## THE TRAIL TO EAGLE

*(The "Voice of the Eagle" speaks using the microphone from the balcony.)*

"Will Eagle candidate Michael Woods please step up to the center stage and face the audience.

*(Eagle steps up to center stage)*

"This is the Voice of the Eagle. The Eagle whose heights you have struggled hard to reach. We remember well when you first came to the base of the cliffs, and how you looked up with ambition and determination. Look back for a moment; look down the cliff you have climbed; look at the experiences you have encountered in you ascent. These experiences should not be forgotten. You should profit by making sure adverse experiences do not occur again. Experience is a valuable teacher, if you heed its teachings."

We remembered when you took your first step upon the trail that leads upward. With that first step you began to build yourself physically, mentally, and morally. You started living the Scout Oath and Law. All the while you were on the trail, we watched you study and we saw you learn by doing. First, you were only a Scout.

Then your brother Scouts called you a Tenderfoot, and they were right; you were indeed a Tenderfoot Scout.

So, you reached the first ledge and there you were greeted by a large group of Second Class Scouts.

Some, like you, were stopping to catch their breath before continuing along the trail. You began to study more, you worked harder, and almost before you knew it, you came to another ledge, the ledge where the First Class Scouts dwell.

There you found a tempting green meadow by a clear stream bathed in the sun. Here you were tempted to remain. Yes, you could have remained there to live in First Class glory, but your ambition stirred you on. We remembered your advancement to Star Scout.

The trail from First Class to Star rank was not as difficult as it had seemed. This spurred you on, again you climbed further. The trail was steeper and less worn. Fewer scouts were headed in your direction. You looked down and saw the crowds below you. You looked up and saw a few above you, and with the same determination with which you started your climb, you continued up the trail. Soon you earned the badge of Life rank.

The heart badge was then placed on your uniform. You will never forget the thought in your heart. This feeling has been experienced by all Scouts on reaching the ledge of Life Scout. Now I am close to the Eagle, I will carry on. The trail became tougher, but more interesting. The original principles, the Scout Oath and Law, now had a fuller meaning. Your understanding of them was greater.

Yes, we have watched your character unfold and become more manly. We have watched your leadership expand into a valuable asset. We have watched your mind develop and your wisdom increase. We have watched all these things in you and now that you are on the threshold of your goal, we welcome you, for you have done your climbing in a true Scout-like manner.

This is the Voice of the Eagle.