

Nick and Jake Eagle Scout Court of Honor Agenda

- Greeting by the Master of Ceremonies (**Scoutmaster MacGregor**)
- Opening Ceremony (Flags, Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath and Law) (led by **SPL Matthew Lugardo**; Color Guard handpicked day-of based on uniform)
- Invocation (**Pastor Marc**)
- Informative Presentation about Scouting's Highest Rank (**Mr. MacGregor**)
- Light-hearted Presentations Regarding the Honorees (**Mr. MacGregor, parents**)
- Eagle Scout Candle Ceremony (**Mr. MacGregor**)
- Presentation of the Eagle Scout neckerchief (presented to Eagle Scouts by **Mrs. Seraphin**, overseen by **Mr. Tsiakals**)
- Presentation of the Eagle Scout Medal (presented to Eagle Scouts by **Mr. Seraphin**, overseen by **Mr. Tsiakals**)
- Presentation of Parent's Pins by the new Eagle Scouts (overseen by **Mr. Tsiakals**)
- The Eagle Scout Oath (**Mr. Fazio**, with all Eagle Scouts present participating)
- Words by New Eagle Scouts (**Nick and Jake Seraphin**) (Mentor Pins included)
- Thank You to all attendees (**Mr. MacGregor**)
- Benediction by Scoutmaster Emeritus (**Grandpa Dave**)
- Closing Ceremony (**Matt Lugardo**)
- Dismissal of the attendees (**Mr. MacGregor**)
- Refreshments to follow, imitating Fellowship Time

Eagle Scout Court of Honor Script

Greeting by the Master of Ceremonies:

Greetings and introduction by Mr. MacGregor.

Opening Ceremony:

Opening ceremony, led by Matthew Lugardo:

SPL: “Would the audience please rise for the presentation of the colors.”

- Flags
- Pledge of Allegiance

SPL: “Would all Scouts please remain standing for the Oath and Law.”

- Scout Oath and Law

SPL: “Audience, please be seated. Color guard, dismissed.”

Invocation:

Invocation led by Pastor Marc.

Informative Presentation:

Mr. MacGregor enters. He welcomes the audience and explains the significance of the ESCoH:

“Thank you, Matthew, the SPL of Troop 101, for leading the opening ceremony. Thank you to our color guard as well.

Thank you all for coming today to this celebration of Nick and Jake’s Eagle Scout rank. Normally when a Scout advances in rank, they are recognized at a Court of Honor with other Scouts. When a Scout achieves the rank of Eagle Scout, they are encouraged to have a unique Court of Honor to recognize not only earning the badge, but to celebrate their Scouting career. Today we will be holding a joint Court of Honor for Nick and Jake.”

He then officially calls the CoH to order:

Mr. MacGregor: “At this time, on behalf of Troop 101, Prairielands Council, and the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, I call this Eagle Scout Court of Honor into session.”

Specially-Prepared Eagle Scout Ceremony:

Next, Mr. MacGregor introduces the Eagle badge and the significance it carries.

Mr. MacGregor: “In March 1912, Arthur R. Eldred of Oceanside, New York, became the first young man in America to earn the Eagle Scout award. The program was just 2 years old when Eldred became an Eagle Scout. At that time, he was one of just 50 boys to have earned at least a single merit badge.

When Eldred sat for his board of review, they weren’t even sure how to judge his merit and success. Following his Board of Review, poor Arthur had to wait a month while his board deliberated whether or not to award him the rank of Eagle.

Those trials weren’t even the most stressful part of his Eagle experience. His Board of Review members consisted of

- Chief Scout Ernest Thompson Seton
- National Scout Commissioner Daniel Carter Beard
- Chief Scout Executive James E. West
- Red Cross lifesaving pioneer Wilbert E. Longfellow

Three of these men are essentially the Mount Rushmore of Scouting in America.

But on top of that, the founder of the worldwide Scouting movement, Robert Baden-Powell, was visiting America and observed Arthur's Board of Review.

The amazing notion of this board is that it is only significant to us today. To Eldred, these men were not yet luminaries of a large Scouting movement.

In 1912, 23 Scouts achieved the distinction of Eagle. Since that time more than 2.5 million Scouts have attained the rank of Eagle.

In 2018, 52,160 members earned the highest rank in Scouting. Those 52,000 Eagles accounted for more than 7.9 million service hours on their Eagle projects alone - it is estimated that this amounted to \$197 million worth of service to communities.

In 2018, 6.5% of eligible Scouts earned Eagle, and we often point to the low percentage of Eagles as proof of how significant the award is. And 6.5% of Scouts is a meaningful number.

