

Your Eagle Ceremony

Following your successful Board of Review, you may begin planning your Eagle Court of Honor, but do not schedule it for less than eight weeks after the Board of Review to allow time for processing. At the Eagle Court of Honor you will be awarded the Eagle Scout rank by taking the Eagle Promise. The Court of Honor provides the opportunity to recognize publicly your high accomplishment in achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Even if you do not normally call attention to yourself, you should have an Eagle ceremony to:

- Recognize publicly your accomplishment
- Receive the rank of Eagle Scout
- Recognize and thank all who have supported you on your trail to Eagle
- Provide inspiration and encouragement to younger Scouts
- Provide public recognition and visibility to the Scouting program

The Eagle ceremony provides an opportunity for you to express what becoming an Eagle Scout means to you. The ceremony can be short and simple, or embellished with symbolism. The content of the ceremony is up to you. It should be dignified, as befitting the recognition of your accomplishment. It might occur in a setting of special significance to you, perhaps in your church or at the meeting place of the organization that benefits from your Eagle project. It might occur after a Troop meeting or a Troop Court of Honor. In any setting, the Eagle Court of Honor should stand as a separate event; it is a national court of honor called for the purpose of bestowing the Eagle Scout rank. As a minimum, your Court of Honor should incorporate the following elements:

- Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Scout Oath
- Welcome, and possibly an Invocation
- Review of the Candidate's Record
- The Eagle Scout Challenge (by the National Eagle Scout Association)
- The Eagle Promise (by the Boy Scouts of America)
- Presentation of the Eagle Award
- Closing, Recess the Colors, and Dismissal

You can embellish your ceremony in many ways. You may wish to add an Invocation and Benediction, given by your clergyman. You may wish to light candles while reciting the Scout Law. You may invite local dignitaries, such as School Board members, your Principal or special teachers, your state Senator or Delegate, and local newspaper coverage. You or your representative may write to public figures to request letters of commendation. You might have a reception afterward, or even a full course dinner! It's up to you.

An excellent resource for planning your Eagle Court of Honor is the *Eagle Court of Honor Handbook*, which is available from <http://www.macscouter.com/Eagle/EagleBook.html>. The *Handbook* provides several complete Eagle ceremonies, and many parts from which you can construct your own. You might introduce the Trail to Eagle story, the Light of Scouting, or a song. There is an excellent ceremony for Eagle candidates who are active in Order of the Arrow. Addendum C provides a very simple Eagle ceremony that is suitable for use after a Troop meeting or Court of Honor. It is based on the NESAs Eagle Challenge and the Eagle Promise, with embellishments from the *Eagle Court of Honor Handbook*. You can modify it as you like.

Congratulations, Eagle Scout!