

EAGLE CEREMONY FOR STEVEN AND CHRIS

Emily Humphrey plays ‘Amazing Grace’ on her bag pipes

Steven and Chris are escorted down to front row and seated by Eagle Honor Guard (all Eagle Scouts present.) Eagle Honor Guard sits in row with Steven and Chris.

Master of Ceremonies (MC), Pastor Ed Owens, says: Welcome Scouts and Scouters, parents and friends. My name is Ed Owens. I am the Pastor of Olivet Baptist Church which charters Troop 272 and I am pleased to serve as Master of Ceremonies on this special occasion. About 7 years ago, Christopher Cunningham and Steven McCarthy accepted a challenge – not only to learn the Scout Oath and Law, but to live them out in their daily lives, not only to be good Scouts, but to become two of the best, two of the four percent of all Scouts worthy of the rank of Eagle. Since that time, they have met that challenge successfully, and we are gathered here tonight to celebrate their achievements.

Before we begin our program, I’d like to introduce a few special people: Jason Kerschke, the Senior District Executive of the Mawanjidiwin District, Charles Nunez of Character Resources of Michigan, Joe McIntosh, the Scoutmaster of Troop 43, Mrs. Erlene Esters who will speak for Steven McCarthy, Mr. Roger Eakin, who will speak for Christopher Cunningham, Jim Kleiver, Scoutmaster of Troop 33, Tom Trumble, Troop 272 Committee member, and Pastor Stephen Pribble of Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

I’d like to remind you all that there will be a reception honoring our new Eagles immediately following the ceremony in the back of the church.

Now, please rise for the invocation and remain standing for the presentation of the colors. (Everyone stands)

MC prays

Ethan McCarthy plays the National Anthem on the trumpet while the color guard of 272 brings the flag up (already on the pole) and puts it in the stand. Color guard goes to rear of sanctuary and is seated.

Jason Kerschke comes to the microphone.

EAGLE CEREMONY FOR STEVEN AND CHRIS

Jason Kerschke: You may be seated. As the representative of the Chief Okemos Council, I call this Court of Honor to order for the purpose of presenting the Eagle Award to Steven McCarthy and Christopher Cunningham. The Scout Law will now be presented.

Scoutmaster McCarthy and Daniel Irvine go to the front of the room and take their place behind the log and candles.

Daniel Irvine: A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. These words must have meaning to be of any value in a Scout's life.

Scoutmaster McCarthy: A Scout is trustworthy. (Lights one candle)

Daniel: Trustworthiness is the badge of honesty. Having it lets you look any man straight in the eye. Lacking it, he won't look back. It is at the top of the list.

Scoutmaster: A Scout is loyal. (Lights next candle)

Daniel: The very word is life itself, for without loyalty we have no love of person or country.

Scoutmaster: A Scout is helpful. (Lights next candle)

Daniel: Helpfulness is part sharing, part caring. By helping each other, we help mankind, we help ourselves.

Scoutmaster: A Scout is friendly. (Lights next candle)

Daniel: Brotherhood is part of friendliness. You can take it in a lot of directions – and do – but make sure you start with brotherhood.

Scoutmaster: A Scout is courteous. (Lights next candle)

Daniel: Allow each person his human dignity, which means a lot more than saying, 'Yes, Ma'am' and 'thank you, sir.' It reflects an attitude of putting others' well-being ahead of your own.

Scoutmaster: A Scout is kind. (Lights next candle)

EAGLE CEREMONY FOR STEVEN AND CHRIS

Daniel: Kindness would eliminate wars and erase hatreds. But it is like your bicycle. It's no good unless you use it.

Scoutmaster: A Scout is obedient. (Lights next candle)

Daniel: Start at home, practice obedience in your family, and enlarge it to your Troop, your Government, and God.

Scoutmaster: A Scout is cheerful. (Lights next candle)

Daniel: Anyone can put on a happy face when the going is good. To be positive and encouraging when life is hard is the real test.

Scoutmaster: A Scout is thrifty. (Lights next candle)

Daniel: Means a lot more than putting pennies away, and it's the opposite of cheap. It means using what you have well.

Scoutmaster: A Scout is brave. (Lights next candle)

Daniel: Bravery is doing what's right, even when it's difficult. 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, doing a good day's work, and living the best life they know how against a lot of odds.

Scoutmaster: A Scout is clean. (Lights next candle)

Daniel: Soap and water help a lot on the outside. But it's what is inside that counts the most. What you think will eventually determine who you are.

Scoutmaster: A Scout is reverent. (Lights next candle)

Daniel: Keep God at the top of your list of Important People to stay connected to. With Him, your life will be an adventure; without Him, you're just biding time.

Both return to their seats.

EAGLE CEREMONY FOR STEVEN AND CHRIS

MC – I would like to introduce you to a person who has known Steven and Chris for many years. He is a dad, a coach, a mentor. He has been their soccer coach as well as role model for many years. He is a man of integrity who understands the importance of character and where character comes from. Please welcome Charles Nunez of Character Resources of Michigan.