But I'd like to put the significance of the Eagle award in a different perspective.

In 2018 - 1,618 young men earned the rank of Eagle Scout in Illinois. That year, there were also 2.9 million young men in Illinois under the age of 18. Let's say half of them were the age of Scouts 11-18.....this means that around 0.1%, or 1/10th of one percent of all youth in Illinois are earning the rank of Eagle Scout each year.

Mr. MacGregor then transitions to lighthearted stories/anecdotes about Nick and Jake. At the end of his stories, he calls up Mr. and Mrs. Seraphin to say a few words. Mr. Seraphin transitions back to Mr. MacGregor.

Mr. MacGregor calls us forward individually to recognize the "statistics" of our Scouting journeys:

- *Nights of camping (including 19 from Cub Scouts)*

- *Nick = 122*
- *Jake = 111*
- *Merit badges*
 - *Nick = 32*
 - *Jake = 29*
- *Service hours*
 - *Nick = 71 hours*
 - *Jake = 87 hours*
- *Leadership positions to include Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, and even Webmaster*
- *OA Brotherhood members, joining the OA in 2015, the 100th anniversary of the organization*
- *Special Note -- Jake was Chaplain's Aide at 4 different High Adventure bases).*
- *Explanation of Eagle projects.*
 - *Nick - Nick renovated bleachers and built a scorer's table at a little league diamond.*
 - *Jake - Jake built dog houses for the Champaign County Humane Society.*

This leads into the ceremony, led by Mr. MacGregor, as both of us stand up front.

Ceremony:

As an Eagle, your first obligation is to live with honor. You are a marked man, a leader; for good or ill, people will follow the example you set. Give up anything before you give up your reputation and good name. As Shakespeare said, "Mine honor is my life; both grow in one. Take honor from me, and my life is done." Let the **white** of the Eagle badge remind you of honor.

As the word “white” is said, a white candle is lit.

Your second obligation as an Eagle Scout is to be loyal. As a follower, you promised to be loyal to those above you. Now, as a leader, you must also be loyal to those below you, treating them as you would want to be treated. And you must also be loyal to your ideals, not letting others sway you from your course. Let the **blue** of the Eagle badge remind you of loyalty.

As the word “blue” is said, a blue candle is lit.

Your third obligation as an Eagle Scout is to be courageous. Stepping into your role as a leader, you will face many challenges and obstacles. A ship in the harbor is safe, but that’s not what ships are for. You must have the courage to do what is right, whatever other people do or say. Let the **red** of the Eagle badge remind you of courage.

As the word “red” is said, a red candle is lit.

Your fourth obligation is to serve others, for a leader is above all a servant. Let the practice of doing a good turn daily become a lifetime of service, for only in the giving of yourself do you give anything of value. Just as it always has, let the **scroll** on your badge remind you of service.

Your final obligation as an Eagle Scout is to have vision. As a leader, you must now blaze your own trail. Just as a bald eagle soaring high above the ground can look far into the distance, you too must look far into the future. Many people will follow you; only with vision will you lead them in the right direction. Let the **silver eagle** hanging from your badge remind you of vision.

These, then, are your obligations as an Eagle Scout: honor, loyalty, courage, service and vision. By meeting those obligations, you can lead your troop, your community, and your nation toward a better tomorrow.

Awarding of Medal and Neckerchief:

Mr. MacGregor: “I’d now like to call forward the parents and Assistant Scoutmaster Nick Tsiakals for the presentation of the Eagle Scout neckerchief and medal.

Parents and Mr. Tsiakals come forward. The mic is handed off to Mr. Tsiakals. Mr. MacGregor takes a seat off to the side.

Eagle Scout Neckerchief Presentation

Mr. Tsiakals: “Would Mrs. Tammy Seraphin please come forward to present Nick and Jake with their Eagle Scout neckerchiefs.”

Mrs. Seraphin comes forward.

Mr. Tsiakals: “Mrs. Seraphin, please remove Nick’s red Troop 101 neckerchief and replace it with the blue Eagle Scout neckerchief.”

Mrs. Seraphin replaces the neckerchief.

Mr. Tsiakals: “Mrs. Seraphin, please remove Jake’s red Troop 101 neckerchief and replace it with the blue Eagle Scout neckerchief.”

Mrs. Seraphin replaces the neckerchief.

Eagle Scout Medal Presentation

Mr. Tsiakals: “Nick will now receive his Eagle medal, a ribbon of red, white, and blue holding a silver eagle. Placed on the Eagle ribbon is the Bronze Palm for earning at least 5 additional merit badges.”

