

Akela's Journey

OPENING:

(CM) Tonight, we are gathered here under the night sky. The stars above alone will light our way. We will follow the path of Akela as he did when he was a brave in the tribe of Webelos. Travel silently as if stalking.

Along the trail you will be asked to affirm your commitment to the purposes of Scouting and to dedicate yourself to the task of earning the Arrow of Light. Other than your responses, I expect that you will be silent. Let us begin our journey. Follow behind me in single file.

1ST STOP:

(FIRST SCOUT) Near the village of the tribe of Webelos was a high mountain which towered above the plain. It was considered a great feat to climb this mountain, so all the young braves of the village were eager to attempt it.

One day, the chief said, "Now, boys, you may all go today and try to climb the mountain. Start right after sunrise, and go as far as you can. Then when you are tired, come back; but each of you must bring me a twig from the place where you turned.

An hour later the first boy returned. He carried a twig of sagebrush. "Well" said the chief, "you reached the foot of the mountain, but you did not start the climb." This boy is like the Cub Scout who has earned his Bobcat badge; he has progressed on his journey but has not really started his climb.

(CM) You have all earned your Bobcat badge. You learned the Cub Scout Promise, the Law of the Pack, The sign, salute and handshake. You also learned the Cub Scout Motto, "Do Your Best". Do you all promise to do your best everyday, in all that you do? If so, please answer "I promise to do my best everyday". Let us now continue our journey in silence. Follow me.

2ND STOP:

(SECOND SCOUT) After another hour, the second boy came back. He held out a cottonwood spray. "Good" said the chief, "you got as far as the springs." This might represent the Cub Scout who has reached the first level of his climb and received his Wolf badge.

A while later, another boy came back with some cedar. The chief smiled when he saw it, and spoke, "Well done, my boy, you went halfway up." This is like the Cub

Scout who has progressed halfway up the advancement trail and earned his Bear badge.

(CM) Many of you have earned the Wolf and Bear badges. You have learned about your relationship with God, your country, your family, and your friends. You have learned about the earth and the animals and to treat them with respect. You have learned many useful skills, but you have much left to learn. As Webelos you have the responsibility to be an example to and to help younger Scouts. Do you promise to follow the Law of the Pack, to *Help The Pack Go*? If so, please answer "I promise to do my best to help the Pack go". Follow me as we continue our journey.

3RD STOP:

(THIRD SCOUT) Later in the afternoon, the next boy returned carrying a branch of pine. To him the chief said, "Good, you went to the third level. You made three-quarters of the climb. Keep on trying. Next year you will undoubtedly reach the top." The Cub Scout who has earned his Webelos badge has reached the three-quarter mark and is in sight of the top."

(CM) Most of you have earned the Webelos badge. You have learned to work within your Dens with your leaders to complete the requirements for each activity badge. This will prepare you for Boy Scouts where you must complete your advancements by yourself. A brave of the Webelos tribe also learns how to live in the outdoors and to respect nature. The Outdoor Code states that we will be clean in our outdoor manners, be careful with fire, be considerate in the outdoors and be conservation minded. If you agree to protect nature's beauty and conserve natural resources, answer "I promise to do my best to follow the Outdoor Code". Remember your code of silence as we continue our journey. Follow me.

4TH STOP:

(FOURTH SCOUT) The sun was low when the last boy returned. He was a tall, splendid boy of noble character. He approached the chief and held up his hand. It was empty. But he was radiant as he spoke. "My father, there were no trees where I went. I saw no twigs, no living thing upon the peak. But far and away I saw other mountain peaks, and beyond them the shining sea."

Now the old chiefs face glowed as he said, "I knew it! I knew it when I looked upon your face. You have reached the top. It is written in your eyes and it rings in your voice. My boy, you need no twigs for token, you have seen the glory of the mountain."

The brave who reached the top is like the Cub Scout who has reached the top - the Arrow of Light Award. But, beyond the top are the peaks of the Boy Scouting program that must be met and climbed to reach the shining sea of adulthood.

(CM) In the next year, you will all have the opportunity to reach the top of Cub Scouting, the Arrow of Light and prepare yourselves for the challenge of Boys Scouting that awaits you on the other side of the mountain. If you are prepared to meet the challenge that awaits you, to reach the pinnacle, please respond "I am prepared". We are nearing the end of our journey tonight. Please follow me as we join your parents and leaders at the council ring. Remember to follow in silence.

CAMPFIRE OPENING:

(CM) Your boys have been charged with a code of silence for tonight's campfire program and have been asked to speak only when asked for their response. Please join us at our council fire and have a seat behind your son.

