

Effective Eagle Scout Courts of Honor



Steve Sarver • 815-751-5186
www.sarverman.org
scouts@sarverman.org



About the Presenter - Steve Sarver

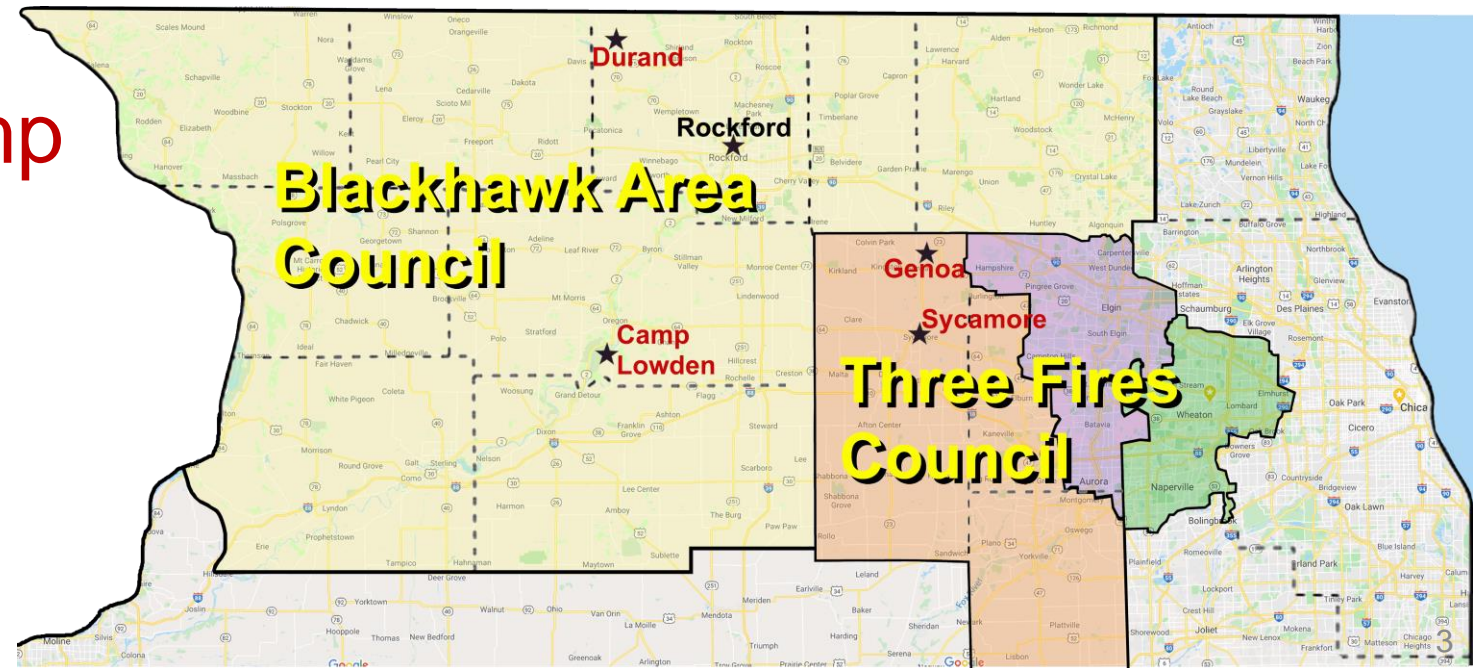
- 47 years in Scouting
- Cub Scout and Boy Scout
 - Arrow of Light
 - Eagle Scout
- Adult Leader
 - Troop Committee
 - Asst. Scoutmaster
 - Den Leader
 - Cubmaster
 - Wood Badge Staff



Steve and Cindy Sarver, 1978

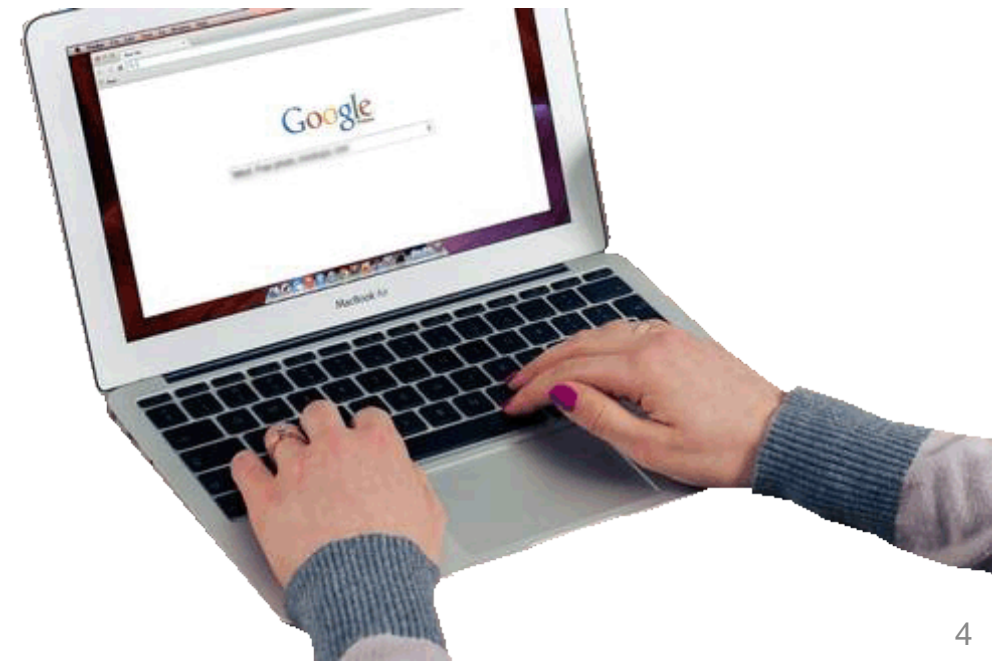
About the Presenter - Steve Sarver

- Originally from Blackhawk Area Council
 - Hometown troop and pack
- Three Fires Council
 - Founded Cub Scout pack
- Camp Lowden Scout Camp
 - Historian



