

## Pack 125 Arrow of Light Ceremony

(Disclaimer: About ½ of the content of the ceremony I found on the internet, but I do not remember the exact websites. My apologies for not giving credit where credit is due. The other half is my own writing.)

### Open with Pledge of Allegiance

**Cubmaster:** “We are gathered here tonight to honor a number of our 5th grade Webelos scouts by presenting them with the highest award of Cub Scouting, the **Arrow of Light**. As this is a very solemn ceremony, I would appreciate it, Cubs, if you could listen and watch quietly. In a year or two, it may be your turn to receive this award.”

*(If possible, have the lights turned down. Have a stand of to one side with three large and tall candles, a white candle in middle, red candle on left and a blue candle on right. In middle of “stage” is a large ceremonial arrow of light, with 7 yellow tapered candles.)*

**Cubmaster:** “Until the year 1907, there was no organized Scouting program for boys. In that year, a retired British general by the name of Lord Baden-Powell, saw an opportunity to teach scouting and wilderness skills to young boys. So he he organized the first Boy Scout troop and held the first camporee. (Light the white candle). We light the white candle to represent the Scouting Spirit found in the world.”

“In 1910, by mere chance, an American business man lost in the heart of London, England was assisted by a young boy. Upon reaching his destination, the business man tried to offer monetary gratitude to the boy. The boy politely refused, stating he was a Boy Scout and was just doing his good deed of the day. The businessman, William Boyce, was so impressed that he decided to investigate this “Boy Scout” concept. He liked what he discovered, so he brought the idea back to the United States. (Light the red candle). We light the red candle to represent the Scouting Spirit found in all Boy Scouts in America.”

“In 1930, the Boy Scouts of America decided to experiment with a scouting program for even younger boys. In the first year, over 5,000 boys joined and 243 packs were created in what we now know as Cub Scout. (Light the blue candle.) We light the blue candle to represent the Scouting Spirit found in all Cub Scouts.”

**Den Leader:** “Tonight we have the honor of presenting the Arrow of Light Award to 7 members of this pack. But before I present these awards, let me take a moment to relate an appropriate story.

Afar in our dry southwestern country was an Indian village, behind which a high mountain towered above the desert. It was considered a great feat to climb this mountain, so all the young braves of the village were eager to attempt it.

One day, the chief said, "Now, boys, you may all go today and try to climb the mountain. Start right after breakfast, and go as far as you can. Then when you are tired, come back; but each of you must bring me a twig from the place where you turned.

Away they all went; full of hope, each feeling that he surely could reach the top. Soon the first boy came slowly back, puffing and sweating. He stood before the chief, and in his hand he held a piece of cactus. The chief smiled and said, "My boy, you barely got started."

You did not reach the mountain; you did not even cross the desert. I like to think this boy is like a newly inducted Cub Scout; he has just barely started.

An hour later the second boy returned. He carried a twig of sagebrush. "Well" said the chief, "you reached the foot of the mountain, but you did not start the climb." This boy is like the Cub Scout who has earned his Bobcat badge; he has progressed on his journey but has not really started his climb.

After another hour, the third boy came back. He held out a cottonwood spray. "Good" said the chief, "you got as far as the springs." This might represent the Cub Scout who has reached the first level of his climb and received his Wolf badge.

A little while later, another boy came back with some cedar. The chief smiled when he saw it, and spoke, "Well done, my boy, you went halfway up." This is like the Cub Scout who has progressed halfway up the advancement trail and earned his Bear badge.

Later in the afternoon, the next boy returned carrying a branch of pine. To him the chief said, "Good, you went to the third level. You made three - quarters of the climb. Keep on trying. Next year you will undoubtedly reach the top." The Cub Scout who has earned his Webelos badge has reached the three-quarter mark and is in sight of the top."

The sun was low when the last boy returned. He was a tall, splendid boy of noble character. He approached the chief and held up his hand. It was empty. But he was radiant as he spoke. "My father, there were no trees where I went. I saw no twigs, no living thing upon the peak. But far and away I saw other mountain peaks, and beyond them the shining sea."

Now the old chief's face glowed as he said, "I knew it! I knew it when I looked upon your face. You have reached the top. It is written in your eyes and it rings in your voice. My boy, you need no twigs for token, you have seen the glory of the mountain."

The brave who reached the top is like the Cub Scout who has reached the top - the Arrow of Light Award. But, beyond the top are the peaks of the Boy Scouting program that must be met and climbed to reach the shining sea of adulthood.

**Cubmaster:** Before we proceed, let us take a moment to reflect on the journey thus far, as we listen to the different voices of the Cub Scout.

