**Seahawk Eagle Scout Court of Honor Script**

**At alter/stage, Will Kenner, Mr. Collins, Mr. Crist, Mr. Bufkin, and Mr. White; and behind podium, Matt Mason, Master of Ceremony.**

**Color Guard:**

**Owen, Ben, Hunter, Kolby, Simon, Alex**

**Honor Guard:**

**John Langhout, Peter Medico**

**INTRODUCTION**

Matthew: Good evening everyone. My name is Matthew Mason and I would personally like to thank you all for attending tonight’s court of honor for my fellow Seahawks, my peers, and friends…. Jackson Langhout, Michael Medico, and Walter Homeister…. as we honor each of them for achieving scouting’s highest rank, the Eagle Scout Award.

As a reminder, following this ceremony, there will be dinner and reception in the gym to celebrate our new Eagle Scouts, and you are all invited to attend.

Next, I would like to acknowledge the presence of special guests that are with us tonight, and those family members of our Eagle honorees that have travelled significant distance to be here tonight.

* Sarasota County Commissioner Christian Ziegler
* From Ohio, Jackson’s grandparents Dick and Jan Langhout
* Jackson’s good friends, Connor, and Cooper
* Former Scoutmaster Keith Rollins, and Eagle Scout Jesse Rollins

Now, it is my pleasure to invite forward Krista Mulholland, of St. Johns United Methodist Church, for the invocation, and if everyone would please rise, and then remain standing for the presentation of the colors.

***INVOCATION***

Matthew: thank you for that lovely invocation. At this time, we ask Will Kenner, Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 23, to lead the Color Guard in the presentation of the colors.

Will

* *Begin by asking all to stand and Scouts to salute as colors are present*
* *Lead all in the Pledge of Allegiance and Scouts in the Oath and Law*
* *Invite the color guard forward, and ask the audience to sit*

Matthew: I now call on Mr. Collins, our Committee Chair, and as a representative of Boy Scouts of America, to officially convene this Eagle Court of Honor.

Mr. Collins:By the power vested in me 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 Jackson Langhout, Michael Medico and Walter Homeister.

***Lighting of the Candles***

Matthew:To show a Scout’s Spirit, he is asked to live his life in accordance with the Scout Oath and Law. We often use candles such as these in ceremonies to represent the light of the Scout Spirit, illuminating what is important, and to illuminate our understanding, of the Spirit of Scouting.

When we recite the Scout Oath, there are three principles, just as there are three points on the fleur-de-lis of our Scout Symbol. These are represented by the red candles, that will be lit one by one.

*Owen*

First, a Scout promises, upon his honor, to do his best, to do his duty to God, and to his Country.

*Ben*

Second, he promises be helpful to others at all times.

*Kolby*

Third, he pledges to himself, to keep physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

*Matthew:* You see now, how the light from the spirit of Scouting has become brighter and stronger, showing us, and others, the way.

There are twelve parts to the Scout Law, each important and meaningful.

A great American actor, John Wayne, passed away many years ago. One of his last public appearances was at a dinner to benefit a land purchase for a Scout Reservation called John Wayne Outpost Camp in southern California. He was riddled with cancer and knew he was close to death.

At this dinner, Mr. Wayne was asked to lead the gathering in the Scout Oath and Law. Afterward he did something unusual. He shared with everyone that while the 12 points of the Scout Law are nice words, the trouble is the fact that they are learned so young that Scouts sometimes don't get all the understanding that goes with them. He went on to share that, “I took care of that in my family, as each of my boys reached Scout age, I make sure he truly learned the Scout Law. So, I would break it down for them, pointing out a few things I have picked up in more than half a century since I first learned to recite it."

*Matthew announces to point, as each Honor Guard member take 2 points, and light Candle and recites the meaning (Owen, Ben, Hunter, Kolby, Simon, and Alex)*

**TRUSTWORTHY**

The badge of honesty. Having it lets you look at any man in the eye. Lacking it, he won't look back. Keep this one at the top of your list.

**LOYAL**

The very word is life itself; for without loyalty we have no love of person or country

**HELPFUL**

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 words.

**FRIENDLY**

Brotherhood is part of that word. You can take it in a lot of directions - and do - but make sure and start with brotherhood.

**COURTEOUS**

Allow each person his human dignity; which means a lot more than saying, "Yes, ma'am" and "Thank you, sir." It reflects an attitude that later in life you wish you had honored more earlier in life. Save yourself that problem. Do it now.

**KIND**

This one word could stop wars and erase hatreds. But it's like your bicycle, it's just no good unless you get out and use it.

**OBEDIENT**

Starts at home. Practice it in your family. Enlarge it in your friends. Share it with humanity.

**CHEERFUL**

Anyone can put on a happy face when the going is good. The secret is to wear it as a mask for your problems. It might surprise you how many others do the same thing.

**THRIFTY**

Means a lot more than putting pennies away; and it is the opposite of cheap. Common sense covers it just about as well as anything.

