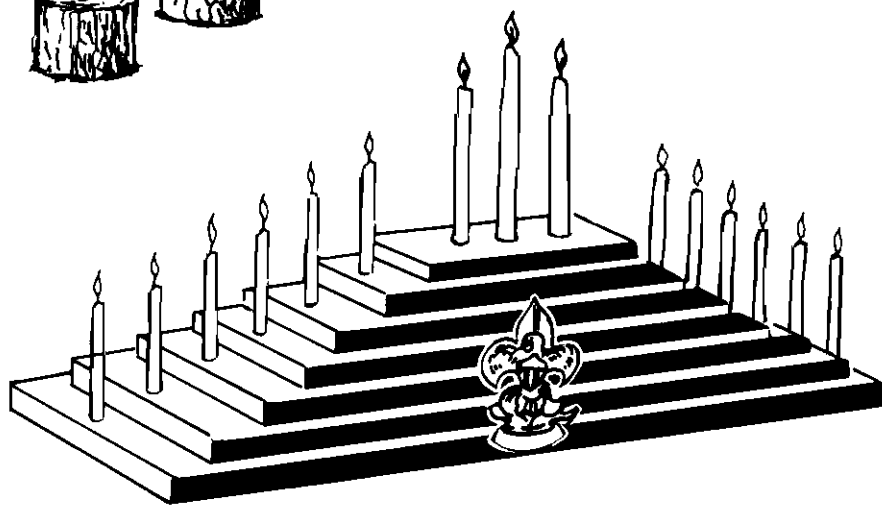
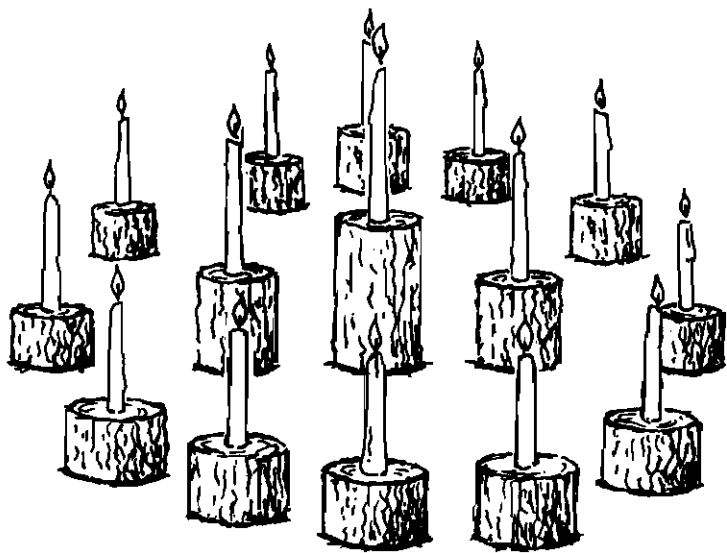
Troop Scrapbook

Display your scrapbook at special ceremonies.

