

Kyle Eagle Court of Honor October 2019

*Items in italics are directions and should not be read*

## Opening Flag Ceremony

**Jack MacGregor stand front and center between flag stands**

“Will the audience please rise as you are able”

“Color guard advance”

“Scout salute” *as they walk forward with the flags*

“Color guard post the colors”

“Please join me in the pledge of allegiance” *lead the pledge of  
allegiance*

“Scouts and scouters, please join me in the Scout oath and law”

Lead in Scout oath

Lead in Scout Law

“Two”

“Color guard dismissed”

“The audience may be seated”

Jack sits down

## **Welcome to the Court of Honor : Drew**

Thank you Jack MacGregor, Kyle’s cousin for leading the flag ceremony.

Thank you color guard, Davis Early and \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for coming today to this celebration of Kyle and his Eagle scout rank. When a scout advances he or she is recognized at a court of honor with other scouts.

When a scout achieves the rank of Eagle scout, he is encouraged to have a unique court of honor to recognize not only earning the badge, but to celebrate his scouting career.

It is a unique experience to award the rank of Eagle scout. It's even more unique, and special, to be able to award it to one's son. Kyle has had to endure a lot as the son of the Scoutmaster, and it wasn't easy. Most of the time the Scoutmaster was on campouts with him, not dad, though we always found a few moments each day for father - son time. Too often I'm afraid the Scoutmaster crept into our home.

So as the Scoutmaster of Troop 101, I welcome you to this court of honor. The Scoutmaster will be poised.

Speaking as Kyle's dad, I will say I am very proud to be here at this moment with Kyle. Dance. However, I give it only a 50% chance that I make it through today without getting emotional.

**Call to Order: Drew**

“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.”

“Kyle MacGregor, please come forward”

Today we are gathered here to award Kyle with the rank of Eagle scout with the Silver Palm. The silver palm signifying Kyle completed 15 merit badges over his required 21, for a total of 36 merit badges

### **The Purpose of Scouting**

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

The Scouting program has specific objectives, commonly referred to as the “Aims of Scouting.” They are character development, leadership development, citizenship training, and personal fitness..

The methods used to achieve the aims of Scouting include

- The Patrol method where scouts work together in small groups with youth leading
- Outdoor programs
- Advancement
- Association with adults
- Leadership development
- And the Scouting ideals
  - The Scout motto: **Be Prepared**
  - The Scout slogan: **Do a Good Turn Daily**
  - The Scout Oath that you heard earlier
  - And the 12 points of the Scout Law
    - *Drew reads the Law points in front, Bryant in back reads from the script.*

MacGregor: A SCOUT IS TRUSTWORTHY.

**Bryant Seraphin: A Scout tells the truth. He keeps his promises.**

**Honesty is a part of his code of conduct.**

MacGregor: A SCOUT IS LOYAL.

**Bryant Seraphin: A Scout is true to his family, friends, Scout leaders, school, nation, and world community.**

MacGregor: A SCOUT IS HELPFUL.

**Bryant Seraphin: A Scout is concerned about other people. He willingly volunteers to help others without expecting payment or reward.**

MacGregor: A SCOUT IS FRIENDLY.

**Bryant Seraphin: A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts. He seeks to understand others. He respects those with ideas and customs that are different from his own.**

MacGregor: A SCOUT IS COURTEOUS.

**Bryant Seraphin: A Scout is polite to everyone regardless of age or position. He knows that good manners make it easier for people to get along Together.**

MacGregor: A SCOUT IS KIND.

**Bryant Seraphin: A Scout understands there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated.**

MacGregor: A SCOUT IS OBEDIENT.

**Bryant Seraphin: A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country.**

MacGregor: A SCOUT IS CHEERFUL.

**Bryant Seraphin: A Scout looks for the bright side of life. He cheerfully**

**does tasks that come his way. He tries to make others happy.**

MacGregor: A SCOUT IS THRIFTY.

**Bryant Seraphin: A Scout works to pay his way and to help others. He saves for the future. He protects and conserves natural resources. He carefully uses time and property.**

MacGregor: A SCOUT IS BRAVE.

**Bryant Seraphin: A Scout can face danger even if he is afraid. He has the courage to stand for what he thinks is right even if others laugh at him or threaten him.**

MacGregor: A SCOUT IS CLEAN.

