

**The original documents are located in Box 24, “3/2/76 - Telephone Remarks to the West Michigan Shores Council, Boy Scouts of America Eagle Recognition Banquet, Pantlind Hotel, Grand Rapids, Michigan” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID....

TALKING POINTS FOR TELEPHONE CALL TO THE WEST MICHIGAN SHORES COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA EAGLE RECOGNITION BANQUET, PANTLIND HOTEL, GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, MARCH 2, 1976, AT 8:30 P.M.

It's great to be able to talk to my friend and former  
scoutmaster, Charles Kindel -- and to the <sup>70</sup>~~90~~ of you who are  
gathered there who received your Eagle rank during 1975.

I know Charles shares with me the pride I feel at our  
special relationship to the Kindel-Ford Chapter of the National  
Eagle Scout Association.

And I feel specially honored to have my name associated  
with this class.

Let me just say a word or two about the part scouting has  
played in my life.

I started out in scouting as a Tenderfoot a good many years  
ago. And those were great years --unforgettable years.

But I don't think there was a prouder moment in my life  
than when I was privileged to become an Eagle Scout. I still have

\* 90 were invited - 70 will attend

the merit badge sash. And I still have that Eagle badge. It means as much to me today as it did then.

I worked hard for it. And I know the terrific feeling of accomplishment you all feel in attaining Eagle rank.

There is something wholesome and good about living by the Scout Oath and Law -- something that makes for better citizens, responsible citizens, and that is the backbone of our great Nation. I think, even now, I could repeat the Scout Oath without a mistake.

And the Scout Law is one I will never forget: "A scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent."

I can say to you, if you write the Scout Oath and Law in your hearts -- and live by them -- you will do better, you will be happier, you will make a greater contribution to your families, to your communities, and to your country. The ideals of scouting have meaning for you today, and tomorrow, and throughout your lives.

Enjoy what scouting offers to you in building character and good citizenship, and make a big effort to do your best. If you do this, you will be prepared to do a better job for your country in the years ahead.

Good luck. God bless you all.

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