

Arrow of Light Ceremony

(A Single Person Rendition)

Cub Scouts, leaders, parents and honored guests; I, Nitis Aney Woapalanne (Ni-tis Ah-nye Wo-a-pa-lan-nee), bring you greetings and salutations. We have come before you tonight to fulfill a prophecy spoken in the legends of our tribe.

The words of the prophecy say that in the springtime of each year, young braves will be found who have met the challenges of Akela and are ready to become warriors. My brothers and I have watched your pack and have found such braves among you. We have come to present them with the highest honor: the Arrow of light.

Will the following Webelos please come forward, and stand before us when your names are called.

LIST BOYS HERE:

But before this can happen, they must take a journey through their memories.

Many moons ago, you entered the Cub Pack. The first challenges you encountered were from the Tiger clan. There, you learned by working together as a member of a family, as a Den.*

Then you moved onto the Bobcat clan. As you met them, you learned what it means to be a Cub, the Law of the Pack, and the three words that would inspire you to meet all other challenges: Do Your Best.*

Having started on the trail, you next sought to join the Wolf clan. 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.*

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

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

After earning the Webelos badge; you commenced, blazing the rest of the trail on your own. You have worked through seven

arduous challenges, centered around the Boy Scout Oath and Law. *

Now at last you have reached the summit and the end of this journey.*

But before receiving the Arrow of Light, you must hear its legend so they may understand and appreciate what they are to receive.

Therefore, let the legend of the Arrow of Light be known to all present.

In ages past, when the Nations of the red man spread across the land, there was a young member of one tribe called Akela. Akela wished to be a warrior as the older men of his tribe were, but no one would consider him so. "Little Akela, he is too young to join the hunt," they would say. "Too slow to run with the Bobcat clan. Not clever enough to hunt with the Wolf clan. Such a young one is not strong enough to join the Bear clan." No matter how hard Akela worked, all ways were barred to him.

But the Aged Chieftain of the tribe saw Akela differently than the rest. "The spirit of this young one burns brighter than the largest fire. Akela has served his brethren well for one of his age. The time will come when the tribe will need only that which Akela can give."

One night in the fall during the harvest, a party of warriors was canoeing back to their village after a hunt. On this night, the fog rolled thick across the river. The fog was so heavy, the river path back to the village was hidden from view. A nearby river path to the right, led to a roaring chasm. The warriors did not know the safe path to take and were trapped.

Akela had been practicing his hunting skills in the hills above the river and had seen the danger to the canoe. He wrapped an arrow in a skin, set it aflame, and shot it into the sky toward the safe river path. The warriors in the canoe saw the flaming arrow through the fog and followed it toward the safe river path and the village.

The warriors went to the Chieftain saying, "We were trapped on the river and the Highfather sent an Arrow of Light through the sky to guide us." The Chieftain smiled and said, "The sign which led you to safety came not from the heavens but from one who you thought was too young to do anything." He brought Akela forward to the surprise of the warriors.

"Akela has proved himself worthy to wear the name of warrior. He has aided his brothers in their time of greatest need. Hereafter, all young members of our tribe shall become warriors only after meeting the challenges of the Arrow of Light. Let them each be filled with the spirit of Akela and follow his example of unselfish service to our brethren." And it was made so and carried through

to the present day as you Webelos stand before us now, ready to receive the Arrow of Light.

At this time I ask that the parents of these boys please join us & stand behind their sons.

Before this honor is conferred upon you, I must see your devotion to the high ideals of Scouting. Therefore, I ask you all now to raise your right hand to the Scout sign and repeat with me, the Scout Oath and Law.

Recite Scout Oath and Law with Webelos

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.

(To parents) Because of the support and guidance you have given these braves, I give the Arrow of Light to you to present to them. (moves to the front and gives the Arrow of Light card and/or patch to the parents who then present it to their son(s)).

My brothers and I also present you with this token from your tribe. Keep this in remembrance of this occasion. (Moves forward and presents each Webelos with a token)

I now ask that all Webelos Crossing over remain standing, and all others to please be seated. Parents of scouts crossing over move to the side.

***Crossover

Those that stand before me have decided to continue on your journey in Scouting. You will each cross this bridge to begin a new trail – the trail to Eagle. You have already reached the highest peak in Cub Scouting, you will find the trail to Eagle rewarding and challenging. Along the path you will have many people that will help you. But as with many journeys, it begins with your first step. However, before you begin on your trail to Eagle. I must give you a token that shows others you are ready to continue, as I will be your guide over the bridge. This necklace symbolizes what you have been through up to this point in your Scouting life and are prepared for what is to come as you follow the trail. The feather represents that you are aware of where the Eagle rests and are willing do your best to reach the peak of summit. The ends of the necklace are tied in a square, or joining knot, to remind you that your past and future are part of the same journey.

