

Light of the Eagle Trail Ceremony

Setting:

- ❑ A single lighted candle is placed on a table in front of the moderator.
- ❑ Rank symbols are placed on low tables. An unlit candle is placed in front of each symbol.
- ❑ Twelve small candles are set on a table on the one side.
- ❑ Three large candles are set on a table on the other side.
- ❑ Lights are dimmed.

Participants:

- ❑ Moderator
- ❑ Eagle Candidate(s) and parents
- ❑ Scoutmaster
- ❑ 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)
- ❑ New Scout
- ❑ Tenderfoot Scout
- ❑ 2nd Class Scout
- ❑ 1st Class Scout
- ❑ Star Scout
- ❑ Life Scout
- ❑ Eagle Scout

Ceremony:

Moderator: To earn the highest rank in scouting, a Scout must spend a great deal of time and effort. Therefore, the occasion that recognizes his accomplishments should be memorable. Tonight, we shall light the Eagle Trail as we recognize the accomplishments of these Eagle candidates.

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. One by one, using the flame from the Spirit of Scouting, we shall light the symbols for each part of the Scout Law. There are twelve parts; each is an important foundation in the building of strong character.

(The Senior Patrol Leader lights twelve small candles as the Scout Law is read.)

A Scout is:
Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful,
Friendly, Courteous, Kind,
Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty,
Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

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(Three large candles are lit by a Scout, as the Scout Oath is read.)

"On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my Country
And to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times
To keep myself physically strong
Mentally awake, and morally straight"

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.

(A New Scout lights the candle in front of the Scout symbol.)

Speaker #1: As the new Scout crosses over to Boy Scouting, he thinks of the day when it will be his turn to be awarded the Eagle badge. He looks forward to the adventures in the outdoors that Scouting will bring. After practicing the Oath, Law, and Motto, he is ready to begin his journey in Scouting. He is now a Scout.

(A Tenderfoot Scout lights the candle in front of the Tenderfoot symbol.)

Now, in the distance looms the hazy outlines of Eagle Summit, flanked by the lesser peaks of the Star and Life ranks. To the new Scout, they are very far away, but they will become a lot closer as the light from the Spirit of Scouting continues to spread. The Scout begins as a Tenderfoot.

The Tenderfoot badge is the first rank a Scout receives. It stands at the foot of the Eagle Trail. Once, inspired by the Spirit of Scouting, he won't stay a Tenderfoot very long. Putting a few simple achievements behind him, he will shortly climb to the rank of Second Class.

(A Second Class Scout lights the candle in front of the Second Class symbol.)

Speaker #2: The requirements for Second Class become more difficult. A Scout must learn to be self-sufficient in the outdoors and continue to render service to others. Now the Scout is ready for the challenge to attain First Class.

(A First Class Scout lights the candle in front of the First Class symbol.)

Although the requirements continue to become more difficult, he keeps climbing until finally comes the day when he tops the first summit along the Eagle Trail. There he receives his First Class Badge.

(A Star Scout lights the candle in front of the Star symbol.)

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Speaker #3: A broad field of merit badges awaits the First Class Scout. More than 125 merit badges guide the Scout to explore careers, hobbies, and community interest items. The Scout needs but a total of six to conquer the Star Scout Summit. Probably a lot sooner than he thought possible, the Scout finds himself standing on Star Ridge. Thus, through leadership, service, and achievement, he conquers the first of three great peaks along the Eagle Trail.

(A Life Scout lights the candle in front of the Life symbol.)

The trail to the next summit, Life Scout Peak, is not easy. There is leadership to demonstrate, service to others, and plenty of hard work in mastering five additional merit badges and helping fellow Scouts. Not to mention the time challenges of academic, social, family and community life. The higher the Scout climbs, the fewer travelers he meets along the trail. Yet, there are no impossible barriers along the way. The Life Scout's goal can be achieved, but it takes commitment and effort.

(A Eagle Scout lights the candle in front of the Eagle symbol.)

Speaker #4: While the rank of Life Scout is a coveted one, and deserving to all who obtain it, the Eagle Trail does not end there; it leads on toward a higher summit. The pathway narrows and steepens considerably as it winds along the ledges of personal achievement and mountain pastures of troop accomplishment. Mile by mile, the trail becomes more trying. There will be many others there to provide guidance, support, and encouragement, but this is a journey that must be made alone. Many challenges must be conquered in these last miles. 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. Only with the greatest persistence and courage can the Scout gain the thrill of victory that comes while looking back down the trail, from the very top of Eagle Summit!

Scoutmaster: 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 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. 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. In addition, your father will place the Eagle Scout neckerchief around your neck to tell the world that he will continue to support you as you grow into a man.