

Eagle Court of Honor

**Matt H.**

[Flags are already in place from Troop Court of Honor opening. A decorated table is at the front of the stage with the rank placards and Tom's Eagle statue sitting on it.]

[Computer image with Scouting logo/Character Counts is projected by Tom's gizmo.]

MC: [Makes introductory/welcome statements.]

[Acknowledge any Council or District representatives and any other VIPs present.]

*{insert list of VIPs here}*

Before we begin I would like to ask all of the Eagle Scouts who are with us tonight, both Scouts and Adults, to stand and be recognized.

[PAUSE]

There is a saying in Scouting circles that "Once an Eagle, always an Eagle". I think that says a lot about the significance of what these men have accomplished and the importance of tonight's ceremony.

Thank you, you may be seated.

At this time I have the pleasure of introducing our keynote speaker this evening, Mr. XXX.

*{insert 2-3 sentence bio of speaker here}* Please give XXX a warm Troop 24 welcome.

XXX: [Gives Speech]

MC: [Thanks XXX]

And now, will the Eagle Escort please bring candidate Matt H. forward?

[Eagle Escort leads candidate onstage. Matt takes his place standing on the chairman's left at the **front** of the stage facing the audience. The escort then returns to their seats.]

[Computer image with Matt's name and portrait is projected by Tom's gizmo.]

Eagle Court of Honor

**Matt H.**

VOICE: This is the voice of the Eagle, the Eagle whose heights you struggled to reach.

[Computer image shows the Eagle]

Look back for a moment, look back over the cliff you have climbed; look back at the experience you have encountered in your ascent. These experiences should not be forgotten, and you should profit by making sure that the adverse ones do not occur again. Experience is a valuable teacher if you heed its teachings.

We remember when you took your first step upon the trail that leads upward. With your first step, you began living the Scout Oath and Law.

[Computer image shows the Scout Patch]

While you were on the trail, we watched you study and then we watched you learn by doing. You began by building yourself physically, mentally, and morally. Then your brother Scouts called you a Tenderfoot and they were right, you were indeed a Tenderfoot.

[Computer image shows the Tenderfoot Patch]

[Tenderfoot Scout Lights Candle]

But not for long, for soon you reached the first ledge where you were greeted by a group of Second Class Scouts.

[Computer image shows the Second Class Patch]

[Second Class Scout Lights Candle]

Some, like yourself, were stopping to catch their breath before continuing along the Eagle trail. You began to study more, you worked harder, and almost before you knew it, you came to another ledge, the ledge where First Class Scouts dwell.

[Computer image shows the First Class Patch]

[First Class Scout Lights Candle]

There you found a tempting green meadow by a crystal clear stream, bathed by the sun. Here you were tempted to remain. Yes, you could have remained there to live in First Class glory, but your ambition stirred you on. We remember your progress to Star Scout.

[Computer image shows the Star Patch]

Eagle Court of Honor

**Matt H.**

[Star Scout Lights Candle]

Now the trail was steeper, it was less worn. Fewer Scouts seemed to be heading in your direction. You looked back and saw the crowds below you. You looked up and saw the few above you. With the same determination with which you started your climb, you continued on the trail.

Soon it was the badge of Life Scout, the heart badge that was placed on your uniform.

[Computer image shows the Life Patch]

You will never forget the thoughts in your heart. It has been experienced by most Scouts on reaching the ledge of Life. "Now I am close to Eagle. I will carry on." The trail became tougher, but more interesting. The original simple principles, the Scout Oath and Law, now had a fuller meaning. Your understanding of them was greater.

[Life Scout Lights Candle]

Yes, we have watched your character unfold and mature. We have watched your leadership ability expand into a valuable asset. We have watched your mind develop and your wisdom increase. We have watched all of these things in you. Now that you are at the threshold of your goal, we welcome you. For you have done your climbing in a true Scout-like-manner.

[Computer image shows the Eagle Badge]

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**Matt H.**

MC: The awarding of the Eagle Badge is an important and serious occasion. It is the highest and most coveted rank in Scouting. Only those who remain focused on this goal reach the Eagle Rank - few who begin the Scouting program receive such high honor.

At this point, we trust that Matt has achieved the purposes of the Scouting program: the building of character, the teaching of leadership, and the practice of service.

Let us review the requirements of the Eagle rank:

Earn at least 21 merit badges, including 12 which are mandatory.

Serve actively in a Troop leadership position for a period of 6 months after becoming a Life scout.

Plan, develop, and carry out a service project worthy of an Eagle Scout.

Appear before a board of review of prominent persons and satisfy them that you have done your best to understand and live up to the Scout Oath and Law and in all ways qualify for Eagle Scout.

