Seth Stahlmann’s Eagle Court of Honor

November 13, 2020

**Hunter Cist to preside at lectern**

Good evening. I am your Master of Ceremonies this evening Hunter Crist, Senior Patrol Leader of Boy Scout Troop 23, and I would like to welcome you to the Eagle Court of Honor for Seth Stahlmann. The program this evening is intended to honor the Seth Stahlmann for attaining Scouting’s high rank, the Eagle Scout Award. This is moment worth of celebration.

Before we begin our program, I would like to offer a warm welcome to parents, friends, and special guests who have traveled from Iowa, New Jersey and the east coast of Florida. I would also like to welcome Manatee County Commissioner Misty Servia, who is accompanied this evening by her husband Joaquin. Thank you all for joining us tonight, and I would like to invite all to join us here for cake and coffee immediately following the ceremony.

Now please rise for the presentation of the colors, followed by the National Anthem, which will be sung by Seth’s sister Eden Stahlmann.

**Hunter**: Color Guard advance. Scout salute.

 Color Guard post the colors.

 Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

 Please join me in the Scout Oath and Law.

 Please remain standing for the National Anthem.

**Hunter**: Color Guard dismissed.

 I now call on Scout Master Chris White to officially convene this court of honor.

**Chris White:** By the power vested in my by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of

America, I declare this court of honor to be duly convened for the sole purpose of

presenting the Eagle Scout Award to Seth Stahlmann.

At this time, I would like to welcome Tony Hagman to the podium to give the

Invocation.

**Invocation by Tony Hagaman**

*Following invocation, Tony welcomes Joe Stinson to the podium to say a few words about Seth.*

**Guest Speaker Joe Stinson**

*Joe is going to say a few words about Seth. Then he will call up the honor guard to do the Lighting of the Scout Law Candles.*

**Joe:** Will the Honor Guard please come forward to present the Lighting of the Scout

Law Candles.

**Invocation by Tony Hagaman**

*\*I don’t know how many scouts there will be, so I will just say “Scout” and they can pass the script along and then loop back to the first person each time they reach the end of the line.*

**Hunter:** *(Holding Spirit Candle)* This candle represents the Spirit of Scouting, a spirit

which burns brightly in the heart of every scout. Let us renew our spirit by

reminding ourselves of the meaning of the Scout Law. “A Scout is trustworthy,

loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean,

and reverent.”

*(Take next candle to next scout.)*

**Hunter:** A Scout is Trustworthy

**Scout:** *(Light candle before speaking)* The badge of honesty. Having it lets you look any

many straight in the eye. Lacking it, he won’t look you back. Keep it at the top of

your list.

 *(Take next candle to next scout.)*

**Hunter:** A Scout is Loyal

**Scout:** *(Light candle before speaking)* The very word is life itself, for without loyalty, we

have no love of persons or country.

 *(Take next candle to next scout.)*

**Hunter:** A Scout is Helpful

**Scout:** *(Light candle before speaking)* Part sharing, part caring. By helping each other,

we help ourselves, not to mention mankind. Be always full of help -- the dying

man’s last word.

 *(Take next candle to next scout.)*

**Hunter:** A Scout is Friendly

**Scout:** *(Light candle before speaking)* Brotherhood is part of that word. You can take it in

many directions -- and do so -- but make sure you start with brotherhood.

 *(Take next candle to next scout.)*

**Hunter:** A Scout is Courteous.

**Scout:** *(Light candle before speaking)* Allow each person human dignity, which means a

lot more than saying, “Yes, ma’am” and “Thank you, sir.” It reflects an attitude

that later in you life “you wish had honored more … earlier in life.” Save yourself any regrets. Do it now.

 *(Take next candle to next scout.)*

**Hunter:** A Scout is Kind.

**Scout:** *(Light candle before speaking)* This one word would stop wars and erase

hatreds. But it’s like your bicycle -- it’s just no good unless you get out and use it.

 *(Take next candle to next scout.)*

**Hunter:** A Scout is Obedient.

**Scout:** *(Light candle before speaking)* Start at home, practice it on your family, enlarge it

to your friends, share it with humanity.

 *(Take next candle to next scout.)*

**Hunter:** A Scout is Cheerful.

**Scout:** *(Light candle before speaking)* Anyone can put on a happy face when the going’s

good. The secret is to wear it as a mask for your problems. It might surprise you

how many others are inspired to do the same.

 *(Take next candle to next scout.)*

**Hunter:** A Scout is Thrifty

**Scout:** *(Light candle before speaking)* This means a lot more than putting pennies

aways, and it’s the opposite of cheap. Common sense covers it just about as well

as anything.

 *(Take next candle to next scout.)*

**Hunter:** A Scout is Brave.

**Scout:** *(Light candle before speaking)* You don’t have to fight to be brave. Millions of

good, fine decnet folds show more bravery than heavyweight champs just by

getting out of bed every morning, going out to do a good day's work, and living

the best life they know how against many odds. Brave. Keep the word handy

every day of your life.

 *(Take next candle to next scout.)*

**Hunter:** A Scout is Clean.

**Scout:** *(Light candle before speaking)* Soap and water help a lot on the outside. But it’s

the inside that counts most, and don’t ever forget it.

 *(Take next candle to next scout.)*

**Hunter:** A Scout is Reverent

**Scout:** *(Light candle before speaking)* Believe in anything you want to believe in, but

keep God at the top of the list. With Him, life can be a beautiful experience.