Charlie Nunez – speaks – then returns to his seat.

EAGLE SCOUT SEGMENT

MC: Thank you so much, Mr. Nunez. Joe McIntosh, the Scoutmaster of Troop 43 and Jim Kleiver, the Scoutmaster of Troop 33 have agreed to serve in the Scoutmaster role tonight so that Troop 272's Scoutmaster, John McCarthy may be primarily a parent. Erlene Esters was one of both Steven and Christopher's first Scout leaders in Troop 316. She is the mother of an Eagle Scout and was instrumental in Steven completing his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project. Roger Eakin is the Committee Chair of Troop 43 and the father of two Eagle Scouts. He was a mentor To Chris while completing his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project. They will come forward at this time. The Honor Guard will escort the two candidates to the front at this time also.

Honor Guard escort Steven and Chris to the front, then take seats together in the front row – on the right side of the room.

[The Challenge Ceremony]

Joe McIntosh, Jim Kleiver, Erlene Esters, and Roger Eakin come forward – stand on left side of stage.

Joe McIntosh: We come now to that part of our court of honor where we award the candidates the rank of Eagle Scout.

Erlene Esters: Sir, I have the honor to present Life Scout, Steven McCarthy for the award of Eagle Scout.

Roger Eakin: Sir, I have the honor to present Life Scout, Christopher Cunningham for the award of Eagle Scout.

Joe McIntosh: Awarding the Eagle Badge of rank is an important and serious matter. It is the goal toward which these Scouts have been working for several years. It is the culmination of effort by their parents and Scout

EAGLE CEREMONY FOR STEVEN AND CHRIS

Leaders. It is an occasion for pride and for joy, but, it is also a time for serious contemplation.

Jim Kleiver: The Eagle Badge of rank is the highest and most coveted award in all of Scouting, and it is the last major step in the advancement program. If at this point, Scouting has not achieved its purpose of building character--then it probably never shall. These thoughts, which are the basic code of Scouting, are well summed up in the pledge that is taken by every Scout in the council upon advancement to Eagle rank.

Joe McIntosh: (To Eagle candidates) I will read the pledge so that you will know that which you are about to promise, and then I will ask you to repeat it after me.

I believe in the Boy Scouts of America as a movement, which has as its goals and purposes, character building, citizenship training, physical development. I believe it to be a movement that helps a Scout become master of his own powers, helps him get along with others, and helps him find worthy use for his powers. I believe it is my duty to do my best to obey the Scout Oath and Law. I hereby renew my faith in Scouting and promise to do what I can in service to other Scouts who have not advanced this far along the Eagle trail.

Having heard the Eagle pledge and are you willing to adopt it?

Candidates: I am.

Joe McIntosh: Raise your hand in the Scout sign and repeat after me.

(A Life Scout in the audience interrupts.)

Ethan McCarthy: Stop! I respectfully challenge the right of Steven McCarthy to be awarded the rank of Eagle.

Erlene Esters: Who are you and by what right do you challenge?

Ethan McCarthy: I am a Life Scout, and my esteem for the Eagle rank gives me the right to so challenge.

Erlene Esters: On what grounds do you challenge?

EAGLE CEREMONY FOR STEVEN AND CHRIS

Ethan McCarthy: Has this Scout achieved the requirements in Scoutcraft and Life Interest?

Erlene Esters: His application was verified, and indicates that he has satisfactorily completed the required 21 merit badges in the various fields of endeavor. Are you satisfied Life Scout?

Ethan McCarthy: I am.

(A Tenderfoot Scout in the audience interrupts.)

Michael Hannah: I challenge the right of Christopher Cunningham to be awarded the rank of Eagle

Roger Eakin: Who are you and by what right do you challenge?

Michael Hannah: I am a Tenderfoot Scout, and the respect that I have for the uniform that I wear gives me the right to so challenge.

Roger Eakin: On what grounds do you challenge?

Michael Hannah: Do we have proof that this Scout has actively participated in Scouting in his troop? Has he demonstrated leadership, and done his best to help in his home, school, church, and community?

Roger Eakin: As a member of the Board of Review for Christopher, I certify that for more than 6 months since attaining the Life rank, this Scout has held leadership positions in his troop. Also, he has been active in school, church, and community activities. Are you now satisfied?

Michael Hannah: I am.

(An Eagle Scout in the Honor Guard interrupts.)

Dan Miloch, Eagle 1: I too challenge the right of these Scouts to be awarded the rank of Eagle.

Joe McIntosh: Who are you and by what right do you challenge?

Dan Miloch, Eagle 1: I am an Eagle Scout, and the pride that I have in this badge that I wear over my heart gives me the right to so challenge.

EAGLE CEREMONY FOR STEVEN AND CHRIS

Joe McIntosh: On what grounds do you challenge?

Dan Miloch, Eagle 1: Have these Scouts, nearing the end of the Eagle trail, demonstrated a Scouting Spirit? Has their ability to live and act in accordance with the ideals of Scouting, as exemplified by the Scout Oath, Law, motto, and slogan been noted?

Alex Esters, Eagle 2: The Scout Oath is “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.”

