

## **Spirit of Scouting 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 the middle of a table to represent each of the ranks in Scouting.
- ❑ 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:**

- ❑ Eagle Candidate(s) and parents
- ❑ Moderator (Troop Committee Chairman or other Troop leader)
- ❑ 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)
- ❑ Speaker #5 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Speaker #6 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Speaker #7 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Speaker #8 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Speaker #9 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
  
- ❑ Senior Patrol Leader
- ❑ Assistant Senior Patrol Leader(s)
- ❑ Assistant Senior Patrol Leader(s)
  
- ❑ New Scout
- ❑ New Scout
- ❑ Tenderfoot Scout
- ❑ 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Scout
- ❑ 1<sup>st</sup> Class Scout
- ❑ Star Scout
- ❑ Life Scout
- ❑ Eagle Scout

## Spirit of Scouting Ceremony

### Ceremony:

**Scoutmaster:** 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. This afternoon, we shall light the Eagle Trail as we recognize the accomplishments of these Eagle candidates.

**Moderator:** 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 rank in Scouting. There are seven; each an important foundation in the building of strong character and values.

**Senior Patrol Leader:** 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.” The light from the Spirit of Scouting is now beginning to grow and become brighter. For it is these principles and values that guide young Scouts in the journey along the Scouting trail and in life.

**(Ask all current and former Scouts to rise and give the Scout sign. As them to repeat each point as 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.

**Assistant Senior Patrol Leader(s):** 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.

**(Ask all of the current and former Scouts in attendance to rise and repeat the Scout Oath with you. The remaining two large candles are lit by an ASPL, 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"

## **Spirit of Scouting Ceremony**

**New Scout:** I am a new Scout; just crossed over from Cub Scouting. I remember my first Tiger Cub meeting where I began my journey in Scouting. I found out learning was important in my life and with every adventure I learned more about the world around me. I moved up the Scouting Trail and the activities became more challenging. I remember thinking that I could never possibly complete all the 'hard' work to achieve my Wolf and Bear badges. My parents convinced me that I could and will achieve my goals.

**New Scout:** My life was changing rapidly as I learned the Cub Scout promise and began to see that helping others made me feel good about myself. I remember how much I admired the older Scouts who were there to help me have fun at camp and pack meetings. I remember when I became a Webelos Scout. I was proud to wear the same uniform as a Boy Scout. I was that much closer to camping every month and high adventure. Our Den Chief taught me how to tie knots, prepare for camp and told me stories from his camping experiences.

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

**Speaker #1:** A few weeks ago I crossed over into the Troop, and as I read my Scout book, I wasn't sure about how to earn my next rank. A Troop guide made everything seem easy as he shared his knowledge with me. To earn my Scout rank I had to face down my fear of calling people. I had to call and make an appointment for a Scoutmaster conference.

My Scoutmaster told me to bring my parents with me. I discovered that he was very friendly and he explained how the troop functioned. I learned much that day and I am proud to have earned my first rank in Boy Scouts. I look at the trail ahead and I see that it gets much steeper. I hear a voice in my head tell me; "You can do it!" I have confidence in my ability to reach my goals. I can stand here and smile, knowing that my goal to become an Eagle Scout can be realized with some planning and lots of work on my part.

The Spirit of Scouting has taught me to visualize my goals and break them into bite size pieces; helping others feels good; doing a good turn makes others feel good too; and about Scouting fellowship, the troop is like an extended family of older brothers. Camping is fun, but we still have chores to do. My patrol leader assigns my jobs for each campout we all take a turn at cleaning and cooking. The Spirit of Scouting is learning, sharing, service to others, responsibility and fellowship in the outdoors. I know that many more exciting experiences and lessons are waiting for me further up the trail. I can't wait!

**Tenderfoot:** I made it Tenderfoot! I am starting to feel more comfortable around the older scouts. I know some of their names and I even joke around with some of them. They are not that scary anymore. I told my parents I want to be just like this one older scout who just made Eagle. He is awesome!! He swam a mile and has so many merit badges. I have learned some basic outdoor skills and I have mastered setting up my tent. My mom is nervous about summer camp. There is so much to do there that I have never done before and I am looking forward to a week of camping with my friends.