Without Him, you’re just biding time.

 *(Take next candle to next scout.)*

**Hunter:** And finally, all three parts of the Scout Oath.

**Scout:** *(Light candle before speaking)* A scout promises upon his honor to do his best to

do his duty, to God and his country

 *(Pass the candle to the next scout.)*

**Scout:** *(Light candle before speaking)* to do his duty to other people by helping them at

all times

 *(Pass the candle to the next scout.)*

**Scout:** *(Light candle before speaking)* to do his duty to the other people, by keeping\

himself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

 *(Pass the candle to the next scout.)*

**Hunter:** And now, I’d like to call on Troop 23 Scoutmaster Chris White, who will give us some perspective on the Path of EAge.

**Path of the Eagle**

Historically, since the inception of the Eagle Scout award in 1911, about 2% of boys in scouting have earned Scouting’s highest honor. Troop 23 has been a very active troop with many life scouts, and it can be easily to overlook the significance of attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

Today, about five scouts out of every hundred achieve Eagle Scout. Regardless, it is a special accomplishment, which for most boys, takes about five years of persistence and dedication to master the scout skills. Seth achieved this rank in half that time, earning Eagle Scout in just two and a half years.

In order to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, a scout must accomplish a total of at least 142 separate advancement skills, which are divided up within the ranks. The scout must learn the skills, be tested in the skills, and be reviewed by the scoutmaster.

In addition, the scout must earn at least 21 merit badges, each of which has 7 - 8 separate requirements. The Path to Eagle is not hard, but it does require dedication, persistence, and a lot of follow-through.

There are many well known Eagle Scouts, including Neil Armstrong (and most of the original astronaut corps), Preside Gerald Ford, Microsoft founder Bill Gates, Supreme Court Justice William Breyer, Director Steven Speilberg, and Actor Mike Rowe, to name a few.

There is a National Eagle Scout association that maintains contact with Eagle Scouts, and even has an award to acknowledge Eagle Scouts who have further distinguished themselves in business, professions, and service to their country. Something these boys learned along their path to Eagle is that they remain Eagle Scouts throughout their lives.

**Path of the Eagle**

At this time, I call Seth Stahlmann forward to take the Eagle Scout Pledge. As he takes this pledge for the first time, will those Eagle Scouts who are present in the audience please stand and reaffirm their pledge? Will each of you please give the Scout sign and repeat after me in unison?

**On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God.**

**On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to my country.**

**I reaffirm my allegiance to the three promises of the Scout Oath.**

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

**On my honor, I will do my best to make my training an example and take my rank and influence strongly count for better scouting and for better citizenship, in my troop, in my community, and in my contact with other people, regardless of race, color, or creed.**

**To this, I pledge my sacred honor.**

The Eagle Scouts in the audience may now be seated.

By repeating the Eagle Scout pledge before your fellow members, you have become an Eagle Scout. Though the words you used just now are similar to those by which you joined Scouting, today they mean more more than they ever could have meant at that time or at any time in the past. When you pledged yourself on your sacred honor, using the same words which are found at the end of the Declaration of Independence, you sealed your eternal loyalty to the code of the Eagle Scout.

**Eagle Charge (Mr. White)**

Honor Guard, will you please escort Seth’s parents to the podium?

Seth, you deserve much credit for having achieved Scouting’s highest award. Wear your award with humility, ever mindful that the Eagle Sout is looked up to as an example. May the Scout Oath an Law be your uide for tomorrow and onward.

And so, by the authority vested in me by the Boy Scouts of America, it is my privilege and honor to bestow the rank of Eagle Scout ot you.

*Pin Grant*

Ladies and gentlemen, Eagle Scout Seth Stahlmann.

Seth, there are a few people here who helped you along the way.

*Give Eagle pins for parents to Seth*

No one will ever know the unnumbered acts of self-sacrifice and helpfulness formthe mother and father of this Eagle Scout, which has led to this evening. As the symbol of what Seth’s parents have made possible, this Court now asks Seth to present his mother and father a miniature Eagle pin.

*Seth pins parents*

Honor Guard, please escort Seth’s parents from the podium.

At this time, I would also like to recognize Seth’s grandparents, who have helped him along this journey. When I call your name, would you please stand at your seat to be recognized? Seth’s grandmother Marie Stahlmann. Seth’s grandmother Ellen Youssef. And Seth’s grandparents Tom and Carla Wolfe. Thank you for the many contributions along his journey. And a special thank you to Seth’s grandfather Tom Wolfe, a former Scoutmaster himself, who mentored Seth along his path to Eagle. Grandparents, we acknowledge your contribution to Seth’s journey. You may be seated.

At this time, Seth would like to say a few words in response to this award.

**Response by the Eagle**

*Seth will speak and then introduce the key note speaker, Jody Hagaman.*

**Keynote Speaker Jody Hagaman**

*Jody will talk about a need today for leadership and about Seth’s journey. Then Jody will call up the Master of Ceremonies Hunter Crist, who will then call forth the Color Guard.*

**Closing Colors**

**Hunter**: Color Guard advance.

 Please stand

 Color guard, please retire the colors.

 Troop, salute!

**Hunter**: Thank you for coming. That concludes our Court of Honor. The family of our

newest Eagle Scout invites everyone to stay for cake.