

The Arrow of Light Ceremony

Materials needed:

Feathers, 3/boy

Arrows, 1/boy

Facepaints, in colors listed below

Small container of water

Cotton strips, 1"x4", one per arrow (old T-shirts work well)

Lamp Oil

Matches/lighter

Bucket of water

Thin uncoated metal paperclips or bare wire

Aluminum foil

Indian "war bonnet"

These instructions

Flashlight, or other backup lighting

Preparatory steps:

- 1) If it's a public facility, like a school, there is bound to be a fire alarm. Try to ventilate the area as much as practical, and try to hold the ceremony away from any detector. It's not the flame, it's the smoke from extinguishing the arrows that will make it go off!
- 2) Determine where on the program the ceremony will occur. Get your cue straight!
- 3) Determine how the room lights will be dimmed, and assign someone to handle them. Make sure you can read this script with the lights dimmed!
- 4) Find out the name of the Den Leader and Cubmaster (see below), and pencil-in the names legibly. If those persons can't participate, line-out the appropriate sections.
- 5) Find out if the arrows are personalized in any way, so that they have to be handed out in a specific order. If so, organize the arrows, and add to the text to have the boys come up in the order of the arrows.
- 6) Prepare the arrows by wrapping a cotton strip around each arrowhead, and wrapping that with a straightened paperclip or some wire. Take into account the shaft (plastic - will it melt?) and how the arrowhead is secured (glued, or ferruled?). You might put aluminum foil under the cotton strip to protect the arrow. Dip the wrapped arrowhead in the lamp oil, and let the excess drip off. You don't want dripping, flaming lamp oil!
- 7) Determine where you are going to stand.
- 8) Wet the facepaints; remind helpers to leave room on the Scout's cheek for 4 stripes!
- 9) Double-check that the Scouts have neckerchiefs; if they don't find substitutes!
- 10) Whoever will be lighting the arrows - try out the lighter ahead of time, so you know how it works.

Boy Scout: The Arrow of Light is Cub Scouting's highest award. Tonight we honor several Webelos Scouts who have achieved this rank. As we recognize them, I ask that everyone remain silent and give them your full attention.

(Dim the lights)

Will the following Webelos Scouts, with their parents, please come forward to be recognized? Please line up facing the audience, with your parents standing behind you.

Will _____ the Webelos Den Leader, please join us

(Wait for leaders)

Four years ago, you first climbed out of the Den of the Bobcat. You ran and hunted with Akela, the Wolf. You prowled the forests with Baloo, the Bear, and you climbed the mountains as Webelos Scouts. Now you stand at the pinnacle of your climb, the Arrow of Light. You honor your Pack and your families by your great achievement!

Parents, please remove your son's neckerchief, roll it up and tie it as a headband around your son's head.

(hold up feather)

Behold the feather of the Eagle. The Eagle is a symbol of the highest order, both within our society and with the American Indian cultures. The Eagle is the symbol of our country, and of the highest rank in Boy Scouting. Parents, I give you an Eagle feather to place in your son's headband, so he will remember the support you gave and will continue to give.

(Boy Scout assistant distributes feathers, parents place feathers)

Webelos Den Leader _____, I give you an eagle feather to place in each Scout's headband, to symbolize the help that you gave so long and often.

(Hold up each facepaint color as you speak)

Now, scouts, you have earned the right to wear the following colors:

Blue, the color of the sky, where the eagle soars-and the symbol of truth.

(Scout assistant draws one stripe of the color on each cheek of each Scout)

Gold, the color of the rising sun, the dawn of a new day. As each stage in life comes to an end, a new one begins. Gold is the color for the knowledge you have gained

(Ditto)

Red, the color of courage, as you prepare to embark on your new journey.

(Ditto)

Green, the symbol of nature and of life, the color of our living planet. Respect the earth. Care for its plants and animals so that they may prosper and enhance our life

Wear these colors proudly!

(Ditto)

(Hold up Arrow)

Behold the arrow, whose flight is straight and true; it is a symbol of your efforts and achievements! Let the arrow's flight guide you in your thoughts and actions, so that your life will be lived straight and true.

(Give each Scout their arrow, saying:)

Hold the arrow straight out in front of you in your right hand, tip pointing to the left as its flame is lit.

(Light each arrow)

Look deep in the flame. Let its light burn deeply into you remind. Now close your eyes and continue to picture the flame as I extinguish it.

(Quench the flames in water and return the arrow to the boy)

The flame symbolizes the spirit of Scouting, the memories you take with you, the knowledge you have gained, and the truths you have learned. Let the flame burn within you forever. You may keep the arrow as a reminder of this night.

I now give your parents the Arrow of Light badge to pin on your shirt. It goes just below the left pocket of your shirt. It is the only Cub Scout Award that may be worn on your Boy Scout uniform.

(Scout assistants hand out Arrow of Light badges)

We give each of you the Arrow of Light pin to give to your parents. You may pin it on after this ceremony.

(Scout assistants hand our parent pins)

Ladies and gentlemen, families and friends, please join me in congratulating these young men on their achievement: the Arrow of Light.