

## *The Voice of the Eagle 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)
- ❑ 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)
- ❑ New Scout
- ❑ Tenderfoot Scout
- ❑ 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Scout
- ❑ 1<sup>st</sup> Class Scout
- ❑ Star Scout
- ❑ Life Scout
- ❑ Eagle Scout
- ❑ Eagle Candidate(s) and parents

### **Ceremony:**

***The New Scout advances to the center of the stage.***

**New Scout:** I am new to the Scouting Trail. Even though I have just joined the program, I already aspire to earn my wings. To the newcomer like me, the peaks of Eagle Summit are a long way ahead, but I know by working hard, anything is possible. If I truly want to achieve my goal, no one but myself can stop me.

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**Moderator:** This is the voice of the Eagle, the Eagle whose heights you have struggled 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 back over the cliff you have climbed; look back over the experience you have encountered in your ascent. 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 lights the first candle.***

***The Tenderfoot Scout advances to the center of the stage.***

**Tenderfoot:** I am the Tenderfoot. My three points stand for the three parts of the Scout Oath. You find me on the compass, forever pointing to the North Star and a safe journey in life. On my face are two stars representing truth and knowledge, a shield that is the emblem of a nation molded together in justice, and an eagle to guard the freedom of my land.

**Speaker #1:**

We remember when you took your first step upon the trail that leads 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. When a boy becomes a Scout, there is instilled in him something we call the Spirit of Scouting. The lighted candle before you represents that spirit.

While you were on the 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. Far away, looms the hazy outline of a lofty Eagle Summit, flanked by the lesser peaks that represent Star and Life. Yes, to the younger Scouts 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 lights the second candle.***

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

**Second Class:** I am Second Class. The ends of my scroll are turned up in the willing smile of the Scout. On my face is our motto, "Be Prepared," and suspended from me is the knot, tied there to remind you of the slogan of the Boy Scouts of America, "Do A Good Turn Daily." I have learned the importance of service to others and am anxious to lead my fellow Scouts.

**Speaker #2:** But not for long, for soon you reached the first 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. You began to study more and you worked 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. You are learning 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. Along the way, 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 lights the third candle.***

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

**First Class:** I am First Class. I was Tenderfoot and I laid my course by the stars of truth and knowledge, while embracing the righteousness of justice and freedom. I am learning to lead and look out for those under me. I have added a smile that I might be a friend to all and bound myself together with the knot of duty to others.

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**Speaker #3:** Here you found a tempting green meadow by a crystal clear stream, with beautiful blue skies bathed by the sun. Here you were tempted to remain, to rest on your laurels, enjoy the view, and finish out your years in Scouting. Yes, you could have remained here in First Class glory, but your ambition stirred you on.

You knew the journey was not yet finished. 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 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 lights the fourth candle.***

***The Star Scout advances to the center of the stage.***

**Star:** I am the Star. Now that I can stand alone, I have earned the right to improvement on my own. To me goes the honor of choosing my field. I am now becoming one of the Scouts the younger boys look up to. Before me lies a horizon of endless opportunity. In the distance I can see the outlines of Eagle Summit. I know if I truly want, I can reach my destination.

**Speaker #4:** Now the trail was getting even steeper, it was less worn. Fewer Scouts seemed to be heading in your direction. If you are lucky, many of the friends you joined Scouting with are there to share the view with you. You looked back down from where you came and saw the crowds below you. Now, you are not the new kid on the block, but instead are the role model that the younger Scouts are trying to copy. You looked up and saw the few above 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.

***The Star Scout lights the fifth candle.***

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### ***The Life Scout advances to the center of the stage.***

**Life:** I am Life. I have shown the world that Scouting is in my heart. I have mastered knowledge of subjects that will benefit my country, my fellow man, and me. Eagle Summit is now clearly in view. This is no place to rest on the Eagle Trail, for now I clearly see the peaks ahead. I am ready for my wings to fly.

**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 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. Along the way, you may have become the role model to inspire another young Scout to follow you along the Trail to Eagle.

### ***The Life Scout lights the final candle.***

### ***The Eagle Scout advances to the center of the stage.***

**Eagle:** I am the Eagle. It has been a long, hard – but wonderful – road on this journey. I have mastered my goal. With deep humility I now stand as a representative of the very best that Scouting can accomplish in the lives of young men. May I now pass on to my younger brothers a portion of my knowledge and experience, and encourage them to continue on the Scouting Trail.

**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

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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 contemplation. 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!

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

**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, 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.

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. In addition, 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 the Scout Law continue to be your guide for tomorrow and into the future!