

Cub Colors and Arrow of Light Ceremony

Potomac OA Chapter 2014 [V2.0] -> Pack 1081

Potomac OA Chapter 2014 [V2.1] -> Pack 460

[parts adapted from ceremonies available on US Scouting internet site]

*Ceremony is written for a four-man team, not counting the drummer:
Akela, Medicine Man, Guard, and Guide.*

Setting: Lights are dimmed; room is quiet. Urn, wrapped in a towel, is set up at the front of the room. The Cub Neckerchief is left behind and slightly under the urn.

Start: The team, with drum beating, enters the designated ceremonial area and comes to a stop at the front of the meeting room. The drum stops with several successive beats in a row. The Medicine Man steps forward.

Medicine Man: From the darkness, from the forest, come we now, to bring you greetings from the Chieftain. He bids you, henceforth keep the strictest silence!

Action: The Guard and the Guide can take up positions behind Medicine Man and be ready to leave to go get the colors at the appropriate point.

Medicine Man: Many moons ago [*points toward the moon*], in the dim ages, our Chieftain summoned a council, to see what he could do to make his tribe the best of all tribes [*sweeps the arc or line of cubs with arm motion*]. After much meditation he called upon the two most trusted braves of his nation.

He told the first, "Brother, go climb the highest mountain that touches the heavens. Then tell the great eagle to fly high into the sky, and bring back part of the beauty of the sun."

Guard: It shall be done.

Action: Guard leaves to get the hot yellow water and waits to return with Guide.

Medicine Man: He said to the other, "Brother, venture into the great forest, find the sparrow, and tell him to fly high into the sky, and bring back part of the beauty which is the sky."

Guide: It shall be done.

Action: Guide leaves to get the hot blue water and immediately returns with Guard.

Action: Medicine Man faces the audience behind the urn and uncovers the urn as the Guard and Guide approach carrying the beauty of the Sun (yellow water) and Sky (blue water). They stop, facing each other, with Medicine Man in the center and extend the clear containers toward each other and slightly raised so the audience and Medicine Man can see the yellow and blue beauty.

Medicine Man: Brothers, empty the beauty of the sun and the sky into our council urn.

Action: Guard and Guide kneel down and pour about half the fluid from each container into the urn, then set the glasses next to the urn. As the mist spreads out, they stand and return to stand beside Medicine Man.

Medicine Man raises hands to forty five degree angle, palms down, toward audience.

Medicine Man: From this day forward, Blue will stand for truth and loyalty; gold will stand for the warm sunlight, happiness and good cheer.

Action: Medicine Man lowers hands and addresses Guard and Guide.....

Medicine Man: Thank you for your service Brothers.

Action: Guard and Guide stand and back away.

Medicine Man kneels down behind the urn, reaches into the mist, and pulls out the Cub Scout Neckerchief. He stands up and extends the neckerchief, stretched from corner to corner, at chest height.

Medicine Man: This is why the Cub Scout colors, as shown on this neckerchief, are blue and gold. These colors remind you of your duty to obey the Cub Scout promise.

Action: Medicine Man folds the neckerchief and places it near the urn.

Transition to next part of the ceremony. Urn can be covered and urn, neckerchief and glasses may be set aside at this time or taken out of the ceremonial area by Guard and Guide.

Medicine Man: Would those receiving the Arrow of Light tonight move to where my Brother Akela is standing.

*Action: Akela ushers the **AOL recipients** to stand in front of the team facing the team. Guard and Guide rejoin Medicine Man, the Medicine Man, if they had left to dispose of the urn, glasses and neckerchief.*

Medicine Man: *[addressing AOL recipients]* Tonight, in token of your successful journey, the Arrow of Light will be conferred upon you. But first, learn the legend of badge and its meanings:

In the ages past, when the Indian Nations were spread across the land, there was a young member of one tribe called Akela. Akela wished to be a warrior, but no one would consider him as one.

Guard: "Little Akela, he is too young to join the hunt," some would say.

"He is too slow to run with the Bobcat den. Not clever enough to hunt with the Wolf den. Such a young one is not strong enough to join the Bear den," said many others. No matter how hard Akela worked, all ways were barred to him.

Medicine Man: But the Old 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 that which only Akela can give," he thought.

Guide: One night in the fall during the harvest, a party of warriors was returning to their village by canoe after a hunt. On this night, the fog rolled thick across the river. The fog was so heavy; the river branch back to the village was

hidden from view. A nearby branch of the river led down a roaring waterfall. The warriors were about to miss the safe path and be trapped by the water rushing to the falls.

Action: Akela steps forward and Medicine Man may gesture to him as appropriate.

Guide: Akela was practicing his hunting skills in the hills above the river.

Akela: My brothers in the canoes are in danger. I will wrap an arrow with a piece of deerskin, set it aflame, and shoot it into the sky above the safe river path.

Guard: The warriors in the canoe saw the flaming arrow through the fog and followed it to their 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."

Medicine Man: 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.

Action: Akela moves forward closer to the Medicine Man, the Medicine Man].

Medicine Man: Akela has proven 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.

(OPTIONAL. Say this line only if ceremonial arrows are being presented. If they are not, skip to the next line by the Guard.)

(We will now present each Arrow of Light candidate with a ceremonial arrow representing your achievement.)

***Action:** Medicine Man, with the help of Akela, presents each AOL Webelos with a ceremonial arrow and congratulates him.*

Guard: We will now explain the meaning of the rays in the Arrow of Light. You will hear how they stand for the seven great virtues of life.

***Action:** Akela states the first virtue with the remaining six described in turn by the members of the team, each member taking a turn saying the name of the virtue.*

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.

Akela: 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.

Medicine Man: 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.

Guard: 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.

Guide: 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.

Action: When Guide has finished, Akela then explains the Arrow of Light badge.

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: We will now depart your tribal fire. Cubmaster *<insert name>* will present each of you with your Arrow of Light badge later in tonight's ceremony. You should remember all we have told you. Congratulations again.

Action: The team retires from the ceremonial area with the beating of the drum.