On My Web Site – sarverman.org

- This presentation
- Handouts
 - Sample Eagle Program
 - Sample Eagle Invitation
 - THREE Eagle Charges
 - Astronaut Eagle Scouts
 - Eagle Scouts on the Moon
 - *“An Eagle Scout is a Special Breed”*
- And more!



Today's Presentation

- Structure of the Ceremony
- Things to Consider
- What to Include
- Recognitions
- Presentation of Eagle Scout Award
- Eagle Scout Charge
- Do's and Don'ts
- Printed Program
- Invitations
- Articles and Publicity
- Graphics and Displays
- Photos
- Your Experiences / Questions



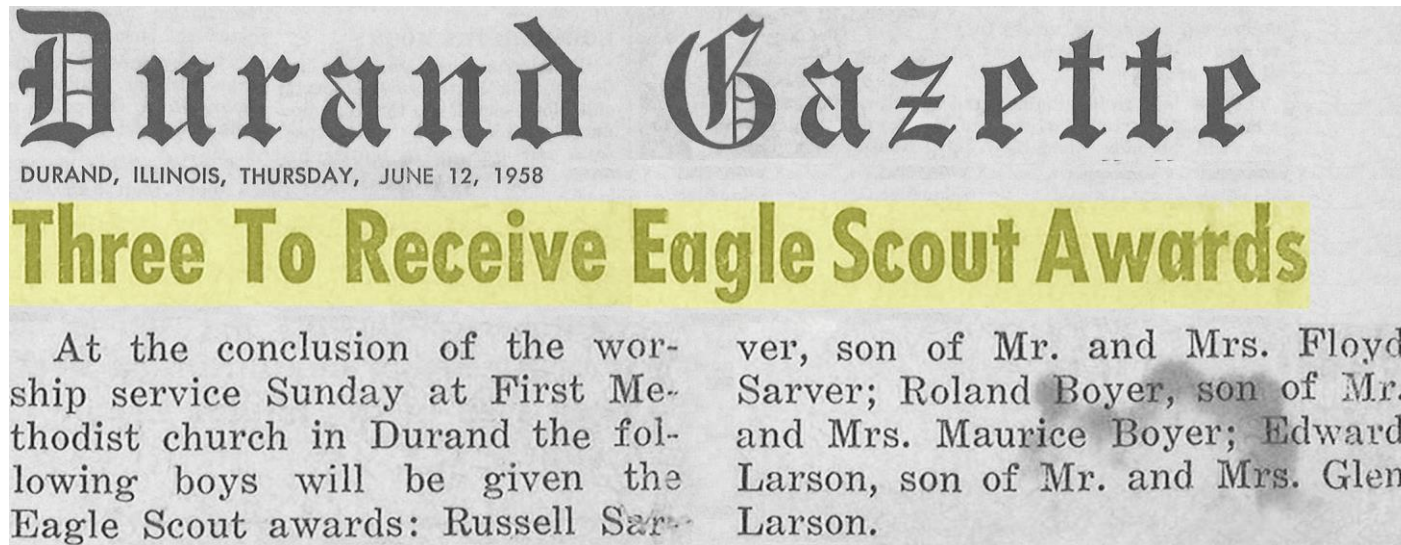
Today's Presentation

- Not designed to present plethora of ideas
 - Many different ways to do ceremony
 - Plenty of ideas on Internet
- The Goal!
 - **What** to include / not include
 - Do's and don'ts

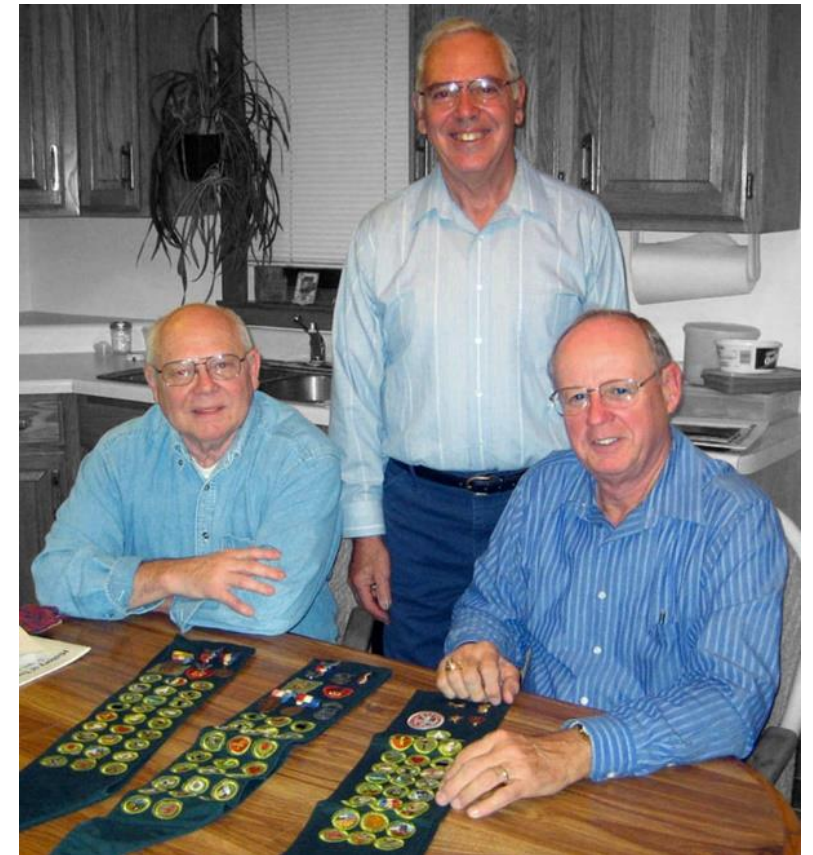


Things have sure come a long way!

