

Freedom Award Ceremony

GUIDE





Dear Freedom Rangeman,

Welcome to the peak! On behalf of Freedom Rangemen across the country, we welcome you to a brotherhood of Christian men. Your journey to earn the Freedom Award may not have been easy and have taken a lot of work, but you have achieved Freedom. Please use the following resource as you prepare to celebrate this accomplishment.

This Freedom Award Ceremony guide combines the recommendations of fellow Freedom Rangemen from across the country. It contains guidance for structuring your ceremony, a sample ceremony script, and additional resources you may use. These resources utilize the available resources from Trail Life USA—including the Trailman’s standard and the mother/father pin. However, you may customize the ceremony script to make it your own. This Freedom Ceremony should not only recognize your achievement and hard work, but it should also illuminate the character and lessons learned throughout your journey. Use this opportunity to encourage others to pursue the journey and thank those who have helped you along your journey.

Take this opportunity to reflect on your journey through Trail Life. Your efforts and dedication have led you here. Thank God for His provision over you, thank your parents for their support, and thank your Troop leaders for their guidance along the way. Before you begin your descent to continue along the trail, celebrate the position you are at now. Look out over your path and the journey left ahead. We hope that you will stay connected with the Freedom Rangeman Association (FRA) and that we can provide you a community of brotherly fellowship and mentoring, as well as opportunities for both adventure and service.

Walk Worthy!

The FRA Committee Team

THE FREEDOM RANGEMAN ASSOCIATION (FRA) COMMITTEE TEAM



Ceremony Outline

The outline below provides a basic structure to a standard Freedom Ceremony. Also provided is a sample script that models the outline and can be personalized for your personal needs. If creating a unique ceremony, we recommend following the basic structure given below. Remember, the focus of a Freedom Ceremony should be to outline the Trailman's path, achievement, and Christian character.

Welcome / Opening Prayer

Presentation of Colors

(Trailmen-lead Ceremony w/ TL Oath & Motto)

Trail Life Overview

Program Overview

Standard Presentation

Guest Speakers

(from Chaplain, Adventurer Advisor, Etc.)

Freedom Award Symbolism

Freedom Award Presentation

Presentation of Mother/Father Pins

Recipient Remarks

Flag Retirement / Closing Prayer



CEREMONY SCRIPT

MC Master of Ceremonies (Troop Committee Chair or Troop Ministry Liaison)	TM Troopmaster
FO First Officer (Second Officer or Highest Ranking Trailman if FO is Rangeman)	C Troop Chaplain
YT Youth Trailman (may be from any level of program)	AA Adventurer Advisor

MC May I have your attention please. I would like to thank you all for attending today's Freedom Award Ceremony where we would like to recognize [Recipient's Name] for receiving this pinnacle award. My name is [name] and I am the [Troop Committee Chair / Troop Ministry Liaison] for Troop [XX-####]. I will be your Master of Ceremonies. At this time, we ask that everyone please silence their phones and please stand for the opening prayer and presentation of the colors.

Our Troop Chaplain, [name], will open us in prayer.

C A Trailman honors God. [prayer]

Please remain standing. Our First Officer, [name], will lead us in the presentation of the colors.

FO Color Guard, attention. Color Guard, advance the colors.

Troop salute. Those not in uniform, please place your right hand over your heart.

Color Guard, post the colors.

Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Ready, Two. Please remain standing for the Trail Life Oath and Motto. Trailman salute.

On my honor, I will do my best to serve God and my country, to respect authority, to be a good steward of creation, and to treat others as I want to be treated.

And the motto is: "Walk Worthy!"

Color Guard, dismissed.



MC

We have gathered today to recognize the accomplishments of [Recipient's Name] as he has progressed upon the trail to the Freedom Award. The Freedom Award is the highest award in Trail Life program and recognizes the many traits a young man must gain in order to excel in life as a man of integrity. [Recipient's Name] has learned to live the Trailman Oath which you have just heard. He has also learned to live by the Trail Life Motto. Our motto, "Walk Worthy!" is drawn from Colossians 1:9-10. Paul writes: "...we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God." I am proud to say that [Recipient's Name] has modeled a worthy path for other Trailmen to follow.

The mission of Trail Life is to guide generations of courageous, young men to honor God, lead with integrity, serve others, and experience outdoor adventure. Trail Life aims to disciple these youth in order to achieve the vision of becoming the premier national character development organization for young men which produces godly and responsible husbands, fathers, and citizens. These four distinctives—the Oath, Motto, Mission, and Vision—set Trail Life apart.

I would now like to invite our Troopmaster, [name], up to the podium to speak to [Recipient's Name]'s path to earning the Freedom Award.

