

The Eagle Has Landed Ceremony

Setting:

- ❑ A single lighted candle is placed on a table in front of the moderator representing the Spirit of Scouting.
- ❑ One red, one white, and one blue candle are lit to represent the three parts of the Scout Oath.
- ❑ Rank symbols are placed on low tables.
- ❑ An unlit candle is placed in front of each symbol.
- ❑ Lights are dimmed.
- ❑ After the narrative for each rank is read, a Scout with that rank crosses the stage and lights the candle for his rank.

Participants:

- ❑ Moderator (Special guest or Troop Committee Chairman)
- ❑ Speaker #1 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Speaker #2 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Speaker #3 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Speaker #4 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Speaker #5 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Speaker #6 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Speaker #7 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Scoutmaster

- ❑ New Scout
- ❑ Tenderfoot Scout
- ❑ 2nd Class Scout
- ❑ 1st Class Scout
- ❑ Star Scout
- ❑ Life Scout
- ❑ Eagle Scout

- ❑ Eagle Candidate(s) and parents

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Ceremony:

Moderator: This is the voice of the Eagle, the Eagle whose heights you have struggled to reach. When a boy becomes a Boy Scout there is within him something that we call the spirit of Scouting. This single lighted candle before you represents that spirit. Because the spirit of Scouting embodies the principles of the Scout Oath and Law, it becomes a shining beacon of inspiration. Alone, this light may seem feeble, but when multiplied by all of the boys in Scouting around the world, it is powerful indeed. After a boy enters Scouting, the Scout Law that he promises to obey begins to guide his life. 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 back over the cliff you have climbed; look back over the experiences you have encountered in your ascent; remember the friends you have made. These experiences and friendships should not be forgotten, and you should profit by making sure that the bumps in the road do not occur again. Experience is a valuable teacher if you heed its teachings.

The New Scout advances to the center of the stage.

New Scout: In the Scout Oath the young Scout promises upon his honor to do his best to do his duty, first to God and his country; second, to other people, by helping them at all times; and third, to himself, by keeping himself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight. You see how the light from the spirit of Scouting is now beginning to grow and become brighter.

The New Scout lights the first candle.

Speaker #1: We remember when you took your first step upon the trail that slowly winds upward. With your first tentative step, you began living the Scout Oath and Law. You saw older Scouts wearing the Eagle Scout badge, and proclaimed to all who would listen that someday, you would soon be joining them as Eagle Scouts. One of those older boys may have unknowingly become the role model that you sought to follow.

While you were on the Scouting trail, we watched you study; we watched you practice; and then we watched you learn by doing. First you were only a candidate, building yourself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight. But over time, that changed as you mastered new skills and gained new experiences. Far away, loomed the hazy outline of a lofty Eagle Summit, flanked by the lesser peaks that represent Star and Life. To the younger Scout, they are a long way ahead, but they come a lot closer as the light from the Spirit of Scouting spreads. When your brother Scouts called you a Tenderfoot, they were right, you were indeed a Tenderfoot.

The Tenderfoot Scout advances to the center of the stage.

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Tenderfoot: The appeal of the majestic eagle has been felt by individuals from prehistoric times to the present day. To the Egyptians, the eagle was the messenger to the gods and the sun, a symbol of eternal life. To the American Indians, he stood as the incentive to valor and the pledge of victory. For us today, the eagle is a living symbol of courageous and freedom-aspiring Americans. When the badge of rank for Eagle Scouts was designed in 1912, a small silver eagle was suspended from a ribbon of red, white, and blue.

The Tenderfoot Scout lights the second candle.

Speaker #2: But you were not a Tenderfoot for long; for soon you reached the ledge where you were greeted by a group of Second Class Scouts. Some like yourself were stopping to catch their breath before continuing along the Eagle Trail. With eager determination, you began to study more and worked even harder. Some things were easy and you mastered them the first time. Others were more difficult and you learned about failure. You are beginning to learn about working with other members of your patrol to achieve a common goal; about patrol spirit; and supporting the other members of your patrol and troop.

You sought out the more experienced Scouts to give you advice and encouragement along the way. You persevered, kept trying, and almost before you knew it, you came to another ledge; the ledge where First Class Scouts dwell. To celebrate the completion of your journey, you presented a small pin to your mother to thank her for her love, support, and encouragement and for all she has done to get you to this point in your Scouting career.