- 1950s
 - Simple ceremonies
 - Usually nothing special
 - Often part of something else



1958



2008

Things have sure come a long way!

- 1980s

- Troops invited all Scouts in district to their ceremonies
- Went to many to get ideas for mine
- Some better than others!



Steve Sarver, 1986

Unique Situation

- Anthony – friend of son
- Issues
 - Everything done except project
 - 18th birthday just weeks away
 - Scoutmaster moved out of state
 - Troop disbanding at EOY
- I volunteered to coach through project and board of review



Unique Situation

- Troop's Most Recent Eagle COR
 - Six years earlier
 - Not very well done
 - Flow of ceremony very clunky
 - Did not emphasize importance of award (high honor)
- Allowed me to be showrunner for Anthony's Court of Honor



Ceremony – Basics

- Many different ways to do ceremony
 - No “official” ceremony per se
 - Many available on Internet
 - Some are better than others!
- What has troop done in past?
 - What has (or has not) worked?
- What are other troops doing?
- Find out what new Eagle wants
 - It is his / her ceremony, not yours!



Things to Consider

- **Participants – who does new Eagle want to be involved, and in what roles?**
 - Parent(s) / other family members
 - Many present badge to parent(s) who pin it on new Eagle
 - Scoutmaster and other leaders
 - Youth members
 - Eagle Charge – who gives it?
 - Pastor / other clergy
- **Sequence**
 - You want to have nice, even flow



Layout of Room

- Determine placement of:
 - Speaker's podium
 - Audience
 - Receiving line
 - Coat rack (if needed)
 - Cake and refreshments
 - Displays of new Eagle's achievements
- *Can everyone see and hear the ceremony?*



Day of Ceremony

- **Meet shortly before ceremony begins**
 - New Eagle and parent(s) of new Eagle
 - Other participants
- **Remind what you expect:**
 - This is serious event, we need to treat it with dignity and class
 - Do not present backsides to audience or photographer
 - Stand sideways or face forward during all presentations
 - Speak slowly and clearly, be sure to enunciate
 - Crisp salutes
 - Firm handshakes, and look into eyes when shaking hands



Day of Ceremony

- **Remind what you expect:**
 - Remind parents that new Eagle will be pinning awards on them
 - *“Are there any last-minute dignitaries or special guests present?”*
 - *“Is there anything else that I need to know?”*
 - *Does anyone have any questions?*



Structure of Ceremony

- Opening
- Build-Up to Award
- Presentation of Award
- Reflections
- Closing



Structure of Ceremony

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- Build-Up to Award
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Opening

- **Presentation of Colors**
 - Ask everyone to stand
 - Ask to remain standing for opening prayer
- **Opening Prayer (A Scout is Reverent)**
 - Priest, pastor, rabbi, or other religious leader as appropriate for new Eagle's Duty to God
 - Find out in advance how they prefer to be addressed
 - Possibly chaplain's aide?



Welcome

- Introduce yourself and who you are

- Open court of honor

“By the authority vested in me by Scouting America, I declare this Eagle Scout Court of Honor open!”

- Entrance of new Eagle

“Will the Committee of Escort please escort [new Eagle’s name] and his / her family to the front of the room?”

- Recognitions

- Recognize any dignitaries or special guests by name



Slide Show / Video

- Courts of honor are time to recognize Scouts for achievements
- But it is also fun to look back and see where they came from
- Let's take few minutes now, to watch this presentation

[slide show runs]



Slide Show

- Set to music if possible
- Have cute and meaningful photos
- *Do not embarrass new Eagle*



Structure of Ceremony

- Opening
- **Build-Up to Award**
- Presentation of Award
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- Closing



About the Eagle Scout Award

- **Issue**

- People know that Eagle Scout Award is high honor, but do not necessarily know *why!*
- Grandma may not know “what” is involved
- People not born with knowledge of terminology
 - People may not know what merit badge is
 - People may not know what service project is

- **Eagle Scout Award is:**

- Performance-based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over years
- Highest advancement rank in Scouting



About the Eagle Scout Award

- **Must fulfill requirements in areas of:**
 - Leadership, service, outdoor skills
- **A number of specific skills required to advance through ranks**
 - Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, Eagle
- **Scout must meet specific requirements**
 - Range from tenure in unit and leadership positions
 - To earning of merit badges



Merit Badges

- Signify mastery of certain skills
- Help Scouts increase skill in area of personal interest
- Interaction with adults
- Worn on sash
 - In any order
 - Silver border = required for Eagle Scout
 - Green border = elective



Merit Badges

- Of 138 merit badges, 21 must be earned to qualify for Eagle Scout
- Of this group, 14 are required, including:

- First Aid
- Citizenship in the Community
- Citizenship in the Nation
- Citizenship in the World
- Citizenship in Society
- Communication
- Cooking
- Personal Fitness
- Personal Management
- Camping
- and Family Life



