

## Eagle Scout Badge

Two fond parents watch their son where he stands  
    Apart from his buddies tonight,  
And see placed on his camp-stained, almost-outgrown shirt,  
    A badge, an Eagle, an ancient emblem of might.

    It seems just a few short months have passed  
    Since he joined with the youngster next door.  
How proud they were then of his Tenderfoot badge  
    As he told them camp stories and lore.  
    The years have gone by as he struggled along  
    To learn what Scouting's about;  
Scouting is outing, and he has been wet and muddy and lonely and cold,  
Far from home, on a trail climbing higher, discouraged, full of dismay and of doubt.

    More than once he was hungry and dirty, tired and sore,  
    Scared about cooking, rafting, hiking, rappelling, and leading,  
    Embarrassed sometimes by his uniform, insignia, and more,  
But he's come a long way, by his will and his parents' pleading.

    He can manage a knife, a rope, a tent with its fly, nasty weather.  
He can sleep on the ground, bake a Dutch oven cake, drink boiled muddy water,  
    Address a juvenile group, Leave No Trace, stand tall,  
Light a fire, manage an Eagle Project crew, thanks to his mother and father.

    Daily, he practiced the Slogan, the Motto, the Oath, and the Law,  
He grew fast, straight as a pine, never quit, stayed the course he set out.  
    He learned how to backpack and camp, cook, and scrub up a pot,  
Handle an ax, teach knots and first aid, until now he's an Eagle Scout.

    You may smile in your worldly wisdom at this  
    And say, "Why, it's only a pin."  
But I will tell you, no honor he will gain as a man  
    Will mean nearly as much to him.

    The red, white, and blue of the ribbon you see  
    Are America's symbols of courage and honor and truth.  
In his family, his church, his school, and his Troop, he learned  
How to value these fine attributes in these glorious days of his youth.

    The broad span of the tiny Eagle that rests  
    On the chest of this young man today  
Are powerful wings which will lift him above petty deeds  
    And carry him along the right way.

**This badge is more than a pin, a ribbon of cloth with a silver design.  
It, like the man, was forged out of values that last.**

**Decades away, the Scout who now stands with his new Eagle medal  
Will still cherish this moment long after his youth is long past.**