

CHAPTER 8

Advancement Ceremonies



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Is It Important to Present Advancement Badges With a Ceremony?

The answer to this question is, YES! Boys have worked hard to complete the achievement requirements and feel a sense of accomplishment that they have reached their goal. When their efforts are recognized in an impressive ceremony, they are proud and inspired to accomplish even more. Other boys in the pack are also motivated to work harder and complete the achievements toward their next award. If the awards were just handed to the boy with a handshake and congratulations, there could be a sense of disappointment and a question about whether the badge is really such a “big deal.” Don’t let this happen to boys in your pack. Keep the ceremonies effective and fun, and there will always be time to celebrate the accomplishments of boys at each pack meeting.

Adapting Ceremonies

Depending on the advancements that you have for each month’s pack meeting, you’ll need to adapt these ceremonies to fit your needs.

- You can delete any section that relates to a badge that you are not presenting or change that section to a narrative form in place of the badge presentation. Use your imagination to make the ceremonies work for you.
- A variety of leaders can be involved in the advancement ceremony. You can use an advancement chair, the Cubmaster, assistant Cubmasters, den leaders, den chiefs, and pack trainers.
- Use simple props and costumes to enhance your ceremonies. These tie in the monthly theme. *Cub Scout Program Helps* has ideas for advancement ceremonies and costumes that relate to the monthly theme. Cub Scout roundtables will also have suggestions and examples.
- Be creative and write your own ceremonies—and then send them to the Boy Scouts of America, Cub Scout Division, using the form in the Appendix.

- Be sensitive to boys who have difficulty reciting in front of a group. All of us have had the experience of forgetting something when we are put on the spot, even if we know it well. Make sure that boys recite the Cub Scout Promise and Law of the Pack in a group. If a single boy is receiving an award, have the pack stand and join him in reciting the Cub Scout Promise.

Advancement Props

Remember to consider ease of use and storage when designing your props. You’ll find ideas for pack ceremony equipment in the *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book* and *Cub Scout Leader Book*. Use your imagination to develop your own props and equipment.

Key to Cub Scouting (Bobcat)

Materials: An oversized key cut out and painted gold with “Scout Spirit” written on it and smaller keys for each boy receiving the Bobcat badge

NARRATOR: We have some boys with us today who have just joined the Scouting program. Will [Names] and their families please come forward?

The Scouting program will provide you with many challenges. You attend weekly den meetings and monthly pack meetings. You will work on advancement requirements at home with your family and also with your den.

You should set your sights on the Arrow of Light Award early. There is a key to achieving this goal, and it is the key to Scouting. Do you know what it is? (*Wait for responses and point at the key you are holding.*) The key to Scouting is Scout Spirit. Scout Spirit includes teamwork, fair play, and good sportsmanship. It includes that “something special” that makes a Scout want to be the best he can be at everything he does. This key will unlock the door to your achievement.

Remember that with this key to Scouting, you can now begin to walk the Scouting trail. The first step is the Bobcat badge that you are receiving tonight. I will present this badge to your families because of the help they have given you. (*Present badges to families.*) They will now pin it on your uniform.

Jungle Book **(Bobcat, Wolf, Bear)**

NARRATOR: The moon is full, just as it was long ago on that night in the jungle when Mowgli the man-cub first joined the Seonee wolf pack. It has been many years since Mowgli returned from living with the wolves. He has taught us many of the lessons he learned while in the jungle. The most important fact was that the strength of the wolf is the pack. And the strength of the pack is the wolf. That is why we are here tonight in this pack council ring.

For Bobcats:

NARRATOR: Tonight, we have young boys who want to join this pack. Before they join, we must be sure they know the Promise, the Law of the Pack, and the signs that we use. Families, please bring forward the man-cubs who wish to be Bobcats. *(Call their names.)*

You have studied the Cub Scout Promise. Are you ready to make that promise now in front of the pack? *(Bobcat candidates agree.)* Please make the Cub Scout sign with your right hand and say the Cub Scout Promise with me: "I, [Name], promise to do my best, to do my duty to God and my country, to help other people, and to obey the Law of the Pack."

We mentioned the Law of the Pack. This is the law that binds us all together. Will all the Cub Scouts and families who are here tonight, please stand, give the Cub Scout sign, and repeat the Law of the Pack with us: "The Cub Scout follows Akela. The Cub Scout helps the pack go. The pack helps the Cub Scout grow. The Cub Scout gives goodwill."

Pack, please be seated. *(Pause.)* You are now Bobcats in our pack. Families, please pin this badge on your boys. Pack, look well on your new brothers and know them. Congratulations! Please be seated.