**BRAVE**

You don't have to fight to be brave. Millions of good, fine, decent folks 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 the law of odds. Keep the word handy every day of your life.

**CLEAN**

Soap and water helps a lot on the outside. But it is the inside that counts, and don't ever forget it.

**REVERENT**

Believe in anything that you want to believe in, but keep God at the top of it. With Him, life can be a beautiful experience. Without Him, you are just biding time.

Matthew: John Wayne then thanked those at the dinner for putting his name on the outpost camp and said, "I would rather see it here than on all the theater marquees the world over."

Honor guard, you may be dismissed.

Matthew: Inside of your program you will see a list of all of the achievements that these three young men have reached on their trail to Eagle Scout, and I ask you to review this impressive list, but after we have some fun watching a little montage of this Trail.

***Video Plays***

Matthew: Ok, so back to our ceremony. It is my honor to welcome Sarasota County Commissioner Christian Ziegler, who wishes to bestow upon Jackson, Michael, and Walter each a special commendation. I ask that the Honor Guard could please escort Jackson, Michael and Walter forward.

**COMMISSIONER ZIEGLER**

*Jackson, Michael, and Walter to remain in front.*

Matthew: Thank you Commissioner Ziegler. I now ask Mr. Collins to provide the Eagle Scout Pledge, and ask that all Eagle Scouts present tonight to come forward as well.

**Eagle Pledge**

Mr. Collins: Jackson, Michael, and Walter, I have the honor to give you the Eagle Scout Pledge on the occasion of your elevation to the highest rank in Scouting.

The Boy Scouts of all nations constitute one of the most wholesome and significant movement in the world’s history. The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in Boy Scout and YOU have been declared worthy of this rank. All who know you rejoice in your achievement.

Your position, as you well know, is one of honor. Your responsibility goes well beyond your fellow Scouts; it extends to your duty to God, family, friends and your country. America has many good things to offer you and your children after you; but these things depend for the most part on the quality of her citizens.

Our country has had a great past. You both are here to make the future greater.

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 make my rank and influence strongly count for better scouting, and for better citizenship in my troop, in my church, in my community, and in my contact with other people, regardless of race, color, or creed.**

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

Matthew: Thank you Mr. Collins. All Eagle Scouts from the audience may now be seated. Honor Guard, please come forward to escort our honoree’s back to their seats.

I would like to introduce Mr. Crist, our newest Life to Eagle Advisor, to provide us with some further words about the meaning of this achievement.

Mr. Crist: In the 100 plus years of Scouting in the United States, there have been just over 2 million Eagle Scouts. That may sound like a lot. But know, that just 2% of all boys entering Scouting have attained this rank. We find Eagle Scouts disproportionately in our country’s armed services, and particularly so at our Officer Academies. Amazingly there have been 40 Astronauts that are Eagle Scouts, as well as business leaders such as Sam Walton and Bill Marriott, celebrities such as Steven Spielberg and Mike Rowe, and political leaders such as Michael Bloomberg, and the Director of the Department of Energy and past governor of the state of Texas, Rick Perry. There has been just one President who was an Eagle Scout, however, Gerald Ford.

Ask anyone off the street, even those that know nothing of Scouting, and all would agree that the achievement of Eagle Scout is quite an achievement, and probably involves a lot of work.

So, what has an Eagle Scout done to get there?

He progressed through the ranks of Scouter, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star and Life, learning along the way the key skills in Scouting, participating in the active leadership of his unit, both at the Patrol level, and for the Troop, and earning Merit Badges, both those from a required list, as well as others of his choosing.

In all, according to the Handbook, he completed about 325 unique requirements to achieve all of this. That is an impressive list. But what did those 325 requirements teach him? Who are these Eagle Scout-and what should the world expect of them; marked men, as they say?

First and foremost, an Eagle Scout is an outdoorsman. He knows how to camp, swim, hike, use a camp stove, cook a mean cobbler, note the presence of a nearby owl that is otherwise unseen, and he can find his way in the woods with a map and compass. He has probably spent no less than 100 nights sleeping in a tent he pitched on a site he, with his patrol-mates, selected. Many of those days and evenings, he had planned their menu, cooked their own food, and saw to the cleaning of their equipment and dishes.

An Eagle Scout is comfortable with nature. He can identify local animals and plants, particularly those that are poisonous or venomous. He understands the causes of water, land, and air pollution, and along the way had to develop a project to solve an environmental problem.

An Eagle Scout embodies the Scout Motto-Be Prepared. He knows how to treat fractures, head injuries, hypothermia, heat exhaustion, burns, abdominal pain, cramps, and knocked out teeth. He understands that saving a drowning victim is best done from the safety of land.

He knows what to do in the event of an emergency, a motor vehicle accident, a gas leak, hurricane, tornado, or avalanche.

