

Complete Script for the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Samuel C. Hoffman 4:30 pm Sunday, December 14, 2014

Laptop/Sound: **Lyle Stoll/Steve Hein**

SPL: **Dominic Marticorena**

Eagle Charge: **Hoffman Brothers**

Bugler: **Simon Arneberg**

Videographer: **Steve Nutzmann**

Color Guard: **Ben Blake, Collin
Schrader, Andy Stoll,
John Wendler**

Honor Guard escorts: **Andy Stoll, Nathan
LeMay**

(Trail to Eagle)

(Emcee - SPL Dominic Marticorena

Scout - Nick Mason

Tenderfoot - Ricky Krizan

Second Class - Caelin Buenger

1st Class - Nathan LeMay

Star - Andy Stoll

Life - Matt Blake

OPENING

Bugler: Assembly

SPL: Ladies and gentlemen, please stand for the opening flag ceremony and remove all unofficial head gear...Troop attention... Color Guard, ADVANCE THE COLORS...Scout salute...bugler sound.

(Color guard brings flags up and posts in stand.)

(Bugler plays "To the Colors" while it's being walked up.)

Post the colors.

SPL: Please join me in the pledge of allegiance. "I Pledge allegiance to the flag..." Two.

SPL: Scouts, please give the Scout Sign as we recite the Scout Oath. ("On my honor...")

SPL: And now the Scout Law. ("A Scout is trustworthy, loyal...")

SPL: Now I'll invite Life Scout Will Blake to give the invocation.

Will Blake: *(Opening prayer)*

SPL: You may be seated. Good afternoon.

My name is Dominic Marticorena, and I am the Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 72. We'd like to start off our ceremony by showing you what the basics of Scouting are all about.

(Note: a picture of each badge will be displayed on the screen as it's discussed.)

SPL: "Trail boys, please come forward."

SPL: "Many of you here today are not all that familiar with the Boy Scout program. Boys can come to meetings and campouts and have a lot of fun, but the boys who really get the most out of Scouting are those who earn their way up the ranks. We're going to invite some of our Scouts up here to help explain the rungs of the ladder."

SPL: "First up we have Nick Mason to talk about the first rank, SCOUT."

Nick: "For the SCOUT rank, I had to know the Scout sign and Scout salute, the Pledge of Allegiance, and how to tie a square knot. I must understand the Scout Oath and the Scout Law."

SPL: "Next up is Tenderfoot Ricky Krizan"

Ricky: "For the Tenderfoot rank, I had to camp in a tent and cook outdoors. I had to memorize the Scout Oath and Law, and demonstrate how to treat the American flag. I also did some physical tests and learned some first aid."

SPL: "Requirements get a little harder with the Second Class rank. We'll hear now from a Scout who was Second Class not too long ago, Caelin Buenger

Caelin: To earn Second Class, the Scout must hike five miles using a compass. He must also do some swim tests, learn more first aid, find signs of wild animals, show how to build a fire and handle an ax, and do a service project."

SPL: "First Class is considered a 'complete Scout.' Anyone who makes it to First Class knows all the basics of Scouting. Here is Nathan LeMay to tell us more."

Nathan: "For First Class I had to do orienteering with a compass, know about plants, and had to be in charge of planning a meal and cooking it over a fire. I also learned more first aid, more knots, and did more swimming tests."

Emcee: "The road steepens with the STAR rank. This is the first rank that requires the boy to earn merit badges, including four of the badges that are required for Eagle. Andy Stoll recently earned his Star rank."

Andy: "To get to Star, I had to serve in a troop leadership position and had to do a six-hour service project. I served as Patrol Leader, leading the Eagle Patrol. I also had to earn six merit badges, including four required for Eagle, such as _____, _____, and _____."

Emcee: "A LIFE scout is getting way up there. Not many boys who join Boy Scouts make it that high -- it is the last step before Eagle. We've only had 32 boys earn their way to Life in the 13-year history of our troop. Matt Blake is now a proud Life Scout.

Matt: "For LIFE, I had to serve in a troop

leadership for six months as a Star Scout. I served two terms as Quartermaster in charge of all the troop's equipment, and now I am a Patrol Leader. I had to do another service project, helping with _____'s Eagle project, and had to earn five more merit badges, including three Eagle-required ones, such as _____, _____, and _____."

SPL: Thank you, Scouts. And that trail of advancement leads right up to the highest rank, EAGLE. I'd like to introduce our Scoutmaster -- please welcome Mr. Tom Arneberg.

Tom A: Thank you, Dominic. Ladies and gentleman, Scouts and Scouters, good afternoon, and thank you all for coming to this Eagle Court of Honor. Your presence here today not only honors Sam and the other Scouts, but supports our troop and the whole Scouting movement.

