



Planning an Eagle Scout Court of Honor

Congratulations!

Earning the Eagle Scout rank places your son in the top 2% of boys who enter scouting. This is an accomplishment that took the dedication of the scout, and also his parents, family, troop, and friends.

Now it is time to celebrate.

After planning two Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremonies, we have organized these thoughts to help you create a day to remember.

Getting Ready

Our family begins planning the Eagle Scout Court of Honor once all paperwork has been submitted to Council.

The first priority is to **select a date** for the ceremony. We initiate this process by asking the scout to identify individuals to whom he will be awarding a mentor pin. We, as parents, **confirm date availability** with the individual(s), as well as other important people such as the scoutmaster and grandparents.

Once the date and location have been secured, the next step is contacting any government officials you wish to recognize or participate in the Court of Honor. We have learned it can take up to six weeks to arrange for state Congressional recognitions and personal visits from busy congressmen. **Plan ahead** if you want to honor your young man in this way. Most governmental offices have a form that must be completed and returned.

Next step is to **create the guest list**. Consider inviting your son's troop, relatives, supportive individuals from school or church, and representatives from the Eagle Scout project's benefiting organization. We have found a guest list of around 50 makes for a nice manageable group that feels like a celebration, but personal interaction with each guest is still possible.

Now that the important people have been alerted and the guest list created, the creative parts can start!

Using blank cards from ScoutStuff.org and Microsoft Word, we have created our own invitations. Try to send out invitations at least 4 weeks in advance even earlier if the Court of Honor is to be held around a busy holiday season. If your son's troop is large, it may be simpler to ask the scoutmaster to forward an email version of the invitation rather than mailing each family individually.

The _____ Family and Boy Scout Troop _____
invite you to attend the
Court of Honor
presenting

(New Eagle Scout)

with the highest honor

The Eagle Scout Award

Date

Time

Location

Cake reception immediately following
RSVP to _____

Planning the Actual Ceremony

There are great resources online to help you plan the actual ceremony. We have followed a fairly simple format – merging ideas we've liked from multiple sources. The ceremony that follows lasts approximately 45 minutes.

Welcome

Presentation of Colors

Pledge of Allegiance

The Scout Oath

Scout Law

Prayer

Individual's Scouting History

Slide Show

Significance of the Eagle Rank and
Eagle Presentation

Special Presentation

Eagle Scout Response

Closing and Retirement of Colors



Our scouts have recognized fellow young men in their troop to help them with their Court of Honor Ceremony by leading the **Welcome, Presentation of Colors, Pledge, Oath and Law** and opening in **prayer**.

We ask our troop Scoutmaster to share a few words about our son's **scouting history**. This has been a very meaningful time of reflection that honors our scout and the adult - cementing the bond that was formed after years of weekly meetings, campouts, and high adventure experiences. Following the history, we play a 3-5 minute photo slide show of the scout's experiences. An alternative to the slide show could be a scrapbook on display at the reception.

Following the scout's history, a brief description of the **significance of the Eagle Scout** rank is shared. (See sample page) Each new Eagle Scout must select an individual to actually award the badge and pin. Again, this is a time to identify an individual, also an Eagle Scout, who has had a significant role in your son achieving this rank. The parents, Eagle Scout, and individual awarding the rank all come forward for the **rank presentation**.

The **special presentation** slot in the program allows time for a Congressional representative or individual from the Eagle project benefitting organization to offer a few words. It is very appropriate to let this individual know in advance what topic you would like them to speak on and the length of time allotted to them.

Lastly, each of our sons has offered a **response**. To our delight, they have needed very little help with this. A young man, who has worked his way through the scouting ranks and arrived at Eagle is very aware of who helped him along the way. Be prepared with a tissue, Mom and Dad! This is also when the scout has a chance to recognize those individuals chosen to receive a mentor pin.

We prepare a word-for-word script for each Court of Honor so the boys participating can practice and have confidence when speaking in front of the group.



All photos courtesy Focal Flame Photography
www.focalflame.com

Eagle Scout Court of Honor Script

Master of Ceremonies:

Welcome. This afternoon we have the honor and pleasure of bestowing the rank of Eagle Scout to my brother, Peter Rankin. Please stand with me for the presentation of the colors.

Color Guard Advance

(Color guard comes to front followed by all scouts with Eagle at the end)

Join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Recite Pledge)

Right hand salute, 2

Scout Leading Oath:

Scouts and Scouters, please join me in the Scout Oath:

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.