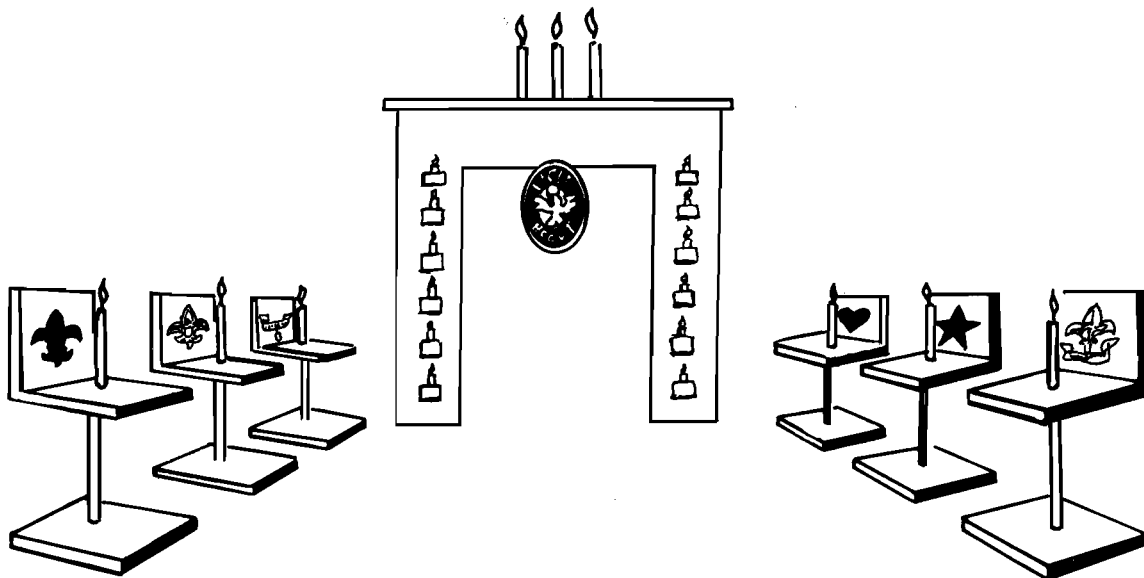
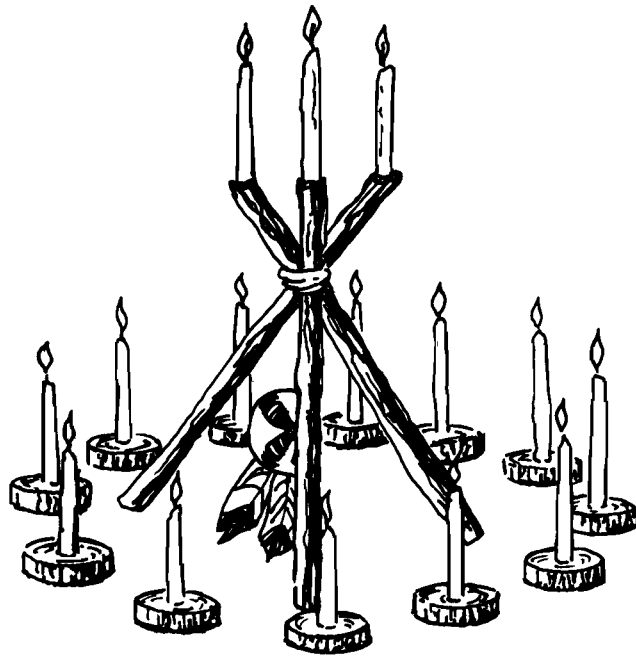
EXAMPLES OF CANDLEHOLDERS AND CANDLE LOGS

The candleholders and candle logs pictured here are some examples of props for ceremonies. The three higher and/or larger candles represent the three parts of the Scout Oath. The other 12 candles represent the 12 points of the Scout Law. You can use your imagination and make your own out of whatever rustic material you have available. If, because of local codes, you cannot use flames in buildings, you can build a similar prop using Christmas tree lights and cardboard tubes.



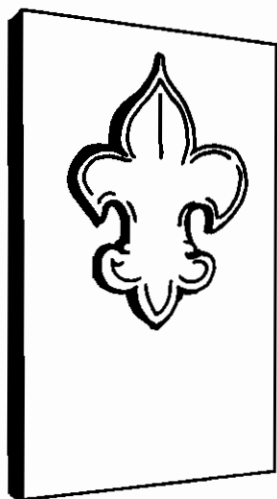
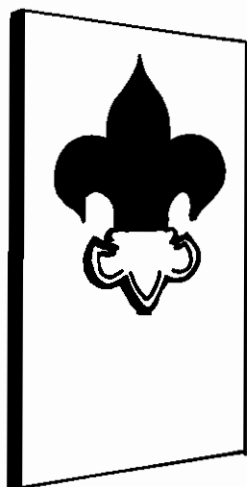


Three candles, mounted on the center tripod surrounded by 12 smaller candles in individual holders, give the symbolism of the three parts of the Scout Oath and the 12 points of the Scout Law.