Merit Badges

- A Scout has a choice between:
 - Cycling, Hiking, or Swimming
 - Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving
 - Environmental Science or Sustainability



Eagle Palms

- Awarded for merit badges earned beyond rank of Eagle Scout



Bronze Palm
(5 MBs)



Gold Palm
(10 MBs)



Silver Palm
(15 MBs)

- If new Eagle has earned
 - [new Eagle] has earned _____ merit badges beyond the 21 needed for Eagle Scout
 - Today [he / she] is also being presented with the _____ palm

Service Project

- Scout plans, develops, gives leadership to others helpful to any:
 - Religious institution
 - School
 - or community
- Eagle Scout service projects provide estimated 3 million service hours each year
- Purpose of the project
 - Not about what was accomplished
 - About what leadership [new Eagle] provided
 - About what [new Eagle] *learned from the process*



Service Project

- [describe in sentence or two what new Eagle did for project]



Summary of Requirements

- **Being Eagle Scout requires**
 - Hard work
 - Dedication
 - and Service to others
- **It gives teens:**
 - Something to strive for
 - Instills confidence and leadership
 - Instills a commitment to the community
- **These skills carry into college, career, and adult life**



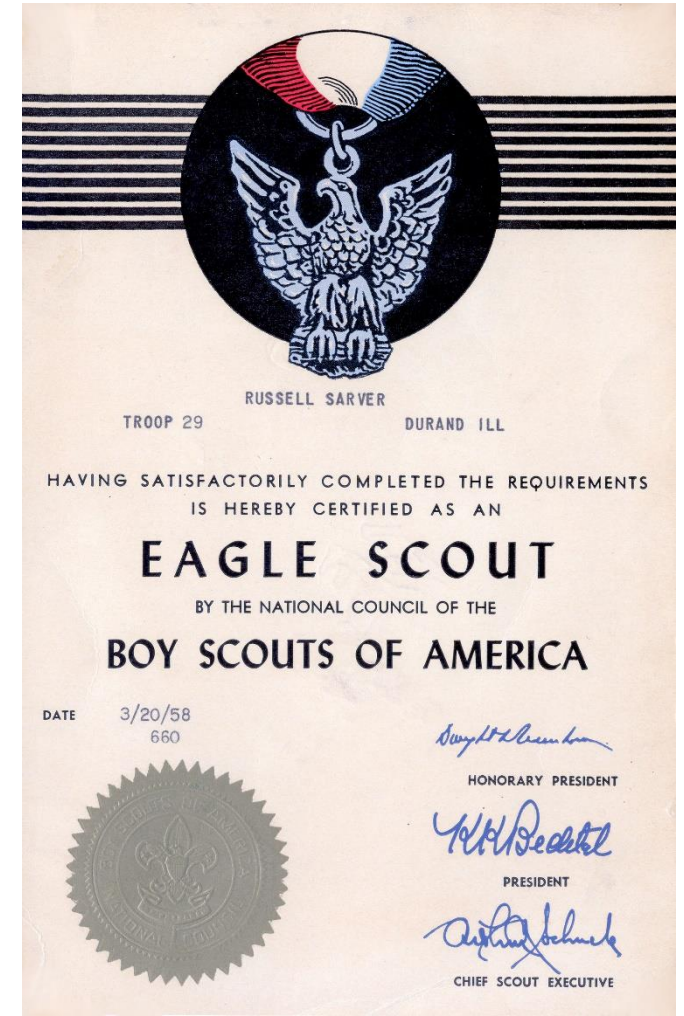
Recognition of Eagle Scouts

- Since 1912, more than 2.5 million Scouts have earned rank of Eagle
- Those who have earned Eagle Scout rank include:
 - **Hank Aaron** – Hall of fame baseball player, home run champion
 - **Neil Armstrong** – The first man to walk on the moon
 - **Jim Lovell** – Astronaut who flew on Apollo 13
 - **Gerald Ford** – President of the United States and to date the only Eagle Scout president
 - **Mike Rowe** – Host of the television show “Dirty Jobs”
 - **Steven Spielberg** – Academy Award-winning film director
 - and **Sam Walton** – Founder of Walmart

Recognition of Eagle Scouts

- We have several Eagle Scouts here with us today
- At this time will all Eagle Scouts present please stand?
- Will each of you, in turn, state your name and year you became an Eagle Scout
 - To start, my name is _____, Eagle Scout class of _____.

[All Eagle Scouts present do this]



Recognition of Mothers

- One other group should be recognized
 - Will all Scout mothers – past and present – please stand?



Structure of Ceremony

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- Build-Up to Award
- **Presentation of Award**
- Reflections
- Closing

