### Welcome – Ian Shonat, Senior Patrol Leader

*(Honor Guard stands at the rear of the church with Eagle Candidates and their parents)*

**Ian:** *[from Podium]* Good afternoon. My name is Ian Shonat and I’m pleased to serve as Master-of-Ceremonies. I am assisted today by Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Reid Flumbaum. Welcome to the Eagle Court of Honor for Peter Hutt-Sierra, Kai Jepson, and Will Richardson. On behalf of Peter, Kai, and Will, and their families, thank you for being here to recognize their having achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. It brings them joy to share in this special celebration and to be together with their family and friends.

Will the Honor Guard please escort the parents of Kai, Peter and Will into the Eagle Court of Honor? *(Parents will sit on right front row. Honor Guard returns to the rear of the hall)*

Will the Honor Guard please escort Peter Hutt-Sierra, Kai Jepson, and Will Richardson to the Eagle Court of Honor? *(Peter, Kai and Will escorted to the front of the hall.)*

*Honor Guard finds their seats with other Scouts)*

Ladies and Gentlemen: Please rise, as you are able, for the opening ceremonies.

### Presentation of the Colors – Ian Shonat and Troop 8 Scouts

**Ian:** *[Moves to the podium microphone & instructs the Color Guard to bring the American & Troop flags into the Court of Honor]*

**Ian:** Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance. Scout salute. *[Pledge of Allegiance]*

**Ian:** Two. Color guard, post the colors.

**Ian:** Scouts, please join me in the Scout Oath. (*Scout Sign,* **Ian** *leads the Scouts in the Oath)*

**Ian:** I’d now like to introduce **Mrs. Anne Marie Reidy-Borenstein, Troop Chaplain.** Please remain standing for the Invocation.

### Invocation – Mrs. Borenstein, Troop Chaplain

**Ian**: Please be seated. It is my pleasure to introduce Troop 8's Committee Chair, Ms. Robin Richardson.

**MS. RICHARDSON**: Good afternoon. I’d like to introduce a few special people: (key troop leaders, representatives of the chartered organization, presenters, and special guests. *E.g., Mr. Pete Minderman, Potomac District Chair, Mr. Kent Sneed,* District Director, Potomac District, Byron Lord, Potomac District Eagle Advisor *, NCAC, Mr. John Hanson, Mr. Robert Hanson* (others who may attend.). Will Mr. Sneed please open the Eagle Court of Honor?

*(Mr. Sneed comes forward)*

**Ian:** I would now like to introduce **Mr. Kent Sneed**, who is the District Director for the Potomac District of the Boy Scout National Capital Area Council.

### Opening of the Eagle Court of Honor –

**Mr. Sneed:** The purpose of the Boy Scouts of America, incorporated on February 8, 1910, and chartered by Congress in 1916, is to provide an educational program for boys and young adults to build character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to develop personal fitness.

This evening we gather to affirm that as members of Troop 8, Peter Hutt-Sierra, Kai Jepson, and Will Richardson have achieved these three Scouting purposes—character & citizenship & personal fitness—to Scouting’s highest standards.

On behalf of the National Capitol Area Council of Boy Scouts, and the Scouts, Scoutmasters, Troop Committee, and all the Troop 8 family, I welcome you to this Eagle Court of Honor, convened to honor these three young men.

Troop 8 was chartered in 1919 and has been providing Bethesda area families the opportunity to participate in the Boy Scout program continuously for over 95 years. Troop 8 is sponsored by the William C. Westlake Foundation.

The Eagle Court of Honor is an event of great importance in a boy's life. In order to achieve this high honor, a Scout has to fulfill many requirements, earn at least 21 merit badges, serve his troop in leadership positions, and plan and carry out a substantial service project for his community. This afternoon we gather to celebrate Peter, Kai and Will’s achievements and to recognize their hard work and dedication.

An Eagle Scout Court of Honor is unlike any other Court of Honor conducted by a Boy Scout Troop. All other Courts of Honor are done under authority delegated from the National Council of the Boy Scouts located near Dallas, Texas, to the local Council of the Boys Scouts. Our local Council is the National Capital Area Council.

