**Court of Honor 9/12/2023 Draft Script**

Welcome Scouts, parents and friends. It’s great to see such a wonderful turnout tonight. My name is Gerritt Ewing, your Troop Committee Chair for Troop 266. Tonight, is our first Court of Honor for the new Scouting year and it is great to be back and see everyone meeting together. As most of you know, we have resumed weekly Troop Meetings on Tuesday nights at 7:30 PM in the gym upstairs and have kicked off our camping schedule with the canoeing campout just this last weekend.

Before we get into the awards, I also wanted to make a few administrative announcements so everyone can stay up to speed on Scouting activities for Troop 266. First, all of you should be able to log into Scoutbook online where you will see a calendar of meetings, the official advancement records for your scout and current service projects coming up. If you are not up on Scoutbook, please let one of the adult leaders know so we can help you establish an account. Once you become accustomed to using the website, you will have all the latest information about the Troop and your Scout as well as receiving email messages from the Troop. This is the primary method by which the Troop communicates with its membership. A secondary source of information can be found on the Troop website [www.Troop](http://www.Troop) 266.com. One of our adult leaders, Eric Tamm, has been rehabbing the website recently and it now has up to date pictures, scouting forms and a calendar of events. Go take a look when you get a chance. And finally, we are having a parents meeting immediately following the Court of Honor tonight so please join us for that meeting.

Now, on to our program for this evening…..

Our Troop Court of Honor recognizes our Scout’s advancements in rank, merit badge completions and other special accomplishments. Generally, we have Courts of Honor in May, September and January every year in order to recognize our Scouts. The only departure from this regimen are Eagle Scout Courts of Honor which are held separately.

At this time, I would ask Senior Patrol Leader **Blake Messa** to please come forward for the presentation of the colors.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS, SCOUT OATH, SCOUT LAW and OUTDOOR CODE

SPL will call color guard to present colors, lead pledge of allegiance, scout oath, scout law and Outdoor Code.

Thank you, **Blake.**

Remembering that a scout is reverent, will our acting troop chaplain’s aide for this evening**, Gus Jenman** deliver the invocation.

INVOCATION

Chaplain’s Aide gives the invocation. [Use below or something similar]

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen! Would you kindly remove all non-religious headgear and prepare yourselves for prayer in the manner in which you are accustomed.

Great Spirit, please come stay with us as we come together

Let all the earth keep silence in your presence.

[Slowly read]

Be within us, to strengthen us. Outside of us, to keep us;

Above us, to protect us; Beneath us, to uphold us.

Before us, to direct us; Behind us, to keep us on the right path;

And, all around us, to love us. Amen

Thank you Gus**,**

SUMMARY of RECENT TROOP ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

**[Sean, can you fill this in with the summer activities-Bear Creek, etc.]**

SCOUT RECOGNITION

Now it is time to recognize our scouts. This evening, we are proud to recognize a list of scouts who have earned rank advancement and completed requirements for merit badges.

RANK ADVANCEMENT

Scouting BSA recognizes a Scout’s achievements by awarding badges of rank. The first 4 are Scout, Tenderfoot, 2nd class and 1st class. Next comes Star and Life rank. The highest rank is Eagle. The Scout Handbook tells us that you can advance at your own pace, and active scouts will usually earn 1st class within 18 months. National policy adds that older scouts should advance at least 1 rank each year thereafter. Our troop program offers scouts every opportunity to advance at this pace.

Tonight, we have candidates for First Class, Star and Life Ranks to present. We will now present each rank separately.

FIRST CLASS RANK RECOGNITION

**Mr. Ewing: At this time I would like to ask Thomas Larsson to come forward to read the requirements for the First Class Rank.**

**Reader \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:**

***The First Class badge includes the Tenderfoot and 2nd class badges put together, indicating you are now a complete scout. You have tested yourself even more. You have tried greater adventures and practiced your scout skills many times. With the confidence and knowledge you now have, you will expect more of yourself. You are prepared to be more of a leader in your patrol, your troop and your community. As we present you with your First Class badge, we charge you to continue your development as a scout, so that you may better serve others.***

***Mr. Ewing: Next I would ask SM Sean Rooney and Advancement Chair Zephanie Reed to come forward to make the presentation.***

Scoutmaster: Will the following scout please escort their parents to the front:

**Colin Singleton**

(Scoutmaster and Advancement Chair present awards; take pictures)

Mr. Ewing: Congratulations to Colin for achieving his First Class rank.

I want to thank everyone who has helped these scouts advance in rank. For these first four rank advancements, most of the work is done by the scout himself and other scouts who have already achieved the rank….and sometimes a push or two from the parents.