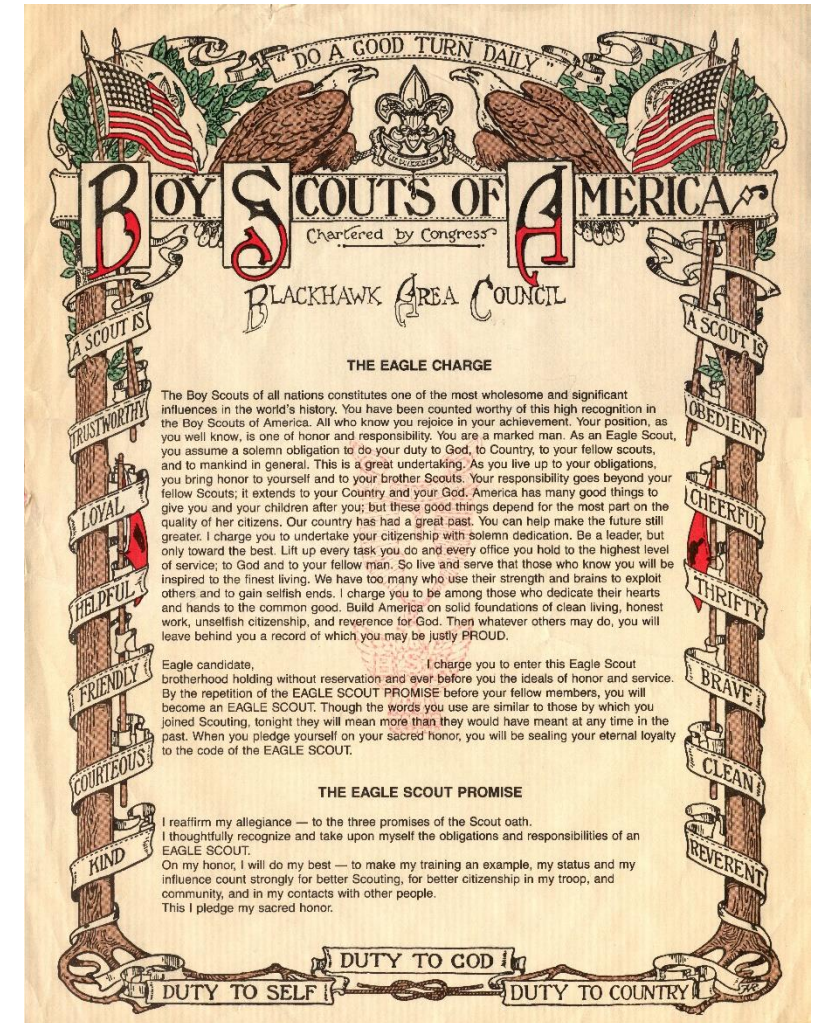


Presentation of Eagle Scout Award

- At this time I would like to invite Mr. / Ms. [name], [position], for the presentation of Eagle Scout Award
 - Often the Scoutmaster, but could be someone else such as another Eagle Scout
 - New Eagle should tell you who they want to present award
 - Always use “Mr.” or “Ms.” when introducing this person, as well as their title, to add sense of formality

Eagle Scout Charge

- A reminder that this award is one of honor and responsibility
- They have assumed a solemn obligation to do duty:
 - To God
 - To Country
 - To fellow Scouts
 - and to mankind in general
- Responsibility goes beyond fellow Scouts
 - Extends to Country and God



Eagle Scout Charge

- [call new Eagle forward]
- [name of new Eagle],
I *charge* you to enter this Eagle Scout brotherhood holding without reservation and ever before you the ideals of honor and service
- By repeating the Eagle Scout Promise before your fellow members, you will become an Eagle Scout

Eagle Scout Oath

- Person who gives charge
 - Makes Scout sign and asks new Eagle to do same
- New Eagle says Eagle Scout Oath
 - in a “repeat-after-me” format
- At the end of Oath, person who gives charge congratulates new Eagle and shakes their hand

[Reminder – firm handshake and look into eyes!]

Presentation of Eagle Scout Medal

- **Medal is presented**
 - New Eagle chooses this person in advance
 - Often the mother or father, but could be anyone new Eagle desires
- **That person pins it on new Eagle**



Presentation of Eagle Scout Neckerchief

- [name of new Eagle],
on behalf of all Eagle Scouts, it is
my honor to present you with the Eagle Scout neckerchief,
emblematic of all Eagle Scouts everywhere
- Please wear this neckerchief with
pride in the Scouting program,
and with pride in your personal
achievement



Structure of Ceremony

- Opening
- Build-Up to Award
- Presentation of Award
- **Reflections**
- Closing



Presentation of Eagle Pins / Recognitions

- **New Eagle announces recognitions**
 - Eagle Dad
 - Eagle Mom
 - Eagle Mentor(s)
 - Other recognitions as determined by new Eagle
 - e.g., grandparents



