

SIMPLE Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony

Mike Walton (Settummanque, the blackeagle)

Personnel needed: Eagle Scout, parents or guardians of Eagle Scout, National Council representative (see note below)

Equipment needed: Eagle Scout presentation kit, with Eagle medal badge separated from kit but still inside kit (other items may also be separated and presented at appropriate time if desired); Letter from Chief Scout Executive and National President; certificate and pocket certificate (card).

(The ceremony starts with Eagle Scout standing with his parents or guardians to his left and all facing the National Council representative)

National Council representative: “My name is (insert first and last name) and I serve Scouting by serving as (volunteer position, full name of local Council). On behalf of the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America, I hereby declare this Court of Honor open for the purpose of awarding the Boy Scout programs’ highest rank to Eagle Scout (insert full name). At this time, it gives me great honor to read and deliver to you this letter which accompanied your Eagle Scout presentation documents and items. The letter comes from the National Office, Boy Scouts of America.”

(Read the entire letter starting with the date and ending with the names of the Chief Scout Executive and the President of the Boy Scouts of America. After the reading, the letter may be folded but is given to the Eagle Scout.)

“The Eagle Scout Award is the nation’s premiere youth service and leadership recognition. I am sure that you have heard or read about the millions of young men who did similar things in order to earn this award. You have perhaps read of the national and international leaders in all areas of American life who have earned this award; and perhaps been told about the many others who have also went onward to do great things, given confidence in a great part by earning the same award in which you are being presented with now.

“Keep in mind, however, that for all of those celebrities, politicians, and newsmakers who earned Eagle that there are many thousand others who less visibly put into practice the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. They too prove their value as Eagle Scouts to those who needed their assistance in smaller, less public manners. From this second onward, keep in mind that many Americans will view you in a different light. With the awarding of this small silver medal, you too will become a marked man – a man marked as a leader, a mentor, a guide; in bad times as well as good times; for the rest of your days on this Earth. May you always be reminded of the skills, friendships and challenges you overcame as a Boy Scout; and may you always be a position to provide meaningful, cheerful and long-lasting service to others.

(National Council representative opens the presentation box, and hands the Eagle medal to the parents. A parent then pins the medal onto the left pocket flap of their son’s Scout uniform. (Other items may be pinned to the parents’ clothing by the Scout at this point; a mother’s pin and a father’s pin). The National Council representative then presents the Wall and pocket certificates to the new Eagle Scout and shakes his hand.)

National Council Representative: “I congratulate Eagle Scout (insert full name) on this special occasion in his life; and congratulate his parents for supporting and assisting him, and now sharing his enthusiasm and energy at this step in his life. With no other further business, on behalf of the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America, I hereby close this Eagle Court of Honor and thank you for allowing me to be an active part of this ceremony.”

[Note: Typically the National Council Representative is a Council elected individual who represents the National Council at situations like this; if that person is unwilling or unavailable, another Council-level volunteer or Commissioner should preside over this ceremony. If a local Cubmaster, Scoutmaster or Advisor of a neighborhood Scouting unit is available, he or she may serve in this role. If no key volunteers are available, a BSA executive may serve in the role of National Council Representative keeping in mind that members of the National Council and its National Court of Honor are volunteers.]