EAGLE COH example (from outside our troops)

*At the front is a table with one lighted candle representing the light of Scouting. In front of this candle are one each, red, white, and blue, unlight. The master of ceremonies is at the front of the room, slightly to the side, behind a lectern. One Scout is standing by the table to light the candles with the light of Scouting. The US flag is posted to the right of the table.*

– ***reader 1***: The red of our flag is the lifeblood of brave individuals ready to die or bravely live for this, our country (Scout lights the red candle). The white of our flag is for purity, cleanliness of purpose, thought, word, and deed (Scout lights the white candle). The blue of our flag is for faith and loyalty, like the eternal blue of the star-filled heavens (as Scout lights the blue candle, replaces the light of Scouting). By authority vested in me, I declare this court of honor to be duly convened.

– ***reader 2*** Today we have the honor and pleasure of recognizing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the award of Eagle Scout. The parents and Scout leaders whom we honor tonight have labored long and faithfully to develop him toward alert and participating citizenship through the Scouts BSA program. Their efforts culminate this evening in the presentation of the Eagle Award. The success of these efforts, however, will only be manifest in the way this Eagle Scout sets a social pattern for the lives he will touch. Honor guard, please escort \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ before this court of honor where he will be prepared to receive the highest rank conferred by the Boy Scouts of America, that of Eagle Scout.

– (*The honor guard, composed of Eagle Scouts escorts the Eagle candidate to the front of the room, near the American flag and leave them facing the audience.*)

– ***Reader 3*** (History of the Eagle): I am the eagle. Since the beginning of time, people have used me as a symbol of royalty, power, victory, authority and valor. My strength and courage has inspired individuals through the ages.

– Ancient people looked upon me as an inveterate enemy of serpents. They saw the battle between the sun and clouds as between an eagle and a serpent.

– The ancient Assyrians associated me with Ashur, the great sun god. I was awed and worshiped for my majestic beauty. In the Assyrian myths, I was a symbol of storms and lightning and the god who carried souls to Hades.

– In India and Babylon, I was the symbol of fire, wind and of storms, and the bringer of immortality.

– In the golden age of Greece, I was a symbol of victory and supreme spiritual energy. I was the sacred bird of Zeus, the ruler of all gods. The Greeks represented me with wings outstretched holding a serpent in my claws. Thus, I represented the triumph of good over evil.

– In Rome, I was the symbol of Jupiter, the supreme god. The Romans saw me as the symbol of victory. As the Roman legions conquered the world, they marched under the standard of the eagle, with outstretched wings. The silver eagle was the symbol of the Republic, and the Roman Empire used the golden eagle as its symbol. I became the personal emblem of the Caesars, representing supreme authority.

– In the Middle Ages, I became the symbol of Germany. And as falconry flourished as a sport in Europe, only kings were allowed to hunt with an eagle.

– The rise of Christianity brought me still more honor. To the early Christians, the eagle was the symbol of ascension. This was due to the strong light of the eagle with its gaze fixed on the sun. In early icons I was best known as the symbol of St. John the Evangelist.

– In the nineteenth century, Napoleon’s troops conquered Europe under the symbol of the eagle. Many French soldiers gave their lives to protect the golden eagle, which supported the French flag on the battleground.

– On June 20, 1782, I became the symbol of a new country. Because of my courage and beauty, I was chosen to symbolize the new United States of America. The eagle became a prominent feature of the seal of state of the new republic. From this early beginning, I have been used in many ways to symbolize the ideals of this country. Several states have the eagle on their state flags. You can find me on the coins of America from the beginning to present day.

– I have a prominent place in America as in ancient Rome as a symbol of power and authority. The emblems of the President, vice-president, several members of the President’s cabinet and most branches of the armed forces center on the eagle.

– ***Reader 4*** : From the god of the Assyrians to the symbol of the Caesars to the emblem of this country, it was thus fitting that the eagle should have a part in the most momentous achievement of human beings. The Apollo 11 crew chose Eagle as the name for the lunar module, which was to make history. And with the words of Eagle Scout Neil Armstrong, “Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed,” man was on the moon. In 1911, following ancient traditions, the Boy Scouts of America chose the eagle to symbolize the very highest in achievement.

– ***Reader 5 (BEFORE USING THIS – CHECK TO MAKE SURE THIS IS MOST CURRENT DATA)***: (100 Scouts): Of any one hundred boys who become Scouts, it must be confessed that thirty will drop out in their first year. Perhaps this may be regarded as a failure, but in later life all of these will remember that they had been Scouts and will speak well of the program. Of the one hundred, only rarely will one ever appear before a juvenile court judge. Twelve of the one hundred will be from families that belong to no church. Through Scouting, these twelve and many of their families will be brought into contact with a church and will continue to be active all their lives. Six of the one hundred will become pastors.

Each of the one hundred will learn something from Scouting. Almost all will develop hobbies that will add interest throughout the rest of their lives. Approximately one-half will serve in the military, and in varying degrees, profit from their Scout training. At least one will use it to save another person's life, and many will credit it with saving their own.

Four of the one hundred will reach Eagle rank, and at least one will later say that he valued his Eagle above his college degree. Many will find their future vocation through merit badge work and Scouting contacts. Seventeen of the one hundred boys will later become Scout leaders and will give leadership to thousands of additional boys.

One in four Eagle Scouts will earn their Bronze Palm.  Only about half of these boys will earn their gold and silver palms.

Only one in four boys in America will become a Scout, but it is interesting to know that of the leaders in this nation in business, religion and politics, three out of four were Scouts.

This story will never end. Like the "Golden Pebble" of service dropped into the human sea it will continue to radiate in ever-widening circles, influencing the characters of men down through unending time.

– ***Reader 6***: (What’s it Worth?): The Eagle Badge. The highest rank a Scout can earn. What is it worth? Well, in dollars and cents it is worth about $7.50. Probably two and a half dollars in silver, twenty-five cents worth of ribbon, and the rest of it in manufacturing and handling costs. But what is it really worth to you? Think back to the time when you first became a Scout. Remember the Scout skills that you learned for each rank? And the rededication to the Scout Oath and Law each time you advanced. Think of the service that you have given to your troop and to other people. Is your Eagle badge worth seven fifty? Of course not. Your Eagle badge is priceless. It represents everything that you have learned, everything that you have done, to be prepared, to help others, and to help yourself. So now you stand on the peak of the mountain. An Eagle Scout, now look ahead, look sharp. Way out there in the mist is another mountain, and there below is the trail to your future. It may be a long trail, or a short one, but it leads to that mountain far away. As you walk down the trail, and as the years roll by, and finally reach the end, we all hope that you can look back on the trail of life and be able and proud to say, "I have done my best."

AT This point – please use the “normal” pin and awared process our troops follow – OR – find another one that contains all the same parts.

– ***Master of ceremonies***: At this time the floor is now open to anyone who would like to share a story about Colton and his trail to get here.

–***final reader***: I now declare this Court of Honor closed.