(Bestow token upon each new Scouts)

Please follow me to the bridge. This bridge represents your crossing over from your Pack to your Troop. Before you join your

Troop on the other side of the bridge, Scoutmaster/SPL has a few words.

SM/SPL: Says a few words regarding the crossover, their troop, and their future in Scouting.

As we have said before, this 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. 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.

Each of you shall now cross the bridge and be welcomed by the Troop members.

(Before they cross) As the night is a bridge between each day, let this be a bridge for each of you to the fellowship of Scouting

Scouts Cross the bridge. After they cross if any tokens from the troop are being presented, this would be the appropriate time to distribute them.

Nitis Aney Woapalanne: My name in Lenape means “Companion on the Trail to Eagle.” It was my privilege and duty to lead you across the bridge on your trail to Eagle and to guide you safely to

your Troop. Once again, I congratulate you on your achievements. Having finished the work for which we were called to do, we now depart this gathering of your pack. Before we go, I would remind you to keep Akela's spirit alive. Let it ignite a spark within each of you that will fan into a fire as you grow.

(Pause)

We challenge all the younger braves present to continue on your trails and strive to reach the summit and the Arrow of Light. May the great master of all Scouts be with you until we meet again.

(Nitis Aney Woapalanne silently departs)

Court of Honor Ceremony

****To be done at new Scout's first Troop meeting****

(A Single Person Rendition)

(Troop arranged themselves by rank in an arch)

Nitis Aney Woapalanne: Scouts, leaders, parents and honored guests; I, Nitis Aney Woapalanne (Ni-tis Ah-nye Wo-a-pa-lan-nee), bring you greetings and salutations. I have led these young braves here today in a long journey from Akela and their Pack to show them where to begin their Trail to Eagle. Most of you have passed this same way before them. Today, you are here to help these new Scouts as you travel ahead of them to blaze the trail, help them traverse the difficult spots, provide leadership as needed, be a friend and counselor. Before we continue any further, please tell our new Scouts your name and rank.

(all Members of the Troop state their name and rank.)

As you can see, these Scouts have the sign of the Trail representing where they have been and where they are going, embellished with a feather from the Mountaintop of the Eagle and joined with a square knot. I have lead these Scouts here today so they can begin the journey you started years ago.

(To the new Scouts) As you began your trip as a young Cub Scout on the trail many years ago, you may not have had this Mountaintop as your goal. It was only after you traveled the top of the Cub Scout Mountain that in the distance you began to see the Eagles soaring over the next peak. You took your next steps, over the bridge and found yourself at the beginning of this new trail. Now as you begin to ascend the trail, more of the journey before you comes into focus. But before going any further, we must first hear the story of what your new journey will entail and what you can expect to follow.

You first will learn Scout skills as you climb through the ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class. (pause as Scouts of those ranks are seated) After reaching the First Class rank, you will work diligently, and will seek experts who will give

you valuable counsel on many subjects. Then additional merit badges will allow you to be a Star Scout. (pause while Star Scouts are seated) Still more will find you wearing the heart of a Life Scout. (pause while Life Scouts are seated.) Many more moons will pass while harder requirements find you adding to your qualifications until you have achieved Scouting's highest rank, the rank of Eagle Scout. (pause while Eagles are seated.)

Throughout your climb up the Scouting trail, the badges will change as your abilities grow, but one pledge will remain unchanged, the Scout Oath. Please raise your right hand and repeat after me – the Scout Oath. (Recite the Scout Oath)

To guide you along the way, the Scout Law has served as a set of moral standards that all Scouts strive to live up to. Please raise your right hand and repeat after me – the Scout Law. (Recite the Scout Law)

Now, there is one more sign that you will receive from your Troop to show that you are a member and on your Trail to Eagle.

*Scoutmaster presents neckerchief or other tokens from the troop.

Nitis Aney Woapalanne: Young Scouts, please turn toward your Troop and state your name. (Scouts say name –SM and SPL shake each new Scout's hand) Please take your seat with your Troop and begin your journey with them. (pause)

It has been my privilege and honor to be your guide from your Pack to your Troop as you start your trail to Eagle. I leave you now in the hands of your Troop's leadership so they may now guide you to the top of the summit where the Eagle's soar. May the great master of all Scouts be with you until we meet again.
(Nitis Aney Woapalanne: silently depart)