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

## Spirit of Scouting Ceremony

**Speaker #2:** He made it Tenderfoot! In the last few months he has made several new friends and is looking up to one of the Eagle Scouts. I have watched him go from mumbling the words to the Scout Law to saying them with confidence and a better understanding of what each point means. He is enjoying being a member of his patrol and likewise his patrol is enjoying having him be a part of it. However, they are not enjoying his cooking. The Year Round Camper award is only a few months away and I can tell by his determination he will earn it. Our Tenderfoot is well on his way to becoming a future leader of his troop and within his community.

During his Scoutmaster Conference, I asked him what his favorite Scouting moment has been so far. After thinking for a minute or so, he said, "I have had lots of fun so far, camping and laughing with my friends, however I would have to say my favorite moment was teaching a new Scout how to set up his tent. He listened to me. I guess he had to if he wanted to stay dry. I liked teaching him and telling him how much fun he was going to have at this camp."

This Tenderfoot's Scout spirit is alive and growing.

**Second Class:** The time has really flown by fast. In the past, I would come to the Court of Honor, but not get many awards myself. But that is beginning to change. I have my Year Around Camper patch and am closing in on 50 Nights of Camping. I have been talking with the adult leaders about a leadership position for next year. Already, I am becoming one of the "older" boys, and it is fun sharing my knowledge with the younger guys in my patrol. Seems like it was not that long ago that I was doing the same with an older Scout!

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

**Speaker #3:** "Show Scout Spirit" is a requirement for every rank in Scouting. From the New Scout who has just joined the troop to the Eagle candidate who is in the homestretch. But, it is not the same for every rank in Scouting. The New Scout and Tenderfoot are excited about camping every month, going to the rifle and archery ranges at Summer Camp, and Scouting in general. Our Second Class has done all of that and he is looking forward to something even better – a chance to be a leader in the troop and more importantly, his first High Adventure trip.

He has begun to live his life by the principles and values in the Scout Oath and Law. Through service to his community, he has learned that "helping other people at all times" is something he has been doing all along. He has found it easy to "Do a Good Turn Daily" and has learned the importance of "Being Prepared."

The true Spirit of Scouting is in every one of us. But, it is not until we start to give, that we truly start to receive. There is no better feeling than knowing you helped someone achieve a goal that they struggled with. No better feeling than watching a young boy become a young man as he becomes "physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight."

## Spirit of Scouting Ceremony

**First Class:** I am a First Class Scout. The further I travel down the Scouting Trail, the more important the Spirit of Scouting becomes to me. I see this in Scouts, as well as in my everyday life. I quickly realized the First Class position opened many doors for me. I am excited to be a candidate in the Patrol Leader's Election at Summer Camp. Once I am a Patrol Leader, I will be able to pass along my always growing Scoutcraft knowledge and skills. I am also looking forward to having an opportunity to have a say in planning and everyday operations of the troop.

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

**Speaker #4:** I have had the opportunity to work on quite a few service projects thus far. I have worked on Eagle Scout projects, as well as projects for local groups. I am realizing how rewarding it is to give back to my community. I have not decided which Leadership Position I want to pursue after Patrol Leader, but when I do, I think the younger scouts will look up to me even more than they do now. I have to be sure I am always setting a good example for them to follow.

Now that I have completed First Class, I am looking forward to earning Merit Badges for the upcoming ranks of Star, Life, & Eagle. I will be able to use my Scoutcraft Skills to help me with these Merit Badges. I am excited to use everything I have learned so far towards my everyday life as well as my future leadership positions with the troop.

**Star Scout:** As a Star Scout, my scouting experience is changing. I have learned Scoutcraft skills during my journey to Star, and I am now eager to teach these skills to younger scouts. I am prepared to accept leadership in the Troop and to learn the skills needed to become a good leader. During my journey, I also learned the twelve points of the Scout Law. I am beginning to understand that they are more than just a list of good characteristics that I had to memorize.

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

**Speaker #5:** Reaching the rank of Star is a milestone for most Scouts. As he thinks about the points of the Scout Law, our Star Scout begins to realize that they are the necessary characteristics for leading a good life. He can't just pick and choose the ones that appeal to him; he has to practice all of them in order to be a good scout and a good person. If he is diligent in following the law, he knows he will be successful on his journey to Eagle.