The authority to confer the rank of Eagle Scout is the only rank that the National Council holds to itself rather than delegate to the local Council.

As the District Executive of the Potomac District of the National Capital Area Council, I now declare this National Council Eagle Scout Court of Honor to be in session. *(Mr. Sneed returns to his seat)*

**Ian:** Thank you, Mr. Sneed. Tonight we gather to honor three of our own, scouts who have proven themselves worthy of Scouting's highest honor. The Rank of Eagle Scout is not earned by the timid or the undedicated. Nor is it earned by the dispassionate. Eagle Scout is earned by only those who work hard, exhibit virtue, and have ignited the passion of the scouting spirit in their soul. For that reason, only 2% of the boys who join Scouts become Eagle. The few that do are seen as leaders among men. Tonight, **Peter Hutt-Sierra, Jai Jepson, and Will Richardson** will join those few, known as Eagle Scouts.

**Ian:** Eagle Scout Jake Mullin will now lead Peter, Kai, and Will in the Scout Oath and Law Candle Ceremony.

### Scout Oath and Law Candle Ceremony – Jake Mullin

*(JAKE steps up to the microphone and PETER, KAI and WILL move behind the table.)*

**JAKE:** Please turn out the lights. (*Someone is trained to use the switches*)

(*The large Scout spirit candle is to be the only light in the room.*)

**JAKE:** When a boy becomes a Scout there is within him something that we call the “Spirit of Scouting.” Because the “Spirit of Scouting” embodies the principles of the Scout Oath and Law, it becomes a shining beacon of inspiration. Alone, this light may seem feeble, but when multiplied by the more than three and a half million boys in Scouting around the world, it is powerful indeed.

**JAKE**: I will now recite the Scout Oath as our new Eagle Scouts light the RED, WHITE, and BLUE candles to represent the 3 parts of the Scout Oath. The Scout Spirit has guided your way along the path to Eagle. As you prepare to receive Scouting's highest honor, the Eagle Scout Award, let's pause to reflect on the Scout Oath and Laws that are the essence of the Scout Spirit in within both of you.

(PETER picks up the small white taper candle and lights it from the flame of the “Spirit of Scouting” candle.)

PETER lights the RED candle (using the small white taper candle) . . .

**JAKE** says: On my Honor, I will do my Best, to do my Duty, to God and my Country, and to Obey the Scout Law . . . As a Boy Scout of America, I believe that America's strength lies in the courage and strength of her people. I will maintain a personal sense of honor in my own life. I will treasure my American heritage and will do all I can to preserve and enrich it. I will hold the values of the scout law in highest regard.

KAI lights the WHITE candle . . .

**JAKE** says: To help other people at all times . . . I recognize the dignity and worth of my fellow men and will use fair play and goodwill in dealing with them.

WILL: lights the BLUE candle . . .

**JAKE**: To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight . . . I will acquire the attitude that seeks truth, strength, and uprightness, first in myself and then in all situations I encounter throughout my life.

**JAKE**: You see how the light from the Spirit of Scouting is now beginning to grow and become brighter. After a boy enters Scouting, the Scout Law that he promises to obey begins to guide his life. There are 12 parts; each is an important foundation in the building of strong character. One by one, using the flame from the Spirit of Scouting, we shall light the symbols for each part of the Scout Law. I will recite the Scout Law and we will pause to reflect on its meaning.

(PETER prepares to light candles from left to right on both sides of the 3 in the center of the candelabra to represent the 12 Parts of the Scout Law.)

PETER: Lights candle 1 . . .

JAKE: “Trustworthy” . . . A Scout tells the truth. He keeps his promises.

PETER: Lights candle 2. . .

JAKE: “Loyal” . . . A Scout is true to his family, friends, scout leaders, school, nation, and community.

PETER: (Lighting candle 3) . . .

JAKE: “A Scout is Helpful.” A Scout is concerned about other people. He willingly volunteers to help others without expecting payment or reward.