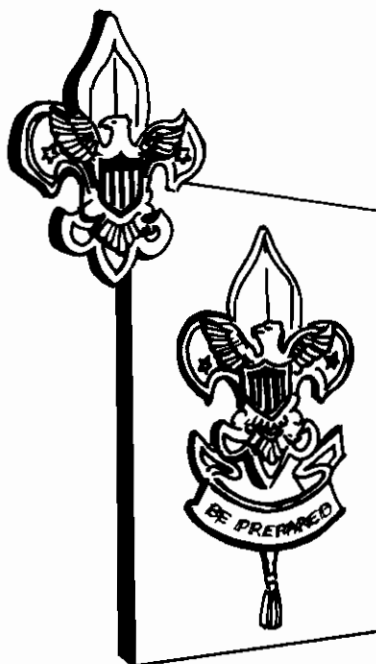
The badges shown on the standards are colored reproductions, No. 4647, that can be ordered through your council service center.

Combination of the arch candelabra and individual badge candleholders makes an attractive stage setting for a court of honor ceremony.

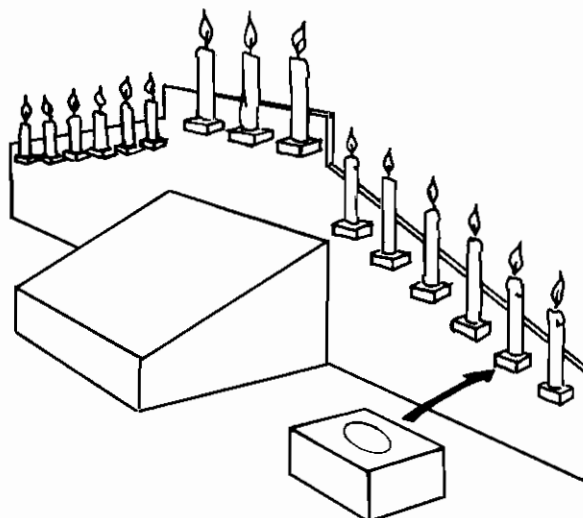
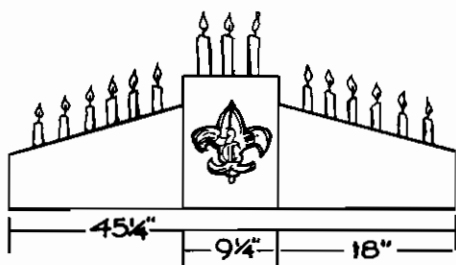


HOW TO BUILD A FIRST CLASS BADGE

Use the illustration and grid on page 88 to enlarge the badge: 1-inch squares will make a 16-inch badge. Mount the enlargements on cardboard. Cut out and assemble on a background. Drill small holes; remove the parts. Then fit finishing nails into the holes to hold each part in place.



This is a front and rearview of a folding candelabra. Small blocks of wood are glued and screwed on the back to hold the candles.



Appendix B

Checklist for Court of Honor

(May be adapted to other formal ceremonies as applicable)

Eagle Court	Regular Court	
		PLANNING PHASE
_____	_____	Schedule date
_____	_____	Reserve facility
_____		Meet with Eagle Scout, committee, parents
_____		Request letters from dignitaries, etc.
_____		Secure speaker/court commitments
_____	_____	Send invitations
_____	_____	Print programs
_____	_____	Prepare/release news releases
_____	_____	Mail programs to participants
_____	_____	Order refreshments
		PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENTS
_____	_____	Seating for audience
_____	_____	Seating on platform
_____	_____	Lights
_____	_____	Heat and ventilation
_____	_____	Public-address system
_____	_____	Special equipment (such as movie equipment, if used)
_____	_____	Custodian's cooperation secured
_____	_____	Refreshments
_____	_____	Parking

AWARDS PRESENTATION

- _____ _____ Badges and certificates in individually marked separate envelopes
- _____ _____ Clasps on mothers' pins and metal badges open and ready to be pinned on
- _____ _____ All other awards and recognitions arranged and marked

PRESENTER'S BRIEFING

- _____ _____ One Scout at a time receives his award.
- _____ _____ The Scout faces the audience.
- _____ _____ The Scout is on a box or raised platform.
- _____ _____ The Scout is spotlighted, if possible.
- _____ _____ Where to pin the badge.
- _____ _____ How to give Scout handclasp with left hand.