**Bryant Seraphin: A Scout keeps his body and mind fit and clean. He goes around with those who believe in living by these same ideals. He helps keep his home and community clean.**

MacGregor: A SCOUT IS REVERENT.

**Bryant Seraphin: A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.**

**The Significance of the Eagle rank: Drew**

To earn the rank of Eagle, a scout must

- be active within Scouting for at least 6 months
- Earn at least 21 merit badges, of which 11 are from a required list
- Serve in a leadership role for at least 6 months
- Plan, lead, and execute a service project
- Take part in a Board of Review conducted by 3-5 adults who review the Scout's career and project.

In March 1912, Arthur R. Eldred of Oceanside, New York, became the first young man in America to earn the Eagle Scout award. With the program just 2 years old, when Eldred became an Eagle Scout 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 experiences 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 the examination of Arthur Eldred.

The amazing notion of this board is that it is significant only 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.

Last year, 2018, saw 52,160 members earn 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 in Illinois. Last 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 .1%, 1/10th of one percent of all youth in Illinois are earning the rank of Eagle Scout each year.

Let's talk about some numbers more significant to Kyle

**Now - I am going to say this as the Scoutmaster and mildly brag as dad, but what I am about to read in the next few minutes is factual and without embellishment. As I get into Kyle's scouting career I want you to know that by any measure, what you are about to hear is far above average and exceptional.**

Recently I began asking Eagle candidates how much time they think they have spent in Scouting, camping, working on advancements, investing in themselves.

Conservatively, I estimate that without counting time spent at home working on merit badges, Kyle has committed a minimum of 5000 hours to the BSA since he crossed over in 2012. Camping, meetings, service projects, time on staff here at Camp Drake.

5000 hours invested in himself and in leading and serving others

155 nights camping in tents, cabins, and submarines

And the most significant of all in my mind..... Kyle completed **835** distinct requirements to get to this point. **835** requirements for ranks and complete merit badges.

### **Kyle's Accomplishments**

I will now read Kyle's accomplishments since joining the Boy Scouts. This will not be brief.

Kyle MacGregor, you joined Boy Scout Troop 101 on March 1, 2012 following 4.5 years as a Cub Scout in Pack 98 where you earned every rank.

Kyle served Troop 101 as

- The Patrol leader of a 1st year Patrol
- 8 months as a Patrol leader
- Two 6 month terms as an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader
- 6 months as our Senior Patrol Leader
- And 3 years as our Order of the Arrow Troop representatives

The Order of the Arrow is Scouting Honor Society and Service Organization. It is a Brotherhood of Cheerful Service. In the Order of the Arrow:

- You were called out to the Order of the Arrow on June 25, 2014, my birthday
- You entered the OA as a brotherhood member on July 15, 2015, exactly on the 100th birthday of the Order of the Arrow.
- On November 3, 2018 you received the Vigil Honor and the name Fearless Spirit

As a member of the Order of the Arrow you

- Participated as a ceremonialist
- Served as the Ceremonies Chair
- And are completing a year as the Vice Chief of Inductions for Illini Lodge 55

For 2 summers you served on the Camp Drake staff, 2016 and 2017, most notably at the pool.

You spent 155 nights camping

Your trips included

- Mountain man camping, tomahawk throwing, and .50 caliber black powder shooting
- 2 summers of camp at Camp Drake
- 2 weeks at Ransburg Scout camp
- You survived hiking at Sand Ridge
- 2 bike trips to Lodge park
- Canoeing at Turkey Run
- The lazy river at Kankakee River

- Uncounted games of Capture the Flag and Surveillance
- Sleeping on the USS Silversides submarine
- Starved Rock
- Weldon Springs
- Numerous lock ins
- 3 trips to Ondessonk for rock climbing and horseback riding
- Klondike Derbies at Camp Drake
- Sub freezing weather for which you earned the Polar Bear patch
- A week at the Summit Bechtel Reserve participating in kayaking, whitewater rafting, zip lining, mountain biking, shooting rifles and shotguns.
- A 12 day trek at the Philmont Scout ranch where you
  - Climbed 3 peaks over 9000 feet, including Trail Peak, Mount Phillips, and the Tooth of Time
  - You loaded and shot 30-06 ammo at Sawmill
  - Fired black powder rifles at Clear Creek
  - Did a trail ride and led the flag retirement ceremony at Beaubien
  - Had the best burrito ever and homemade root beer at Abreu
  - And along with Jake Rosenbaum invented a new Kybo position, the Wrestler

For Kyle's Eagle Scout Project he partnered with the Illini Reading Council, our good friend Cheryl Van Hoy, and Habitat for Humanity. Kyle has always been an avid reader and the idea of providing books to kids to promote reading resonated with him.