PETER: Lights candle 4. . .

JAKE: “A Scout is Friendly.” A Scout is a friend to all. He respects those with ideas and customs that are different from his own.

KAI: Lights candle 5. . .

JAKE: “A Scout is Courteous.” A Scout is polite to everyone regardless of age or position. He knows that good manners make it easier for people to get along together.

KAI: Lights candle 6. . .

JAKE: “A Scout is Kind.” A Scout understands that there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated.

KAI: Lights candle 7. . .

JAKE: “A Scout is Obedient.” A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country.

KAI: Lights candle 8. . .

JAKE: “A Scout is Cheerful.” A Scout looks for the bright side of life. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way. He tries to make others happy.

WILL: Lights candle 9 . . .

JAKE: “A Scout is Thrifty.” A Scout works to pay his own way and to help others. He saves for the future. He protects and conserves natural resources.

WILL: Lights candle 10. . .

JAKE: “A Scout is Brave.” 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 him or threaten him.

WILL: Lights candle 11. . .

JAKE: “Clean.” 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.

WILL: Lights candle 12. . .

JAKE: “Reverent.” A Scout strives to understand and respect the beliefs of others.

*(***JAKE, PETER, KAI** *&* **WILL** *return to their seats)*

**IAN:** Peter, Kai and Will, you have thoughtfully prepared yourself for the Trail of the Eagle. Let’s recall the paths you have followed. Please take your seat before this Court of Honor.

*[They sit down as the houselights are turned back on]*

**IAN:** The pathway to Eagle can be described as a steep trail leading up to three peaks, the highest being that of Eagle Scout. Officially, the trail starts with the Tenderfoot rank and continues through Second and First Class ranks. Then, the real mountain climbing begins. The path is marked with merit badges, leadership responsibilities, service projects, and the practice of Scouting skills and ideals. The first peak reached is that of Star Scout, the second is Life Scout, and, finally, Eagle Scout.

**IAN:** Now we shall hear the story of these scouts’ "Trail to Eagle." I invite **Mr. Mark Olinger, an eagle scout himself**, to describe their Trail to Eagle.

### Trail to Eagle – MARK OLINGER, Eagle Scout

**MARK OLINGER:** Good evening. I am Mark Olinger, and I have had the good fortune to know Peter, Kai and Will most of their Boy Scouting careers. [any personal remarks \_\_\_\_\_\_]

Will the seven Scouts participating in this part of the ceremony please come forward?

[Need all scouts listed below to come to the front and arrange by rank, ascending from left to right.] (Standing on the steps in front of the table with the rank signs)

Peter, Kai and Will’s first badge was the Scout award. This award recognizes the boy's acceptance of the Scout Oath and Scout Law and his willingness to start learning the skills of Scouting. (May the respective scout hold up the Scout sign.)

Next on the trail to Eagle was the Tenderfoot Rank. This award recognizes the Scout's first experiences and learning while camping in the outdoors. He is also introduced to the patrol method of the Boy Scouts.

(May the respective scout hold up the Tenderfoot sign.)

Second Class was the next step. To achieve this rank, the Scout must demonstrate skills in compass use, cooking, nature and first aid. He must also participate in a service project. (May the respective scout hold up the Second Class sign.)

After Second Class comes First Class. To achieve this rank they had to demonstrate competence in orienteering, hiking, knots and lashings, and more advanced first aid while also learning about civics and participating in another service project. (May the respective scout hold up the First Class sign.)

Following that is the rank of Star, which involves making some key choices. They had to complete six merit badges, including four that are required for Eagle; serve in a leadership capacity; and, participate in at least six hours of community service. Peter served as the Den Chief, Kai served as Patrol Leader, and Will served as Patrol Leader. (May the respective scout hold up the Star sign.)

The Life rank is very similar to Star and only involves more clutch decisions to be made. These men had to earn five additional merit badges, including three required for Eagle; they worked on more service projects and continued to serve in a slew of leadership roles. Peter satisfied the leadership requirement by serving as Quartermaster. Kai satisfied this requirement by serving as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Will fulfilled this requirement by serving as Instructor. (May the respective scout hold up the Life sign.)

