

Arrow of Light

The Story of the Arrow is the myth of how man was given the arrow as a reward.

We use this ceremony as our Spring Webelos-to-Scout Transition membership project.

Arrow of Light Ceremony

Note: The blue tabs on the uniform and Webelos scarves will be removed from the boys and placed in their pockets prior to the start of the ceremony. Leaders must remind parents so that they can remove.

Note: As the opening ceremony starts, Webelos Scouts are assembled alongside the Crossover area or outside the Waguli Lodge Founders Ceremonial Ring (if this done at Camp Sidney Dew) in an orderly manner with the escorts. The Webelos Scouts must be able to see and hear the ceremony as it progresses.

Introduction: Waguli Lodge 318 of the Order of the Arrow is the National Honor Society of Boy Scout of America. Each member is elected from their Troop to be recognized for his willingness to provide service to his troop, council, and community. The Waguli Lodge Ceremonies Team headed by Nick Gutierrez is providing their service to us this evening to recognize these Webelos Scouts and their accomplishment. Let the ceremony begin.

Principles enter from the back, crossing over the bridge from where the troop SM/SPL are standing. Chief Akela enters the ceremony area, positions himself (NORTH) behind the council fire and faces the audience with head bowed. Medicine Man enters the ceremony area carrying a blanket. He places the blanket in front of the council fire and positions himself with his back to the blanket (WEST), facing the audience with his head bowed.

Guide enters the ceremony area and lights the Spirit of Scouting Candle by the Arrow of Light Board. He positions himself on the west side of the ceremony area (EAST), facing the audience with his head bowed.

Guard enters the ceremony area and positions himself on the other side of the ceremony area (SOUTH), facing the audience with his head bowed. When all are in position with their heads bowed, then all will raise their heads. The chief will start the four winds.

Chief Akela: (raises the Arrow) I am the North Wind. People say I am cold, but to you I will always bring the warmest of winds because you have been true-blue Cub Scout and Webelos Scouts, and have always lived up to the Law of the Pack.

Guard: (raises the Bow) I am the South Wind. I wish you good scouting. Over hill and dale I have carried stories of you and your experiences. As Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts, you have been happy, game, fair and a credit to your Den and Pack.

Medicine Man: (raises the Coup Stick) I am the West Wind. I wish you well. I have spread the story of your fun and happiness in Cub Scouting and how you lived up to the Cub Scout Promise and were fair and helpful.

Guide: I am the East Wind. I would like everyone present to know that these Webelos Scouts did not walk the Cub Scout Trail alone. Each had the wonderful help of his parents. Parents, continue to help your boys to go and grow.

Guard: Chief Akela, there are some among us worthy of the highest award in Cub Scouting, the Arrow of Light.

Chief Akela: (tilts the Arrow towards Guard) My brother, seek them out that are worthy of this award and bring them before our council fire.

Guard: It shall be done Chief Akela.

Guard and escorts bring the Webelos Scouts into the circle, moving Counter clockwise, to form up behind Akela. He raises his right hand in the Cub Scout sign. When all is ready, Akela speaks.

Teller 1: Webelos Scouts, listen to the story of the arrow.

Once, long ago, when all the animals of the earth were equal, there was great unrest. The animals began to quarrel among themselves. The Bear quarreled with the Eagle, the Buffalo argued with the Indian. Finally, the wise old Grandmother called the animals to her teepee and she spoke to them, saying, "You have argued among yourselves about many things. Now I will ask one question. You will have one year to think about your answer. I will reward each of you according to the merit of your answer".

The animals became excited because they each thought it would be easy to answer any question in a year's time. And besides, the old Grandmother was not only wise, she was also generous with her rewards. Was it not the old Grandmother that had given grass to the fields and fruit to the trees.

"What is the question, Grandmother?" , they asked, and she said, "You must answer me this. What is it your most important duty?" And with that they all left.

The Eagle flew to the high mountain to think about the question. The Bear returned to the deep forest. The Buffalo returned to the grassy plains. The Indian returned to his campfire. They all began to think about their answer.

Teller 2: Thirteen moons later, they returned to the old Grandmother's teepee. Grandmother spoke first to the Eagle and said, "Eagle, what is your most important duty?". The Eagle replied, "My most important duty is to fly higher than anyone else.". Grandmother said, "For that answer, I will give you feathers which will help you fly higher than anyone else." And the Eagle was very pleased with his gift.

Next, the Grandmother spoke to the Buffalo and said, "Buffalo, what is your most important duty?". The Buffalo replied, "My most important duty is to run further than anyone else.". Grandmother said, "For that answer, I will give you thick hooves that will allow you to run further than anyone else." And the Buffalo was very pleased with his gift.

The Bear replied, "My most important duty is to be stronger than anyone else.". Grandmother said, "For that answer, I will give you sharp claws that will make you the strongest animal in the forest.". And the Bear was also pleased with his gift.

Finally, the Indian arose and said, "Grandmother, my most important duty is to help other." Grandmother said, " For that answer, I will give you this stick.". And when he saw the stick, the Indian was disappointed for he had thought long and hard about his most important duty. "Grandmother", he said, "why do you give me a stick? Did my answer displease you?"

"Oh no", she said, "your answer pleased me greatly. All the others felt their most important duty was to themselves and they were rewarded accordingly. But you have learned that the most important duty is to help others, and you have been reward".

But Grandmother, what can I do with this stick?"

"This is more than a stick", she replied. "This is an arrow. With the arrow you can shoot the strongest Bear, the fastest Buffalo, or the Eagle, no matter how high he soars. He who would serve others is the strongest of all."

And then the Indian knew that this was the greatest gift of all and he was pleased.

Guard walks to the side of the Arrow of Light board to light the candles with a lighted taper.