Through a book drive of several weeks Kyle collected 9 bookcases and 3000 books that were then sorted by age group, service work that exceeded 100 hours. Kyle's project was so successful and exceeded all expectations that Habitat for Humanity was able to not only donate books to families in new homes, but they were able to open a bookstore in the reStore facility to raise money for future home builds.

Kyle you completed 36 merit badges including

Camping

Engineering

Metalwork

Canoeing

Environmental Science

Motorboating

Citizenship in the Community

Family Life

Personal Fitness

Citizenship in the Nation

Fingerprinting

Personal  
Management

Citizenship in the World	Fire Safety	Pioneering
Climbing	First Aid	Railroading
Communications	Horsemanship	Salesmanship
Cooking	Indian Lore	Small-Boat Sailing
Crime Prevention	Kayaking	Swimming
Dentistry	Law	Weather
Digital Technology	Leatherwork	Wood Carving
Emergency Preparedness	Lifesaving	Woodwork

### **Personal feelings and memories**

At every Eagle court of honor I take time to talk about my favorite memories and moments with the scout. Kyle will be no exception. We clearly had A LOT of experiences together, but here are the moments that stand out and some that speak to his legacy in Troop 101.

- As the Senior Patrol Leader, the most senior scout, he lead a hike at Turkey Run and got the front of the line VERY lost in the woods. If you've never hiked with 40+ people, it is a challenge for the

back of the line to talk to the front, so a Kyle legacy is that Troop 101 bought walkie talkies the week after that campout

- Deep fry bacon, The “Kyle method”
- On several occasions were able to retire US flags together and share solemn moments of reflection
- On our Philmont trek, at Beaubien, you were called on to lead the flag retirement for the day. That was awesome and special.
  - But then you forgot to tell the color guard to stop and they were walking into the treeline. That was funny.
- On his 3rd campout the Troop did several challenge courses, watched just turned 11 Kyle holding own with ideas and leading with 15-16 yr olds - knew at that moment that not only was Kyle in for a positive career, but that he would be a special scout.
- Sailing at Ransburg, him doing the work while I enjoyed the voyage - proud to learn from him and watch his pride at a skill I didn't have
- As the SPL at Klondike lead young patrol - guy who came up and said Kyle was really good with younger kids, leading them, including them in the activities and how impressed he was with this young man and his leadership- thanks, that's my son
  - We won an award for teamwork that day

Drew: I would now like to introduce Kyle's uncle, Scott MacGregor, a 1989 Eagle scout and Scoutmaster of Troop 303 in Fishers, IN to deliver the Eagle charge and Oath.

## **Eagle Charge and Oath: Scott MacGregor**

### **Eagle charge**

"Kyle, I have the honor to give you the Eagle Scout Charge and Oath on the occasion of your elevation to the highest award in Scouting."

"You have been judged by the Boy Scouts of America as being worthy of this honor. All who know you rejoice in your achievement."

Scott here is where you have options, I included 2 here - select one or make your own.

#### **Option 1**

Your position, as you well know, is one of honor and responsibility. 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. The lessons you have learned in scouting will mean more to you in the years to come. Welcome to the Brotherhood of Eagle Scouts.

Becoming an Eagle Scout is a great accomplishment; being an Eagle Scout is a great responsibility. As an Eagle, the Scout Oath and Scout Law should take on new meaning for you; the motto and slogan new urgency.

End option 1

## Option 2

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.

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.

Your third obligation as an Eagle Scout is to be courageous,. Stepping into your new 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.

Your fourth obligation is to serve others, for a leader is above all a servant. Let the practice of the daily good turn become a lifetime of service, for only in 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, so too must you 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, your nation toward a better tomorrow.

**End option 2**

## **Eagle Scout Oath - Scott MacGregor**

“Would all the Eagle Scouts present today, in uniform or not, please rise and take the Eagle Scout oath with Kyle.”