GENERAL PROGRAM

- _____ _____ Who is to be introduced?
- _____ _____ Make speakers aware of time limit.
- _____ _____ Prepare notes for people who are not familiar with activities.
- _____ _____ Encourage parents' participation.
- _____ _____ Recognize the Scoutmaster and other leaders.
- _____ _____ Have demonstration or special program materials on hand.
- _____ _____ Plan entrance for court of honor officials.
- _____ _____ Start on time and end on time.
- _____ _____ Set up and man refreshments/reception.

FOLLOWUP DETAILS

- _____ _____ Make arrangements for returning equipment and cleaning.
- _____ _____ Send note of thanks to program participants, custodian, and others who help.

APPENDIX C

Checklist For Conducting Major Ceremonies

Location for the Ceremony _____

A. Event (name or type) _____

B. Sponsor _____

C. Name of place _____

Address _____

D. Dates desired (include practice and setup dates) _____

E. Approximate number expected _____

F. Type facilities needed Auditorium/fellowship hall _____

Stage/raised platform _____

Dining Area (separate) _____

Number of dining/serving tables _____

Number of chairs needed _____

Number of additional rooms (purpose?) Lectern _____

P/A system _____

G. Person to whom request for use of facility should be addressed: _____

Phone: _____

H. Date request mailed _____

I. Date answer received _____

J. Building to be opened by _____ At time _____

or key to be available from _____

K. Contact for emergencies at building _____

L. Last firesafety check conducted _____

Responsibilities

A. Overall program coordinator _____

B. Master of ceremonies _____

C. Decorations/setup _____

D. Promotion _____

E. Refreshments (if served) _____

F. Awards (including pickup) _____

G. Printed program _____

H. Photographs _____

I. Cleanup _____

J. Certificates/letters of appreciation _____

Printed Programs/Invitations

A. Type

Single sheet: One side _____

Folded _____

Booklet _____ Number of pages _____

B. Cover _____ Home designed _____ or purchased _____

C. Reproduction

Responsibility _____

To be at printers no later than _____

To be picked up by _____ Date _____

D. Number of copies to be printed _____

E. Date to be mailed _____ Directions to be enclosed? _____

F. RSVP? _____ To Whom? _____

Elements of the Ceremony

- A. Welcoming committee _____
- B. Ushers (in uniform) _____
- C. Special seating considerations for troop, guests, parents, etc. _____

- D. Invocation/benediction _____
- E. Lighting:
Spotlights (if available) _____
- Slide projector used as a spot _____
- High-powered flashlight _____
- F. Display of rank symbols cards _____
- G. Slide projector:
Rank insignia slides? _____
Photo of troop flag? _____
Troop camping slides? _____
Personal slides of Scout being honored _____
- H. Use of candles:
Who lights _____ When? _____
Where to be placed _____
- Who extinguishes _____ When? _____
- I. Display of badges before opening ceremony:
How? _____ Where? _____
- J. Guest speaker
Who? _____
Confirmation letter sent _____
Directions enclosed _____

- K. Other presenters? _____
- L. Skits _____
- M. Songs _____
- N. Color guard _____

Refreshments

- A. Where served _____
- B. Time(s) _____
- C. Tables required:
- Serving _____ Location _____
- Eating _____ Location _____
- D. Chairs required _____
- E. Refrigeration required? _____
- F. Supplies:
- Cups—Hot _____ Cold _____
- Paper plates—No. _____ Size _____ No. _____ Size _____
- Napkins _____
- Spoons _____ Knives _____ Forks _____
- Serving utensils _____
- Table cloths _____
- Trash receptacles _____
- G. Cleanup personnel assigned _____
- _____
- H. Cleanup materials available? _____

Last-Minute Checklist

- | | |
|--|--|
| _____ Keys | _____ Extension cords and 3-prong adaptors |
| _____ Flags (U.S., troop, patrol, den) | _____ Projectors |
| _____ Decorations | _____ Slides |
| _____ Awards | _____ Lights |
| _____ Programs | _____ Screen |
| _____ Candle holders | _____ Tape recorder |
| _____ Candles | _____ Camera |
| _____ Matches/lighter | _____ Record player/records/tapes |
| _____ Props | _____ Lectern/water/glasses |
| _____ Displays | _____ Public address system and microphone |

EAGLE CEREMONY REFERENCE MATERIAL

Eagle Challenges and Charges

This is not the end of a trail, but rather the beginning of a new epoch of your life. You have just received the highest award Scouting offers. But do you really know what you are a member of?