An Eagle Scout is a good citizen. He has been to a neighborhood meeting, understands the participatory governmental processes, and how his local, state, and Federal governments are organized. He knows who his senators and Representative are in Washington, and has written a letter to one of them on a national issue. He has read the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution. He understands how the US Code governs the appropriate handling and presentation of the US Flag.

He knows how to manage his money, and understands the risks and benefits of putting his money in a bank, a mutual fund, a bond, and real estate. He has set financial goals, and learned tools on how to track and measure his progress. He understands how those tools can also help him manage his time.

An Eagle Scouts can set fitness goals, and works towards achieving them, competing against himself in tests of aerobic fitness, flexibility, and muscular strength. He knows what it means to be physically, mentally and morally straight.

He is a good family member, understanding those things that are important to other members of his family, comfortable talking about finances, drug abuse, and safety plans.

These things, and more, are accomplished in order to earn the 10 merit badges that were required for Eagle. These three also chose to pursue other merit badges of their choosing, not just old standby’s such as backpacking, fishing, and wilderness survival, but others such as Farm Mechanics, American Heritage, Coin Collecting, Aviation, and Art.

So, what is an Eagle Scout? Well, to quote the 1938 BSA Scoutmasters Handbook, “He is a young man who is qualified to help others as well as take care of himself. His badge, like all the others before it, is not a decoration, but rather a symbol of knowledge and ability.”

Lastly, in keeping with our Troop’s tradition, an American Flag was flown in each of the boy’s honor over the US Capitol, and they will be presented with their flag, along with their other Eagle paraphernalia this evening. The gift is congratulations for their accomplishment, but the flag also represents the Eagle Scout’s never-ending duty to his fellow man, his community, and his country. Congratulations again, Jackson, Michael, and Walter.

Matthew: I would now like to ask that Mr. Bufkin come forward, and ask the Honor Guard to escort Walter, for the first of our three Eagle Charge’s:

*Mr. Bufkin and Walter’s Charge.*

Matthew: Thank you, Mr. Bufkin. I will now ask Walter to have a seat up here, and for the Honor Guard to bring up Michael Medico.

*Mr. Bufkin and Michael’s Charge.*

Matthew: Thank you, Mr. Bufkin. I will now ask Michael to have a seat up here, and for the Honor Guard to bring up Jackson Langhout.

Matthew: Mr. White, I invite you to provide Jackson’s Eagle Charge.

*Mr. White and Jackson’s charge. (Mr. White to stay after)*

Matthew: Thank you, Mr. White. I will now or Honoree’s to escort each other’s parents forward.

Mr. White: Now for the moment that everyone has been waiting for…the Eagle Scout award presentation.

Jackson, Michael, and Walter, you deserve much credit for having achieved Scouting’s highest award. Wear your award with humility, ever mindful that the Eagle Scout is looked up to as an example. May the Scout Oath and Law be your guide 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 upon you all of the regalia of the Eagle Scout.

*\*Mr. White to hand the eagle medals to the three mothers to pin on their sons.*

*\*Give mother pins to Jackson, Michael, and Walter to pin on their moms*

No one will ever know the unnumbered acts of self-sacrifice and helpfulness from the mother of an Eagle Scout which has led to this evening. As the symbol of what this mother has made possible, this Court now asks the boys to present his mother a miniature Eagle pin

*Jackson, Michael and Walter to pin their mothers*

Also, the father of an Eagle Scout has watched as his son has aged into the young man that he is today. Jackson, Michael, and Walter’s fathers have done just this. They watched as each experienced trials and tribulations, and provided them with the appropriate support along the way. Just for that, these three men deserve a round of applause.

*Jackson, Michael and Walter to pin their Dad’s*

Mr. White: Honor guard, please escort the parents back to their seats.

Mr. White: Jackson, Michael, and Walter, by repeating of the Eagle Scout pledge before your fellow members earlier tonight, you pledged yourself on your sacred honor, using the same words which are found at the end of the Declaration of Independence, and you sealed your eternal loyalty to the code of the Eagle Scout.

By the authority vested in me be the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America, it is my privilege as Scoutmaster of Troop 23 and my sincere pleasure to once again pronounce as an Eagle Scout-Jackson, Michael, and Walter.

Matthew: Now at this time the guys would like to give a few words as a New Eagle Scout

*Walter Eagle Scout Speech, and then invite mentors up*

*Michael Eagle Scout Speech, and then invite mentors up*

*Jackson Eagle Scout Speech, and then invite mentors up*

Matthew: Honor guard please escort Jackson, Michael, and Walter back to their seats.

Matthew: We now ask Lori Haas of the Church of the Palms to come forward and to provide us a Benediction to bring this ceremony to a close.

Thank you, Ms. Haas.

We will now retire the colors and conclude this Court of Honor, so if Will could please come forward.

*Will directs the Color Guard to retire the colors*

Matthew: Thank you all for coming and we hope to see you in the gym for dinner.