



SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Bridge of Awards and Quartermaster Ball

Landship Ceremony

The script below is used at the annual Bridge of Awards and Quartermaster Ball held by the San Francisco Bay Area Council. It has been modified to conform, when desirable, to the *Sea Exploring Manual*, Ninth Edition (1997, Boy Scouts of America).

PRELIMINARY

(Five minutes before start of ceremony the ship bell is rung five times; three minutes before start of ceremony the ship bell is rung three times; two minutes . . . two times; one minute . . . one time.)

(Officer of the Deck boards ship from starboard gangway, Boatswain boards ship from port gangway. At the rail they render the double salute, then exchange salutes before laying aboard. Upon boarding, the OOD enters the quarterdeck from the port side and takes his station on the port side of the bridge, just off the keel-line, facing the bow.)

If the assembled crews have not yet boarded the land ship, they do so at this time. The BOS'N returns the salutes. If the number of junior ship officers (mates, quartermasters, etc.) is very great, the officers lay aboard on the starboard side and render the double salute. Side honors are not given. The officers of the Flagship may board with the Skipper. Skippers are generally invited to join the Commodore's party.

OPENING CEREMONY

(The BOS'N faces the OOD one step forward of the bridge.)

OOD:
"BOS'N, proceed with the opening ceremony."

BOS'N: (Salutes)
"Aye aye, sir." (OOD returns salute.)

BOS'N: (Faces forward and pipes all hands.)
"CREW LEADERS, muster your crews."

The following sequence may be modified depending on the size of the crew. See the Sea Scout Manual. In cases where the crew is very small, the BOATSWAIN'S MATE reports to the Boatswain as sole crew leader.

CREW LEADER: (Marches to the port gangway and salutes.)
"-name of crew-, request permission to lay aboard.

BOS'N:
"Permission granted." (Bos'n returns salute.)

(Crews lay aboard in order. Each individual renders the double salute upon boarding.)

BOS'N: (Salutes to OOD)
"Sir, the Ship is at quarters."

OOD: (OOD returns salute.)
"Very well, receive the report."

BOS'N: (Salutes)
"Aye aye, sir."

BOS'N: (Turns and faces crews)
"CREW LEADERS, report."

CREW LEADERS: (One at a time each takes one step forward, salutes)
"-name of crew-, all present or accounted for."

BOS'N: (Salutes OOD)
"Sir, all [crews] present or accounted for."

Note: the side boys and color guard are assigned before the beginning of the ceremony.

OOD:
"Very well, stand by for colors." (Passes the Ensign to the Bos'n and salutes the colors.)

BOS'N:
"Aye aye, sir." (Receives the Ensign with both hands, does not return the salute. Faces about to the Ship.)

"COLOR GUARD, post."
(The Color Guard lays aft and obtains the Ensign from the Bos'n, who passes it to the bearer and salutes. The Color Guard does not return the salute. When the Bos'n drops salute, the Color Guard quickly proceeds to its post, and makes ready the Ensign on the halyard. When all is read, the OOD says:)

OOD:
"Please stand for the national anthem."

BOS'N:
"Attention." (All stand.)
"All hands to the colors, face."
"Hand salute."

(The Ensign is run smartly aloft, and the National Anthem is played. When the Ensign leaves the bearer's hands, the bearer takes one step backward, and salutes. Upon securing the halyard, all Color Guard members take one step backward and salute. At the last note of the Anthem, the Bos'n commands:)

BOS'N:
"Ready, two. "
"At Ease. COLOR GUARD, return to your crew."

OOD:
"Please be seated."

RECEIVING THE SKIPPER

If the Skipper of the Flagship is not present or is serving as Officer of the Deck, the following section is omitted. The OOD fulfills the role of the Skipper below.

OOD:
"BOS'N, have the MESSENGER lay aft."

BOS'N:
"MESSENGER lay aft."

(MESSENGER lays aft and salutes the OOD.)

OOD: (Returns salute)
"Send the Skipper of the Flagship my respects and ask him if he is ready to board the land ship."

MESSENGER:
"Aye aye, sir." (Salutes and leaves to Port with double salute.)

(The MESSENGER lays to the Starboard side of the room where the SKIPPER is waiting, and salutes. The MESSENGER and SKIPPER speak in a loud voice so that all can hear.)