For Wolves:

NARRATOR: In the jungle, Mowgli was protected by Bagheera, the inky black panther, and was taught the ways of the jungle by Baloo, the great brown bear. We have several boys in our pack who have learned much from Baloo's teaching. We will welcome these boys to the rank of Wolf. Families, please bring forward these man-cubs. *(Call their names.)*

These man-cubs have learned the meaning behind the Cub Scout Promise and the Law of the Pack. They have seen their den mates grow strong as they have helped each other. Families, please present this badge to your boys.

Bear Cub Scouts, do you accept the challenge to continue to study the ways of Baloo? *(Wolf candidates agree.)* Congratulations! Please be seated.

For Bears:

NARRATOR: Baloo, the sleepy brown bear, continued to teach Mowgli the laws of the jungle. We have some

boys in our pack who have passed further tests and are ready to receive the badge of the Bear tonight. Will their families and den leader please bring them forward. *(Call their names.)*

(To the den leader) Baloo, you once spoke to Akela in Mowgli's behalf so that he could join the pack. Have these boys learned the Law of the Pack? *(Den leader replies that they have.)* Let's hear them! *(Bear candidates recite the Law of the Pack.)*

Families, you may pin this badge on your boys. Congratulations! You may be seated.

Let's give a grand howl on behalf of all the boys who have been recognized for walking farther down the Scouting trail tonight in the jungle.

Airplane **(Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, Webelos Scout)**

Materials: Small pilot wings made from cardboard and covered with foil with the award attached

NARRATOR: This is your captain speaking. Cub Scout Airlines flight number *(give pack number)* has just taken off for San Francisco, Denver, Chicago, New York, and Atlanta, and is returning to *(your city)*. We will be cruising at 35,000 feet. The weather is clear and calm, and we are expecting a smooth flight.

For Bobcats:

NARRATOR: While we are on board today, we want to recognize our newest passengers, Bobcats *(read names)*. Will these boys and their families please come up to the bulkhead. *(Call their names again and have their families pin the badge on their boys.)*

For Wolves:

NARRATOR: Some of our passengers have been on board longer and have earned the Wolf award. Will these boys and their families please come up to the front of the plane. *(Call their names and have their families pin the badge on their boys.)*

For Bears:

NARRATOR: Several more passengers have earned even more frequent flyer miles. Will new Bear Cub Scouts *(read names)* and their families please come forward. *(Read their names again and have their families pin the badge on their boys.)*

For Webelos Scouts:

NARRATOR: Our most experienced flyers are the boys who have earned their Webelos badges tonight. Will these boys and their families please soar to the front of the plane? *(Call their names and have their families pin the badge on their boys.)*

Thank you for joining us on our Cub Scout Airlines flight today. Once again, check to see that your seatbelt is securely fastened and return your tray table and seat to their upright and locked positions as we prepare for landing.

Baseball (Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, Webelos Scout)

Preparation: Lay out bases around the room. Awards will be presented from each base. Have the pack turn and face the bases as you reach them. Use large symbols of rank on walls or have a leader hold them at each base location. The narrator can wear a baseball hat for a costume.

For Bobcats:

NARRATOR: We have some new Bobcats joining our team and would like them to come forward with their families to the on-deck circle. *(Call the names.)* Welcome to Pack [number]! You are just getting started in this Cub Scout game, and we're thrilled that you have learned the rules of the game. Will your families please pin this Bobcat badge on your uniform. *(Present Bobcat badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

For Wolves:

NARRATOR: Several Wolf Cub Scouts have reached first base! Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names.)* Your dedication and practice have paid off. Will your first-base coaches please pin this badge on your uniform. *(Present Wolf badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

For Bears:

NARRATOR: Others on our team have reached second base! Will the following boys and their families please report to the second base area. *(Call the names of the boys receiving the Bear badge.)* Congratulations on hitting each of those achievements straight on for your Bear badge! Will your families please pin this award on your team uniform. *(Present Bear badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

For Webelos Scouts:

NARRATOR: Reaching third base requires extra effort, and some of our Webelos Scouts have given it all they have. Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names of the boys receiving the Webelos badge.)* Each base is more difficult to reach, but you have let nothing stop your slide. Well done! *(Present Webelos badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

Some of our boys are nearing home—the Arrow of Light. As you continue to do your best, I know we'll be seeing you there after you have hit your grand slam!

Fishing for Advancement (Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, Webelos Scout)

Preparation: Make four sizes of fish—one size for each rank. Put a large sheet of blue paper on the wall behind the area where the awards are presented. This represents an ocean or lake. Have the boys tape their fish in the water after they have received their award.