The Boy Scouts of America is the largest organization of any kind in history. Scouting's millions of members are a cross-section of our great nation. On every list of heroes in battle or in emergency, or in disaster, there are Scouts among the honored. Some of our greatest developments in science, in exploration, in art, in music, have begun in Scouting with a boy starting to work on a merit badge.

In every classroom, home, office, factory—in every regiment, on every battlefield, on every ship—Scouting is there. Its ideals, its goals, its purposes, the Scout Oath, and the Scout Law have left their imprint.

Yet, in spite of all these far-reaching efforts, there remains a lack of understanding about Scouting that is in its own way equally extraordinary. Everyone knows something about it; relatively few understand its overall achievements and aims, and some do not understand it at all.

There is confusion about its programs, its relationship to militarism, to politics, and to social reform. Yet Scouting remains from its start nonmilitary without being antimilitary, it remains nonpolitical, it is no more a reform movement or created exclusively for a certain social group than is a library.

Scouting for boys and young men is—and always was—a game. This was Baden-Powell's concept from the beginning. It is the idea that guides leaders throughout the United States and the world. It is an affirmation of our country, a game built on rules of decency and fair play, of truth and responsibility, including the responsibility of the individual boy to develop his own mind and understanding and physical skills within his capabilities; a game involving worn and unpopular but still dramatic words like duty . . . honor . . . reverence.

It is the brotherhood that lies at the very heart of Scouting, its ideas and programs, its jamborees locally, nationally, and internationally, its mingling of boys of all races, creeds, and of all countries of the free world. All of these work together to build

understanding, the instinctive understanding of boys.

More than any other movement in history, Scouting belongs to the people. However, it is no automatic self-perpetuating mechanism, no panacea, but an idea, a plan, a blueprint that can be brought to reality only by the contribution of time, energy, effort and devotion.

This is Scouting, this is the record of the adventure of men and boys. This is what you are a member of, and a member who has received much in the years you have belonged. We know that now and in the future, you will return much of what you have received.

I was pleased when I was invited to deliver the Eagle challenge and charge to

_____ (name), pleased and somewhat awed by the responsibility involved. What should I say to a new Eagle that would truly challenge him? Then, I remembered some words that Lord Baden-Powell, Scouting's founder, wrote more than 50 years ago:

“Scouting is a game
played by boys in boy gangs
under boy leaders chosen by the gang
guided by a man
backed by other men and women
of the community.”

Scouting is a game—a game with a purpose and a commitment. Certainly we are gathered here to honor you for your accomplishment of a significant achievement. But this is also the beginning of a lifelong commitment on your part.

The lifelong commitment relates to the fact that every Eagle Scout is always referred to as an Eagle Scout, never as a “former” Eagle Scout. If you had stopped at Second Class . . . or Star . . . or anything short of Eagle, you would be known as a “former” Scout. One becomes and remains an Eagle—always. Tonight, we'll take just a few moments and reflect—as Eagle Scout to Eagle Scout. Tomorrow you face the world as an Eagle Scout . . . what might that mean to you?

It might mean a commitment to the ideals and ethics expressed in the Scout Oath and Law. Within the Oath and Law is a promise to the future, a promise to remain loyal to your God, to your country and to the principles that make a good Scout. These basic principles form a firm foundation for the moral code of a good and honest boy and man. Whether you are attending church

service high in the Sierra, helping out someone less fortunate than yourself, doing your daily Good Turn, or serving your country, the Scout Oath and Law still apply. Wherever you go in Scouting—wherever you go in life—the Scout Oath and Law can be applied to help you do what's right for yourself and those around you. If you obey these, you will be a good Scout; and if you're a good Scout, you will be a good citizen and man.