**Voice of the Tiger Scout:** Listen to the voice of the Tiger Scout. I am experiencing Cub Scouts for the first time. I have learned the motto, "Search, Discover, Share." I am learning about dens, pack and Akela. Because I am so young, I need a Tiger Partner to walk with me down the Tiger Path. My den meetings are only two each month. I get to wear a special "Tiger totem" on my uniform, and earn a bead for each requirement that I complete. My requirements consist of den activities, family activities and "Go See Its." These requirements briefly introduced me to citizenship, nature, communication, health and my community, while having fun with my new scout friends. I have experience nature by going on my first campout. During this year, the foundation of Cub Scouting was formed in me. As you receive your Arrow of Light tonight, remember your experiences when you were me. Remember the voice of the Tiger Scout.

**Voice of the Wolf Scout:** Listen to the voice of the Wolf Scout. I am experiencing Cub Scouts without a Tiger Partner. I am being lead down the Wolf path only by my Den Leader and Asst. Den Leader. I have earned my Bobcat badge and learned the Cub Scout motto, "Do Your Best." My den meetings are every week now. There are 12 requirements that I have to complete for my Wolf badge. While completing these requirements, I am focusing on physical fitness, crafting skills, responsibility in my family, and how to respectfully handle our nation's flag. I am also learning more about nature, cooking skills, and how my religious belief should guide my actions and decisions. While I am completing these requirements, I earn yellow beads to show my progress. I have been on a few campouts now and I am getting the hang of it. As you receive your Arrow of Light tonight, remember your experiences and lessons you learned when you were me. Remember the voice of the Wolf Scout.

**Voice of the Bear Scout:** Listen to the voice of the Bear Scout. I am becoming an experience Cub Scout now, but the requirements for my Bear badge had also increased in difficulty. This year I still have to complete 12 requirements for my Bear badge, but I now get to choose from a list of 24 possible requirements. These requirements focus on 4 areas of development: God, Country, Family, and Self. This year I am earning red beads to show my progress toward my Bear badge. My den is taking on larger roles in the pack meetings. I have been on many campouts and I am starting to become a pro at it. I have also earned the privilege to carry a pocket knife to scout functions, because I have earned my whittling chip. I have also experience the service side of Scouting. As you receive your Arrow of Light tonight, remember your experiences and lessons you learned when you were me. Remember the voice of the Bear Scout.

**Voice of the Webelos Scout:** Listen to the voice of the Webelos Scout. You know me very well, because for just a little longer, you are me. I have been a Webelos Scout longer than any other rank. This is because I have to earn two badges during this time. I am aware of my actions, because all the younger scouts are now looking up to me. I am very visible now, because I have retired my trusty companion of three years, my blue uniform and have taken up the khaki shirt that not only the adult leaders wear, but also the Boy Scouts. Instead of completing requirements for my Webelos badge, I have to earn activity pins, which I have twenty to choose from. These activity pins are grouped into 5 areas of interest: Community, Mental Skills, Outdoor, Physical Skills and Technology. Part of my requirements for my Webelos Badge is learning the foundations of the Boy Scouts. These would be the Boy Scout Oath, Law, Salute, Handshake and Motto. I am being prepared for Boy Scouts, where I will be responsible for both my actions and my advancement. My Den Leader and Assistant Den Leader have become more of a guide than a leader. Because I am a Webelos Scout, I have gone camping without a parent, and experience campouts similar to the Boy Scouts. I have to pitch my own tent, and with the help of my den, cook my own meals. I also know that my time in Cub Scouts is very short. I am very nervous about the near future, but know that my time in Cub Scouts has prepared me for what is coming ahead. As you receive your Arrow of Light tonight, remember your experiences and lessons when you were me. Remember to the voice of the Webelos Scout.

**Asst. Den Leader:** “At this time, I would ask that the following boys come forward, along with his parents, and stand in front. Parents, please stand behind your scout.” *(Call out list of boy receiving Arrow of Light).*

“The arrow of light is much more difficult to obtain than a belt loop, an activity badge or even one of the other rank patches. To obtain this award these scouts have met a number of requirements, including a completion of eight activity badges, participation in camps, hikes and boy scout activities, the memorization of the Scout Oath and the Scout Law, and the commitment to live by these principles. Webelos scouts will you please stand at attention, show the Scout sign and recite to the audience the Scout Oath in unison.

**Webelos: On my honor I will do my best: To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.**

**Asst. Den Leader:** I ask now that you once again show the Scout sign and recite the Scout Law.

**Webelos: A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, Reverent**

**Asst. Den Leader:** Thank you.

**Jr. Webelos Den Leader:** "In a few minutes you will be awarded your Arrow of Light badge, but you may not know that the Arrow of Light full of symbolism. As you can see, the **Arrow of Light** symbol is made up of an arrow which points the way to a good life and a rising sun which symbolizes the constant new challenges provided by scouting and by life itself. The seven candles in the center of the stage represent the seven rays in the arrow of light symbol you see before you. Please listen as I read to you the meaning of each of the rays. *(Each candle is lit prior to the reading. Narrator to give dramatic pause after each reading to give plenty of time to light each candle.)*

This first candle and first ray represents **Wisdom**. Having wisdom doesn't mean that a person is smarter than others. It means that he uses what he knows to live a better life.