I'd like to take a moment to recognize some of our special guests today: Sam's grandfather ...Chippewa Falls Mayor Greg Hoffman...Chippewa Falls Director of Parks, Recreation & Forestry, Dick Hebert...State Senator Terry Moulton...State Representative Tom Lason/Kathy Bernier...Chippewa County Sherriff James Kowalczyk, Retired Air Force General Donald Hoffman...etc., etc. (Add personal remarks about Sam.)

Tom A.: To earn the Eagle Scout rank, every candidate must perform a special service project. This project must benefit a community group other than Scouting, must have lasting value, and must involve a lot of other people under the Eagle candidate's leadership.

Sam worked with the City of Chippewa Falls to build and install park benches on the ski trails in Irvine Park. Here to talk about the project, please welcome the

Director of the Chippewa Falls Parks, Recreation and Forestry, Mr. Dick Hebert.

Dick Hebert: (talk about project)

Tom A.: Being an Eagle Scout requires being able to LEAD OTHERS effectively. This afternoon we have with us a retired FOUR-STAR GENERAL, who has had 42 years of leadership training under his belt while serving in the United State Air Force. Please welcome Sam's uncle, General Donald Hoffman.

Donald Hoffman: ("Leadership")

Tom A.: And now we get to hear from one of my heroes, a guy who earned his Eagle rank in 1955, and STILL FITS INTO HIS UNIFORM! Please welcome Sam's grandfather, Mr. David Woodruff.

David Woodruff: ("Grandpa's Reflections")

Tom A.: And now for our last main speaker of the ceremony, please welcome one of our own Eagle Scouts, Sam's brother Matt Hoffman.

Matt Hoffman: ("Significance of Eagle")

Tom A.: Now you'll get a flavor of what it's like to be a Scout in Troop 72, as we watch a bit of history in the Scouting career of Sam. Sit back, relax, and enjoy **Sam's Journey to Eagle.**

SLIDE SHOW (18 minutes)

(Award Presentation)

Tom A.: To give the official Eagle Charge, let's hear it for Sam's three older brothers, who are all Eagle Scouts: Zach, Matt, and Mitchel.

Matt Hoffman.: Honor guard, please escort the Eagle candidate to the stage.

(Honor guard escorts Sam to the front, where he stands facing the audience.)

Matt: Before we finish the official Eagle award, we have a couple of very distinguished guests who would like to present their own special awards.

Please welcome, covering the 67th Assembly District, State Representative Tom Larson.

Tom Larson: (give award) (???)

Matt: And now please welcome, representing the 68th Assembly District, State Representative Kathy Bernier.

Kathy Bernier: (give award) (???)

Matt: And now please welcome, representing the 23rd Senate District, State Senator Terry Moulton.

Terry Moulton: (give award) (???)

Matt: Sam, The Boy Scouts of America constitutes one of the most wholesome and significant movements in history, and you have been counted worthy of this highest rank. Scouting has helped millions of boys, but fewer than 5% have made it to the top rung.

We all rejoice in your achievement. Your position, as you well know, is one of honor and responsibility.

Our country has had a great past. You are here to make the future greater. I charge you to undertake your citizenship with a solemn dedication.

Lift up every task you do and every office you hold to the high level of service to God and to your fellow man. But wear your Achievement with humility, ever mindful that the Eagle Scout is looked up to as an example. Build America on the solid foundations of clean living, honest

work, service to others and reverence toward God.

Matt: Honor guard, please escort the candidate's parents to the stage.

Matt: Dad, you can now pin this Eagle award on your son.

(Larry puts pin on Sam.)

Matt: Sam, now you can pin your mom and dad with the "Eagle Scout Parents" pins.

(Sam puts pin on his mom and dad, after which Mom and Dad are escorted to their seats.)

Matt: And will Grandpa please come forward to join his grandsons. For the official Eagle Charge, we would like all the Eagle Scouts in the audience to please stand and repeat the Eagle Scout pledge along with Sam.

Matt/Sam/Eagles:

*"I thoughtfully recognize
and take upon myself
the obligations and responsibilities
of an Eagle Scout."*

*"With the help of God, I will do my best
to make my training an example."*

*"My influence and my opportunities
strongly count for physical fitness,
for wholesome character
and for devoted citizenship,
in Scouting and in my community."*

"To this I pledge my sacred honor."

Matt: (to Eagles in audience) Thank you; you may be seated.

Matt: Sam, by the authority vested in me by the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America, it is my privilege and pleasure to officially declare you Eagle Scout. *(NO PAUSE HERE!)* **Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you EAGLE SCOUT Sam Hoffman!** *(Spontaneous unplanned long-lasting thunderous applause)*

(Grandpa and Hoffman brothers may take their seats.)

Sam: (acceptance speech)

SPL: Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for attending our Court of Honor. Please join us for a meal following the ceremony. Now please stand for the closing prayer by our Chaplain's Aid.

Will Blake: (Closing Prayer)

SPL: Color Guard, retrieve the colors. Bugler sound. Two. **This Court of Honor is now adjourned.**