

THE NATIONAL JEWISH COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

An Eagle Scout Invocation

"I bore you on EAGLES' wings," God told the young People Israel, "and I drew you close to me." Pondering this metaphor, the rabbis explain that the eagle is unique among birds. While all other birds carry their young beneath them in their talons, the eagle in flight places its young atop its wings. The eagle soars so high, the rabbis imagine, that it fears no predator from above and thus shields its fledglings from human hunters who might shoot arrows from the ground preferring that arrows first strike the protective adult.

In this commentary the rabbis correctly teach that there is real danger, real violence, real evil in the world dangers from which we properly shield our children even if it requires a measure of self-sacrifice. Young Eagle Scout _____ has been blessed with concerned parents and he has been guided to new heights by caring leaders who have given of themselves and we are grateful.

As a new, full-fledged EAGLE, _____, you are called upon to carry on the proud traditions of your FAITH... and of the Boy Scouts of America -- providing guidance, direction, and protective care to other young people who strive to embrace the values which have served you so well. Show them the way and care for them as your parents and leaders have cared for you hazarding even the slings and arrows of inevitable detractors.

As we begin this celebration, we ask God's blessing on you in the words of one of our tradition's great sages: "May you be strong as a leopard, swift as a gazelle, mighty as a lion, and QUICK AS AN EAGLE to do the will of your Father in Heaven."

