

ARROW OF LIGHT AND CROSSOVER CEREMONY

Participants:

- Webelo II scouts
- Trumpet player
- One representative each: Tiger, Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, Webelo I, and Webelo II
- Narrator
- Den Leaders
- Cubmaster
- Boy Scout Troop representatives
- Webelo I scouts

Props Needed:

- Flags/stands
- Trumpet
- Screen
- Computer
- Projector
- Pictures of arrow from plaque and Arrow of Light award patch
- Podium
- Microphone
- Name Tags for chairs
- Tape
- Arrow of Light patches
- List of boys receiving Arrow of Light from each den
- List of boys crossing over
- Bridge
- Arrow Plaques, placed on the front edge of the stage and covered with garbage bags or similar
- Plastic tablecloth
- Chairs (one for each Arrow of Light recipient) in a single row at the front of the audience, with name tags on each chair, with enough room between the chair and the stage for the parents to stand
- Two chairs on stage behind podium
- Boy Scout Troop neckerchiefs
- Cake
- Drinks
- Forks, Napkins, Plate, Cups

THE OPENING CEREMONY

[Webelos II boys perform the standard opening flag ceremony. Trumpeter will play “To the Colors” while the flags are being brought forward. Following the ceremony, all Webelos IIs not involved in the next part of the program exit from the stage via the nearest set of stairs and take a seat in a row of chairs near the stage, in alphabetical order.]

THE INTRODUCTION

[Six boys, representing Tigers, Bobcats, Wolves, Bears, Webelos, and Arrow of Light, stand in a line center stage, three on each side of the screen. The Narrator is at a podium stage left. Arrow of Light arrow is showing on screen. The curtain behind the screen is closed. The bridge is situated behind the curtain.]

NARRATOR:

Good evening. We are here tonight to honor [13] Webelos Scouts who have earned Cub Scouting's highest award, the Arrow of Light. The Arrow of Light is a significant achievement. It is the only Cub Scout award that a Boy Scout may wear on his Boy Scout Uniform. Even as an adult leader, he can wear the special square knot badge to always recall his having earned the Arrow of Light.

The award that these boys will receive tonight represents their past, their present, and their future in scouting. To reflect this, each boy will also be receiving an arrow. The blue and gold fletching on the arrow represents their decision to begin their Cub scouting path. The colored bands on the arrow represent their achievements in scouting from first through fifth grades, including tiger, bobcat, wolf, bear, and Webelos' achievements. Let's reminisce for a while about the Cub Scout path.

THE HISTORY

[The Narrator walks over to stand near the first boy in line. After the first line the Narrator speaks, the microphone will be passed to the first boy in line. When the boy finishes speaking, he will hand the microphone back to the Narrator and the Narrator will continue on to the next boy. This will be repeated for all the boys.]

NARRATOR:

Webelos, many moons ago, you entered the Cub Pack. The first challenges you encountered were from the Tiger den. As you met them, you learned what it means to be a Cub.

TIGER:

My adult partner and I are having fun learning about the world around us and about Cub Scouts. We enjoy Searching, Discovering and Sharing. I am a Tiger.

NARRATOR:

Then, as a Bobcat, you learned the Law of the Pack and the three words that would inspire you to meet all other challenges: Do Your Best.

BOBCAT:

I have learned what it means to be a Cub Scout. I can say the Cub Scout Promise and the Law of the Pack, can make the Cub Scout sign and can show the Cub Scout handshake. I know the Cub Scout motto and can give the Cub Scout salute. I know what Webelos means. I promise to do my best. I am a Bobcat.

NARRATOR:

Having started on the trail, you next sought to join the Wolf den. Here you were met with twelve challenges, harder than the Bobcat tests, but with the cleverness of the wolf itself, you met them and continued on your journey

WOLF:

I have learned twelve new things. I grew physically and spiritually. I developed habits and attitudes of good citizenship. As I grew in mind and body, I also grew within my family. I learned to get along with others and gained a sense of personal achievement. It is fun being helpful and doing your best. I am a Wolf.

NARRATOR:

Now the trail became darker and fainter as you came to the Bear den. Again twelve challenges were presented before you. As you met each of them, your knowledge grew and your spirit strengthened. It was this strength of spirit, like that of a bear, which prompted you to move onward.

BEAR:

I too have learned 12 new things. They required more skill and effort, but were fun and interesting. Many of the things I learned were preparing me to be a Boy Scout. The electives started giving me ideas about hobbies I might want to pursue in life. I am a Bear.

NARRATOR:

As you neared the summit, you joined the Webelos den. The time of your testing had begun. In the Webelos den you began to learn about Scouting. Just as you learned the ways of the brave as a Bobcat, Wolf, and Bear, as a member of the Webelos den you would learn the ways of the warrior.