Aaron Selis, Eagle 3: The Scout motto is Be Prepared.

Ben Batdorf, Eagle 4: The Scout slogan is Do a Good Turn Daily.

Tom Trumble (stands in the audience): As a member of both the boards that reviewed each of these Scout's records, I certify that, after investigation, interview, and examination, both boards are of the opinion that these Scouts have demonstrated that they have held to the spirit of Scouting in daily life. Each board recommends advancement to Eagle for both of these Life Scouts.

Joe McIntosh: Are you now satisfied?

Dan Miloch, Eagle 1: I am still not satisfied. I believe that these candidates should understand that the Eagle Rank is a big responsibility as well as an honor, and I respectfully ask that the candidates be informed of the responsibilities of an Eagle Scout before continuing further.

Joe McIntosh: Thank you, Eagle Scout. I agree with your feelings and suggest that none are more qualified to impart this than those who wear the Eagle Badge. I invite you and your fellow Eagles to the platform.

Dan Miloch, Aaron Selis, Alex Esters, and Ben Batdorf go to the platform.

Alex Esters, Eagle #2: The first responsibility of an Eagle Scout is to live with honor, which to an Eagle is sacred. Honor is the foundation of character -- it is what a person really is, down inside and before God, not what someone may think he is. An Eagle will live so as to reflect credit upon his

EAGLE CEREMONY FOR STEVEN AND CHRIS

home, church, school, friends, upon Scouting, and upon himself. May the white of your Eagle badge always remind you to live with honor.

Aaron Selis, Eagle #3: The second responsibility of an Eagle Scout is loyalty, for without loyalty, character lacks direction. An Eagle is loyal to his ideals. May the blue of your Eagle badge always remind you to be loyal.

Ben Batdorf, Eagle #4: The third responsibility of an Eagle Scout is courage. Courage gives character force and strength. Trusting in God and with regard for his fellowman, the Eagle faces each day unafraid, and seeks his share of the world's work. May the red of your Eagle badge always remind you of courage.

Alex Esters, Eagle #2: The final responsibility of an Eagle Scout is service. He extends a helping hand to those who toil up the Scouting trail he has completed, just as others helped him in his achievement of the Eagle rank. The habit of the daily Good Turn must take on new meaning and blossom forth into a life of service. The Eagle protects and defends the weak and the helpless. He aids and comforts the oppressed and the unfortunate. He upholds the rights of others while defending his own. His code of honor is based upon the belief that leadership is founded upon real service.

Dan Miloch, Eagle #1: Mr. Chairman, if these candidates are willing and eager to accept the mantle of responsibility, as well as the honor of the badge, then I will be satisfied and request that you proceed to administer the Eagle pledge.

Joe McIntosh: (To Eagle candidates) Are you ready and willing to accept these responsibilities and to adopt the Eagle pledge which I have read to you at the beginning of this ceremony.

Candidates: (both say) I am.

Joe McIntosh: Raise your hand in the Scout sign and repeat after me.

"I believe in the Boy Scouts of America as a movement, which has as its goals and purposes, character building, citizenship training, physical development. I believe it to be a movement that helps a Scout become master of his own powers, helps him get along with others, and helps him find worthy use for his powers. I believe it is my duty to do my best to obey the Scout Oath and Law. I hereby renew my faith in Scouting and promise to

EAGLE CEREMONY FOR STEVEN AND CHRIS

do what I can in service to other Scouts who have not advanced this far along the Eagle trail.

Joe McIntosh: Now, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, I hereby award the rank of Eagle Scout.

(Gives each their award)

Joe McIntosh: At this time we would like to give you the opportunity to say a few words.

Christopher:

Steven:

Jim Kleiver: Since the parents of these Scouts have been so instrumental in his attaining the Eagle rank, I will ask that they come to the platform.

Both couples come together and stand by their son.

Jim Kleiver: After God, your parents have undoubtedly been your primary source of help and strength.

I'm sure you appreciate the numerous acts of self-sacrifice done by your mothers. I'd like your Mothers to pin the Eagle medal on your uniforms. (Mothers do so)

In recognition of your mother's devotion, please present her with this Eagle mother's pin. (Steven and Chris pins them on mothers)

Your fathers have been the source of much advice and guidance along the Eagle trail, so I'd like your father to present the Eagle Scout certificate to you. (They do so)

In return, please present your father with this Eagle tie tack. (Steven and Chris do so)

Joe McIntosh to audience: And now it gives me great pleasure to present to you our newest Eagle Scouts, Christopher Cunningham and Steven McCarthy.

Audience responds with clapping and standing ovation.

EAGLE CEREMONY FOR STEVEN AND CHRIS

MC: Tonight has been a special event. Thank you all for coming out and participating with Christopher and Steven and their families. Please stand as the Scouts of Troop 272 retire the colors and remain standing as Pastor Pribble gives our benediction.

Color guard retires the colors.

Pastor Pribble: (goes forward to front) prays

MC: You are dismissed; please join us at the reception. Good night.

Recessional by David McCarthy