Peter and Kai each completed their trail to Eagle in the year 2014, and Will completed the trail in 2015. Along the way, they had to earn ten additional merit badges. They each planned and executed a significant service project. (May the respective scout hold up the Eagle sign.)

In addition, these Eagles racked up many other awards and achievements. Here is just a small part of what they have done.

Peter has 82 nights of camping, and backpacked 224 miles. He earned a total of 23 merit badges. He earned the 50-miler patch for three different years, and biked the length of the C&O Canal. He earned the Polar Bear patch twice and the Klondike Derby patch once. He earned the High Adventure Triple Crown by going to Philmont twice, to Northern Tier once, and to Sea Base once. He also provided over 82 hours of community service, in addition to the work on his Eagle Project.

Kai has racked up 92 nights of camping, and 261 miles of hiking. He earned 24 merit badges, and earned the 50-miler patch for two years. He biked the C&O canal, and earned the Klondike Derby patch. He was awarded both the Frigid Frog and the Polar Bear patch, and received a patch for going on the History of Scouting Inaugural Hike. He also went to Philmont. Finally, Kai provided 62 hours of community service, plus his Eagle Project.

Will has 70 nights of camping; and backpacked 149 miles. He earned a total of 25 merit badges. He earned the Order of the Arrow, the Polar Bear patch, the Klondike Derby patch in 2012 and 2014, Scout Sunday, several C&O patches, the Boy Scouts of America History patch, and the 50-miler patch, as well as the Totin Chip and Fireman Chip. Will went to Philmont and is on the Northern Tier crew for this summer. In addition, Will provided over 57 hours of community service, in addition to his Eagle Project.

Most importantly, these three have gone on countless local camping trips with the troop as a whole, obtaining the skills necessary to complete the high adventure trips that only a few individuals are lucky enough to experience, as well as later teach these skills to the scouts who are now beginning to run this troop. Skills that once seemed impossible, such as setting up a tent, lighting a fire, and cooking your own meal have become elementary as they now set sights on even greater challenges.

[*Mark tells the seven Scouts to return the rank cards to where they found them and to return to their seats; then Mark returns to his seat.]*

**Eagle Scout Service Project**

**IAN:** Thankyou Mark.I would like to ask **Mr. Byron Lord, the Potomac District Eagle Advisor,** to say a few words about these scouts’ Eagle service projects.

**BYRON LORD:**

Brief remarks about importance of Eagle project

Now I would like to tell you a little about the projects performed by these three scouts.

**Peter Hutt-Sierra [describe]**

**Kai Jepson [describe]**

**Will Richardson [describe]**

**IAN:** Thank you, Mr. Lord. I would like to ask **Mr. Andy Mullin**, **Scoutmaster Emeritus of Troop 8**, to say a few words about the Trail to Eagle traveled by these three scouts

### Remarks – Andy Mullin

**ANDY:** **REMARKS about Peter, Kai, and Will**

**IAN:** Thank you, Mr. Mullin. I now invite **Mr. Mike Silverman and Mr. Kalman Salata, Assistant Scoutmasters** to come forward. These two leaders have helped Peter, Kai and Will grow from their beginnings as young Scouts through their achievement of Eagle.

### Obligations of an Eagle Scout

**Mike Silverman, Assistant Scoutmaster**

**Kalman Salata, Assistant Scoutmaster**

**Significance of the Eagle Badge** *(each using the microphone)*

**MR. SILVERMAN**: "The presentation of the Eagle Scout Award is an important and serious matter. For the Eagle candidate, this is the climax in his Scouting efforts. The attainment of this award is made possible through the assistance of those with the candidate tonight -- his Scoutmasters, Troop leaders, fellow Scouts, parents, family, friends, and members of the community. This is an occasion for pride and joy, as well as a time for serious reflection."

The Eagle is the highest recognition offered in Scouting. It is earned through the advancement program. The wearer of the Eagle award is the embodiment of Scouting's best efforts and beliefs. It is important that each of us understands the meaning of the Eagle Badge."

