

Court of Honor

Troop 99

Rochester, MN 55901



Opening Ceremony

(have the scouts offstage, ready holding the flags. The US Flag is on the right, then Troop flag on the far left.)

Leader: "Troop, Attention!"

Leader: "Audience, Please Rise!"

Leader: "Scout Salute! Those not in uniform, please place your right hand over your heart. Color Guard, Advance!"

(wait for color guard to reach the front)

Leader: "Color Guard, Post the Flag of Troop 99!"

Leader: "Please face the United States flag and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. I pledge allegiance..."

Leader: "Two!"

(Everyone drops salute)

Leader: "Scout Sign!"

(Everyone raises right hand making the Scout sign)

Leader: "Please join me in reciting the Scout Oath and Law. On my honor..."

Leader: "Two!"

(Everyone drops Scout sign)

Leader: "Color Guard, Post the colors!"

Leader: "Audience, please be seated!"

Merit badges

Notes: Leader can be Scoutmaster or Sr. Patrol Leader

Leader: Boy Scouts can earn any of 121 different Merit Badges in areas ranging from Art to Whitewater and from Camping to Space Exploration. To earn a Merit Badge, a Scout picks a subject and reads the Merit Badge Book. A Scout develops his skills and knowledge. When he is ready, his Merit Badge Counselor tests him.

Today we are awarding a total of ____ Merit Badges.

(Call up each Scout individually.)

(Announce their merit badges.)

(Presenter and SPL shake the Scout's left hand.)

(Lead applause for each Scout.)

New Scout

Required: A scouting candelabra with 7 candles - one for each badge from Scout to Eagle.

Notes: Leader can be Scoutmaster or Sr. Patrol Leader

Leader: Tonight, we have some boy(s) here ready to become Scouts. They have passed their joining requirements and qualify to receive the Scout rank badge. Candidate(s), when your name is called, please come forward with your parents and form a straight line in front of the table, facing the troop.

(call names)

(Once all have come forward) These 3 candles represent the 3 parts of the Scout Oath – Duty to God, Duty to Others, and Duty to Self. The flames of these candles represent the spirit of scouting and each scout's honor.

The Scout Oath is a pledge to strive for a way of life that has guided millions of boys and men before you. It is not a pledge to be taken lightly. The Oath begins, "On my honor, I will do my Best."

Before I ask you to make this promise, think about what those first few words mean and if you are willing to give your word to do your best.

[wait 5 seconds]

Are you ready to make this promise to do your best?

Troop 99, attention!

Troop 99, give the Scout Sign.

New Scout(s), join the troop in reciting the Scout Oath. On my honor, I will do my best...

Troop 99, be seated.

Senior Patrol Leader (or Assistant Senior Patrol Leader), please hand the Scout Badges to these boy(s) that have taken an oath to uphold the ideals of Scouting.

(after all badges are distributed) As a reminder that you are now responsible to light the way for scouts coming after you, please light the Scout candle.

Boys, go to your parents now and have one of them pin your Scout badge to your uniform. And give the parent pin that is attached to your card to them. Parents, we traditionally pin the badge upside down until the Scout has done his first Good Turn as a Boy Scout. *[when all scouts have pinned their mother, continue...]*

Scouts, notice I'm no longer calling you 'Boys'; you are the lifeblood of this troop. You are the next generation of leaders and I am honored to welcome each of you into this troop!

[Give Scout Handshake to each]

Please join me in welcoming new SCOUT(S)!

You may be seated

Tenderfoot

Required: A scouting candelabra with 7 candles - one for each badge from Scout to Eagle.

Preparation: Make sure the Scout candle is already lit.

Notes: Leader can be Scoutmaster or Sr. Patrol Leader

Script: (Call scouts forward with parents to line up behind ceremony table facing troop)

Leader: A 'Greenhorn' is a newcomer – someone brand new with no experience.

'Tenderfoot' means "inexperienced beginner". That describes you pretty well - inexperienced beginners, but no longer a greenhorn. You've successfully taken that first advancement step on the scouting trail by earning the Tenderfoot rank. Many, many scouts before you have traveled this path to Tenderfoot, each of them performing the same requirements that you've completed.

But, just as our Leave No Trace guidelines allow the wilderness to recover from our passing to become new and fresh for the next visitor, your path to this point was new and fresh, covering a trail that no other scout has experienced.