The second candle and second ray represents **Courage**. Courage does not mean you have no fear of danger. It means that you can face danger despite your fear.

The third candle and third ray stands for **Self Control**. Self Control means being able to stop when you have had enough of something and being able to choose your own path instead of merely following others.

The fourth candle and the fourth ray stand for **Justice**. Justice means being fair with others we play and work with, regardless of who they are.

The fifth candle and ray represents **Faith**. Faith includes belief in God, and in things we cannot see, but know are true.

The sixth candle and ray represents **Hope**. Hope means to look forward to good things you believe will happen. You hope for better things tomorrow, but at the same time you work hard today to make them happen.

The seventh and last candle and the last ray of the sun of the arrow of light symbol stands for **Love**. There are many kinds of love. Love of family, home, fellow men, God, and country. Every kind of love is important for a full and happy life.

**Cubmaster:** You've completed all the requirements for your Arrow of Light badge and have completed the Cub Scout trail. It is our pleasure to award you your Arrow of Light badge to your parents, who have been your Akela in completing these requirements. Parents please award this badge to your son and congratulate him on a "job well done."

*(CM presents the parents with the Arrow of Light badge and asks them to pin it on their son. NOTE: Do not shake their hands at this time!)*

It is the tradition of the Boy Scout troop that you are about to join that when a Boy Scout received a new rank award, the parents receive a small replica pin of that rank to be pinned on their parent's ribbon. To start this tradition in your budding Boy Scout life, we will be handing both the ribbon and pin to you, and ask that you present it to your parents.

*(Cubmaster presents the mother's pin to the boy and asks him to present it to his mother or father.)*

**Den Leader:** At this time we would like to present to each Webelos Scout their Arrow of Light plaque.

*(Den Leader presents plaques to each boy.)*

The plaque is in the shape of their badge, but also includes a real arrow. You will notice that the shaft of each arrow has multiple color stripes on it. The stripes reflect your history in Cub Scouts, with each color bands representing their ranks and awards they have earned as Cub Scouts. Each arrow is unique, because it reflects your individual accomplishments over the years. The orange band represents the Tiger Badge, the dark blue band, the Bobcat. The Red band represents the Wolf Badge and the Teal Green the Bear. Because you had the ability to earn arrow head during you time as Wolves and Bears, there is a small gold band for the first arrowhead and silver bands for the rest of the arrow heads. The light blue band represents the Webelos badge and the small dark grey bands represent the number of activity pins you have earned. Last, on everybody's arrow, is a dark blue band with small gold bands on each end. This represents the award you are receiving tonight, the Arrow of Light.

**Cubmaster:** The Arrow of Light is a significant achievement. It is recognized as such by the Boy Scouts of America. When you become a Boy Scout, you continue to wear the Arrow of Light on your uniform. When you become an adult leader, you wear a square knot which represents the Arrow of Light on your uniform. In view of that significance, I offer my sincere congratulations to each of you.

*(Cubmaster shakes the hand of each scout and parent.)*

**Cubmaster:** In Boy Scouts, when they have an Eagle Court of Honor, a charge or challenge is made to the new Eagle Scout. Tonight, I want to offer such a challenge to each of you. You have achieved the highest rank in Cub Scouts. You have shown what you are capable of doing. In two weeks you will be crossing the bridge from the pack to a Boy Scout troop. I ask that you think about these challenges during you few remaining days as Cub Scouts.

I challenge each of you to continue to live by the ideals you have learned in Cub Scouts, especially the Cub Scout motto: "DO YOUR BEST".

I challenge each of you to continue your high level of achievement in Boy Scouts.

I challenge each of you to look at the Arrow of Light badge and think about what it represents:

\* The sun shedding its light on all that we do; a reminder that you should be a light for those around you.

\* The seven rays of the sun representing the seven days of the week; a reminder that you should do your best every day.

\* The arrow which is symbolic of everything which is straight and true; just as you should be straight and true in your life.

I challenge each of you to follow where that Arrow of Light points:

\* Forward on the trail of Boy Scout ranks.

\* Upward to higher challenges.

I challenge each of you to soar to great heights and obtain the Eagle Scout Award. As your Cubmaster, I will be honored to join you, wherever you may be, to see you receive this achievement.

Parents, Guests and Cub Scouts of Pack 125, would you please join with me in giving these boys a standing ovation for achieving the highest award in Cub Scouting? Congratulations and good luck!