Scout Leading Law:

Join me in Scout Law.

A scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courtesy, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

Master of Ceremonies:

Color Guard, post the colors. Color Guard, front and center.

(Salute)

Color Guard, dismissed.

Please be seated.

Let's open our time together in prayer.

(Pray)

At this time I would like to invite Eagle Scout and Scoutmaster _____ to come forward and reflect on (New Eagle Scout)'s years in scouting.

Scoutmaster:

Shares Scout's History

I would like to invite Eagle Scout (Presenter) to come and present (New Eagle Scout) his Eagle Scout Rank Award.

Presenter:

Shares Significance of Eagle Scout Award (see attached)

Can I please have (New Eagle Scout) and his parents join me in front.

I have the honor of presenting this Eagle Scout Badge on behalf of the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America.

Pins badge on – shakes hands

(New Eagle Scout), pin this miniature badge on your mother in recognition of her love, encouragement, faith, and trust in your future. As an Eagle Scout, may you never disappoint her.

(New Eagle Scout), pin this miniature badge on your father in recognition of his faithful leadership and guidance for you on this trail to Eagle. As an Eagle Scout, may you continue to seek your father's counsel.

(New Eagle Scout and parents sit)

I have the privilege of introducing..... (special presentation)

Special Presentation:

New Eagle Scout Response:

Master of Ceremonies:

This concludes our Eagle Scout Court of Honor, please stand with me as we dismiss the colors.

Color Guard, front and center.

Color Guard, dismissed. Right hand salute.....2

The _____ family welcomes you to stay for refreshments and congratulate (New Eagle Scout).

Significance of the Eagle Rank

The following has been merged from a variety of online sources, individuals' comments, and our own reflections.

The EAGLE SCOUT AWARD is the highest award available to youth members of the Boy Scouts of America. It is recognition by the National Court of Honor, presented through the local council, and a local court of honor.

Not every boy, nor every Scout, qualifies for the high rank of Eagle. The physical requirements are strenuous, as set forth in the required merit badges. Mental requirements are unusual and require more than average intelligence. Yet perhaps an even more difficult and more important requirement for the Eagle rank is the personal character of the Scout as reflected in his attitude toward God, the ideals of Scouting, and individuals at home, church, school, and community.

Awarding an Eagle Scout rank is a demonstration of how people, working together, can truly help mold a young man with a solid sense of leadership, citizenship, and responsibility. This is an important and serious matter. It is the climax and goal toward which this Scout has been working for years. It is the culmination of the efforts of the parents and leaders of this Scout. It is an occasion for pride and for joy.

Earning Eagle signifies that this young man has learned to be honorable, in relation to his peers, his elders and his society. He has developed a sense of loyalty to his parents, his teachers, and his employer. The Eagle Scout achievement has also acquired courage – an ability to face challenges and find solutions to tough situations.

The Eagle Scout is not a patch to be worn or certificate to hang on the wall. It is a way to live your life. Although the trail to Eagle is hard work and fun; it is much more. The Eagle rank is an education. Each rank is a chapter. The conclusion is that by earning the Eagle rank the individual has the tools to be a responsible consciences citizen who would gladly advance the group before the individual.

Planning the Reception

Our family has held Eagle Scout Court of Honors on weekend days in the early afternoon, providing light refreshments afterwards.

We set out the food on one table, using a large piece of blue felt from a fabric store as the tablecloth.

We ordered a cake, making it the centerpiece of our refreshment table. We like fondant decorations!





The eagle cookie cutter available at ScoutStuff.org.

I use a cream cheese based rollout cookie recipe and a royal icing recipe.

Icing ingredients:

3 tablespoons Wilton Meringue Powder

4 cups confectioners' sugar

6 tablespoons warm water

Makes: About 3 cups of icing

Video directions on icing cookies can be found at You Tube by searching "Frosting with Royal Icing."

Kim's Cream Cheese Cookie Recipe

1 8oz cream cheese (room temperature)

¾ cup butter (room temperature)

1 cup powdered sugar

2 ¼ cup flour

½ tsp baking soda

½ tsp vanilla

Blend cream cheese, butter and sugar. Add flour, baking soda and vanilla. Cool in refrigerator for 30 minutes. Roll out and cut shapes. Bake @ 350 for 8-10 minutes.