For Bobcats:

NARRATOR: Small fish start out by learning how to maneuver in water, just as our beginning Cub Scouts learn about Cub Scouting. The first step in Cub Scouting

is that of a Bobcat. *(Read the names and have the boys and their families come forward. Families pin the badge on their boys. The boys then place their fish on the wall.)*

For Wolves:

NARRATOR: Our small fish grows stronger and larger. He finds new food sources and discovers new areas just like our Cub Scout does in earning the rank of Wolf. *(Read the names and have the boys and their families come forward. Families pin the badge on their boys. The boys then place their fish on the wall.)*

For Bears:

NARRATOR: Our fish has grown into a larger fish. He has moved into deeper water and is learning to swim faster and travel farther. Just like the fish, our Cub Scout has met more challenges and has earned the rank of Bear. *(Read the names and have the boys and their families come forward. Families pin the badge on their boys. The boys then place their fish on the wall.)*

For Webelos Scouts:

NARRATOR: Our fish has finally reached the stage where he can go into the deepest water in confidence. Our Webelos Scout has learned much about the school he swims with and is almost ready to move on into a bigger school—that of Boy Scouting. *(Read the names and have the boys and their families come forward. Families pin the badge on their boys. The boys place their fish on the wall.)*

We are proud of each of you, as you have learned to swim with the pack.

Fitness (Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, Webelos Scout)

Materials: Headbands and wristbands for narrator and leader, sports equipment such as a tennis racket or basketball

NARRATOR: There are many ways to get into shape. There are personal exercise plans, team sports, and even competition. All must be started slowly, be done on a regular basis, and be challenging for you.

LEADER: The Cub Scout program includes physical fitness as an important part of its program. Each rank has age-appropriate requirements for the boys eligible to earn it.

NARRATOR: Good physical shape also requires good mental shape. Stepping into shape is like stepping up the Scouting trail. They both make you look and feel better and can be fun. Today, we're going to honor some boys who have begun taking those steps to get into shape on the Cub Scout trail.

LEADER: Will the following Cub Scouts and their family coaches please step right up. *(Call the names of the Bobcats.)*

NARRATOR: The Bobcat is a person just beginning to get into shape. He is learning the routine and practicing the steps. Families, please pin these awards on your boys. *(Present Bobcat badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

LEADER: Several boys have taken the next step to improve their physical fitness, and they are ready to advance along the Scouting trail. Will the following Cub Scouts and their families please step up. *(Call the names of the Wolves.)*

NARRATOR: These boys are advancing in their fitness every day. They are following the program set up by their coaches and have earned the second rank in Cub Scouting, the Wolf. Families, please pin these badges on your boys. *(Present Wolf badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

LEADER: Our Bear candidates have accepted new challenges and continue to develop their physical and mental skills. Will the following Cub Scouts and their families please come forward. *(Call the names of the Bears.)*

NARRATOR: To reach this step, it takes a dedication to reaching the goal. Families, please pin the Bear badge on your boy. *(Present Bear badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

LEADER: Webelos Scouts have been competing in a series of tests called activity badges. Will the following Webelos Scouts and their families please come forward. *(Call the names of the Webelos Scouts.)*

NARRATOR: The tests of the activity badges have given you new challenges to improve your mental and physical skills. You have given your best! Will your families please attach your Webelos badge. *(Present Webelos badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

Congratulations to all of you who have given your personal best to reach these goals!

Knights of the Round Table (Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, Webelos Scout)

NARRATOR: In our Cub Scouting kingdom, several of our knights have performed tasks so well that they are worthy of special recognition.

Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names of the new Bobcats.)* These Cub Scouts are worthy of the order of the Bobcat. In the name of Akela, your families will present you with your badge of knighthood.

Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names of those receiving Wolf badges.)* These Cub Scouts are worthy of the order of the Wolf. In the name of Akela, your families will present you with your badge of knighthood.

Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names of those receiving Bear badg-*

es.) These Cub Scouts are worthy of the order of the Bear. In the name of Akela, your families will present you with your badge of knighthood.

Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names of those receiving Webelos badges.)* These Cub Scouts are worthy of the order of the Webelos. In the name of Akela, your families will present you with your badge of knighthood.

May you all carry with you the true spirit of the Cub Scouting kingdom.

Mountain Climbing (Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, Webelos Scout)

NARRATOR: Just as mountain climbers love to challenge mountains, Cub Scouts challenge the mountain of Scouting.