TM

My name is [name], and I am the Troopmaster for Troop [XX-####]. I would like to take this time to provide an overview of the trail a Trailman must take to earn the Freedom Award.

The trail starts with the Woodlands Trail program where the goal is to provide knowledge. A boy can enter the program once he is five years old and is taught fundamentals in seven categories through fun games and hands-on activities. These seven categories, called Branches, are: Heritage, Hobbies, Life Skills, Outdoor Skills, Values, Sports & Fitness, and Science & Technology. In the last two years of the Woodlands Trail program, when the Trailman is in the Mountain Lions patrol, he can earn the Woodlands Trail capstone award called the Timberline Award. This award focuses on the four Manhood Principles which are (1) to live boldly and avoid being passive, (2) to live responsibly, (3) to lead courageously, and (4) to live for the greater rewards of God.

At the age of eleven, a boy advances from the Woodlands Trail program to the Navigators program. As a Navigator, the Trailman focuses on understanding by completing various Core Tail Badges as well as Elective Trail Badges. The Trailman also participates in campouts, service projects, and completes a faith-based award called the Worthy Life award. This program seeks to help boys grow in their



mental, moral, emotional, and physical fitness in exploring God's great outdoors. Throughout the program, the Trailman has the opportunity to earn the capstone award of the Navigators program, the Ridgeline Award. In order to achieve this award, the Trailman must help plan and execute a multi-Troop area event or a community service project in addition to earning all nine core badges, three elective badges, and complete the Navigators Worthy Life award.

At the age of fourteen, a boy advances from the Navigators program to the Adventurers program. As an Adventurer, the Trailman focus on wisdom by completing various True Freedom Badges as well as Elective Trail Badges. The program is boy-led with the intention of allowing boys to take ownership of activities they plan and implement. In order to earn the Freedom Award, a Trailman must complete all nine Core Trail Badges, six True Freedom Trail Badges, ten Elective Trail Badges, the Adventurers Worthy Life award, four comprehensive, experiential activities called Freedom Experiences, hold various leadership roles, maintain active participation in Troop meetings and campouts, complete twenty service hours per year, propose, plan, and complete a Servant Leadership Project, write a Life Ambition essay, receive four to six reference letters, and pass a Freedom Board of Review.

All of a Trailman's Trail Badges, service stars, and ranks are shown on his standard.

[OPTIONAL] At this time, I would like to invite [Recipient's Name] and the Adventurer Advisor up for the presentation of the standard.

[Adventurer Advisor gives the Rangeman his Freedom Award standard topper and helps put the topper in place upon the top of the standard]

Please join me in applauding [Recipient's Name] for all of his hard work. Even as we celebrate his achievements we also aim to showcase his Christian character. At this time I would like to invite [name and role of Guest Speaker #1].

[SEE GUEST SPEAKER GUIDANCE PAGE](#)



MC Now, I would like to invite our Adventurer Advisor, [name], to explain the symbolism of the Freedom Award emblem.

AA My name is [name], and I am the Adventurer Advisor for Troop [XX-####]. I would like to take this time to help lead in explaining the symbolism of the Freedom Award and what it represents to those that carry such a distinguished honor.

We will now have Trailman from our Troop read verses and explain the various parts of the Freedom Award emblem.

YT The Trinity Peaks stand above all that we do on earth or in eternity. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit exist as eternal authority. 2 Corinthians 13:14 says, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen."

YT The Sword of the Spirit is but one part of the whole Armor of Christ and our battle against the spiritual forces of evil. The hilt reminds us of the cross through which Jesus Christ provides the way to eternal freedom. Ephesians 6:17 tells us "[to take up] the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

YT The Shield of Faith represents God's protection. Likewise, a Freedom Rangeman should be a protector of liberty, faith, family, and the weak. Ephesians 6:16 commands us to "[take] the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one."

YT The Mighty Stag is a bold symbol of maturity and represents the ability to stand strong in faith. A Freedom Rangeman's desire is to follow Christ. 2 Samuel 22:34, says, "He makes my feet like the feet of deer, and sets me on my high places."

YT The Crossed Keys represent citizenship in the Kingdom of Heaven and the eternal freedom which Jesus unlocked through the cross. On the blade of the key, the TL Key Ward is a reminder of the knowledge, understanding, and wisdom that a Freedom Rangeman will have gained for life from his time in the program. Knowledge is the theme of the Woodlands Trail, Understanding is the theme of the Navigator program, and Wisdom is the theme of the Adventurer program. These three themes set the stage for life. Matthew 16:19 says, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven."