**MR. SALATA**: "The appeal of the majestic eagle has been felt by every great people from prehistoric times to the present day. To the Egyptians, the eagle was the messenger of the gods and the sun, a symbol of eternal life. To the Romans, he was the carrier of Jupiter's thunderbolts and a sign of power. To American Indians he stood as the incentive to valor and the pledge of victory. For us today, the eagle is the living symbol of all courageous and freedom-aspiring Americans. When the Eagle Scout badge was designed in 1912, it was decided that a small silver eagle would be suspended from a tricolor ribbon of red, white, and blue. So it remains today."

**MR. SILVERMAN**: "The foremost responsibility of an Eagle Scout is to live with honor. To an Eagle Scout, honor is the foundation of all character. He knows that 'a Scout is trustworthy' is the very first point of the Scout Law for a good reason. An Eagle Scout lives honorably, not only because honor is important to him, but because of the vital significance of the example he sets for other scouts. Living honorably reflects credit on his home, his church, his troop, and his community. May the white of the Eagle Badge remind you to always live with honor."

**MR. SALATA**: "The second obligation of an Eagle Scout is loyalty. A Scout is true to his family, scout leaders, friends, school, and nation. His loyalty to his troop and brother scouts makes him pitch in and carry his share of the load. All of these help to build the loyalty which means devotion to community, to country, to one's own ideals, and to God. Let the blue of the Eagle Badge always inspire your loyalty."

**MR. SILVERMAN**: "The third obligation of an Eagle Scout is to be courageous. Courage has always been a quality by which men measure themselves and others. To a scout, bravery means not only the courage to face physical danger, but the determination to stand up for the right. Trusting in God, with faith in his fellow man, he looks forward to each day, seeking his share of the world's work to do. Let the red of the Eagle Badge remind you always of courage."

**MR. SALATA**: The fourth obligation of an Eagle Scout is to be cheerful. To remind the Eagle Scout to always wear a smile, the red, white, and blue ribbon is attached to the scroll of the Second Class Scout award, which has its ends turned up in a smile."

**MR. SILVERMAN**: "The final responsibility of an Eagle Scout is service. The Eagle Scout extends a helping hand to those who still toil up Scouting's trail, just as others helped him in his climb to the Eagle. The performance of the daily good turn takes on a new meaning when he enters a more adult life of continuing service to others. The Eagle stands as protector of the weak and helpless. He aids and comforts the unfortunate and the oppressed. He upholds the rights of others while defending his own. He will always 'be prepared' to put forth his best."

**MR. SALATA**: "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."

**IAN:** Thank you Mr. Silverman and Mr. Salata. **Our current scoutmaster, Mr. Jerry Taylor, an eagle scout himself**, will continue the ceremony with the Pledge of the Eagle.

### Eagle Scout Promise – Jerry Taylor, Troop 8 Scoutmaster

**MR. TAYLOR** *(to the podium microphone)*: I invite all the Eagle Scouts present to come to the front of the room and stand as we prepare to administer the Pledge of the Eagle to these scouts.

Peter, Kai and Will, please come stand by me.

*(Mr. Taylor, pause long enough to assure the three scouts are in the center of the stage so the audience can see them plainly, and all other Eagle Scouts are next to them)*

**MR. TAYLOR**: All Eagle Scouts present, including Peter, Kai, and Will, please join me making the Scout sign and repeat after me the Pledge of the Eagle, stating your name in the obvious place:

"I (*state your name*) reaffirm my allegiance *(pause for others to echo)*

to the three promises of the Scout Oath. *(pause for others to echo)*

I thoughtfully recognize and take upon myself *(pause for others to echo)*

the obligations and responsibilities of the rank of Eagle Scout. *(pause for others to echo)*

On my honor, I will do my best *(pause for others to echo)*

to make my training an example of my rank *(pause for others to echo)*

and my influence count strongly and for better citizenship, *(pause for others to echo)*

in my home, in my community and in my contacts with other people. *(pause for others to echo)*