(FIRST SCOUT) Tonight, these Webelos have followed the path of Akela and have heard of the challenges that lay ahead. Each has promised to do their best and to be prepared for these challenges. We have used the light of the stars to show us the way on our journey, but now I ask for the flame of the spirit of Scouting to light our council fire.

Light Fire

Listen carefully, and you will hear the story of the Arrow of Light. You will learn of its meaning and will know the honor that it brings.

(SECOND SCOUT) The sun sheds its light on all that we do, a reminder that we should be a light for those around us. The seven rays of the sun represent the seven days of the week, a reminder that we should do our best every day. The arrow is symbolic of everything which is straight and true just as we should be straight and true in our lives. The arrow points to the right signifying that we should leave nothing left undone.

(THIRD SCOUT) The seven rays also represent the seven virtues of Scouting. The first ray represents **Wisdom**. Having wisdom doesn't mean that a person is smarter than others. It means that he uses what he knows to live a better life. This second ray represents **Courage**. Courage does not mean you have no fear of danger. It means that you can face danger despite your fear. The third ray stands for **Self Control**. Self Control means being able to stop when you have had enough of something and being able to choose your own path instead of merely following others.

(FOURTH SCOUT) The fourth ray stand for **Justice**. Justice means being fair with others we play and work with, regardless of who they are.

The fifth ray represents **Faith**. Faith includes belief in God. It also means that we should be faithful to our families and friends and to other Scouts.

The sixth ray represents **Hope**. Hope means to look forward to good things you believe will happen. You hope for better things tomorrow, but at the same time you work hard today to make them happen.

The seventh ray of the sun of the arrow of light symbol stands for **Love**. There are many kinds of love. Love of family, home, fellow men, God, and country. Every kind of love is important for a full and happy life.

CHARGE:

(JIM) Webelos, tonight you have followed the path of Akela and promised to do you best to earn the Arrow of Light and to Be Prepared for the challenges of Boy Scouting that lies beyond. Along with honor, the Arrow of Light brings great responsibility.

Once a Webelos earns the Arrow of Light, he wears a patch representing this accomplishment on his Cub Scout, Boy Scout and adult leader uniform. From that day forward everyone who sees this young man in uniform knows that he represents the tribe of Webelos and has achieved its highest rank and that this young man is an example for all Scouts and is expected to be wise, courageous, just, faithful, hopeful, loving and to show self-control in all that he does.

I ask you once again to re-affirm your commitment to the purposes of Scouting and the virtues represented by the seven rays of the arrow of light. In front of the great spirit, the tribal elders and your parents, do you promise to do your best to attain the rank of Arrow of Light and to prepare yourself for the challenges of Boy Scouting that follows? If so, please answer "I will do my best to be prepared".

CAMPFIRE CLOSING:

(CUBMASTER) Akela, Chief of the Webelos tribe, his mother Kind Eyes and his father, Arrow of Light, who now lives with the great council above have summoned me here tonight to commend you on your hard work as young braves of the Webelos tribe, and to point you upward toward the mountaintop of Cub Scouting.

When Akela was a young man of Bobcat age, he went on many short trips into the forest with his father, Arrow of Light. He learned many things by following the trail of the wolf. He learned to track and hunt food and the best places to rest. You also have followed the Wolf trail and earned your award.

When Akela was older, He traveled higher up the mountain with his father. His father showed him how to follow the trail of the bear and he learned more difficult tasks, just as you did to earn your Bear badge.

Akela's father, Arrow of Light, then taught him the speech and calls of the Webelos tribe, and he became a young brave. He was called upon to use all the skills he had learned in tracking the Wolf and the Bear. He grew in knowledge and strength until one day his father, Arrow of Light, came to him and told him it was time for him to prove myself. Akela had to climb to the top of the mountain, a long and difficult journey. He had to go alone with only his bow and arrow. When he returned, he had earned his eagle feather and his father rejoiced at his success.

You have spent nearly a year learning the ways of the Webelos tribe, and have grown in knowledge and strength. In the next year, you will all be asked to prove yourselves by climbing to the peak of the mountain as Akela did. The mountain I speak of is the Cub Scout program. Your Arrow of Light award is awaiting you at its summit. I charge each of you tonight with the task of completing the climb. You have come a long way on the trail to the top of the Cub Scout mountain. Do your best every day and you will surely reach the top.

It is time now to return to our campsite. Please return in silence and remain silent until sunrise tomorrow. Think of all you have heard tonight and prepare yourself for your journey to the pinnacle of Cub Scouting and onward to Boy Scouting. Parents, please follow your son back to camp. Good night.