WEBELOS SCOUT:

I am learning and understanding the requirements to become a Boy Scout. The Scout Oath and the Scout Law, and the parts of the Scout badge. I am learning

about the outdoors through activities and the Outdoor Code. I have earned at least three activity badges. I am a Webelos scout.

NARRATOR:

In time, you earned the Webelos badge, blazing the rest of the trail on your own. Tonight, at last you have reached the summit and the end of this journey.

There is a Native American legend about a young tribe member named Akela who wanted to join the hunt with the warriors, but who was excluded because he was too young. On the way back from the hunt, the warriors' canoe got trapped in a fog bank and the warriors were unable to determine how to get back safely to their village. Akela, who was out practicing his hunting skills in the hills above the river, heard their predicament. Thinking quickly, he wrapped an arrow in a skin, set it on fire and shot it into the sky toward the river. It lit up the sky and guided his brother warriors back to safety. By his actions, he proved himself worthy to be a warrior, and the wise chief declared that only after meeting the challenge of the Arrow of Light would young members of the tribe be able to become a warrior.

ARROW OF LIGHT:

I have learned the requirements to become a Boy Scout. I can repeat from memory the Scout Oath and Scout Law, and I know the Boy Scout slogan, motto, sign, and salute. I have earned at least eight activity badges, including Citizen, Fitness, Outdoorsman, and Readyman. I have visited a troop meeting and talked with the Scoutmaster. I have been on an overnight campout or day hike. I have attained the highest award in Cub Scouting.

ALL ARROW OF LIGHT RECIPIENTS:

I am The Arrow of Light. {The screen view is changed to a picture of the Arrow of Light award patch.}

THE CHALLENGE

[The boys leave the stage via the right stairs. The Narrator places the microphone on the podium and follows the boys off the stage. The Den Leaders come on stage using the left stairs. The Den Leaders stand at the podium.]

DEN LEADER 1:

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. Tonight you will be crossing the bridge from the pack to a Boy Scout troop or moving on to focus on other activities. As a Cub Scout, you have been guided through the Cub Scout Trail with the help of many Akelas. As

you continue on the path ahead, you will find that, while there are still many people willing to help, you will take on more and more responsibility for blazing your own trail.

DEN LEADER 2:

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".

DEN LEADER 1:

I challenge each of you to continue your high level of achievement wherever your chosen path leads you.

DEN LEADER 2:

I challenge each of you to live up to the 12 points of the Scout Law. Daily you will be faced with decisions and, at times, the trail will seem most difficult to follow. Make your choices by always remembering the Scout Law. In all you do, be forever Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent.

DEN LEADER 1:

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. It is 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. It is a reminder that you should do your best every day.
- The shaft of the arrow is straight and narrow: just as is the path that you Scouts should follow throughout your life. Its tip points the way: the way to success in all that you do. It is pointing to the right: a symbol that nothing should be left undone; if it is within your power to do it, make sure that it is done.

DEN LEADER 2:

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

- Forward on the trail of Boy Scout ranks, and
- Upward to higher challenges.

DEN LEADER 2:

Would the Pack 503 Cubmaster please come forward? [Cubmaster comes on stage via left staircase.] Cubmaster, we are pleased to present to you the names of the Webelos who have met all the requirements for the Arrow of Light and are therefore eligible to receive the Arrow of Light award.

[Each Den Leader hands the Cubmaster a list of the boys in their den who have earned the Arrow of Light award.]

AWARD PRESENTATION

[Den leaders are seated on stage and Cubmaster comes up to the podium.]

CUBMASTER:

Webelos, as I call your name, please stand and turn to face the audience. Parents, as I call your son's name, please come forward and stand behind him also facing the audience.

[One by one, the boys' names are read. Do this slowly. Do not move on to the next name until the previous boy is standing and facing the audience, and his parents have started coming forward.]

Paul Beckman.

Sasha Cohen. Unfortunately, Sasha is unable to be with us this evening due to a family emergency.

Matthew Fales.

Brendan Flaherty.

Luke Frees.

Christopher Gamble. In addition to the Arrow of Light award, Christopher has earned the Superachiever award for earning all 20 of the Webelos activity badges.

Zachary Lopez

Kevin Maxson

Robert Norton

Daniel Paulson.

Robert Stein. In addition to the Arrow of Light award, Robert has earned the Superachiever award for earning all 20 of the Webelos activity badges

Jason Williams.

Ethan Wojtyla.

[After all names have been read, the Cubmaster goes down the stairs to stand at the front of the line of boys. The Den Leaders return to the podium.]

DEN LEADER 1:

Scouts, having met all of its challenges, it is our duty and privilege to award you with the highest Cub Scout honor: the Arrow of Light.

DEN LEADER 2:

Scouts, we present this Arrow of Light patch as a token from your Pack. Wear it proudly and keep it as a beacon to light your way.

