

# Oath by Scouters - Boy Scout Court of Honor Ceremony

Adapted by Helene Simmons, Troop 331 Omaha, Nebraska

Original source

<http://www.troop586bsa.org/Forms%20&%20Publications/Advancement/Court%20Of%20Honor%20Sample%20Script.pdf>

## Call to Order

**SPL:** Good evening. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am the Senior Patrol Leader of Troop \_\_\_\_\_.

The \_\_\_\_\_ patrol will now bring forward our American flag, a symbol of our country and our freedom, as well as our troop flag, a symbol of our troop and a record of our accomplishment.

## Presentation of Colors

*Color Guard leader brings room to order. (Raise the Scout sign if needed.)*

*The Color Guard leader walks to the front of the room and face audience.*

**Color Guard leader:** Please rise. *Give the audience time to rise.*

**Color Guard leader:** "Color Guard, Post the Colors. Scout salute."

*Scouts carry the US & Pack flags walking double file.*

**Color Guard leader:** "Please join us in the Pledge of Allegiance."

**Color Guard leader:** "TWO."

**Color Guard leader:** "Please join us now in the Scout Law. Scout Sign. *A Scout is...*"

**Color Guard leader:** "Please join us now in the Scout Oath. *On my honor...*"

**Color Guard leader:** "TWO"

*The color guard walks back out double-file to wait at the back of the room.*

**Color Guard leader:** "Color guard, dismissed. Please be seated."

*The Color Guard leader and color guard return to their seats.*

**SPL:** I now declare this Court of Honor in session!

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## Opening Prayer

**SPL:** Will \_\_\_\_\_ please come forward to lead us in prayer.

## Reports

**SPL:** Will \_\_\_\_\_ please come forward for Reports.

## A's

**SPL:** Will \_\_\_\_\_ please come forward for any A words (announcements).

## Merit Badges and Certifications

**SPL :** The BSA merit badge program allows boys and young men to explore many fields, helps them round out their Scouting skills, and perhaps introduces them to subjects that will become lifelong interests and rewarding careers. In addition, advancement establishes a pattern of setting positive goals, and then working to achieve those goals-a critical life skill.

As your name is read, please come forward to receive your Merit Badge. *(names are read along with the Merit Badge(s) earned.)*

*Wait for the Scouts to come forward*

## Adult Recognition

**SPL:** Will \_\_\_\_\_ please come forward for Adult Recognition.

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## Rank Advancement

**SPL:** Advancement is the process by which youth members of the Boy Scouts of America progress from rank to rank in the Scouting program. Advancement is simply a means to an end, not an end in itself. Everything done to advance and earn these ranks, from joining until leaving the program, should be designed to help the young person have an exciting and meaningful experience. Education and fun are functions of the Scouting movement, and they must be the basis of the advancement program. A badge is recognition of what a young person is able to do, not merely a reward for what he has done. The badge is proof of certain abilities, and is not just a reward for the completion of a task. Each boy progresses at their own rate. Advancement is not a competition between individual young people, but is an expression of their interest and participation in the program.

Will \_\_\_\_\_ please come to the front to assist in the presentation of our rank advancement awards.

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## Scout Award

**Awards Coordinator/Leader:** The following boy(s) and their parents will please come forward: *(names are read)*

*Wait for the Scouts and families to come forward*

**SPL:** You have decided to become a Boy Scout. Millions of boys have gone before you to participate in a program designed to bring adventure, fun and achievement to their lives. In the process they learn new skills, make new friends, and develop self-reliance and leadership skills. Welcome to our family of Scouts and Scouters. We know you'll do well.

*The Leader presents the new Scout(s) with their books, badges and neckerchiefs*

*Give each Scout the MOTHER PIN to pin on his mother. Scouts are reminded to hug their mom. When all are done each Scout shakes the hand of the Scout and adult leaders up front.*

**ASPL:** Scouts, please repeat after me:

I am a Boy Scout. **(pause)** My badge is shaped like the north point of an old compass. **(pause)** It means that a Scout can point the right way in life. **(pause)** as truly as a compass does in the field.

**ASPL:** Let's welcome this (these) boy(s) on their entrance into Scouting. *Lead applause.*

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## Tenderfoot Awards

**Awards Coordinator/Leader:** The following Scout (s) and their parents will please come forward: *(names are read)*

*Wait for the Scouts and families to come forward*

**SPL:** You have achieved the second rank in Scouting-Tenderfoot. The requirements for this rank offer a taste of some of the adventures you will enjoy in Scouting, and have given you some of the basic skills you will need to take part in those adventures. There is a lot of challenge in earning the Tenderfoot badge, and you might soon find yourself doing things you had only dreamed about before.

