

June 4, 2015
Court of Honor Script
Troop 25 Pelham, NH

SCRIPT FOR COH BEGINS HERE

SAM BLANCHARD: Welcome scouts, scouters, and parents to our June court of honor. My name is Sam Blanchard and I'll be your Master of Ceremonies for this court of honor.

SAM BLANCHARD: Would you all please rise for our opening ceremony.

1. Presentation of the Colors

SAM BLANCHARD: Would the color guard please prepare to present the colors.

SAM BLANCHARD: Color Guard, to your posts and retrieve the colors.

ACTION: Color Guard: Color Guard, picks up the flags and waits.

SAM BLANCHARD: Scouts salute. Color Guard Advance!

ACTION: Color Guard: Color Guard advance and post the colors.

ACTION: Color Guard: (*Present colors*)

SAM BLANCHARD: Please join me in reciting the pledge of allegiance

(Lead Pledge of Allegiance)

SAM BLANCHARD: Scouts “too.”

(still standing...)

SAM BLANCHARD: Please join our Troop Bugler, Will Campbell in reciting the Scout Oath & Law.

SAM BLANCHARD: Scouts “too”.

SAM BLANCHARD: Color Guard dismissed.

SAM BLANCHARD: Please remain standing at this time for our opening prayer.

2. Opening Prayer

Sam Blanchard: I'd like to call on James Ennis a Troop Guide for one of the first year patrols to please lead us in our opening prayer.

ACTION: James Ennis: comes to stand in front of the crowd

(prayer)

Philmont Opening Prayer

God, our father, we thank you for the beauty of the earth, for the food we eat, and for the comforts we enjoy. Help us to love others more, to be concerned with the problems of our day, and to understand Your will in our actions. Grant us the strength to live wisely and well, to be worthy users of Your creation, and ready and willing workers for the causes of Goodness. AMEN.

SAM BLANCHARD: Thank you James. – everyone please be seated.

3. Introductions (optional)

(read only if special guests are known and present)

Introduce any special guests (optional)

SAM BLANCHARD: *I'd like to welcome a special guest we have in the audience tonight. Would Mr. William Hayes please rise?*

Mr. Hayes served as an Assistant Scoutmaster and as a Committee Member of Troop 25. More importantly, he is the father of an Eagle Scout. Let's greet Mr. Hayes with a round of applause.

SAM BLANCHARD: *Welcome again to all of you and we are glad you are here to celebrate with us this evening.*

4. Lighting the “Light of Scouting”

Sam Blanchard: I would now like to call our Senior Patrol Leader, Michael Porter to come forward to begin our formal ceremonies.

Sam Blanchard: Thank you Sam.

MICHAEL PORTER: When a boy becomes a Boy Scout, there is within him something that we call Scout Spirit. When lit, this single candle here before us represents that spirit. Because the Spirit of Scouting embodies the principles of the Scout Oath and Law, it becomes a shining light to inspire us all. Alone, this light may seem feeble, but when multiplied by millions of boys in Scouting around the world, it is powerful force for good in our world.

ACTION: MICHAEL PORTER lights the single candle used to light all the others.

MICHAEL PORTER: Now that we can see things in the proper light, we’ll start off our court of honor with something fun! So I would like to call up the X Patrol to do their skit!

6. Special Awards

MICHAEL PORTER: And now to begin our awards presentations. First, we would like to present some special patches, which the troop has earned since our last court of honor.

Troop 25 began in the late 1920s but it’s charter was interrupted by World War II. In March of 1945, our charter was renewed and we have continuously served our community for over 70 years. For this reason our troop has earned a veteran patch to supplement the troop numerals on our uniforms.

Will Mr. Hayes please come forward to present the veteran bar patch for members of Troop 25.

Mr. Hayes, if present, may wish to say a few words. Michael will hold a small bag and invite the members of the troop to form a line and come

forward. As each member comes to stand before Mr. Hayes, Michael will hand to Mr. Hayes a patch that he may place into the hands of the scout. Once all the scouts present have received their patches Michael will thank Mr. Hayes.

Michael Porter: Thank you for your years of service and for honoring us tonight with your presence. You have added to the significance of these patches and we will wear them with pride.

Tote 'n Chip

Michael Porter: I would like to recognize Kenny Pawlowciz for earning his Tote 'n Chip award during the Food Vigil last fall.

Order of the Arrow

Michael Porter: I would like to recognize our newest member of the Order of the arrow. To do so, I would like Sam Blanchard, to come forward to introduce our recipient.