For Bobcats:

NARRATOR: As Bobcats, you have reached the first plateau of Scouting. You might feel that you haven't gone far yet, but you have accomplished many things. Doing your best at each task is what it takes to reach the top of the mountain of Scouting. Will the following new Bobcats please come forward with their families. *(Call the names and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

For Wolves:

NARRATOR: Wolves, you are almost halfway up the mountain. Some of you might have slipped on the ropes on the way up, but you have all found secure ground in receiving your badge today. Will the following new Wolves please come forward with their families. *(Call the names and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

For Bears:

NARRATOR: Bears, you have now come far enough up the mountain to feel that the air is thinner and there are fewer and fewer trees. You still have more ridges to climb, and your fellow climbers and leaders will be there to help and guide you. Will the following new Bears please come forward with their families. *(Call the names and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

For Webelos Scouts:

NARRATOR: Webelos, you are now hiking above the tree line, and the sense of accomplishment you feel has made the trip worthwhile. The summit of the mountain looms before you and the skills you have gained have prepared you for what lies ahead. Will the following Webelos Scouts please come forward with their families to receive their Webelos badge. *(Call the names and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

Scouts, looking up, you see the summit of the mountain of Cub Scouting—the Arrow of Light Award. The higher you climb, the more determined you are to reach the peak.

Our Flag (Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, Webelos Scout)

Preparation: Move the U.S. flag next to the advancement ceremony area.

NARRATOR: Our country's flag is made up of several parts, like the Cub Scout program.

Our flag contains the color white. White is a clean, new color. New Cub Scouts, who become Bobcats, bring fresh and clean enthusiasm into our pack. To represent the white in our pack, I would like to ask the new Bobcats and their families to come forward. *(Call the names and ask the families to pin the badges on the boys.)*

Red is also found in our flag. Red is a lively, active color. Representing the red are the new Wolf Cub Scouts of our pack. Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names and ask the families to pin the badges on the boys.)*

Our flag also has a field of blue. Blue is an older and wiser color. These are the same qualities that are seen in the Bears of our pack. Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names and ask the families to pin the badges on the boys.)*

It is important to have something to fly the flag from, too. A flagpole will provide a strong support and base for our country's colors. Boys who are working on their Webelos badge provide strong support for our pack. Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names and ask the families to pin the badges on the boys.)*

Of course, you can't forget the stars on our flag. Cub Scouts who reach the Arrow of Light Award are stars in every sense of the word. This award can be worn on their Boy Scout uniform and as a knot on their adult Scouting uniform. Let's all reach for the star in Scouting.

Pinewood Derby (Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, Webelos Scout)

(This ceremony can also be easily adapted for the space derby or raingutter regatta.)

Preparation: Have small posters with the emblem of each rank on them. Attach the posters to the side of the pinewood derby track starting with the Bobcat at the bottom and the Arrow of Light at the top.

NARRATOR: We had a wonderful time today watching the pinewood derby cars race down this track. They really speed downhill, don't they? Did you know you could go uphill on this same track? It's a little harder, but it's worthwhile to make the trek from Bobcat, to Wolf, to Bear, to Webelos, and finally to Arrow of Light. Pack [number] has been climbing this course, and now we're going to report on the new positions that our cars have taken in the lineup.

Will the following Cub Scouts who have made the climb as far as Bobcat this past month, please come forward with their families? *(Call the names and ask the families to pin the badges on the boys.)*

Will the following Cub Scouts who have made the climb as far as Wolf this past month, please come forward with their families? *(Call the names and ask the families to pin the badges on the boys.)*

Will the following Cub Scouts who have made the climb as far as Bear this past month, please come forward with their families? *(Call the names and ask the families to pin the badges on the boys.)*

Will the following Cub Scouts who have made the climb as far as Webelos this past month, please come forward with their families? *(Call the names and ask the families to pin the badges on the boys.)*

Congratulations on your current standings! Keep the checkered flag in your sights!

Radio Station C-U-B-S (Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, Webelos Scout)

Materials: Two hand-held microphones (real or made from paper towel tubes)

NARRATOR: This is radio station C-U-B-S reporting live today from the meeting of Pack [number]. Tonight, several of our new listeners have earned awards. Let's welcome them now!

Will the following Bobcat candidates and their families join us on stage. *(Call the names.)* Cub Scouts, will you please show that you are ready to receive your Bobcat badges by joining me in the Cub Scout Promise?—"I, [Name], promise to do my best, to do my duty to God and my country, to help other people, and to obey the Law of the Pack."

It's my pleasure to present your Bobcat badges to your families to pin on your shirts.