*Give everyone a moment to stand*

“Please give the Scout sign...and repeat after me”

**On my honor . . .**

**I will do my best . . .**

**To do my duty to God . . .**

**On my honor . . .**

**I will do my best . . .**

**To do my duty to my country . . .**

**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.**

“Please be seated”

“I would now like to call Assistant Scoutmaster Bryant Seraphin of Troop 101 and a 1987 Eagle Scout forward to award the Eagle badge”

Scott sits down

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## **Presentations: Bryant Seraphin**

### **Neckerchief and Badge**

I now have the honor of leading the presentation of the Eagle badge.  
Would Kyle’s parents, Kara and Drew please come forward.

*Bryant, you can say whatever you want here, your call. Or you can say this, your discretion as to whatever you want to say*

“Kyle will first receive the Eagle Scout neckerchief, replacing his Troop 101 red neckerchief. “

“Kara will you please award Kyle his Eagle neckerchief”

*Kara put it on him, hugs or fist bumps*

“Kyle will now receive his Eagle badge, a ribbon of red, white, and blue holding the Eagle symbol. On the Eagle ribbon is placed the Silver palm for earning 15 additional merit badges.”

“Drew will you please place the Eagle ribbon on Kyle”

*Drew place the ribbon, hugs or fist bumps*

“Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you Kyle MacGregor, Eagle Scout”

*Lead applause*

## **Parent Pin Presentation**

“Scouts don’t get where they are without the help and support of many people, particularly the parents”

“Kyle will now award his mom and dad with their respective parent pins.

*Kyle pins on the pins*

*Drew and Kara sit down*

## **Mentor Pins Presentation**

“The new Eagle Scout has the option to present Mentor Pins to adults who have helped him along his Scouting journey.”

“I would now like to call Kyle forward to present his mentor pins and say a few words.”

*Bryant sits down*

Kyle comes up

When Kyle is finished, Drew comes back up

## **Scoutmaster Minute: Drew**

Every Scout takes a different path. Some focus on merit badges, others may only camp the minimum amount. I can honestly say Kyle got the most out of his days as a Boy Scout.

Kyle thank you for letting me lead you, for letting me share this experience with you. It's been a lot more fun for me to watch you than it was to be a scout myself.

Thank you all for coming and sharing this special day with us. Before I call Jack back up to do the closing, I will share some parting words of wisdom, the last as your Scoutmaster.

I am going to borrow from the form letter Eagle Scout and TV host Mike Rowe makes available to new Eagle Scouts. From Mike Rowe:

“Contrary to what many have told you this award will NOT change the way people look at you...the majority of Americans simply have no idea how difficult or special your accomplishment truly is. The truth is, The Eagle Award comes with no magic power or influence. It’s simply a recognition of what you’ve accomplished so far.

I know a guy who got his Eagle a couple years before me. His chest literally puffed up and never returned to its normal size. He got into a decent school, and when he finally graduated, he showed off his diploma like it was his first merit badge. Today, he is a miserable, pompous, pain in the butt with no friends, two ex-wives, and a job he hates. He still has a collegiate football trophy on his mantle, next to his diploma, and an identical copy of that same form letter I got from Gerald Ford, congratulating him for something he did 35 years ago.

Don’t be that guy. Don’t wait for the world to acknowledge your accomplishments. Fold up your sash and stow it away somewhere private, along with all the other tokens of what you’ve done so far. Then, roll up your sleeves, get out in the world, and put what you’ve learned to use. “

Kyle, go into the world and live by the Scout law every day of your life and you will be a successful man.

Kyle, as your Scoutmaster, and more importantly as your dad, I am proud of you.

We have a few items to commemorate your achievement

- US flag
- Eagle award plaque

## **Closing: Jack MacGregor**

### **Flag retirement**

*Jack comes to the front*

“Color guard form in the rear”

“Will the audience please rise”

“Color guard advance”

“Color guard retrieve the colors” when they get to the flags

“Scout salute”

“Color guard dismissed”

*Color guard walks to the back with the flags*

“Two”

“Thank you for coming today, you may now greet Kyle as a new Eagle and we will have cake!”

MacGregor family

MacGregor family

MacGregor family

MacGregor family

MacGregor family

MacGregor family

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