YT The last part of the emblem, the Freedom Banner is the banner we display to a broken and hurting human race. We hold this up as our highest award so that this world can see the true freedom that can only come through Christ Jesus. John 8:36 says, "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

AA We hold this up as our highest award so that this world can see the true freedom that can only come through Jesus Christ. I am honored to say that [Recipient's Name] has modeled the life of a Christ follower and has achieved the true freedom found in Christ.

MC Will the Troopmaster, Adventurer Advisor, and the Freedom Award candidate please come to the front for the presentation of the Freedom Award.

At this time, we would like to present the Freedom Award path and certificate to [Recipient's Name].

[Patch & Certificates is presented by the TM and AA]

I present to you Troop XX-####'s newest Freedom Rangeman, [name].

Lastly, we would like to present [Recipient's Name] with the Freedom pin which he can wear proudly on his clothing. This pin is a sign not only of his pinnacle accomplishment in Trail Life, but it is also a testament to the many Trailmen and adult Advisors who have helped him on his journey.

[Pin is presented by the TM and AA]

Would the Freedom Rangeman's parents please come to the front.

[Recipient's Name], your parents have undoubtedly been a source of help, strength and prayers during your ongoing journey. No one besides God will ever know the unnumbered acts of self-sacrifice made by your mother. In recognition of your mother's devotion," present her with this Freedom Award mother's pin.

[Rangeman pins on his mother's pin]

Your father has been the source of advice and guidance along the trail, so I'd like you to please present him with this Freedom Award father's pin.

[Rangeman pins on his father's pin]

Let's all give a hand to our new Freedom Rangeman along with his parents!



[Freedom Rangeman gives special thank-you remarks.]

MC We would like to thank you all for coming out today to celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of [Recipient's Name] in earning the Freedom Award. At this time, would you please stand for the retirement of the colors and the closing prayer.

FO Color Guard, attention. Color Guard, advance.

Troop salute. Those not in uniform, please place your right hand over your heart.

Color Guard, retrieve the colors. Color Guard, forward march.

Ready, Two.

Color Guard, dismissed.

Please remain standing. Our Troop Chaplain, [name], will lead us in the closing prayer.

C A Trailman honors God. [prayer]

End of Ceremony.



Guest Speaker Guidance

The Guest Speaker portion of the ceremony should focus on allowing leaders from different spheres of the Freedom Rangeman's Trail Life experience to speak to the Rangeman's exemplification of the Oath and Motto. The following individuals may be considered to speak to the Rangeman's leadership and character. The Guest Speaker portion of the ceremony can be made as long as the Freedom Rangeman desires.

- **Troop Chaplain**
(he may speak to the Rangeman's spiritual journey and the Worthy Life award)
- **Adventurer Advisor**
(he may speak to the Rangeman's responsibility and leadership in the Troop)
- **Troop Level Project Mentor**
(he may speak to the Rangeman's dedication and community leadership)
- **Area Freedom Advisor**
(he may speak to the Rangeman's humility and ability to overcome)
- **Representative from the SLP Benefitting Organization**
(he may speak to the Rangeman's servant attitude and generosity)
- **Freedom Board Chairman**
(he may speak to the Rangeman's confidence and boldness)
- **Senior Ministry Leader (SML) or Pastor**
(he may speak to the Rangeman's faith outside of the Troop)

Script Template

GS

My name is [name], and I am the [title]. ***How they know the Trailman and interactions they have had with him.*** I would like to speak today about [Recipient's Name]'s [character trait(s)]. ***Personal Remarks.***

Now, I would like to invite [name] to the stage to speak about [Recipient's Name].



Multimedia Resources

Linked below are several multimedia resources for you to use throughout the Freedom Ceremony. The provided presentation templates match the ceremony script provided but can be adapted to match unique ceremonies.



Ceremony Presentation Template (Google Slides)

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1lkg2-QQi4GXuTSpolSmmoy6cUZDbdlpd/edit?usp=sharing&oid=110581690841927817363&rtpof=true&sd=true>



Ceremony Presentation Template (PowerPoint)

<https://1drv.ms/p/s!AmiYmrSi6xskiQmi9USPrP-oi3mr?e=RKCirb>



Flyer/Announcement Template (Canva)

https://www.canva.com/design/DAFF2oEme_g/rxfqiTmQGBIRGKknXuatWw/view?utm_content=DAFF2oEme_g&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=publishsharelink



Program Template (Canva)

https://www.canva.com/design/DAFquJZpsok/kcWj39Z6KEll1eRnyPprTw/view?utm_content=DAFquJZpsok&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=publishsharelink

