

Eagle Scout Ceremony for Devin Spivey on June 24, 2017

DYLAN SPIVEY: Ladies and gentlemen, please rise.

Scout salute. Everyone please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

I pledge Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Two.

Scout Sign. Please join me in reciting the Scout Oath.

On my honor, I will do my best

To do my duty to God and my country

And to obey the Scout Law;

To help other people at all times;

To keep myself physically strong,

mentally awake, and morally straight.

Two.

Please be seated. Good afternoon, my name is Dylan Spivey. As Senior Patrol Leader for Magnolia Springs Troop 97 it is my pleasure to call this Eagle Court of Honor to order. I would like to introduce today's master of ceremonies, Dr. Ray Reynolds.

RAY: Thank you. As Dylan said, my name is Dr. Ray Reynolds and I have the pleasure of being Master of Ceremonies for this Eagle Court of Honor to recognize the accomplishments of Devin Spivey.

To earn the highest rank in Scouting, a Scout must spend a great deal of time and effort fulfilling the requirements of rank advancement. Devin's efforts, as well as those of his Scout leaders and his family, culminate today in the presentation of the Eagle Scout Badge. This is an occasion for pride and joy, as well as a time for reflection. We will now be led in prayer by Luke Reynolds.

LUKE REYNOLDS: Lord, you bring us together this afternoon to honor an Eagle Scout. We acknowledge your guidance in helping boys and adults work together to build strong character, physical fitness, ethical leadership and an appreciation of the outdoors. Lord, continue to watch over these boys as they grow into young men, and give the adults the patience and wisdom to guide them. Amen.

RAY: It is my pleasure to be a part of this ceremony for Devin Spivey for his achievement as an Eagle Scout. I was honored to write a recommendation letter for Devin. It was easy to do that. During his elementary, junior high, and high school years, Devin has always participated in many activities with the church youth group, Lads 2 Leaders program, and is one of the strongest leaders in our youth group. I believe that he stands "above the crowd" and look forward to seeing what God does through him. Here are some of the things I said about him in my letter... and I know that Jon Hackett, our Youth Minister who is away on a mission in Costa Rica, would say similar things if he were here.

Devin shows respect to those in positions of leadership and authority. He also demonstrates patience with those who operate below his own level of maturity. Devin pursues his own interests, even when they are not the common pastimes of his peers.

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Devin thinks for himself – but not only about himself. He listens to others' opinions, and then carefully sifts through all available information before making up his own mind. He is willing to work and participate in service areas. For example, he is very active with Scouts of America and a program at our congregation called Lads 2 Leaders. Both require a lot of service and leadership. Devin is not afraid to preach, teach, or speak in front of various size audiences when asked. He is always willing to step forward and lead. It has been a joy to work with at church with him. I have also come to know him as a friend. I believe his stable personality and strong character will benefit any program he is a part of... and it is especially a blessing to our church family.

If there were ever a man in the Bible that could be qualified as one worthy of being compared to a Scout, it would probably be David – now I know he wasn't perfect, but he worked well outdoors, thought of others, had amazing skills with a bow, slingshot, and a sword... and he was a dynamic leader. Arguably, despite his faults, he was probably the greatest leader that Israel ever had. Interestingly enough he is called a "*man after God's own heart.*" If we listen to the way he prays, in the psalms, we will see how he saw God and how it impacted his own life, and how his relationship with the Lord shaped his entire life... and revealed a lifetime of service.

In a few moments we will go through an entire list of Scout Laws. Each of these can be compared and contrasted with King David... especially as he wrote them in the book of Psalms. But these were not just words.... They were songs. Written from a man who dedicated his entire life to serving God. It was more than just words of a page... or a motto to be memorized... or a list of characteristics... These were words he lived by! Being an eagle scout is a huge thing.

Famous people have tried (Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts) and failed to reach this level:

- Henry Aaron - Baseball player, home run king
- Walter Cronkite – newsman
- Harrison Ford - Life, taught Reptile Study, actor "Indiana Jones" & "Han Solo"
- Bill Gates - Life, founder of Microsoft Corp.
- Andy Griffith – Actor
- Sir Paul McCartney - Rock N Roll, Beatles (UK)
- John F Kennedy - First US President who was a Scout
- Bill Clinton - President of the United States
- George W. Bush - President of the United States
- Barack Obama - President of the United States

You now share this honor with men like...

- Neil Armstrong - astronaut, first man on moon, from Wapakoneta, OH
- President Gerald Ford - U.S. President (1st Eagle to be President)
- Steven Fossett - Flew solo nonstop around the world in a hot air balloon
- James Lovell - Navy pilot and astronaut, Flew on Gemini 7, 12 & Apollo 8, 13
- H. Ross Perot - Self-made billionaire and presidential candidate
- Rick Perry – Former Governor, State of Texas, current Secretary of Energy
- Mike Rowe – Famous celebrity and host of Dirty Jobs
- Donald Rumsfeld – Former Secretary of Defense
- Jeff Sessions – Former Senator from Alabama, now the Attorney General of the US
- Steven Spielberg – Movie director and producer
- Sam Walton - Founder, Wal-Mart

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We know it took a lot of hard work and dedication to get this point. We are very proud of Devin! No doubt, God is pleased with his hard work! Only 4 in every 100 scouts get to this point. So we are excited for you and blessed to see you receive this honor!!!