Guard: These seven candles represent the rays in the Arrow of Light. As they are lighted, you will hear how they stand for the seven great virtues of life.

Akela states the first virtue with the remaining six rotating clockwise around the circle, each principle taking a turn says the name of the candle, while Guard recites the script for the seven virtues.

Chief Akela: The first virtue is Wisdom.

Wisdom does not necessarily mean superior knowledge. It means putting the right use to the knowledge that one possesses.

Medicine Man: The second virtue is Courage. Courage is not the quality that enable men to meet danger without fear, it is being able to meet danger in spite of one's fears.

Guard: The third virtue is Self-control. Self-control isn't limited to the control of one's temper, but control of one's self in all things: eating, playing, and even working and talking.

Guide: The fourth virtue is Justice. Justice is the practice of dealing fairly with others without prejudice or regard to race, color or creed.

Medicine Man: The fifth virtue is Faith. Faith is the conviction that something unproved by physical evidence is true. One eight-year-old Cub Scout said faith was when you turned the light switch, you knew the light would go on.

Guard: The sixth virtue is Hope. Hope means to expect with confidence. Always hope for better things to come. A man without hope is of little good to himself or his community.

Guide: The seventh virtue is Love. There are many kinds of love, love of family, love of home, love of fellow man, love of God, and love of country. All these loves are necessary for a full life.

Guard: You will find that if you live by the seven great virtues, you will become a happy man, and a happy man is a successful man.

When Guard has finished, he return to his places by the council fire. Chief Akela then explains the Arrow of Light badge.

Chief Akela: The Arrow of Light Badge is the only Cub Scout Award that can be worn on the Boy Scout uniform. It serves as a link between our two programs and points the way toward the new adventures that you will have in Boy Scouting.

Medicine Man: "Scouting is a game in which elder brothers" like those Scouts (point to them with the Coup Stick) "can give their younger brothers a healthy environment and encourage them to healthy activities, such as will help them to develop citizenship. Its strongest appeal is through Nature and Woodcraft. It deals with the individual, not with the group. It raises intellectual as well as purely

physical or purely moral qualities. Happy citizenship, developed through impulse from within, rather than through impression from without, individual efficiency encouraged and then harnessed for the good of the community -- that is our scheme. And that, I trust is what you will be taught. I am hopeful that you will go out from here and learn from these others, in and through Scouting and by their personal examples of the Scouting principles." (BP RMS 1921)

Guide: You have found that there were many paths leading from your set course, but your parents walked by your side, and your den leader held your hand as they lead you along the correct path in Scouting until you learned how to choose the right path among all the wrong trails. Remember always that your parents will continue to help and assist you on your Scouting path.

Guard: Now that you have completed Cub Scouts, you are at the base of a great mountain, and you see before you just the beginning of the path up the Scouting trail. Soon you will cross this bridge into the wider world of Boy Scouting. With you will go your hopes and dreams, and as always your parents.

Chief Akela: I wish you well as you begin this journey. Look for us along the path that you will take. For we also, seek for the Eagle. You have worked to this point where you are about to become Boy Scouts. But, listen now to the wisdom of the winds.

Medicine Man: I am the spirit of the West Wind. I represent the common law, your duty to God and your country. Trustworthy, loyal, and helpful are the qualities which a man must possess who live by the laws and the rules of this land. See that we do not lose this great blessing of a lawful land.

Guide: I am the spirit of the East Wind. I represent the law of equity, your duty to country and to others; friendly, courteous, and kind are the laws that breathe of conscience. They create the atmosphere that comes from within your heart. The desire for you always to be a friend to those of all ages. Courteous to those who pass along your trail. Don't live with the harmful spirit of unfriendliness and selfishness.

Guard: I am the spirit of the South Wind. I represent the civil law, your duty to others and to self. Obedient, cheerful, and thrifty are the characteristics of civility. A life of cheerful obedience is necessary for the development of a true citizen. Obedience is something everyone has to learn - to take orders and carry them out cheerfully. Real thrift means earning, spending wisely, and saving, and to share with those less fortunate.

Chief Akela: I am the spirit of the North Wind, the most powerful of all. I represent the divine law. Brave, clean, reverent. To be brave is to be unselfish. To be clean in body and soul is to be pure at heart. Cast from your being any evil spirit that

tries to weaken or destroy the divine law, live a life of reverence. Be brave and clean.

Guard walks over to the Arrow of Light and blows out the seven rays candles. (BEAR)

Medicine Man folds the blanket. (BOBCAT) Guide walks over to the Spirit of Scouting candle and carefully blows it out. (WOLF) Guide takes the Spirit of Scouting candle to Chief Akela (WEBELOS) and returns to his spot. Each principle steps forward and addresses the Webelos Scouts. After the phrase, he walk to the bridge removes Rank emblem/"Arrow of Light", places it on the bridge rail, walks across to Troop area, walks through a troop to "disappear" as a principle.

**Medicine Man: Remember the common law.
Trustworthy. Loyal. Helpful.**

**Guide: Remember the law of equity.
Friendly. Courteous. Kind.**

**Guard: Remember the civil law.
Obedient. Cheerful. Thrifty.**

**Chief Akela: Remember the divine law, the most powerful of all.
Brave. Clean. Reverent.**

O/A Indian principles have all walked over the bridge, ending their portion of the ceremony. Each principle walks through a troop to "disappear".

Benediction: We now call upon the Great Spirit of all for His blessing on these young men. May these Scouts always strive to attain the noblest and highest ideals in life. Be their strength and guide. Cause them to follow a straight trail and to never be a reason for other Scouts to waiver from the path. Protect them for many moons to come. May the Great Master of all Scouts be with us until we meet again.

This concludes the ceremony. Have a safe trip home.