[Den Leaders put the microphone on the stage at the far end of the plaques, while Cubmaster starts to hand out the Arrow of Light patches. Den Leaders then go down the left staircase. Cubmaster and Den Leaders congratulate each Webelo with the Scout handshake. Once each Scout has been congratulated by the leaders, the Den Leaders should go to stand with their sons and the Cubmaster should pick up the microphone and address the parents.]

CUBMASTER:

Parents, in recognition of the support and guidance you have given these boys, we ask that you now present the Arrow of Light plaque to your son.

[The parents turn and retrieve the plaques from the stage and present them to their sons. Once each boy has received his plaque and has been congratulated by his parents, the Cubmaster can proceed, addressing the scouts. Scouts should hold plaques so audience can see them]

Scouts, keep this plaque as a remembrance of this occasion and as a reminder that you are a leader who lights the way for others.

[Cubmaster turns to face the audience.]

CUBMASTER:

Parents, Guests and Cub Scouts of Pack 503, 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!

[Pause.]

You may all be seated.

[Cubmaster, Den Leaders, and Boy Scout Troop representatives go up on stage via the **right** staircase as the parents make their way back to their seats. Scouts put their plaques back on the stage and take their seats. Screen is raised and curtain is drawn.]

BRIDGE CROSS

[Den Leaders return to the podium.]

DEN LEADER 1:

As we have said before, the Arrow of Light ceremony marks an end of a journey. But even as this journey ends, another is just beginning. Here at the summit of Cub Scouting, you have found the start of a new trail. This trail is a pathway that leads to the realm of our brothers in the sky, the Eagles.

DEN LEADER 2:

But the trail will also be long and difficult. As you journey, you must keep the spirit of Akela strong within each of you. It will give you strength and guidance as you move onward.

[The Den Leaders should move to stand near the front of the bridge entrance where they can shake the scouts' hands before they go across the bridge. The Cubmaster should move to near the top of the stairs. Scout Troop representatives should position themselves at the bridge exit to welcome the new Boy Scouts and exchange neckerchiefs.]

CUBMASTER:

Will those of you who have chosen to join the clan of the warriors on the Eagle pathway, please rise.

[All boys who are crossing over into Boy Scouts should stand and move to the foot of the left staircase. A volunteer should stand here to make sure the boys do not go on stage until their name is called.]

This year, [seven] scouts have chosen to continue their scouting careers, including Sasha Cohen, who was unable to be here tonight. All seven have chosen to join Troop 505, chartered to Knox Presbyterian Church. We are pleased to welcome [names] here as representatives of Troop 505.

Scouts, when your name is called, come forward and cross the bridge where you will be welcomed at the beginning of your new journey and given the neckerchief of your new Troop, along with other uniform insignia and a Scout Handbook.

[Boys are called forward in alphabetical order. The boy whose name is called should go up on stage via the left staircase. The following exchange should take place between the Cubmaster and each boy.]

CUBMASTER:

Matt/Luke/Christopher/Robby/Danny/Robert, is it your intention to join Troop 505?

SCOUT:

It is.

CUBMASTER: [Feel free to ad-lib this line, so it varies a little bit for each boy.]
We wish you the best on your new journey. Congratulations and good luck.

[Scout shakes the hands of the Cub Scout leaders, then crosses the bridge, where the Troop representatives will welcome him, exchange his Webelos neckerchief for a Troop neckerchief, and provide him with the other paraphernalia. The boy should then exit the stage via the right staircase and return to his chair. Once the boy starts walking away from the Troop representatives, the next name can be called.]

CLOSING

DEN LEADER 1:

Scouts, we congratulate you on your achievements and encourage you to keep Akela's spirit alive. Let it ignite the spark of leadership within each of you that will fan into a fire as your grow. [Start applause. Pause.]

DEN LEADER 2:

Will the Webelo 1s in the audience please rise? [Pause.] You are now the oldest boys in the Cub Scout pack, the ones that all the younger Scouts will look up to. You carry the responsibility of being good role models to the younger Cub Scouts. It is also your job to help explain what exciting activities await the younger Cubs and to help the Cubs during Pack activities. If you accept these responsibilities, please respond by saying, "We accept!" [Pause.] We challenge you to continue on your trails and strive to reach the summit and the Arrow of Light. Good luck!

DEN LEADER 1:

Webelos 1s, please come forward for the closing ceremony.

[Selected Webelos 1s – some from each den, if possible – come onto the stage to perform the standard closing flag ceremony. Trumpeter also goes up on stage. Trumpeter will play "Taps" while the flags are retired.]

DEN LEADER 2: [Following the flag ceremony]

This concludes Pack 503's 2008 Arrow of Light ceremony. We invite you to join us now for a cake reception in honor of the Arrow of Light participants. Thank you all for coming.

[All participants leave the stage.]