*The leader presents the new Tenderfoot Scout (s) with their new badges, pins and cards.*

*Give each Scout the MOTHER PIN to pin on his mother. Scouts are reminded to hug their mom. When all are done each Scout shakes the hand of the Scout and adult leaders up front.*

**ASPL:** Scouts, please repeat after me:

I am now a Tenderfoot Scout. **(pause)** My badge includes an eagle and shield symbolizing my freedom **(pause)** and our willingness to defend that freedom. **(pause)** The two stars stand for truth and knowledge.

**ASPL:** Let's congratulate these Scouts with warm applause. *Lead applause*

You may be seated.

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## Second Class Award

**Awards Coordinator/Leader:** The following Scout (s) and their parents will please come forward: *(names are read)*

*Wait for the Scouts and families to come forward*

**SPL:** Scout Spirit doesn't just happen. It is developed and built up by the way you do things, including your efforts to be trustworthy, to be helpful, and to live up to the other points of the Scout Law. Scout Spirit is the most important thing in Scouting. All through your life you may never find any more meaningful words than, "On my honor, I will do my best."

Previously, you stood before this court and became a Tenderfoot Scout. Time has passed since then. You have used that time well in pursuing Scout activities and knowledge. You are now qualified to assume the title and duties of Second Class Scout. I know that you will wear this Second Class badge with honor and distinction. May you bring only honor and credit to it, and to your troop.

*The leader presents the Scouts with their badges, pins and cards.*

*Give each Scout the MOTHER PIN to pin on his mother. Scouts are reminded to hug their mom. When all are done each Scout shakes the hand of the Scout and adult leaders up front.*

**ASPL:** Scouts, please repeat after me:

I am a 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Scout. **(pause)** My badge is a scroll inscribed with the Scout motto, "Be Prepared." **(pause)** Suspended from this scroll is a knot, reminding me to do a good turn every day.

**SPL:** To prove that you know how to wear this award honorably, you will recite together the Scout Law. Scout sign!

**Scouts repeat together:** A Scout is trustworthy... *(Recite the Scout Law together with leader or SPL assisting as needed).*

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**ASPL:** Two! I present to you our new 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Scout(s). *Lead applause.*

You may be seated.

## First Class Awards

**Awards Coordinator/Leader:** The following Scout (s) and their parents will please come forward: *(names are read)*

*Wait for the Scouts and families to come forward*

**SPL:** By the time a Scout achieves his First Class Rank he should have mastered all of the skills in the Scout Handbook. Wearing the First Class badge does not just show that he has passed certain tests. *(With Emphasis)* There should be no past tense implied. On the contrary, the badge strongly declares, "I can, right here and right now!"

So what can our First Class Scouts do? First, He is an outdoorsman. He knows how to camp, swim, hike, use woods tools safely, build a fire, use a camp stove, and find his way with a map and compass. He's spent at least 20 days and nights camping out in a tent he pitched on a site he selected. Many of those times he planned his own menu and cooked his own food. He can tie the knots and lashings necessary to build his camp. The First Class Scout is comfortable with Nature. He can identify local animals and plants, including poisonous plants. He understands the causes of water, land and air pollution, and has worked to safeguard the environment.

The First Class Scout has begun to learn about citizenship-something that will be stressed further if he works on his citizenship merit badges. He knows what it means to be part of a family, a community, and a nation. He knows how our Nation came to be, and understands its symbols. Importantly, he has discussed his rights and responsibilities as a citizen. He understands how to treat, handle, and respect the flag.

The First Class Scout embodies the Scout motto, "Be Prepared". He knows how to treat fractures, head injuries, hypothermia, convulsions, lacerations and abrasions, frostbite, burns, muscle cramps and knocked out teeth.

Finally a First Class Scout is now in a position to lead his troop and fellow Scouts.

*The leader presents the Scouts with their badges, pins and cards.*

*Give each Scout the MOTHER PIN to pin on his mother. Scouts are reminded to hug their mom. When all are done each Scout shakes the hand of the Scout and adult leaders up front.*

**ASPL:** Scouts, please repeat after me:

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I am a First Class Scout. **(pause)** My badge includes the Tenderfoot and Second Class badges put together. **(pause)** I am now a complete Scout. **(pause)** I am committed to continuing to lead my life **(pause)** using the Scouting ideals such as the Law and Oath as my guide.