“Mr. Seraphin, please place the Eagle medal on Nick’s front pocket.”

Mr. Seraphin does so, closing with a handshake.

Mr. Tsiakals: “Jake will now receive his Eagle medal, a ribbon of red, white, and blue holding a silver eagle. Placed on the Eagle ribbon is the Bronze Palm for earning at least 5 additional merit badges.”

“Mr. Seraphin, please place the Eagle medal on Jake’s front pocket.”

Mr. Seraphin does so, closing with a handshake.

Parents’ Pins Presentation

Mr. Tsiakals: “Scouts don’t get where they are without the help and support of many people, particularly their parents. Nick and Jake, would you please present your parents with their respective Eagle Scout Parent’s pins.”

Nick and Jake pin the pins on their parents.

Mr. Tsiakals: “Mr. and Mrs. Seraphin, please be seated.”

Mr. and Mrs. Seraphin sit down.

Eagle Scout Oath

Mr. Tsiakals: Now I'd like to introduce Assistant Scoutmaster David Fazio to give Nick and Jake the Eagle Scout Oath.

Mr. Fazio comes up to the front. Mr. Tsiakals returns to his seat.

Mr. Fazio: "Nicholas and Jacob, your conduct along the trail has been excellent. You have rededicated yourselves to the principles of Scouting, but one more thing is important: Your futures. As an Eagle Scout, you will become a guide to other Scouts of lower rank. You become an example in your community. Remember that your actions are now a little more conspicuous and people will expect more of you. To falter in your responsibility would not only reflect upon you, but on your fellow Eagles and all Scouting. The torch you carry is not only yours, but is ours also.

Today, I challenge you to enter this Eagle brotherhood, holding ever before you, without reservation, the ideals of honor and service. When you repeat the Eagle Scout Oath before your fellow Scouts, you will become an Eagle Scout. Though the words you use are similar to those by which you joined Scouting, they will mean more now than they could have meant at any time in the past. When you pledge yourself on your sacred honor, you will be sealing your eternal loyalty to the code of the Eagle Scout, with the words which closed the Declaration of Independence.

Nicholas and Jacob, as well as any Eagle Scout present, in uniform or not, please stand, give the Scout sign and repeat after me:

I reaffirm my allegiance . . .

To the three promises of the Scout Oath . . .

I thoughtfully recognize ...
and take upon myself . . .
The obligations and responsibilities . . .
Of an Eagle Scout . . .

On my honor . . .
I will do my best . . .

To make my training an example . . .
And my rank and my influence . . .
Strongly count for better Scouting . . .
And for better citizenship . . .
In my troop and in my community . . .
And in my contact with other people . . .
To this I pledge my sacred honor.

Mr. Fazio: "Nicholas and Jacob, by the authority vested in me by the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America, it is my privilege and pleasure to pronounce you as Eagle Scouts. May the Oath you have taken remain inscribed on your hearts forever."

Mr. Fazio leads applause.

Mr. Fazio: “Please be seated. At this time, I’d like to ask our newest Eagle Scouts to say a few words.”

Mr. Fazio sits down.

Words by New Eagle Scouts (Mentor Pins):

Nick comes forward. In the beginning of his speech, he awards his mentor pins. At the end, he calls forward Jake to give his speech as well. Jake awards his mentor pins too. He closes by handing off to Mr. MacGregor to lead the closing of the Court of Honor (Scoutmaster Minute?).

Thank-you to Attendees:

Mr. MacGregor thanks everyone for coming, and introduces Grandpa Dave to deliver the benediction:

Mr. MacGregor (in announcer’s voice): “And now... from Troop 41, of Sugar Grove, Illinois.... a former Scoutmaster for 30 years, amassing over 700 nights of camping, over 80 years of Scouting family involvement, guiding 37 young men to the rank of Eagle, standing 5 foot 9, put your hands together for Dave Seraphin!!!

Mr. MacGregor leads raucous applause. Dave Seraphin comes to the front of the room.

Grand Benediction:

Grandpa Dave delivers his benediction. He thanks the crowd and is seated. Matthew Lugardo takes his place at the front of the room to lead the closing ceremony.

Closing Ceremony:

SPL: “Would the audience please rise for the retirement of the colors.”

- Flags

SPL: “You may be seated.”

Matthew Lugardo takes his seat.

Dismissal:

Mr. MacGregor comes forward to dismiss. He thanks the attendees once more, and reminds them of the food, display tables along the back of the room, and the slideshow.

Refreshments to follow