

Trail of the Eagle Ceremony

7/4/01

Introduction: The following ceremony is used as part of an Eagle Count of Honor by Boy Scout Troop 849 in Manhattan Beach, CA. It is written for a stage and is best done in a room that can be darkened.

This ceremony is preceded by remarks about the Eagle candidate which are typically made by the Scoutmaster. Optionally, slides of the Eagle candidate in action can be shown and/or presentations by government officials can be made. An optional Benediction can be done right after this ceremony. The court is concluded with a closing circle.

Required people: Six candle lighter Scouts (one of each rank), an Eagle Honor Guard, an adult to read the "Voice of the Eagle" script from behind the stage, and appropriate adults to make the presentations.

Printed program: The Eagle Candidate can select the people for each section shown below, subject to Troop Committee approval.

<u>Section</u>	<u>Typically</u>	<u>Selected by:</u>
Introduction	Master of Ceremonies (M.C.)	Court of Honor Committee
Voice of the Eagle (Note 1)	Adult	Court of Honor Committee
Candle Lighters	Scouts of each rank	Scoutmaster
Eagle Honor Guard	Prior Eagle Award Recipients	Eagle Candidate
Eagle Charge	District Representative	Eagle Candidate
Eagle Promise	Adult Eagle Award Recipient	Eagle Candidate
Eagle Award Presentation	Scoutmaster	Eagle Candidate
Remarks from Eagle Recipient (optional)	Eagle Recipient	-

Notes: 1) The Voice of the Eagle is NOT mentioned by name in the program.

Preparation: Before the Court of Honor begins, hang the Eagle banner behind the main curtains and close them. Setup placards for each rank; Scout, Tenderfoot, and Second Class on the left, First Class, Star and Life on the right. Set a candle stand to the left of the stage. Prepare candles with drip guards for all six scouts. Scouts will be seated in the front of the audience and enter the stage from the left, lighting their candle and proceeding to their spot.

Stage lighting: Lighting directions called out in this script pertain to O'Donnell Center. Lighting control levels are called out in this script with lights identified by switch #.

- Panel slide switches #5 and #7 control the blue lights in front of the curtain that light the center front of the stage.
- Panel slide switch #8 controls the white spotlight behind the curtain that lights the Eagle banner.
- Panel slide switch #10 controls the blue lights behind the curtain. They are needed to supplement #8 when the Eagle scout stands in front of the banner.

[Light the candle on the stand.]

[M.C.] Tonight we have the rare honor and pleasure of recognizing a candidate for the award of Eagle Scout. This is an important and serious matter.

In full awareness of the challenge of the times, the parents and Scout leaders of this young man have labored long and faithfully to help him develop to alert and participating citizenship.

Since joining the Scout movement in _____, _____ has shown this development by successively serving in most of the ranks available to him:

[Pause]

M.C. Tonight we present a ceremony which we call "Lighting the Eagle Trail." It is symbolic of the climb each boy faces when he enters Scouting. Only two percent of these millions of boys ever reach this top.

[Pause]

M.C. The next voice you hear will be the voice of the Eagle.

[Kill all lights. Stage light switches #5 and #7 at level 4.]

[Open curtain showing Eagle banner.] [Candle lighter Scouts ready for entry on cue.]

[Voice of the Eagle Ceremony- see separate page.]

[Optional] [Remarks from the Eagle Scout.]