The Second Class Scout advances to the center of the stage.

Second Class: The foremost responsibility of an Eagle Scout is to live with honor. To an Eagle Scout, honor is the foundation of character. He knows that "A Scout is Trustworthy" is the first point of the Scout Law for a good reason. An Eagle Scout lives honorably, not only because of the importance of doing so to himself, but because of the significance of the example he sets for other Scouts. Living honorably reflects credit upon his home, his troop, his church, and his community. May the white of the Eagle badge remind you always to live with honor.

The Second Class Scout lights the third candle.

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Speaker #3: Here you found a tempting green meadow by a crystal clear stream, with beautiful blue skies overhead bathed by the sun. Here you were tempted to remain, to rest on your laurels, enjoy the view, spend some time with your buddies, and finish out your years in Scouting. The demands on your time are ever increasing. Yes, you could have remained here in glory with your friends, but your ambition stirred you on.

You knew the journey was not yet finished, but really was just beginning. You begin to realize the benefits you have gained from experience, training for leadership, and service to others. We remember your progress to Star Scout. It brought you your first real taste of leadership and responsibility. You experienced the great feeling of service to your community. You found that the trail from First Class had been an optical illusion, not as difficult as it has seemed. This spurred you on, and you continued to climb higher. Many challenges still must be conquered in these last few miles.

The First Class Scout advances to the center of the stage.

First Class: The second responsibility of the Eagle Scout is loyalty. Without loyalty, character lacks direction. A SCOUT is true to his family, leaders, friends, school and nation. His loyalty to his troop and brother Scouts makes him pitch in and carry his share of the load. He offers to help without being asked. All of these help build the loyalty which means devotion to community, to country, to one's ideals, and to God. May the blue of the Eagle badge always inspire your loyalty.

The First Class Scout lights the fourth candle.

Speaker #4: Now the trail is getting even steeper, it is less worn. Fewer Scouts seemed to be heading in your direction. If you are lucky, many of the friends you joined Scouting with are here to share the view with you. You looked back down from where you came and saw the crowds below you. Now, you are no longer one of the new kids on the block. You looked up ahead and saw that only a few have continued on the path left before you.

With the same determination with which you began this climb what seemed so long ago, you continued on up the trail. On it was the badge of Life Scout, the heart badge that was soon to be placed on your uniform. You will never forget the thoughts in your heart - most Scouts on reaching the ledge of Life have experienced it. Through your climb up the Scouting Trail, the badges and requirements have changed as your abilities grew, but one pledge has remained unchanged, the Scout Oath. At the top, you paused for a second and took time once again to say thanks to your family for their support, encouragement, and belief in you, before you began your final ascent to the top of Eagle Summit.

The Star Scout advances to the center of the stage.

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Star: The third responsibility of an Eagle Scout is to be courageous. Courage gives character force and strength and is a quality by which men measure themselves and others. To a Scout, bravery means not only the courage to face physical danger, but the determination to stand up for his rights and the rights of others around him. Trusting in God, with faith in his fellow citizen, he looks forward to each day, seeking his share of the world's work. Along this path, you learned to challenge yourself. You found that you have to work really hard to get the best things in life, but the journey is usually worth the effort. That first sunrise or sunset on top of a mountain you had to climb up brought it all into focus. May the red of the Eagle badge always remind you of courage.

The Star Scout lights the fifth candle.

Speaker #5: The trail has become even tougher, but more interesting. The original simple principles, the Scout Oath and Law, now have a fuller meaning. Your understanding of them is greater, and you may even have found them to be very influential guidelines in how you live your life. Yes, we have watched your character and personality unfold and observed you grow from a tentative young boy of ten to a confident, self-assured young man.

We have watched your leadership ability expand into a valuable asset to your troop, your school, your family, and your community. We have watched your mind develop and your wisdom and self-confidence increase. We have watched all of these things in you. Now, that you are on the threshold of your goal, we welcome you. For you have done your climbing in a true Scout-like manner. You have grown from the young Scout looking up in awe at your role model, to the older Scout who is now the role model for a younger boy that follows. Along the way, you may have inspired a young Scout to follow you along the Scouting Trail to Eagle even if you are not aware of it; just as someone did to you those many years ago.