Since this is a way of life... and reveals a lifetime of service... which you are dedicated to fulfilling... I want to remind you of a quote from Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, who said, "There is no religious side to the movement; the whole of it is based on religion, that is on the realization and service of God." In keeping with that spirit, let us consider how the Scout Law aligns with Scripture.

A Scout is Trustworthy.

DYLAN SPIVEY: A Scout tells the truth. He keeps his promises. Honesty is part of his code of conduct. People can depend on him.

LUKE: Psalm 101:6 - I will look for trustworthy people so I can live with them in the land. Only those who live innocent lives will be my servants.

RAY: A Scout is Loyal.

DYLAN SPIVEY: A Scout is true to his family, Scout leaders, friends, school, and nation.

LUKE: Psalm 40:10 - I do not hide your goodness in my heart; I speak about your loyalty and salvation. I do not hide your love and truth from the people in the great meeting.

RAY: A Scout is Helpful.

DYLAN SPIVEY: A Scout is concerned about other people. He does things willingly for others without pay or reward.

LUKE: Deuteronomy 15:11 - There will always be poor people in the land, so I command you to give freely to your neighbors and to the poor and needy in your land.

RAY: A Scout is Friendly.

DYLAN SPIVEY: A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts. He seeks to understand others. He respects those with ideas and customs other than his own.

LUKE: 1 Peter 2:17 - Show respect for all people: Love the brothers and sisters of God's family, respect God, honor the king.

RAY: A Scout is Courteous.

DYLAN SPIVEY: A Scout is polite to everyone regardless of age or position. He knows good manners make it easier for people to get along together.

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LUKE: 1 Peter 3:8 - Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous.

RAY: A Scout is Kind.

DYLAN SPIVEY: A Scout understands there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated. He does not hurt or kill harmless things without reason.

LUKE: Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

RAY: A Scout is Obedient.

DYLAN SPIVEY: A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rules and laws are unfair, he tries to have them changed in an orderly manner rather than disobey them.

LUKE: Ephesians 6:1-3 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" – which is the first commandment with a promise – "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

RAY: A Scout is Cheerful.

DYLAN SPIVEY: A Scout looks for the bright side of things. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way. He tries to make others happy.

LUKE: 2 Corinthians 9:7 - Each of you should give as you have decided in your heart to give. You should not be sad when you give, and you should not give because you feel forced to give. God loves the person who gives happily.

RAY: A Scout is Thrifty.

DYLAN SPIVEY: A Scout works to pay his way and to help others. He saves for unforeseen needs. He protects and conserves natural resources. He carefully uses time and property.

LUKE: John 6:12 - When they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments so that nothing will be lost."

RAY: A Scout is Brave.

DYLAN SPIVEY: A Scout can face danger even if he is afraid. He has the courage to stand for what he thinks is right even if others laugh at or threaten him.

LUKE: Psalm 3:3 - But, Lord, you are my shield, my wonderful God who gives me courage.

RAY: A Scout is Clean.

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DYLAN SPIVEY: A Scout keeps his body and mind fit and clean. He goes around with those who believe in living by these same ideals. He helps keep his home and community clean.

LUKE: Psalm 24:3-4 - Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.

RAY: A Scout is Reverent.

DYLAN SPIVEY: A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.

LUKE: Mark 12:30 - Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

RAY: I would now like to introduce Ken Styron of Troop 97.

KEN: When a boy joins Boy Scouts, there is within him, something that we call Scout Spirit. The boy may not know that it exists, or know its meaning, but by following the trail to Eagle the scout is enlightened.

The pathway to Eagle can be described as a steep trail leading up to three peaks, the highest being that of Eagle Scout.

The trail starts with the Scout rank and continues through Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks. During this phase, the scouts are given instruction and guidance. They are learning important outdoor skills, including camping, cooking, physical fitness, and developing teamwork and leadership skills.

They are also being examined. The adult leaders are watching to see if the flicker of light representing duty, service and law is growing within.

Reaching First Class is a crucial step in a Scout's life. He has demonstrated that he has met the requirements at each rank and is showing SCOUT SPIRIT.

Then, the mountain climbing begins. To begin the climb, the scout is first asked, "Are you ready for the next challenge?" Secondly, "Can you and will you teach others what you have learned?"

The path going forward is marked with Service, Leadership, Exploration and a stronger presence of Scout Spirit.

The first peak to be reached is the Star Scout. The scout has provided leadership to his troop, he has provided service to fellow scouts and to his community and he is completing merit badges of personal interest as well as those required to reach Eagle. At this point the scout is a Star. He has done well. The scouting family expects the light to be shining more brightly.