Sam Blanchard: The Order of the Arrow (OA) is the national honor society of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). It uses American Indian-styled traditions and ceremonies to bestow recognition on Scouts selected by their peers as best exemplifying the ideals of Scouting

Join me now, in recognizing James Ennis for having completed his Ordeal and having joined the Passaconaway Lodge. James, please rise. Will all others who are or have been members of the Order of the Arrow please rise. (applaud)

Michael Porter: Thank you Sam.

7. Awarding of Merit Badges

Michael Porter: I would like to call up my merit badge ceremony assistants, Brenton Ferullo and Eric Reilly, who will be assisting me in reading the descriptions of each merit badge as they are presented.

Michael Porter: Boy Scouts can earn any of more than 130 different Merit Badges in areas ranging from Art to Kayaking and from Camping to Search and Rescue. To earn a Merit Badge, a Scout picks a subject and reads the Merit Badge Book. A Scout develops his skills and knowledge. When he is ready, his Merit Badge Counselor tests him. Today we are awarding a number of Merit Badges, which represent a lot of hard work by our scouts.

Brenton Ferullo & Eric Riely (take turns): *Announce the merit badge and Read description of merit badge.*

*Ex. Art – bla, bla, bla
List of badges and recipients is separate.*

Michael Porter: *Call up each Scout individually to receive that badge*

MICHAEL PORTER *shake the Scout's left hand.*

MICHAEL PORTER: *Lead applause for each Scout.*

NOTE: *Kenny Pawlowciz has earned 15 merit badges. We will present them one at a time.*

(repeat for all merit badges)

MICHAEL PORTER: I'd now like to have some members of our First Year patrol come up to demonstrate tying a bowline. (Tyler and James should guide them to the front and cheer them on).

8. First Year Scouts

This will be a brief demonstration. One scout should state an example of when or why a bowline is useful.

After the scout(s) finish, thank them and lead in applause.

MICHAEL PORTER: Thanks you to our newest scouts and we look forward to what you will show us the next time we meet! (*Applaud*)

9. Awarding of Rank Advancements

MICHAEL PORTER: Next, we will recognize those Scouts who have earned Rank Advancements. In recognition of the support that each family provides to their son, our troop also presents rank pins to the Scout's mother. Her pin is worn during special Scout occasions. It is also our tradition that each scout hugs his parent after the pinning is complete.

The Boy Scouts of America recognizes your achievements by awarding badges of rank. The first 4 are Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class. Next come Star and Life. The highest rank is Eagle.

Scout Rank

Sam Blanchard: *ACTION: Light the first candle for Scout.*

MICHAEL PORTER: The first rank is scout rank. Throughout the year we have the pleasure of welcoming new Scouts to our Troop. Some of those who have joined previously earned the Arrow of Light. In doing so, these scouts have earned the rank of scout.

Will all present who have, at any point in the past, earned the rank of scout, please rise. (Applaud). Thank you. Be seated.

We would like to recognize the following Scouts who have joined our Troop and earned the Scout Rank since the last Court of Honor.

Please come forward with your parents as your name is called.

Jack Hamlin

Ryan Hubert

Brady Langlois

Paul Machado

Patrick Minuti

Kenny Pawlowciz

Nick Snyder

- *Call each new Scout (if there are any) and their parents come forward.*
- *Present the awards.*
- *Shake the Scout's left hand and the parent's right hand.*
- *Please join me in welcoming _____! Lead applause.*

Tenderfoot Rank

Sam Blanchard: ***ACTION: Light the second candle, for the Tenderfoot Rank.***

MICHAEL PORTER: Tenderfoot! Tenderfoot requirements offer a taste of the great adventures awaiting us in Scouting and can give us the basic skills you'll need to begin taking part in those adventures. We met many challenges in earning the Tenderfoot badge and are to be congratulated.

Will all present who have, at any point in the past, earned the rank of Tenderfoot Scout, please rise. (Applaud). Thank you. Be seated.

- *Call Kenny Pawlowciz our Tenderfoot recipient and his parents come forward.*
- *Present the award and pins.*
- *Shake the Scout's left hand and the parent's right hand.*
- *Lead applause for our newest Tenderfoot Scout.*

Second Class Rank

SAM BLANCHARD: ***ACTION: Light the third candle, for the Second Class Rank.***

MICHAEL PORTER: Second Class. To earn Second Class, a Scout must learn how to use a map and compass, how and when to build a campfire, and to safely use pocketknives and wood tools. Second Class Scouts have proven their abilities in camping, first aid, and swimming, and other Scout skills.