A Star Scout has learned basic outdoor skills. He looks forward to camps where he can practice and perfect his skills. He is ready to put to challenge himself at his first High Adventure Camp. He is ready to take on the challenge of leadership and to take an active roll in planning and implementing the program. The trail becomes steeper at Star, the air is thinner and there are fewer travelers on the journey, but Eagle Peak looms larger and closer in the distance. The Star Scout begins to give Scouting back to his younger brothers. In this giving, he learns the lesson of cheerful service and his experience becomes more rewarding.

## Spirit of Scouting Ceremony

**Life Scout:** I am a Life Scout. By now my Scouting career is well underway. I am considered a leader within the troop and have demonstrated self-respect, willingness to help, and compassion for others through many hours of leadership and community service. I now have numerous nights of camping, a number of summer camps and have touched the heart of the outdoors during High Adventure.

I have been challenged both physically and mentally, and I have reached personal summits I had not previously thought possible. I have also begun to understand the true Spirit of Scouting. It is not a badge to be earned or some task that I have done during my Scouting career. It is something more; something I cannot touch or name but I know it influences my own perspective of life itself.

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

**Speaker #6:** The Life Scout is well down the Trail to Eagle. He has grown within the ranks of the troop, both in maturity and ability. He has worked his way through various leadership positions of increasing responsibility and is looked upon as a role model by younger Scouts. He has taken on personal challenges in his Scouting and non-Scouting careers and he has begun to consider his future as an Eagle and beyond. He has reached that point in his life where he can look back upon his accomplishments and realize that his work has only begun. He has set his sights high and he knows the final leg on the Trail to Eagle is the most difficult section of all.

Yet in all these things, the Life Scout senses that there is something more. Something just below the surface that he cannot quite place his finger on; something he has learned; or perhaps he knew all along. This thing that he knows is a spirit that compels him; to achieve, to excel, to help. He has begun to realize, as we all must, that this Spirit of Scouting is not a tangible thing or a thing at all for that matter. The clue is on the Trail to Eagle itself. The Spirit of Scouting is a road, a journey, a trail. One he must take that will lead and guide him through life.

**Eagle Scout:** The pathway has narrowed and gotten considerably steeper as it winds along the ledges of personal achievement and mountain pastures of troop accomplishment. Mile by mile, the trail has become more trying. There have been many to provide guidance, support, and encouragement, but this is a journey that must be made alone. Through leadership, service, and achievement, the Eagle can conquer the final, and most prestigious, of three great peaks along the Eagle Trail. There are no impossible barriers along the way. The Eagle has learned that any goal can be achieved, but it takes commitment, effort, and lots of support.

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

**Speaker #7:** 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. There is even more leadership to demonstrate, service to others, plenty of hard work in helping fellow scouts in their journey along the Scouting Trail. This is where the Scout really starts to see the influence he has over the younger boys as he shares his experience and knowledge with them. This journey is made even tougher by the time challenges of academic, social, family and community life.

## **Spirit of Scouting Ceremony**

**Speaker #8:** Many challenges have been conquered in the final few miles. Some of them were very difficult, but if it was easy, then everyone would make it. In the end, it is the Scout himself who must decide if the journey and the goal are worth it. 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! Over time, the Eagle will finally realize the magnitude of the goal he has attained; of the effort it took to get there; of the people that were always there to help him over an obstacle in his path.

**Speaker #9:** The Spirit of Scouting is within each boy. The Scout Oath and Law are all part of it, but, so is pride. Pride in ones self, his troop, school, family, and nation; pride in his accomplishments. The awards are hollow and meaningless unless each boy meets his trials with determination and does his best to overcome them. The troop and its leadership exist for the boys; to encourage them to bigger challenges and to honor them for their accomplishments.

Take pride in what you are and never be ashamed of your uniform. Wear it to and from meetings and don't shed it as soon as you are out the door. Remember that your detractors are usually the guys who sit around complaining all weekend while you are out camping, hiking, canoeing, rafting, and climbing mountains.

**Moderator:** 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, 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 you reflect back on your years in Scouting and the people who helped get you to where you are today, remember to thank them and try to be that person for another Scout who is making his way along the Scouting Trail.