MESSENGER: (Salutes)
"The Officer of the Deck sends his respects and asks if you are ready to board the land ship."

SKIPPER: (Returns salute)
"Send the Officer of the Deck my regards and tell him that I will be along shortly."

MESSENGER:
"Aye aye, sir."

(The MESSENGER salutes and boards the land ship to port, rendering the double salute. He lays aft and salutes the OOD.)

MESSENGER:
"The Skipper sends his regards and will be along shortly."

OOD:
"Very well, dismissed."

(MESSENGER returns to crew. SKIPPER approaches. The Bos'n turns and faces the OOD.)

OOD:
"Stand by to receive the SKIPPER."

BOS'N: (Salutes)
"Aye aye, sir."

BOS'N: (About face)
"Stand by to receive the SKIPPER. COLOR GUARD, SIDE BOYS ONE AND TWO, post."

If the skipper is accompanied by other officers, junior to him, they follow him on board ship.

(Color Guard and Side Boys take one step back and, walking behind their respective crews, report to their assigned duty stations. The Bos'n will take up station one step forward of the forward line of Side Boys and one step inboard to pipe the side. The BOS'N pipes the side. OOD returns the first salute of the SKIPPER.)

BOS'N:
"COLOR GUARD, SIDE BOYS, return to your crews."

OOD: (Welcomes the Skipper aboard, and then facing the Skipper)
"Sir, do you wish to inspect the Crew?"

SKIPPER:
"Not at this time."

(The OOD takes a seat in the Quarterdeck.)

RECEIVING THE COMMODORE

SKIPPER:
"BOS'N, have the MESSENGER lay aft."

BOS'N:
"MESSENGER lay aft."

(MESSENGER lays aft and salutes the SKIPPER.)

SKIPPER: (Returns salute)

"Send the Commodore my respects and ask him if he and his party are ready to board the land ship."

MESSENGER:

"Aye aye, sir." (Salutes and leaves to Port with double salute.)

SKIPPER:

Skipper's speech. Usually omitted.

(The MESSENGER lays to the Starboard side of the room where the COMMODORE is waiting, and salutes. The MESSENGER and COMMODORE speak in a loud voice so that all can hear.)

MESSENGER: (Salutes)

"The Skipper of the Flagship sends his respects and asks if you and your party are ready to board the land ship."

COMMODORE: (Returns salute)

"Send the Skipper of the Flagship my regards and tell him that I and my party will be along shortly."

MESSENGER:

"Aye aye, sir."

(The MESSENGER salutes and boards the land ship to port, rendering the double salute. He lays aft and salutes the SKIPPER.)

MESSENGER:

"The Commodore sends his regards and says that he and his party will be along shortly."

SKIPPER: (Returns salute)

"Very well, dismissed."

(MESSENGER returns to crew. COMMODORE approaches. The BOS'N turns and faces the SKIPPER.)

SKIPPER:

"Stand by to receive the COMMODORE."

BOS'N: (About face)

"Stand by to receive the COMMODORE. SIDE BOYS ONE THROUGH FOUR, post."

(Side Boys take one step back and, walking behind their respective crews, report to their assigned duty stations. The Bos'n will take up station one step forward of the forward line of Side Boys and one step inboard to pipe the side. The BOS'N pipes the side. SKIPPER returns the salutes of the dignitaries.)

(BOS'N and SIDE BOYS return to their posts as COMMODORE goes aft.)

RECEPTION OF GUESTS AND OTHER OFFICERS

If any guest officials are expected to visit the land ship, they will be received about this time.

When other officers are about to come aboard the land ship, the Officer of the Deck will inform the Boatswain that Mr. So and So, Commodore, or Scout Executive, Area Commodore, or some member of the National Staff is about to come aboard. The Boatswain posts the appropriate number of side boys. The number of side boys for each rank is shown in the *Sea Scout Manual*.

It is suggested for expediency to have the number of side boys required for the senior-most dignitary line up all at once. If the officer is accompanied by other officers, junior to him, they follow him on board ship. However, when he is leaving, they precede him, he being the last one to leave.