To this I pledge my sacred honor." *(pause for others to finish; then Mr. Taylor returns to his seat)*

**IAN:** Eagles, except Peter, Kai and Will, and Mr. Taylor please be seated. You three please remain where you are. *(pause to let commotion pass)*

### Presentation of the Eagle Award

**Ian:** I now call upon Mr. Taylor to present the Eagle Award to Peter, Kai and Will.

***[JERRY TAYLOR’s comments for the scouts go here]***

**MR. TAYLOR**: As Eagle Scouts, the eyes of all Scouting -- yes, the eyes of the world, will be upon you. The traditions of Eagle Scout are high. May you live up to those traditions, always guided by the spirit of Scouting, represented by these blazing candles before you. The Eagle Badge that you are about to receive is symbolic of this spirit of Scouting.

Would the Honor Guard please escort the parents of these scouts to the front to join their sons. *(Honor Guard return to their seats)*

Peter, Kai and Will, your parents have been a constant source of support for the seven years you have spent on your trail to Eagle. They are very proud of you, as are all of us in Troop 8.

Your mothers have given you love, encouragement and support for many years, not only in Scouting, but also in your many other activities. It is with great pleasure that I ask them to pin the Eagle medal on your uniform.

*(Mr. Taylor hands medals to mothers, then she pins medals on scouts)*

Over the years, Peter, Kai and Will, you have had the chance to pin many pins on your mother or father. This afternoon you have the honor of pinning the Eagle pin on your mother and thanking her one more time for all that she has done for you.

*(Mr. Taylor gives the mother's pins to scouts).*

Scouts, your father, too, has helped you along the Eagle trail and in all other aspects of your life. He has always been there for you when you needed help and he has always encouraged you to achieve and learn in your endeavors. Please pin this Eagle pin on him.

*(Mr. Taylor gives the father’s pin to scouts)*

**And finally, I would like to present each of you with this Certificate officially proclaiming you as an Eagle Scout.**

**Scouts, and all present, it gives me great pleasure to present to you Troop 8's three newest Eagle Scouts, Peter Hutt-Sierra, Kai Jepson, and Will Richardson.**

*(Leads the audience in applause)*

**Mr. Taylor:** Eagles, you’re not quite done. In recognition of your accomplishment, the uniformed leaders of Troop 8 would like to present to you an Eagle Scout Buck knife with your name and the date you became an Eagle Scout engraved on it.

*All return to their seats.*

### Presentation of Letters and Awards

*(from the podium)*

**IAN***:* I now invite **Mr. Hutt, Peter’s father**, to make a presentation.

**Peter Hutt: [***summary of kinds of letters from Congress, flags over capitol, and other letter and recognitions on the scout table in the rear of the room]*

**IAN:** I now invite **Ms. Diane Dandois, Secretary of** **the Westlake Foundation** to make presentation to Peter, Kai and Will.

**Diane Dandois**: I am here as the representative of the Westlake Foundation, which is the sponsor of Troop 8. [etc.]

*(from the podium presents the Troop 8 Eagle to boys & returns to seat)*

**Ian:** Thank you, Ms. Dandois.

### Parents Remarks

**IAN:** The Eagle Scouts’ parents will now share a few remarks.

**Peter Hutt**

**Robin Richardson**

**Susan Buchanan**

**IAN**: It’s time now to give our **newest Eagles** a chance to speak. **Peter?**

### Eagle Scout Remarks –

### Peter Hutt-Sierra

### Kai Jepson

### Will Richardson

**IAN**: thank you, Peter, Kai and Will.

### Closing – IAN SHONAT

**IAN**: We hope this ceremony has inspired other Scouts to reach this honorable rank. We are anxious to see many more Eagles pass through our troop. I hope you keep returning for Troop 8 Eagle ceremonies.

**IAN:** As I extinguish these flames, please remember that the spirit of the Eagle Scout never dies. This National Council Eagle Scout Court of Honor is now closed. On behalf of Peter, Kai, Will and their parents, I invite you stay for a lunch reception. Thank you for joining us today.