# Trail to Eagle Ceremony

### TRAIL TO EAGLE

**{SCOUTMASTER}:** I would now like {SENIOR PATROL LEADER} Young, Life Scout and Senior Patrol leader to lead us in the Trail to Eagle

{SENIOR PATROL LEADER}:

We are gathered here tonight to mark the progress of many on their journey up the trail to Eagle, the highest rank in scouting

As a young man joins troop 405 his tasks are to learn Scouting’s ideals: the oath and law, the motto and slogan. By pledging to live by those guidelines he became a full-fledged Scout and earned the Scout Badge.

His new badge didn’t stay on his uniform long, however. He quickly worked through the Tenderfoot requirements, memorizing the Oath and Law, going on his first campout and learning basic first aid skills. He became a Tenderfoot Scout.

As he continued to be active in the troop he learned about nature and orienteering and knot-tying. He participated in a service project and in a program on the dangers of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. Doing these things and more earned him the Second class Badge.

More {SCOUTMASTER}e passed. He had been on 10 campouts and many hikes. He had mastered all the basic skills of Scouting. He achieved the First Class Rank.

At this point, he paused for a well-deserved rest. The path ahead was less clear than the path he had been following. Now he had to make some choices: What merit badges to earn. What troop office to hold, where to spend his service hours. With hard work and persistence though he made decisions, completed the requirements and earned the Star Rank.

The next rank seemed no harder than Star. But he had already done the easy merit badges; now he had to earn badges like – Environmental Science, Emergency Preparedness, Citizenship in the World and Camping. He worked hard as a troop leader completed more service hours and be came a Life Scout – One step away from Eagle.

The going gets pretty tough now. He could no longer put off those difficult merit badges. And now he not only had to participate in service projects he had to plan and lead a project of his own. And now finally, with his Eagle project done, his merit badges earned he stands poised at the pinnacle of Scouting.

**SCOUT 1:** As we begin this Court of Honor and examine the "Trail to Eagle," We start where each scout starts as he enters scouting with the fundamental principles of Scouting: the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. We have just joined together in reciting the oath. Let us begin our ceremony by lighting candles symbolic of the three parts of the Scout Oath:

• Duty to God and country [pause for a scout to light candle]

• Duty to others [pause for a scout to light candle]

• Duty to self [pause for a scout to light candle]

**SCOUT 1:** In Scouting, as in most activities of life, there are rules. The rules of Scouting are found in the twelve points of the Scout Law. As a candle is lit for each point of the Scout Law, let us pay careful attention to the words and re-dedicate ourselves to the principles contained in those words.

**SCOUT 1:** A SCOUT IS TRUSTWORTHY. (Scout Lights Candle)

**SCOUT 2**: A Scout tells the truth. He keeps his promises. Honesty is a part of his code of conduct.

**SCOUT 1:** A SCOUT IS LOYAL. . (Scout Lights Candle)

**SCOUT 2**: A Scout is true to his family, friends, Scout leaders, school, nation, and world community.

**SCOUT 1**: A SCOUT IS HELPFUL. . (Scout Lights Candle)

**SCOUT 2**: A Scout is concerned about other people. He willingly volunteers to help others without expecting payment or reward.

**SCOUT 1**: A SCOUT IS FRIENDLY. . (Scout Lights Candle)

**SCOUT 2**: 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.

**SCOUT 1:** A SCOUT IS COURTEOUS. . (Scout Lights Candle)

**SCOUT 2**: 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.

**SCOUT 1**: A SCOUT IS KIND. . (Scout Lights Candle)

**SCOUT 2**: A Scout understands there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated. He does not harm or kill anything without reason.

**SCOUT 1:** A SCOUT IS OBEDIENT. . (Scout Lights Candle)

**SCOUT 2**: A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rules and laws are unfair, he tries to have them changed in an orderly manner rather than disobey them.

**SCOUT 1:** A SCOUT IS CHEERFUL. . (Scout Lights Candle)

**SCOUT 2** A Scout looks for the bright side of life. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way. He tries to make others happy.

**SCOUT 1:** A SCOUT IS THRIFTY. . (Scout Lights Candle)

**SCOUT 2**: 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 {SCOUTMASTER}e and property.

**SCOUT 1:** A SCOUT IS BRAVE.

**SCOUT 2**: 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.

**SCOUT 1:** A SCOUT IS CLEAN.

**SCOUT 2**: 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.

**SCOUT 1:** A SCOUT IS REVERENT.

**SCOUT 2**: A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.