**SPL:** To show that you know how to wear this badge with honor you will repeat the Scout Oath. Scout Sign!

**First Class Scouts(s):** *(With Scout Sign)* On my honor....

**ASPL:** Two! I now present to you our newest First Class Scouts!  
Lead applause. You may now be seated.

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## Star Scout Awards

**Awards Coordinator/Leader:** The following Scout (s) and their parents will please come forward: *(names are read)*

*Wait for the Scouts and families to come forward*

**SPL:** A leader is a person who is going somewhere-but not going alone. He takes others with him. The skill that makes people willing to follow him and ready to work with him is a precious skill called leadership. This skill is made up of many qualities- thoughtfulness and consideration for others, enthusiasm, the ability to share responsibility with others, accountability, and many other traits that Scouting experiences encourage.

To be a Star Scout these young men must have shown leadership in our troop. Your service to the troop is appreciated, and we look forward to more from you. Service to others has always been central to Scouting. During World War 1, Boy Scouts throughout the country collected paper and metal for recycling, and sold bonds to raise money for the war effort. In 1916, the United States Congress showed its thanks by granting the Boy Scouts of America a special congressional charter. Scouts today carry on this tradition of service in their homes, communities and nation. You as new Star Scouts have been a part of carrying that tradition forward as you completed the service requirement for this badge.

*The leader presents the Scouts with their badges, pins and cards.*

*Give each Scout the MOTHER PIN to pin on his mother. Scouts are reminded to hug their mom. When all are done each Scout shakes the hand of the Scout and adult leaders up front.*

**ASPL:** Scouts, please repeat after me:

I am now a Star Scout. **(pause)** I am committed to showing Scout Spirit at all times **(pause)** by living my life according to the Scout Oath and Law. **(pause)** I am ready to accept even more responsibility for the function of the troop. **(pause)** I am committed to working with and serving our younger members **(pause)** to help them fully enjoy their Scouting experience.

**ASPL:** Let's congratulate our new Star Scouts! *Lead applause.* You may now be seated.

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## Life Scout Awards

**Awards Coordinator/Leader:** The following Scout(s) and their parents will please come forward: *(names are read)*

*Wait for the Scouts and families to come forward*

**SPL:** To the boy who can come up with the solution, a problem is a stepping-stone. Life for every young man is a series of opportunities, of doors into the future, doors that open only to the key of Preparedness. The Scout Motto, Be Prepared, is more than an idle phrase. Scouting is the best all-around training for young men that we know of. As a new Life Scout you have further demonstrated your willingness to lead and serve, while acquiring more life skills through the merit badge program. You now stand at the threshold of a great opportunity; an accomplishment which will only be achieved by 4% of those boys who join Scouting. That opportunity is the chance to become an Eagle Scout. All of us here congratulate you on your latest accomplishment, and wish you well as you look up the steepest part of the Scouting advancement trail.

*The leader presents the Scouts with their badges, pins and cards.*

*Give each Scout the MOTHER PIN to pin on his mother. Scouts are reminded to hug their mom. When all are done each Scout shakes the hand of the Scout and adult leaders up front.*

**ASPL:** New Life Scouts, please repeat after me:

I am now a Life Scout. **(pause)** I appreciate all that the adult and boy leaders of the troop did for me as I came up in Scouting. **(pause)** I commit myself once again to do my part to lead the troop, **(pause)** serve my community, **(pause)** and assist those Scouts who come behind me. I ask for your support as I consider my next step in Scouting.

**ASPL:** Thank you and congratulations! Let's applaud Troop 331's latest Life Scout!

*Leads applause. You may be seated.*

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## Special Awards and Announcements

**SPL:** Will the following Scout(s) please come forward: ...(announce names and award earned)

And now I will turn the floor over to \_\_\_\_\_ for the Scoutmaster Minute.

## Scoutmaster Minute

## Closing Prayer

**SPL:** Will our Chaplain Aide, \_\_\_\_\_, please come forward to lead us in prayer. *Prayer.*

**SPL:** Thank you, \_\_\_\_\_.

## Retirement of Colors

Please stand for the retiring of the colors.

*After the colors are retired*

I declare this Court of honor completed.