All officers have personal flags. It is considered the proper thing for the Leader to send his flag on board the land ship by his aide or attendant before he himself comes aboard. The flag is made fast to the flag halyard on the starboard yardarm and as soon as the officer comes on the Ship his flag is hoisted two blocks.

The reception follows the order given above for the Commodore. The sending of the messenger may be omitted.

BRIDGE OF AWARDS

See agenda for current year. Commodore speaks and presents the awards. Flagship pipes new quartermasters over the side with two side boys.

CHANGING THE WATCH

The Commodore says a few words about the outgoing and incoming flagships.

OUTGOING SKIPPER: (Stands)

INCOMING SKIPPER: (Approaches Outgoing Skipper, salutes, and states:)

"Sir, I am ready to relieve you as Skipper of the Flagship."

OUTGOING SKIPPER: (Salutes and states:)

"[Ship's Name] stands relieved as Council Flagship."

INCOMING SKIPPER:

"I accept command." (Once Outgoing Skipper is seated, Outgoing Boatswain returns to his crew, and Incoming Boatswain takes his post.)

DEPARTURE OF COMMODORE AND GUESTS

It is suggested that all dignitaries depart with the Commodore. Side boys are posted for the highest ranking officer.

COMMODORE:

"Sir, I am about to leave the Ship."

SKIPPER: (Faces Commodore and salutes.)

"Aye aye, sir."

SKIPPER: (Left face toward Bos'n)

"BOS'N, man the side."

BOS'N: (Salutes)

"Aye aye, sir." (Faces about to the Ship.)

"Attention. SIDE BOYS ONE THROUGH FOUR, post."

(The members of the Commodore's party march to the starboard gangway, execute the double salute, and exit the land ship. As each officer passes between the Side Boys, the Boatswain 'pipes the side.' The SKIPPER returns each salute to the quarterdeck. He then escorts the Commodore to the port side of the quarterdeck. As the Commodore leaves the quarterdeck, he shakes hands with the SKIPPER, then walks to the starboard gangway.)

DEPARTURE OF THE FLAGSHIP SKIPPER

If the Skipper is not present, or for the sake of expediency, the Skipper may assume the role of OOD and not leave the land ship at this point. The ceremony continues with the posting of the COLOR GUARD, below.

SKIPPER:

"Officer of the deck."

(The officer of the deck approaches)

"I am about to leave the Ship."

OOD: (Faces Skipper and salutes.)

"Aye aye, sir."

OOD: (Left face toward Bos'n)

"BOS'N, man the side."

BOS'N: "Aye aye, sir." (Faces about to the Ship.)

"Attention. COLOR GUARD, SIDE BOYS ONE AND TWO, post."

(Skipper leaves the land ship.)

BOS'N:

"COLOR GUARD, SIDE BOYS, return to your crews."

CLOSING CEREMONY

OOD:

"BOS'N, stand by for colors."

BOS'N:

"Aye aye, sir." (Drops salute and faces about to the Ship.)

"COLOR GUARD, post." (The Color Guard marches by the most direct route to its posts at the flag staff. The Color Guard frees the halyard and stands by to lower the Ensign. When all is ready, the Bos'n commands:)

BOS'N:

"Attention."

"All hands to the colors, face."

"Hand salute."

(The Bos'n pipes colors. At the last note, the Bos'n faces about.)

"Ready, two. Inboard, face."

(The Color Guard folds the Ensign and when finished, quickly march to a position front and center of the Bos'n, pass the Ensign to him, take one step backward, salute, drop their salutes, and then return to their crews. The Bos'n does not return the salutes but instead faces about, passes the Ensign to the OOD, salutes, drops his salute, and awaits instructions. The OOD secures the Ensign on the bridge. The OOD does not return the Bos'n's salute.)

OOD:

"BOATSWAIN, dismiss the crew."

BOS'N:

"Crew dismissed."

The OOD asks the crews of all vessels attending to help with the cleanup for the dance.

The crews, and finally the OOD and BOS'N leave the ship. In usual practice, the ceremony ends immediately without the crews leaving with the double salute.

Notes:

1. "Ma'am" is interchangeable with "Sir." Personal pronouns are changed to the feminine form where appropriate.

2. In the ceremony, if there is no OOD apart from the Skipper present, the Boatswain may take command of the Ship by fulfilling the role of both OOD and Boatswain.