Careful examination has been made by the Troop 24 committee, Whitewater District, and Dan Beard Council as to the qualifications of this candidate for the Eagle award. His record has been checked and his attainment of the goals of scouting has been verified. We believe him qualified to receive the rank of Eagle Scout.

Will Eagle Scout Joe C. please come forward to administer the Eagle Pledge?

Eagle Court of Honor

**Matt H.**

JC: Raise your hand in the Scout sign and repeat after me.  
I (state your name), realize my obligation [Matt repeats]  
To my fellow Scouts, my home, my country and my God.  
I will at all times do my best  
To assist other Scouts  
Who are climbing the trail of the Eagle  
And give back to Scouting  
More than it has given to me  
And to assist my Troop as much as possible  
And to be a living example of the Scout Oath and Law  
To the best of my ability.  
[Joe leaves the stage.]

MC: At this time I ask that Matt's parents and his scoutmaster for  
the past 4 years please join us on stage.

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**Matt H.**

SM: [SM takes a moment to ceremoniously display Eagle Badge]

No one will ever know the unnumbered acts of self-sacrifice and helpfulness from the mother of this Eagle Scout which have led us to this night. As the symbol of what she has made possible, the court now asks Matt to present to his mother this Eagle pin.

[SM gives pin to Matt who then pins it on his mother]

Your father has stood by you over the years and has offered his encouragement and assistance. As the symbol of what he has contributed to your attainment of this award, the court now asks you to present him this Eagle Dad tie tack.

[SM gives tack to Matt who then pins it on his father's tie.]

Greg and Jayne, I am sure it is with great pride that you pin the Eagle medal on your son's uniform.

[SM gives Eagle medal to Matt's parents who then pin it above their son's left pocket.]

[Turns to audience] Ladies and Gentleman, it is my distinct privilege to present Matt H., Troop 24's newest Eagle Scout.

[Project image stating "Matt H." with his portrait as before, only this time with the words "Eagle Scout" and the eagle head graphic.]

[Applause. Parents return to their seats]

MC: I would like to introduce Eagle Scout Steve W., who will deliver the Eagle Charge.

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**Matt H.**

SLW: The Boy Scouts of the world constitute one of the most wholesome and significant movements in history, and you Matt, have been counted worthy of this highest rank in its membership, all who know you rejoice in your achievement.

Your position, as you well know, is one of honor and responsibility. You are a marked man. As an Eagle Scout, you have assumed a solemn obligation to do your duty to God, to Country, to your fellow Scouts, and to mankind in general. This is a great undertaking. As you live up to your obligations, you bring honor to yourself and to your brother Scouts. If you fail, you bring down the good name of all true and worthy Scouts.

Your responsibility goes beyond your fellow Scouts -- to your Country and your God. America has many good things to give you and your children after you; but these good things depend on the qualities she instills in her citizens. You are prepared to help America in all that she needs most. She has a great past, and you are here to make her future greater.

I charge you to undertake your citizenship with a solemn dedication. Be a leader, but lead only toward the best. Lift up every task you do and every office you hold to the high level of service to God and your fellow men -- to finest living. We have too many who use their strength and their intellect to exploit others for selfish gains. I charge you to be among those who dedicate their skills and ability to the common good.

Build America on the solid foundations of clean living, honest work, unselfish citizenship and reverence for God. Whatever others may do, you will leave behind you a record of which every Scout may be proud.

MC: At this time I would like to introduce Paul F., who will make a special presentation on behalf of Troop 24.

[Project image of NESAs logo.]

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**Matt H.**

PF: Matt, by virtue of your earning the Eagle Award, you are now eligible to become a member of the National Eagle Scout Association. Your troop has enrolled you as a 5-year member in the association and I have the honor of presenting your membership to you. Fail not your fellow Eagles, for your responsibilities are now greater than before. As you go forward in life, receiving other honors and awards, always remember this night when you became an Eagle Scout.

[PF congratulates Matt and presents him with certificate, then leaves stage.]

[Switch back to projected "Matt H. - Eagle Scout" image.]

MC: Achieving the rank of Eagle Scout is a momentous occasion that draws the attention of many prominent public figures. While they could not be here tonight, they have asked us to convey their congratulations. Will Dave A., Mike B., and Bill H. please come forward to read a selection of these letters?

[Each presenter reads one of the letters.]

MC: Matt, would you care to address the court?

MATT: [Give thank yous]

MC: No Troop 24 event would be complete without a Scoutmaster's minute. Gerry?

SM: [Delivers SM Minute.]

Matt, we all want to congratulate you, and recognize you as the Troop's 22<sup>nd</sup> Eagle, and the first for this new Millenium

[Project list of Troop 24's Eagles.]

MC: As a special treat, we've compiled a pictorial review of Matt's career thus far with Troop 24. I would like to remind everyone that you are welcome to remain for the reception immediately following the slide show.

[Project last image of Matt with the Eagle Scout]