

Eagle Scout Award Acceptance Speech

David J. Goldstein

United Methodist Church
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Thank you all for coming today. I read somewhere that the aim of intelligent speech and writing is to convey a message using as few words as possible. For example, in Shakespeare's Hamlet, the character Polonius says, "brevity is the soul of wit." Unfortunately, the speech that I have prepared for today is neither brief nor witty, so bear with me.

In my opinion, the most substantial aspect of the scouting program is the theme of community. It is said that it takes a village to raise a child. A village to guide, to educate, to challenge, and to inspire the child to become a responsible component that can give back to the village by guiding, educating, challenging, and inspiring the next generation to continue the cycle. Well, I believe that it takes a village to raise an Eagle Scout as well. And now I'd like to thank all the villagers that have guided, educated, challenged and inspired me over the past 17 years. I'd also like to apologize in advance to anyone I might accidentally leave out.

First and foremost, I'd like to thank my parents. They have always been there to help me and in whatever endeavor I would take on, in scouts, in school, and anywhere I would need someone to show me the way, or, on occasion, to spot me a few dollars. My father was my Cub Master for 5 years, and, as an Eagle Scout, he made sure that my brother and I stayed with scouting and stayed on the Trail to Eagle. And as a token of my gratitude, I'd like to give you, dad, this fancy new official Boy Scout Mentor Pin. Mom, you did some things too. You were probably the most encouraging and definitely the most physical person to push me along the Trail to Eagle. Thanks. Sorry, I had to give away your Mentor Pin to some other guy.

Next, I'd like to thank my two scoutmasters: Mr. Anderson and Mr. Birchenough. If it were not for your guidance and commitment to the troop, I probably would not be here today, accepting this honor. Don't tell my mom, but I have two more official Boy Scout Mentor Pins, and I'd like to give them to you.

I'd also like to thank all the other adult leaders and helpers in the troop, in alphabetical order: Mr. Allyn, Mrs. Birchenough, Mr. and Mrs. Comito, Mrs. DeLuca, Mr. Feick, Mrs. Halen, Mr. Kroitsch, Mrs. Kruithof, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Murrell, Reverend Noll, Mr. Pattman, Mr. Plunkett, Mrs.

Saranovic, Mr. Spinelli, Mr. Tynan, Mr. Van Wageningen, Mr. Wallace, and Mr. and Mrs. Yuen. If it were not for your dedication to the troop and all its events throughout the year, we simply would not have a troop. Also, I'd like to give a special thanks to Mr. Parody for marching with us while playing his bagpipes to help us get rid of the dreaded boot at the recent Snuffy Hollow Camporee.

Next I'd like to thank my peers; all the other boys that have stayed in scouting and will continue to make this troop grow and flourish: Lou Spinelli, Andrew and Matt Birchenough, Brian Cairnes, Dan and Rob Comito, Greg and Alex Halen, Greg Pattman, John Plunkett, Jimmy Murrell, Phillip Pare, Alex Parody, Alex Zwaki, Chris Remmers, Dan Van Wageningen, Billy Allyn, Steve and Justin Saranovic, Eric Feick, Jeff Kruithof, and Michael Rector, Ryan Halliwell, and all the other new scouts that have just recently joined the troop.

For helping me with my Eagle Project I'd like to thank, Patricia DiCostanzo, Theresa O'Connor, and the staff of the Bergen County Board of Elections, and all my volunteers for putting in the time to make my project successful. Also, Don Elliott, Leon Varjian, Craig Rush, and Teresa Isik of Midland Park High School for supporting me as well.

I'd also like to thank my brother, Matthew, and my sister, Andrea, because they probably did something too along the way. I'd like to thank all my other relatives, and my godson Harrison, because sometimes it takes the wisdom of a 2-year-old to remind us of what is really important. That's right, candy.

Once again, I apologize to anyone I may have left out.

Over the past 13 years, scouting has taught me many things. It has taught me that you shouldn't tie people to trees on camping trips. It has taught me that fire is hot, really hot. I've learned that if you try to tip a canoe, you'll probably be successful. Scouting has taught me that a \$200 rope, unless tied securely at both ends, is not going to keep you from falling into a stream. It has also taught me about leadership, understanding, organization, communication, and respect. But most of all, Scouting has taught me that all it takes to do well at a camporee is to have someone play the bagpipes.

Herbert Hoover once said, "A boy has two jobs. One is just being a boy. The other is growing up to be a man." I believe this Boy Scout troop has helped me and the 41 other Eagle Scouts perform both of those tasks. Thank you.