An engineer in one of America's largest companies has described a man this way:

Man is a complete self-contained, totally enclosed power plant, available in a variety of sizes and reproducible in quantity. He is relatively long-lived, has major components in duplicate, and science is rapidly making strides toward solving the spare parts problem. He is waterproof, amphibious, operates on a wide variety of fuels; enjoys thermostatically controlled temperature, circulating fluid heat, evaporative cooling; has sealed lubricated bearings, audio and optical direction and range finders, sound and sight recording, audiovisual communication, and is equipped with an automatic control called a brain.

The engineer's picture of man is significant, I think, for what he has omitted. He did not tell us what set his "robot" apart from such mechanical marvels as artificial moons in the sky or factories run by electronic brains. Terms he could have used to differentiate might have involved such words as conscience . . . spirit . . . duty . . . honor . . . and all the other components of citizenship.

As a good citizen, earnestly trying to live a good life, you have certain responsibilities if you are to "do your best."

For example, if you demand wise and honest government in your city, your state and your country, you must recognize that wise and honest government is the product of wise and honest citizens, and nothing else.

If you demand that crime be punished, you must support honest, law enforcement in your community without any personal privileges or exceptions for yourself.

If you demand balanced budgets of your government, you must not advocate expenditures which, when demanded by all citizens, bring unbalanced budgets.

If you demand freedom of worship for yourself, you must respect the rights of all other creeds.

If you demand free speech, you must not suppress it in others, or use it to destroy the government from which that privilege flows.

If you demand that the government give you complete economic security, you must not forget that a nation's strength comes from each person standing on his own feet.

If you would like to live in a community in which you may have pride, then dedicate yourself in a spirit of humility to your own responsibilities in that community. These are practical ways in which to live the life of a good citizen.

Rudyard Kipling, Nobel laureate in literature, challenged all young men when he wrote:

If you can keep your head when all about
you are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can dream, and not make dreams your
master;
If you can think, and not make thoughts
your aim;
If you can meet with triumph and disaster
and treat those two imposters just the same;
If you can force your heart and nerve and
sinew to serve your turn long after they are
gone, and so hold on when there is nothing
in you except the will which says to them:
"Hold on!";
If you can fill the unforgiving minute with
sixty seconds' worth of distance run;
Yours is the earth and everything that's in it,
and—which is more—you'll be a man,
my son!

I lay this challenge and charge at your feet tonight, and hope you will pick it up and carry it with you when you leave—and for the rest of your life.

I have known the honor to give you the Eagle Scout 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 marked men. As Eagle Scouts, you have assumed a solemn obligation to do your duty to God, to country, to your fellow Scouts, and to humanity in general. This is a great undertaking. As you live up to your obligations you bring honor to yourselves 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 to give 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 leader, each one of you,

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 to your fellowmen. So live and serve that those who know you will be inspired to the 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 a record of which you may be justly proud.

Eagles _____ (name),
_____ (name), and _____ (name),
I charge you to enter this Eagle Scout brotherhood, holding, without reservation, the ideals of honor and service. Repeating the Eagle Scout promise before your fellow members, you will become Eagle Scouts. Though the words you use are similar to those by which you joined Scouting, tonight they will mean more than they could have meant at any time in your past. When you pledge yourself on

your sacred honor, you will be sealing your eternal loyalty to the code of the Eagle Scout, with the words which closed the Declaration of Independence. Scouts, attention! (All stand) Eagles, 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 the rank of Eagle Scout. On my honor, I will do my best to make my training an example, my rank and my influence, count strongly for better Scouting and for better citizenship, in my troop and in my community and in my contacts with other people. To this I pledge my sacred honor.

Two! Audience please be seated.

Appropriate Poems

THE OYSTER AND THE EAGLE

When God made the oyster, he guaranteed him social security.
He built the oyster a house . . . a shell to protect him from his enemies.
When hungry, the oyster simply opens his shell . . . and the food rushes in.
But when God made the eagle, He said, "The blue sky is the limit . . . go
and build your own house."
And the eagle went and built his house upon the highest mountain peak,
where storms threatened him every day.
For food, he must fly through miles of rain and snow and wind.
The eagle, then . . . not the oyster . . . is the symbol of the United States
of America, and Scouting's highest award.

IT'S ONLY A PIN

Two fond parents watch their boy where he stands,
Apart from his comrades tonight,
And see placed on his camp-battered tunic, a badge . . .
An Eagle . . . the emblem of right.

