

EAGLE INFORMATION FOR TROOP 22

When all requirements are met and the application gets sent downtown:

- -It takes **1-2 weeks** to have them check everything and send it to the district advancement chair
- -It takes a minimum of **1 week** to schedule a board of review
- -after the board of review an advancement form gets sent downtown and forwarded to the national office in Texas. It takes a minimum of **one month** to get the OK from the national office. Officially boys are eagle after the board of review, but the store may not let you buy an eagle pin for the eagle ceremony until after it has gone to Texas.

Planning an eagle court of honor:

PICKING A DATE:

-arrange with the adult troop leadership when would be convenient for families as well as complementary to the troop calendar. Eagle ceremonies are only partially for the families of the eagles. They are important recognitions that serve to motivate our younger boys and continue our troop's program. The ceremonies that have the greatest attendance are those planning on a regular Monday night during the school year (or at the year end pot-luck). It is essential to find out if the desired date coincides with the church's calendar. We have often used the sanctuary for ceremonies. The rooms that are needed to be reserved by the person in charge of the ceremonies, the eagle/s. Daytime ceremonies do not draw the same numbers as evening programs and are problematic for showing slides in the sanctuary.

INVITATIONS:

-Invitations need to be printed and mailed. The troop will cover the card stock, printing and mailing of all troop members, former members who may be interested, the people who were on the board of review, clergy at Saint Paul's, and other guests who are significant to the troop. The troop will also pay for the printing of 25 invites per eagle. If there are more than one honorees it is a good idea to check lists of whom you are sending invitations to avoid much duplication. It is a nice announcement to friends, teachers, coaches, and religious leaders who are important in your life, and family (even if they are out of town). The layout and stock for the invite is usually traditional and printed on an eagle invite card, but does not need to be. It is essential that it is dignified and formal. The card stock for these is usually in stock downtown (in stacks of 50). The families are responsible for getting the invites, designing the invite, and getting them printed. It is best to send out invitations at least 3 weeks in advance of the event if you want anyone to attend.

CEREMONY:

The eagle/s should be responsible for putting together a ceremony and a printed program. The ceremony does not have to follow a template, but many of the ceremonies that we have had have similar parts. A flag ceremony arranged through the senior patrol leader with the troop. Sometimes eagles and their families have been escorted into the hall. I have insisted that before we get into the eagle program that all eagles in attendance be invited up to the stage for a seat of honor. Each one introduces himself and states when he earned the eagle rank. Often we have had someone explain the requirements that one must do in order to earn eagle. We have usually had a former eagle member of the troop talk on what it is to live as an eagle. Depending on the number of boys honored we have had speakers tell about their experiences knowing the honorees. Next we have had someone of scouting importance in the boys' lives give them the eagle charge, a repetition of an oath for eagles (that varies depending on where you get it). I like to see the parents of the eagle standing behind the boys while the charge is given. The Scoutmaster then presents awards to the boys and their parents. First mother pins the eagle

award on the right pocket of the new eagle. Eagle gives father a tie pin and then mother an eagle emblem. Boys are presented with a certificate from national and whatever other such awards have been brought (some troops solicit certificates from mayors, senators, president, etc. I have stayed away from such clutter, but some people may like that stuff). Every eagle we have had has wanted to have a time for reflection, where they give a little speech. Most boys want to have a slide show with pictures as they were growing up in the troop.

This is the way many of our ceremonies have gone, but it is not engraved in stone. There are more possible ceremonies online nowadays than you can possibly even read through. Twice we have had skits for openings, chronicling the life of a scout as they age in the troop. Twice we have used the voice of the eagle admonishing boys to reflect on their own work. There are possibilities for creativity, but the ceremony should stay dignified and not more than an hour and a quarter, if possible. I also believe that having a young adult eagle help in the planning and act as the MC for the ceremony holds things together nicely.

The program for the ceremony should be designed and printed by the eagle/s, although the troop will cover costs associated with printing and materials (sometimes we buy eagle covers for the programs). The program should include a paragraph biography of the eagle scout including his scout experiences with leadership, high adventures, and a description of his project. His school, sports, church, and other noteworthy experiences should be mentioned. Further schooling or plans after graduation would be nice if they are set. (obviously for seniors). We have not included a picture, but I believe we should. **THIS CANNOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!** Many times we have held the program into the covers with yarn, but it has also been stapled.

Having a list of Scouting facts for each eagle is not out of the question. Leadership, nights of camping, hours of service, lists of high adventures, lists of merit badges earned, etc. All can be done if desired. I like to have a list on the program of past eagles from the troop, as well as the year any presenter earned eagle listed by their names in the program. Troop members can be stationed at the ceremony to hand out programs to people arriving.

FOOD:

We have always asked the eagle families to provide a cake and drinks for after the ceremony. This can take place in the dining room or classier in Tucker Hall. Either way, it needs to be arranged. Table clothes, paper goods, and anything else needed should be arranged also.

OTHER THINGS THAT DO NOT HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT:

I believe that when we have an eagle ceremony, that someone send out a press release to the local newspapers and possibly television stations. We have had news people come to a court of honor in the past and it makes good PR.

I believe that there should be a videotape of the ceremony and copies kept for the troop as well as families.

Our downtown office has an eagle lighting board that makes an impressive backdrop for the ceremony. It needs to be reserved, picked up and dropped off. In addition, it usually requires an extension cord from home. This should be arranged for by the eagles.

We have had full blown courts of honor at an eagle presentation before, but it makes the whole thing really long. There is nothing wrong with this if it is planned for one of the regular courts, but it will change the ceremony that you plan. I do however, believe that presenting the most recent "Scout" awards is a good ploy to involve younger boys and their families more directly with the eagles.