

Court of Honor—Ceremony 1

- Rank advancement is an important part of the Scouting program. It gives the Scout opportunity to learn new skills and have new adventures. Presenting the Scout with a new rank lets him show off completion of these skills and adventures and, hopefully, encourages him to continue the Trail to Eagle Scout.

Scout:

- **[Scout]** lights the candle, then returns to his seat.
- The Trail to Eagle begins with the Scout Rank, or “joining badge.” This badge signifies the beginning of the boy’s adventures in Scouting and acceptance of the challenges that Boy Scouting presents. A single candle is lit to signify this.

Tenderfoot:

- **[Scout]** lights the candle, then returns to his seat.
- The next rank along the Trail to Eagle is Tenderfoot. A Tenderfoot Scout has learned much about our Troop and about Scouting. They have learned how to take care of themselves and others, have learned how to use a map and compass to find their way, and most of all have seen firsthand how much fun it is to be a Scout.

Second Class:

- **[Scout]** lights the candle, then returns to his seat.
- The Second Class rank comes next. Like the braves of long ago who first learned how to build a fire before learning how to hunt and cook, a Second Class Scout has learned many things that serve as a foundation in his Scouting career.
- Call **[Scouts]** and parents forward.
- It gives me great honor to officially recognize these Scouts as Second Class Boy Scouts. May the scroll of your new rank remind you of the fun and enjoyment that you have had so far in your Scouting experience. I hope it also spurs you onward to complete the requirements and to become First Class Boy Scouts.
- What was the toughest requirement?
How did you overcome it?
Congratulations.
- Hand Mother's pin to Scout to present to his mother. Hand Scout badge to father to present to the Scout.
Shake the Scout's hand.

First Class:

- **[Scout]** lights the candle, then returns to his seat.
- As the number of lit candles increases, so does the Scout's advancement along the Trail to Eagle. The Scout advances to the rank of First Class next. At this point, he's more capable in the outdoors, able to care for himself and others, and ready for the challenges of leadership.
- Call **[Scouts]** and parents forward.
- In the days of chivalry, after a squire had earned the right to carry the sword and shield, it was customary for him to retire to the privacy of the chapel on the evening before he was to be made a knight. There he prayed that he might live worthy of the honor that was his, and that he might never bring disgrace on his knighthood. As a First Class Scout, you are entering the knighthood of Scouting: you have earned the right to demonstrate and abide by the code to which a true and mature Scout is forever bound: the Scout Oath, Law, slogan and motto.
[Scouts], do you accept this great responsibility?
Then, as a First Class Scout, I charge you to continue your development so that you may better serve your fellowmen in the spirit of chivalry.
- What was the toughest requirement?
How did you overcome it?
Congratulations.
- Hand Mother's pin to Scout to present to his mother. Hand Scout badge to father to present to the Scout.
Shake the Scout's hand.

Star:

- **[Scout]** lights the candle, then returns to his seat.
- Star is a significant rank advancement. Not only because of the hard work you had to do, but also because of the hard work you'll now have to do. I'm not referring to the Merit Badges or service time you'll need to advance to Life Scout; I'm referring to your duty to other Scouts.

As a Star Scout you'll be looked upon as a role model for younger Scouts, and be given more responsibilities to help them grow through Scouting. As a Tenderfoot, Second and First Class Scout, you did a lot of learning about Scouting. As a Star Scout, you'll begin to do a lot of teaching about Scouting. Few Scouts come this far on the Trail to Eagle.

- Call **[Scouts]** and parents forward.
- When Baden-Powell wrote his treatise on Scoutmastership, he clarified his philosophy of Scouting and what I, working with your Senior Patrol Leader, your fellow Scouts, your parents, school, church and this community all tried to share with you:

"Scouting is a game in which elder brothers can give their younger brothers a healthy environment and encourage them to healthy activities, such as will help them to develop citizenship."

And that, I trust, **[Scouts]**, we have taught you. I am hopeful that you will go out from here and teach others, in and through Scouting and by personal example of the Scouting principles.

Is this a challenge you're willing to accept?

- What was the toughest requirement?
How did you overcome it?
Congratulations.
- Hand Mother's pin to Scout to present to his mother. Hand Scout badge to father to present to the Scout.
Shake the Scout's hand.

Life:

- **[Scout]** lights the candle, then returns to his seat.
- The last rank before Eagle Scout is Life. Even fewer Scouts advance this far—I never did. **[You might change this remark if it isn't true about you.]**

The red heart of the badge is a constant reminder of the fine things you have received from Scouting, and of the fine things you carry in your heart as a pledge to Scouting and your fellow man.

- Call **[Scouts]** and parents forward.
- The heart shape of the badge is symbolic of courage. This badge will remind you to have courage and to use what you've learned in Scouting—the Scout Oath, Law, motto and slogan—in your everyday life and as you work towards the rank of Eagle Scout.

[Scouts], do you have the courage to continue your Scouting career, and to work to meet these high standards in your life?

As a Star Scout, you've worked hard to pass along much of your knowledge, experience and leadership skills to each Scout in the Troop, and without you, this Troop wouldn't have developed as well as it did. I'm proud of the effort you've put forth and of your accomplishments in Scouting.

- What was the toughest requirement?
How did you overcome it?
Congratulations.
- Hand Mother's pin to Scout to present to his mother. Hand Scout badge to father to present to the Scout.
Shake the Scout's hand.