Reflections by Others

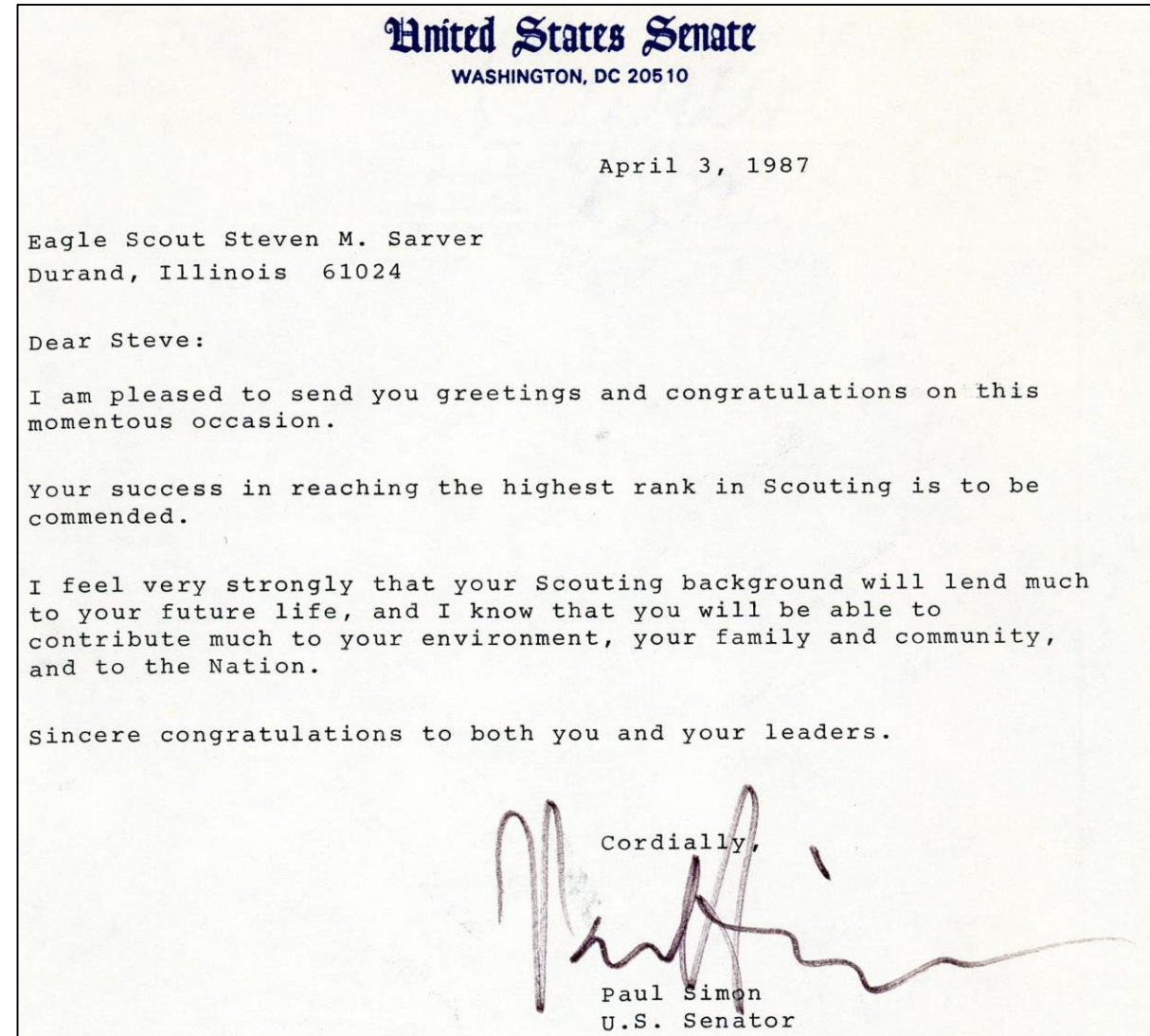
- **Possible Speakers**

- Eagle Mom / Dad
- Eagle Mentor
- Other Scouts / Scouters
 - e.g., camp staff, OA
- United States [branch of service]
- Etc.



Congratulatory Letters

- Read, if new Eagle desires
- If they show up, great!
 - Be sure to recognize them!



Eagle Scout Response

- **New Eagle**
 - Thanks everyone
 - Says a few words about what he / she has learned
 - Etc.
- **Basically, it's "their time" at the podium 😊**



Structure of Ceremony

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- Build-Up to Award
- Presentation of Award
- Reflections
- **Closing**



Closing

- Thank everyone for attending
- There will be a reception immediately following
- Acknowledge key contributors who made Court of Honor possible
- Please stand for our closing

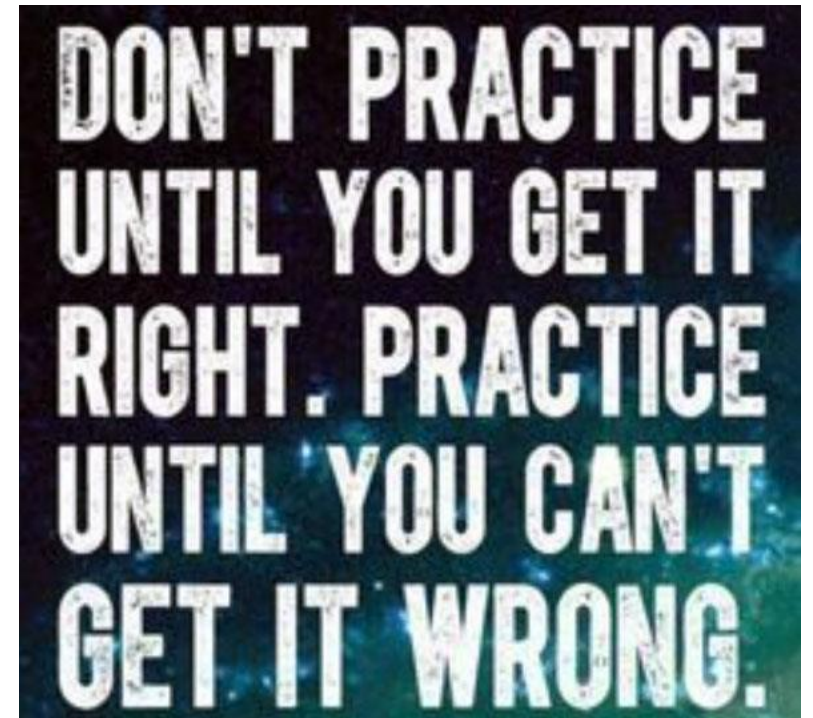


Closing

- Closing prayer
- Closing
 - *“Troop _____, please retrieve the colors”*
 - *“I now declare this Eagle Scout Court of Honor concluded”*