It seems just a few short months have passed
Since he joined with the youngsters next door . . .
How proud they were then of their Tenderfoot pin
As they told of the message it bore.

But the years have gone as he struggled along
To learn what the Scout Law's about;
He practiced them daily, the Oath and the Law,
Until now he is an Eagle Scout.

You may smile in your worldly old wisdom at this and say, "Why,
It's only a pin."
But I'll tell you, no honors he'll gain as a man
Will mean quite as much to him.

The red, white, and blue of the ribbon you see
Are the symbols of honor and truth.
He has learned how to value these fine attributes
In the glorious days of his youth.

And the out-flinging wings of the Eagle that rests
On the breast of this knight of today
Are the things which will lift him above petty deeds,
And guide him along the right way.

Yes, it's only a pin, just an Eagle Scout badge,
But the heart beneath it beats true,
And will throb to the last for the things that are good;
A lesson for me . . . and for you.

A FOND MOTHER WATCHES

A fond mother watches her boy where he stands
Apart from his comrades tonight,
As they place on his camp-battered tunic a badge,
An Eagle, the emblem of Right.
It seems just a few short months have passed
Since he joined with the youngsters next door.
How proud he was then of his Tenderfoot pin
As he told her the message it bore.
But the years have gone by as he struggled along
To learn what the Scout Law's about;
He practiced them daily, the Oath and the Law
Until now he's an Eagle Scout.
You may smile in your worldly wisdom at this
And say "Why it's only a pin."
But I tell you no honors he'll gain as a man
Will mean just as much to him.

The Red, White, and Blue of the ribbon you see
Are the symbols of Honor and Truth.
He has learned how to value these fine attributes
In the glorious days of youth.
The outflinging wings of the Eagle that rests
On the breast of this young man today
Are the things which will lift him above petty deeds
And guide him along the right way.
Yes, it's only a pin, just an Eagle Scout Badge,
But the heart that's beneath it beats true
And will throb to the last for the things which are good,
A lesson for me . . . and for you."

VOICE OF THE EAGLE

I am the Eagle.
I am prepared
To stand for virtues
Of freedom
Strength
And pride.

I am the Eagle.
I am prepared
To serve
My God
My country
And other people.

I am the Eagle.
I am prepared
To stand for
Honesty
Truth
And integrity.

I am the Eagle.
I am prepared
To lead others
To accomplish set tasks
To the best of my ability.

I am the Eagle.
I am prepared
To defend
What makes America great
For all people.

I am the Eagle.
I am prepared
To cross all lines
Of race, creed
And nationality.

I am the Eagle.
I am prepared
To be self-reliant
And resourceful.

I am the Eagle.
I am prepared.

Patrol As Honor Guard

The patrol assigned as honor guard to an Eagle candidate is one with which he has a strong tie of some sort. The patrols are seated at the rear of the auditorium.

If, for example, there are four Eagle candidates, the four patrols who will serve as honor guards will be seated, two on the left side and two on the right side, closest to the outside aisle.

At the end of the "Trail of the Eagle" narrative (*You have walked the Eagle Trail with honor—and we welcome you*), the patrols serving as honor guards get up quietly and form a single line down both outside aisles, alternating from side to side in order of the Eagle candidates they represent. The patrol leader is at the head of his patrol.

The master of ceremonies gives each patrol a cue to form the honor guard for the candidate. The patrol walks quietly to the area in front of the center aisle between the front row of seats and the

stage, and forms 2 lines, standing at attention. The Eagle candidate and his escort walk between the two lines of patrol members onto the stage.

Patrol stands quietly at attention while the patrol leader goes to the podium and reads a brief biography of "their" candidate. The master of ceremonies dismisses the patrol. Patrol members return quietly to their seats down the same aisle they came up. The master of ceremonies gives the cue to the next patrol honor guard.

Note. All patrol members are to attend and wear full official uniform. It is up to the patrol leader to see that patrols remain quiet at all times during the court. This is a serious and important troop event. The new Eagles Scouts will want to remember their court of honor with pleasure, so patrol members should act as they would want others to act at their Eagle court of honor.