After the first class rank is achieved, the scout has the necessary skills to live in the outdoors. We will now move to the rank of STAR and Life. Tonight we have one Star Rank and one Life Rank candidate.

May I ask **Taj Dossa** to come forward to read the requirements of the Star Rank?

STAR RANK RECOGNITION

***Reader \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

 ***As you earn your Star Rank, you have more freedom to choose the directions that interest you. The focus shifts from basic scout skills to earning merit badges and demonstrating leadership. Requirements now include service to others, to serve in a leadership position for at least 4 months in your troop and take part in at least 1 service project. Star Scouts leave the part of the troop which receives scouting, and are now admitted to a smaller group who now provides scouting – to give leadership, guidance and inspiration to younger scouts who will follow their lead. Their willingness to do so is a pledge of service and a sign that their understanding of the ideals of scouting is growing. The star scout badge that they wear is a constant reminder of the star of service that guides them on the trail to manhood.***

**Thank you, Taj**

Scoutmaster: Will the following scout please escort their parents to the front:

**Alexander Somers**

(Scoutmaster and Advancement Chair present awards; pics to be taken)

LIFE RANK RECOGNITION

Mr. Ewing: Now we will move on to the Life Rank. May we have **Ollie Jenman** come forward to read the requirements of the Life Rank?

**Reader \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 ***The rank of Life scout is one that few scouts achieve. It is the rank before Eagle. You have earned more than half of the merit badges required for Eagle. The Life Rank requires the scout to be active in his troop for at least 6 months, serve his troop in a position of leadership for at least 6 months and take part in at least 1 service project. Scouts, in receiving your Life rank tonight, you are approaching your last step toward Eagle. You have shown that you can lead your troop in service and share in the scouting experiences you have received. The heart shape of the badge is symbolic of life, courage and growth. You must continue to grow in scouting, and share your knowledge and skills with others.***

Scoutmaster: Will the following scouts please escort their parents to the front?

**Ryan E. Wilson**

(Scoutmaster and Advancement Chair present awards)

EAGLE SCOUT RANK AND PALMS RECOGNITION

Mr. Ewing: When a scout reaches the rank of Eagle, we generally have a separate Court of Honor to recognize those scouts who achieve this important milestone. On average Troop 266 has 6 scouts a year who reach the Eagle rank. Last year in 2022 we had 8 Scouts attain the Eagle Rank. So far this year we have 6 Eagles. The total Eagle ranks for Troop 266 is 275 Eagles since 1951.

MERIT BADGE RECOGNITION

 (Scoutmaster and Advancement Chair present awards)

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Rank advancement beyond First Class does not consist of working on a long list of requirements, but now depends on the initiative of the scout to earn merit badges, some required, others are the scout’s choice. Tonight, we honor ­­­­­­the many scouts of Troop 266 who have earned merit badges over this past summer. Scoutmaster **Sean Rooney** and Advancement Chair Zephanie Reed will present them.

[Call up by Patrols and award the Merit Badges]

Thank you, **Sean and Zephanie.**

This concludes the recognition portion of the ceremony. Congratulations to all our scouts. Please see our Advancement Chair**, Zephanie Reed** at the next troop meeting if you did not receive something you think you have earned.

**Scoutmaster Minute: Sean Rooney [Sean to revise]**

**~~[Order of the Arrow Election~~**

**~~Introduce Charles Spain and Carter Burke so say a few words about the Order of the Arrow organization. Conduct the election.]~~**

FINAL COMMENTS

Some final comments.

* Please check the website frequently for the current Troop calendar. This is a busy time for our Troop and we need and benefit from everyone’s participation in as many Troop activities as possible.
* [A reception follows this program in the Drummett Building for the Scouts,

Scouts – please join me with a big round of thanks for all these folks. [clap]. And of course, many thanks to all of you who are supporting the Troop by volunteering for Committee positions, Assistant Scout Masters, and various Project leaders. We can always use more help so if you would like to help, please shoot me an email and we can discuss

I’d like to ask our chaplain’s aide, **Gus Jenman** to come forward for the closing benediction.

BENEDICTION

Chaplain’s Aide will give the benediction below or similar.

Thank you **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

Once again Ladies and Gentlemen, would you kindly remove all non-religious headgear and prepare yourselves for prayer in the manner in which you are accustomed

Help us, O Lord, to serve you day by day

To do your duty and enjoy our play,

To keep our promise and to rest,

Happy that we’ve tried to do our best.

Amen

Senior Patrol Leader **Blake Messa** will direct our closing.

CLOSING

SPL will retire the colors.

Thank you Blake **and Color Guard.**

**I would ask the parents to please stay behind for a brief parent’s meeting. Scouts, you are adjourned and can proceed to the reception in Drummet.**