Do's and Don'ts

- **Speaking Parts – *practice, practice, practice!***
 - Have speakers go through their part(s) in advance
 - Looking at audience
 - Not down at paper
 - Projecting voice
 - Make sure everyone can hear
 - Pronunciation
 - Way in which a word is said
 - Enunciation
 - Words pronounced clearly and accurately



**DON'T PRACTICE
UNTIL YOU GET IT
RIGHT. PRACTICE
UNTIL YOU CAN'T
GET IT WRONG.**

Do's and Don'ts

- **Do not read list of merit badges earned!**
 - Usually in printed program
 - People can read it for themselves
- **Consider reading something more effective**
 - e.g., *“An Eagle Scout is a Special Breed”*



Do's and Don'ts

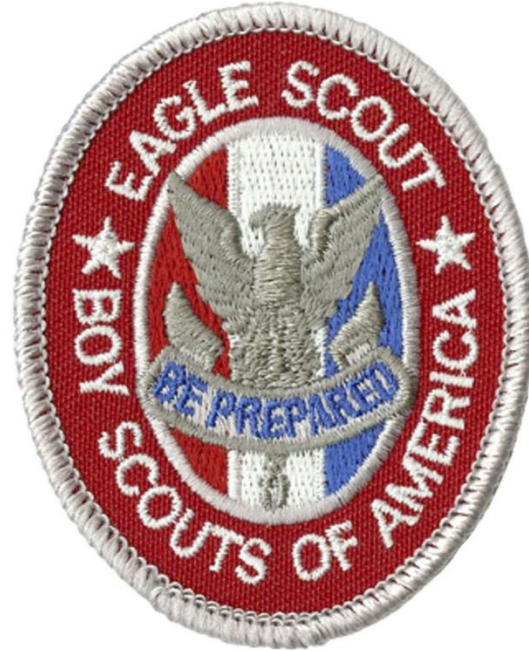
- **Other Items**

- Candles, theatrical lighting, off-stage speakers?
- Pledge of Allegiance?
- Scout Oath / Law?
- Songs?

- **Discuss with new Eagle to see what works for them**



Printed Program



*Eagle Scout Court of Honor
for
Anthony Ackerman*

*Saturday, April 30, 2022 • 2:30 p.m.
Faith United Methodist Church
Genoa, Illinois*

Printed Program

Eagle Scout Court of Honor

Anthony Ackerman

Saturday, April 30, 2022 • 2:30 p.m.
Faith United Methodist Church, Genoa, Illinois

Presentation of the Colors	Troop 26 / Troop 18
Opening Prayer	Pastor Kim Chapman
Welcome	Mr. Steve Sarver
Committee of Escort	Mr. Rory Harper, Mr. Evan Sarver Mr. David Sarver
Recognition of Dignitaries	Mr. Sarver
Slide Show	
About the Eagle Scout Award and Recognition of Eagle Scouts	Mr. Sarver
Eagle Scout Charge and the Presentation of the Eagle Scout Award	Mr. Alex Stevens Mr. Brian Stevens
Presentation of Eagle Pins / Recognitions	Mr. Anthony Ackerman
Eagle Mentor Reflection	Mr. Sarver
Camp Lowden Staff Reflections	Mr. Thomas Sanner
United States Marine Corps Presentation	Sgt. Greg Burdick
Eagle Scout Response	Mr. Ackerman
Closing Prayer	Pastor Chapman
Closing	Troop 26 / Troop 18

 Refreshments 

Anthony's Trail to Eagle



Eagle Scout Service Project

Landscaping of the playground at Faith United Methodist Church. The project included general beautification, weeding, adding mulch, fixing steps, and adding plants to the outside of the church. In addition, several broken pieces of playground equipment were replaced.

Positions Held

Senior Patrol Leader, Scribe, Troop Religious Guide,
Camp Lowden Staff Member (First Class Express Instructor)

Other Recognitions / Awards

Arrow of Light, Mile Swim (twice)

Merit Badges

(Listed in the order in which Anthony earned them)

Archery • Fingerprinting • Communication • Environmental Science • Woodwork • Automotive Maintenance • Fish and Wildlife Management • Forestry • Swimming • Orienteering • Camping • Cooking • Family Life • First Aid • Personal Management • Citizenship in the Community • Citizenship in the Nation • Citizenship in the World • Mammal Study • Pulp and Paper • Signs Signals Codes • Wilderness Survival • Emergency Preparedness • Personal Fitness • Kayaking • Leatherwork • Canoeing • Shotgun Shooting

See if you can match the name of the merit badge with its picture below...



Hint: pictures are in alphabetical order

Printed Program



There is no end to the Eagle Scout trail.

The National Scout Office predicts that for every 100 Scouts that join a troop...

- 12 will have their first contact with a Church
- 5 will earn their religious emblem
- 1 will enter the clergy
- 2 will become Eagle Scouts
- 18 will develop hobbies that will last through their adult life
- 1 will use Scout skills to save a life
- 1 will use Scout skills to save their own life
- 8 will enter a career that was learned through the merit badge system
- 17 will become Scouting volunteers

Invitations

- **Where to get?**
 - Purchase from BSA
 - Make your own
 - Plenty of suggestions on Internet
- **Emphasize importance of honor**
 - It's Scouts BSA's *highest award* – shine light on accomplishments!