The Life Scout advances to the center of the stage.

Life: The fourth responsibility of an Eagle Scout is to be cheerful. To remind the Eagle Scout to always wear a smile, the red, white, and blue ribbon is attached to the scroll of the Second Class Scout Award, which has its ends turned up in a smile. With deep humility you now stand as a representative of the very best that Scouting can accomplish in the lives of young men. Along the trail, you learned that things do not always go as planned, but the best way to deal with adversity is with a smile on your face and a backup plan in your pocket. May you now pass on to the younger brothers a portion of your knowledge and experience, and encourage them to continue on the Scouting Trail.

The Life Scout lights the final candle.

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Speaker #6: Before the highest summit along the Eagle Trail can be completed, additional merit badges must be earned. Some of them are very difficult and leadership and service to others are not forgotten. The demands on your time are increasing. Only with the greatest persistence and courage can the Scout gain the thrill of victory that comes from looking down the trail, from the very top of Eagle Summit. The Eagle award is a culmination of the efforts of many leaders of this Scout, both within his family and the troop. It cannot be achieved without tremendous support from friends and relatives. Your parents have been with you every step up of the way. They have celebrated your successes, gotten you through the failures, and encouraged you to continue along the trail. But most importantly, this goal cannot be done without the drive to succeed from you, the Eagle candidate. Only those with real persistence and courage are able to gain the thrill of Eagle Summit.

This is an occasion for pride and joy and a time for serious reflection. It is the highest rank in Scouting, and the most coveted of all Scouting awards. Along the way, you have achieved a purpose of building character, in the training of leadership, in the practice of service to others, and the confidence in yourself that you can truly accomplish anything – if you put your mind to it!

The Eagle Scout advances to the center of the stage.

Eagle: The final responsibility of an Eagle Scout is service. The Eagle extends a helping hand to those who still toil up Scouting's trail, just as others helped him in his climb to Eagle. The performance of the daily Good Turn takes on a new meaning when he enters an adult life of continuing service to others. The Eagle stands as the protector of the weak and helpless. He aids and comforts the unfortunate and the oppressed. He upholds the rights of others while defending his own. He is always prepared to put forth his best. His code of conduct is based upon the belief that leadership must be founded upon service. You are an Eagle. It has been a long, hard – but wonderful – road on this journey, but you have mastered your goal.

The Eagle Scout lights the three candles representing the three parts of the Scout Oath.

All of the participating Scouts return to the center of the stage in order of rank.

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Speaker #7: Eagle candidates, you are to be congratulated for reaching the highest peak of the Eagle Trail; your diligence and hard work have paid off. You have made Troop 701, your community, your friends, and your family very proud. May the qualities that inspired you to this achievement continue to lead you on to even greater success in your life. As an Eagle Scout, the eyes of Scouting -- yes, the eyes of the world will be upon you. The traditions of Eagle Scout are high. The expectations are even higher. May you live up to those traditions and expectations, always guided by the Spirit of Scouting, represented by these blazing candles before you.

Before completing your journey up the trail to your goal, let me remind you that there are more mishaps in mountain climbing after reaching the top than there are on the trail upward. One who achieves the highest goal of Scouting should never forget the rigor of the training he has endured and the responsibilities of leadership and service that were such a large part of your success. Never forget the Scout Law should always be fundamental in your life.

Scoutmaster: The Eagle badge that you are about to receive is symbolic of this Spirit of Scouting. As part of this ceremony, you will pin a miniature Eagle Scout badge over your mother's heart in recognition of her love, encouragement, faith, and trust in your future. As an Eagle Scout, may you never disappoint her. Your father has also stood by you over the years and has offered his encouragement and assistance. As a symbol of what he has contributed to your being here today, you will present him a miniature Eagle Scout tie tack. As is the tradition in Troop 701, your father will have the honor of placing the Eagle Scout neckerchief around your neck to tell the world that he will continue to support you as you continue to grow into a man. Remember proudly, that you are never a former Eagle Scout! May the Scout Oath and Law continue to be your guide for today, tomorrow, and into the future!

For now, we can surely say "the Eagle has landed!"