Will all present who have, at any point in the past, earned the rank of Second Class scout, please rise. (Applaud). Thank you. Be seated.

First Class Rank

SAM BLANCHARD: **ACTION:** *Light the fourth candle, for the First Class Rank.*

MICHAEL PORTER: First Class. The founder of Scouting, Lord Baden Powell, said that all Scouts should earn First Class. Now you have tested yourself even more. You have tried greater adventures and practiced your Scout skills many times. With your confidence and knowledge you now have, people will expect more of you, and you will expect more of yourself. You are prepared to be more of a leader in your patrol, your troop, and your community.

Will all present who have, at any point in the past, earned the rank of First Class scout, please rise. (Applaud). Thank you. Be seated.

Call Will Campbell, our newest First Class recipient and his parents forward.

Present the awards and pins.

Shake the Scout's left hand and the parent's right hand.

Star Rank

SAM BLANCHARD: **ACTION** *Light the fifth candle, for the Star Rank.*

MICHAEL PORTER: 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 the first six merit badges you will need for Eagle. Requirements now include service to others. The Star Rank also requires the Scout to be active in his troop for at least four months. Of course, you may take longer if you wish. In addition, the Star Scout must serve his troop in a position of leadership for at least four months and take part in at least one service project.

Will all present who have, at any point in the past, earned the rank of Star scout, please rise. (Applaud). Thank you. Be seated.

- *Call Zach Doorman, our newest Star recipient and his parents forward.*
- *Present the awards and pins.*
- *Shake the Scout's left hand and the parent's right hand.*
- *Lead applause for each Scout.*

Life Rank

SAM BLANCHARD: **ACTION:** *Light the sixth candle, for the Life Rank.*

MICHAEL PORTER: The Life Rank is one of the rarest ranks. This is the last rank before Eagle. You could complete your Eagle Rank now in as few as 6 months. We congratulate you and encourage you to reach for that next step. You have earned more than half of the merit badges required for Eagle. The Life Rank also requires the Scout to be active in his troop for at least six months, serve his troop in a position of leadership for at least six months, and take part in at least one service project.

Will all present who have, at any point in the past, earned the rank of Life scout, please rise. (Applaud). Thank you. Be seated.

There are no Life ranks to present.

Eagle Rank

SAM BLANCHARD: *ACTION: Light the seventh candle, for the Eagle Rank.*

MICHAEL PORTER: The Eagle Rank is Scouting's highest award. Only a small percentage of Scouts have ever reached this lofty goal. The Eagle Rank is presented in a special Eagle Scout Court of Honor and not here this evening. But we light the candle to remind us of what we all can someday achieve. Soon we hope to add to the honor roll of those from Troop 25 who have earned this rank.

Will all present who have, at any point in the past, earned the rank of Eagle scout, please rise. (Applaud). Thank you. Be seated.

MICHAEL PORTER: This concludes our rank ceremony. Let's give everyone who achieved a new rank tonight a big hand for all their hard work.

(applause)

MICHAEL PORTER: I also look forward to seeing many of you others up here in the future to celebrate your accomplishments soon!

11. Announcements

MICHAEL PORTER: Before we conclude this Court of Honor, we want to draw your attention to a couple of key upcoming events and make some announcements:

- Mr. Wilkerson – Bicycling and Canoe Construction Update
- Announce Elections

12. Closing SPL Remarks

MICHAEL PORTER: <make your comments – a couple of minutes or a little less>

MICHAEL PORTER: I'd like to now call up front, our adult leader Mr. Wilkerson to share with us a scoutmaster minute.

13. Scoutmaster Minute

14. Closing Vespers

Sam Blanchard: Thanks MICHAEL PORTER for leading us in another court of honor. At this time, I would invite Tyler Viger up to please lead us in our closing benediction.

Sam Blanchard: Please join me in repeating the Scout Vespers prayer that is printed on your agenda.

(read vespers)

15. Closing Ceremony (Retiring of Colors)

Sam Blanchard: Thanks to all for attending our ceremony tonight. We will now close our ceremony by retiring the colors. After the flags are retired, please join us for refreshments.

Sam Blanchard: Please rise for the retiring of the colors.

Sam Blanchard: Color Guard, to your posts to retrieve the colors.

Color Guard: Color Guard, retrieve the colors.

Sam Blanchard: Scouts salute. Color Guard retire the colors.

Will Campbell: Plays "To the Colors"

SAM BLANCHARD: Color Guard Dismissed.