Your fellow scouts standing with you each took slightly different paths to get here.

You quickly accomplished some tasks and struggled with other tasks that were challenging for you. You learned basic first aid, conquered camping skills, and improved your physical fitness. You have reached your first milestone on the trail of Scouting and you should be proud of your accomplishment.

You will find that your trail from here on will become steeper and rougher at times. More will be required of you and you will need to challenge yourself to excel and push your abilities to reach the next level.

But, keep in mind that there are friends all around you ready to help – your parents behind you, your patrol mates beside you, and your troop in front of you.

(Ask each scout directly and hand the badge to his parent when he answers)

Are you ready to accept the Tenderfoot rank and continue the hike up the next stretch of trail to Second Class?

(after all badges are distributed)

As a reminder that you are now responsible to light the way for scouts coming after you, everyone hold the Tenderfoot candle and light it from the Scout candle.

Parents, please pin the Tenderfoot badge on your son.

Scouts, present the parent pin to your parent.

(when finished)

Congratulations to the newest Troop 99 Tenderfoot Scout(s)!

Second Class

Required: Scouting candelabra with 7 candles - from Scout to Eagle.

Preparation: Make sure Tenderfoot candle is already lit.

Notes: Leader can be Scoutmaster or SPL

Script: (Call scouts forward with parents to line up behind ceremony table facing troop)

Leader: Candidate(s), when your name is called, please come forward with your parents and form a straight line in front of the table, facing the troop.

(call names)

The Second Class rank badge has some interesting symbolism on it. Our motto of "Be Prepared" is boldly displayed to remind you that the outdoors skills you have demonstrated are valuable and may be required at any time. The ends of the scroll are turned up at the ends much like a smile to remind you that scouting is meant to be fun – it is a game with a purpose. And, there is a knot hanging from the scroll meant to remind you to follow our slogan of "Do a Good Turn Daily".

This last one might be one of the most difficult tasks for a scout to fulfill – Do a Good Turn Daily. That means you need to be looking for people that need help, you need to be purposefully trying to improve your world, you need to care for something outside yourself. When you are able to do those things, that is a huge step in becoming the man you will be.

On the way to Second Class, you learned to use compass, fire, and axe. You demonstrated swimming, cooking, and first aid. All of these are important skills for your future adventures in the wilderness as your scouting trail leads you higher and further from the comforts of home. But, just as those skills prepare you to care for yourself; you learned other skills to prepare you for life in community with others. You did service for others, showed respect for the flag, and used the Scout Oath to help direct your actions.

To show that you are willing to help scouts that follow after you, please hold the 2nd Class candle, light it from the Tenderfoot candle, and place it back in its place.

As a Tenderfoot, you were a 'beginner' scout and are now a 'hiker' scout. Are you prepared to wear the Second Class badge of rank and continue your trail to First Class?

(hand out badges and mother pin)

Parents, please pin the Second Class badge on your son.

Scouts, pin the Second Class pin on your mother.

(when finished)

Troop 99, attention!

Congratulations to the newest Troop 99 Second Class Scout(s)!

You may be seated

First Class

Required: Scouting candelabra with 7 candles - Scout through Eagle

Preparation: Make sure the 2nd Class candle is lit.

Notes: Leader can be Scoutmaster or SPL

Script: (Call scouts forward with parents to line up behind ceremony table facing troop)

Leader: In reaching First Class, you have demonstrated your knowledge of the outdoor skills of scouting. I challenge you to continue practicing those skills so they stay strong, and not forget them now that you have a checkmark in a box in your handbook.

You are now entering the most rewarding part of your scouting experience. You will have many opportunities to build your leadership skills and demonstrate your scout spirit through service to others. You will change from being a scout learner to being a scout leader as you continue your trail to Eagle Scout.

In earning the First Class rank, you learned how to find Polaris, the North Star, because we know it will help us find our way in the wilderness. For centuries man has known that the North Star is fixed in the heavens, and it has been used as a navigational aid by sailors ever since the first adventurers sailed away from the sight of land.