[Photo Here]

You are cordially invited to attend a Court of Honor for the presentation of Scouting America's highest award

The Eagle Scout Award

to

[name of Eagle Scout]

Date • Time
Location
Address

Invitations

- **Send to:**

- Family members
- Current Scouts
- Other Eagles from troop
- AOL Scouts (Second-Year Webelos)
- District / Council leaders
- Counselors for merit badges
- People who helped with service project
- People who wrote recommendations
- Elected officials / other dignitaries
- *School teachers and officials*

[Photo Here]

You are cordially invited to attend a
Court of Honor for the presentation of
Scouting America's highest award

The Eagle Scout Award

to
[name of Eagle Scout]

Date • Time
Location
Address

The invitation card features a blue and red border with white stars. It includes a placeholder for a photo, the text of the invitation, the name of the recipient in red script, and a section for event details. Two gold fleur-de-lis symbols are positioned at the bottom corners.

Articles and Publicity

- Tired of negative news about Scouting?
 - Supply news media with *positive* Scouting story!
- Come up with publicity plan
 - Write up article and send to local news outlets
 - Better yet, invite to ceremony!

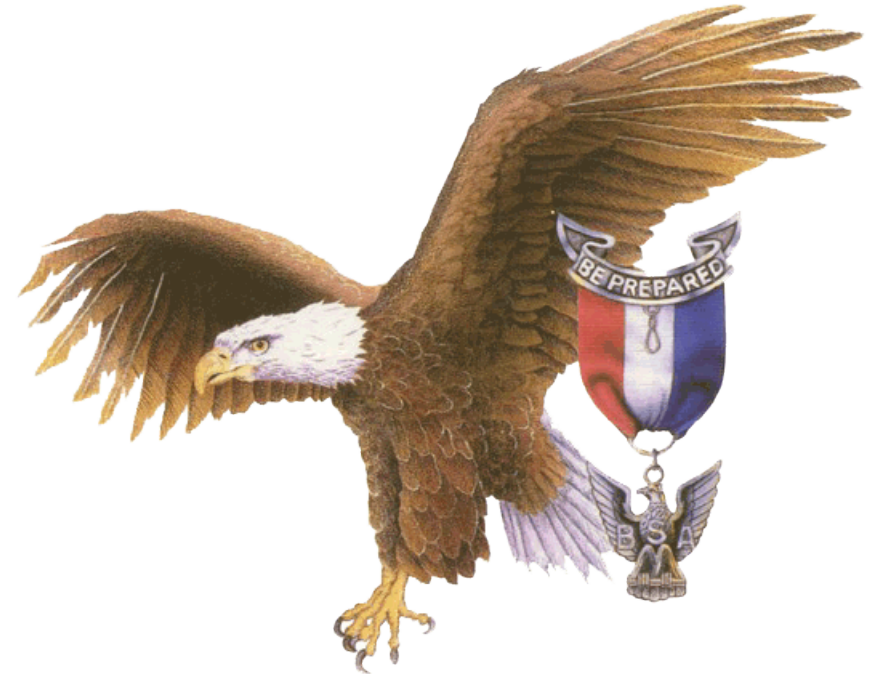


Eagle Scout Publicity Plan

- Gather media contact list
- Obtain detailed biography
- Prepare one-page news release
- Who, what where, when, why, and how
- Send to contacts

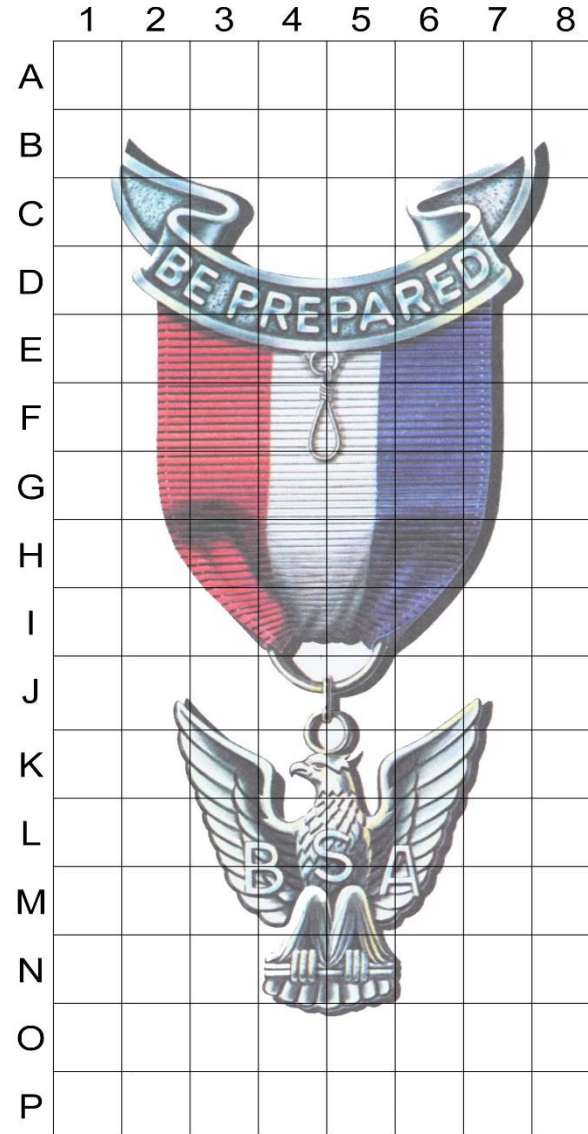
Graphics and Displays

- Use official graphics and colors
- Accept no substitutes! 😊



Eagle Board

- Transfer and enlarge using “grid” pattern
- Let other units borrow



Photos

- Get quality photographer
- Make “shot list”
 - Candid shots
 - Ceremony shots
 - Close-ups of program, medal, etc.
 - Etc.
- Have helper review to ensure completion



Your Experiences / Questions

Thanks for coming!
Enjoy the rest of your day!

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