The second peak is the Life Scout. Again, the scout must complete several hours of service to the community. The scout must demonstrate additional leadership within the troop. The scout must complete several merit badges. And finally, the scout must have embodied Scout Spirit in his daily life.

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The badge for Life Scout contains a heart. This is the only rank position that shows what Boy Scouts is all about and what is inside the scout. This rank badge answers these questions:

Does he understand his duty?

Does he understand the 12 points of the law?

What is in this young man's heart?

What could be more important than this rank?

The third peak is the Eagle Scout. The scout has demonstrated he is a Star and he has embodied the Scout Spirit in his Life. Now he must be tested on one final climb to see if it is truly part of his character. The requirements are much the same as Star and Life, however the scout must now go into the community, plan, organize, coordinate, and deliver a service project; a demonstration of leadership and character.

One final time the scout must go before a group of adults who focus on his character, his leadership and his spirit.

Does he reach the peak? Has he proven himself? Can he leap from the top peak and fly like an Eagle? Devin, are you an Eagle? (response)

I would now like to ask Colby Styron to come forward and give the Eagle pledge.

COLBY: Devin, please come and stand with me.

Eagle Scout candidate Devin Spivey, as a representative of the Eagle Scouts of the Mobile Area Council, I welcome you to the brotherhood of Eagle Scouts. Less than 2 percent of the boys who enter Scouting achieve what you are being recognized for today. The requirements are demanding, but fair, requiring perseverance and ability.

I am not here to talk of your past accomplishments, which are great, but of your future opportunities. When you attend a Scouting function, Scouters will recognize you as a doer, and you will be standing as an equal among leaders.

Your Eagle Award will go far beyond Scouting itself. When you apply to a college or apply for a job, Eagle Scout on your application will set you apart from others. The things you have done and the leadership and character you have developed will serve you better than a certificate and a piece of ribbon in a frame. You will have opportunities to be of service to others, through your school, your work, and through Scouting, because you know what you can accomplish.

In the years to come, when you will casually meet men who are Eagles also, there will be an instant bond of comradeship. For you have each shared a common experience. You each know the other can be trusted, as a friend and as a brother Scout. The comradeship among Eagles extends throughout the nation, yes even around the world. Devin, for the rest of your life, you travel as a marked man; an Eagle Scout.

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The Eagle Scout candidate will now take the Eagle Scout pledge. As the candidate takes this pledge for the first time, will all Eagle Scouts who are present in the audience please stand and reaffirm their pledge? Before that, I would those Eagles in attendance to introduce yourself and when you received your rank of Eagle?

(All Eagles stand and introduce themselves)

Thank you. And now, Attention. Scout Sign.
Eagle Scouts, please 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 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.

Devin, you are deserving of much credit in having achieved Scouting's highest award. However, wear your award with humility, ever mindful that the Eagle Scout is looked up to as an example. May the Scout Oath and the Scout Law be your guide for tomorrow and onward.

Ken Styron will now award the rank of Eagle to Devin. I would ask that Devin's parents, Brandon and Shannon Spivey come to the front.

PRESENTATION OF THE EAGLE AWARD

KEN: The symbol of your success is the Eagle badge which is now being presented to your mother. Your mother will, in turn, pin the badge over your heart.

(presentation of badge)

In recognition of the wisdom and guidance given to you by your father will you present to him this Eagle pin, which he will be proud to wear in your honor.

(presentation of father's pin)

And now, also in recognition of the many hours of patient guidance given by her in your efforts, will you pin the Eagle mother's pin on your mother.

(presentation of mother's pin)

I would also like Dylan Spivey to come forward, remove Devin's Troop 97 neckerchief and dress him in the Eagle neckerchief.

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PRESENTATION OF EAGLE SCOUT CERTIFICATE

Now, would the audience please rise. By the authority vested in me by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, I hereby present to you our newest Eagle Scout. Let's give him a round of applause.

PRESENTATION OF NESA MEMBERSHIP

By virtue of your earning the Eagle Award, you are now eligible to become a member of the National Eagle Scout Association. I have the honor of presenting your membership to you. Fail not your fellow Eagles, for your responsibilities are now greater than before. As you go forward in life, receiving other honors and awards, always remember this day when you became an Eagle Scout.

PRESENTATION OF TROOP PLAQUE

PRESENTATION OF EAGLE GIFTS

(Pause) Now, I would like to invite Devin to say a few words about his Scouting experience.

DEVIN'S EAGLE RESPONSE

(Give Eagle response. Then invite each adult up that he wants to acknowledge, presents him/her with a gift and asks him/her to say a few words.)

ED WITHERINGTON: CLOSING PRAYER

DYLAN SPIVEY: As Senior Patrol Leader for Magnolia Springs Troop 97, I hereby declare this Court of Honor complete and this meeting adjourned. The family invites you to share refreshments with us in the multipurpose building next door. Please be sure to congratulate our newest Eagle!