The North Star is still used that way. So in learning how to find it, you are joining a very long line of adventurers. There are some "North Stars" in our everyday lives, too. One of them is your conscience. Listen to your conscience and you can be sure to steer your life in the right direction. The other North Stars are the Scout Oath and Law. They are North Stars because they give us excellent guidance in how to behave and what we owe to God, country, our fellow human beings, and ourselves.

When you're lost at night, look for the North Star. The rest of the time, steer your life with those other North Stars – your conscience and the Scout Oath and Law – so you can reach your full potential.

As Second Class, you were a 'hiker' scout but are now a 'camper' scout. Are you prepared to wear the First Class badge of rank to symbolize your achievements and commit to doing your part to lead the troop?

To show that you are willing to lead scouts coming up the trail, please hold the First Class candle and light it from the Second Class candle and replace it in its place.

(hand out badges and parent pins)

Parents, please pin the First Class badge on your son.

Scouts, pin the First Class parent pin on your parent.

(when finished)

Troop 99, attention!

Congratulations to the newest Troop 99 First Class Scout(s)!

Star

Required: Scouting candelabra with 7 candles - Scout to Eagle

Preparation: Make sure First Class candle is lit.

Notes: Leader can be Scoutmaster or SPL

Script: (Call scouts forward with parents to line up behind ceremony table facing troop)

Leader: You have reached a very important point in the path of Scouting. Whether or not you realize it, by meeting your Star Scout requirements, you have left the group of those who merely receive in Scouting. Tonight, you join a smaller and more significant group – whose duty and privilege it is to give Scouting to others. You have been learning about service, leadership, and responsibility. Before you climbs a trail that leads to a worthier, more mature part of Scouting, that of giving.

By following the Scout Oath and Law, you can follow this trail. If you follow the trail far enough, the highest Scouting goal will be yours. As you receive your Star Scout badge, it must be with full realization that you will be giving guidance and inspiration to younger Scouts.

Are you willing to accept the responsibilities as well as the privileges that accompany the Star Scout rank?

To show that you are prepared to guide and inspire your fellow scouts, hold the Star candle and light it from the First Class candle and place it back in its place.

(hand out badges and parent pins)

Parents, please pin the Star badge on your son.

Scouts, pin the Star parent pin on your parent.

(when finished)

Troop 99, attention!

Congratulations to the newest Troop99 Star Scout(s)!

Life

Required: Scouting candelabra with 7 candles - Scout through Eagle

Preparation: Make sure Star candle is lit

Notes: Leader should be Scoutmaster

Script: (Call scouts forward with parents to line up behind ceremony table facing troop)

Leader: Take a look at the Life Scout badge I have here. It is the only rank badge that has as symbol from INSIDE the scout – a heart symbol. Being a Life scout means you have taken the ideals of Scouting to heart and have made them part of you, not something that you do a couple times a month. You have provided guidance and leadership to the troop and have served others in your community.

As the Scouting trail has steep parts and resting places, you may have rested longer at some points along the trail than you had hoped. Maybe you did not advance as quickly as you wished or some other priority came ahead of Scouting for a time. However your path took you, you reached this milestone. You've completed all the requirements to wear this emblem – you earned merit badges, performed service to others, and offered leadership to the troop.

As the heart symbol reminds us, you are the Life of the troop. This troop needs you: We need you to help the younger scouts in their challenges. We need you to take on formal leadership roles. We need you to encourage other boys to become scouts. We need you to keep climbing your own scouting trail to the ultimate level.

Will you accept this Life Scout rank and do your very best to demonstrate its meaning to others?
(Hand the badge to parent as each scout answers)

As a sign to others that you hold the ideals of Scouting in your heart, hold the Life candle and light it from the Star candle and place it back in its place.

Parents, please pin the Life badge on your son.

Scouts, present the Life parent pin to your parent.

(when finished)

Troop 99, attention!

Congratulations to the newest Troop 99 Life Scout(s)!

Closing Ceremony

Leader: Troop, Attention!

Audience, Please Rise!

Color Guard, Advance!

(wait for color guard to reach the front)

Scout Salute! Please put your right hand over your heart if you are not in uniform.

Color Guard, Retire the Colors!

(wait for flag bearers to pick up their flags)

Two!

(everyone drops salute.)

Audience, Thank you for joining us. There are refreshments in the back. Have a great night.

(flag bearers should immediately put the flags away before starting to play with the other guys.)