LEADER: This is the radio station C-U-B-S mobile unit out on the Cub Scout trail. We've spotted several Cub Scouts who have reached the Wolf level. I'll send the following Scouts and their families to your location. *(Call the names.)*

NARRATOR: We're glad that you have completed the 12 achievements to reach the rank of Wolf. Your families will have the honor of pinning your new badges on your shirts.

LEADER: Believe it or not, some new Bears have been spotted in the vicinity! Will the following bear candidates and their families please come forward. *(Call the names.)*

NARRATOR: Congratulations on doing your best to complete the requirements needed for the rank of Bear! Will your families please pin this award on your uniform.

LEADER: I'm about to return to the radio station, but I've located one more group we've been searching for. The following Webelos Scouts have earned the Webelos badge! *(Call the names.)*

NARRATOR: These Webelos Scouts have been completing Webelos activity badges and other requirements to receive this once-in-a-lifetime badge. Will your families please pin this award on your uniform.

This is radio station C-U-B-S signing off the air but inviting you to stay tuned to great Cub Scouting. We'll meet you right back here at station [pack's number] next month!

Swimming (Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, Webelos Scout)

NARRATOR: Our theme this month has featured water. The subject of water safety is an important subject for us.

For Bobcats:

NARRATOR: As beginning swimmers, we learn to put our faces in the water. We work on getting used to the water so we can be comfortable and safe in it. We have some beginning Cub Scouts who are getting used to the Cub Scout program and have earned their Bobcat badge. Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names and ask the families to pin the badges on the boys.)*

For Wolves:

NARRATOR: The next thing we learn in swimming is how to float. We have several Cub Scouts who have earned the Wolf badge and are able to float on their own in the Cub Scout program. Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names and ask the families to pin the badges on the boys.)*

For Bears:

NARRATOR: Our next step is to learn to kick and propel ourselves through the water. We have several boys who have mastered the kick that propels them through the Cub Scout program. Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names and ask the families to pin the badges on the boys.)*

For Webelos Scouts:

NARRATOR: After learning how to kick, we have to learn strokes with our arms. Learning to coordinate kicking, breathing, and arm strokes is a challenge. Today, we have some boys who have been able to coordinate their requirements and activity badges to earn the rank of Webelos. Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names and ask the families to pin the badges on the boys.)*

Learning to swim and the world of Scouting open up a whole new world for our boys and families.

Wagon Train (Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, Webelos Scout)

NARRATOR: To the wagon trains heading west, the trip was definitely a challenge. The days were long, the road was rough, and the food was sometimes barely edible. The pioneers traveled in groups so they could help each other, working as a team, with each person having responsibilities according to his or her skills.

Walking alongside the wagon train are the Bobcats. *(Call the names and have the boys and their families come forward. Families pin the badge on their boys.)*

Our new Wolf Cub Scouts are in charge of the horses and oxen that pull the wagons. They are the future strength of our wagon train. *(Call the names and have the boys and their families come forward. Families pin the badge on their boys.)*

Honing their skills, our new Bears have proved their ability to meet the demands of the trail and to seek out new adventures. *(Call the names and have the boys and their families come forward. Families pin the badge on their boys.)*

Webelos are the scouts for our group. Their knowledge and experience set the goals of achievement for the pack and give continuity to our crew. *(Call the names and have the boys and their families come forward. Families pin the badge on their boys.)*

Ladies and gentlemen, it's time to hit the trail again! The trail can be long and tiring, but as long as we work together, we'll reach our destination. I'm proud to travel with this group. Westward, ho!

Painted Paws (Wolf, Bear, Webelos Scout, Arrow of Light)

Materials: Marking pens in colors: black for Wolves; brown for Bears; blue, gold, green, and red for Webelos; blue and gold for Arrow of Light; and pieces of vinyl or cardstock to draw the paws for "painting." Bolo ties, badges, or necklaces could be made.

NARRATOR: When a boy joins our Cub Scout pack, he earns the Bobcat badge and starts on the Scouting trail. This trail will lead him through Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, Webelos, and finally to the highest award of Cub Scouting, the Arrow of Light. Tonight we are honoring boys who have earned advancement during their journey.

For Wolves:

NARRATOR: Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names of Wolf badge recipients.)* Do you seek the rank of Wolf? *(They reply, "Yes.")* Please recite with me the Cub Scout Promise: "I, [Name], promise to do my best, to do my duty to God and my country, to help other people, and to obey the Law of the Pack."

I can see by your knowledge of the Cub Scout Promise and the achievements you have completed that you have worked hard along with your families. These achievements are important because they have helped you gain a deeper appreciation of many things. You are now ready to wear the mark of the Wolf paw. *(The den leader draws the following marks on the boys' vinyl badges with a black marking pen.)*

The first toe of the wolf is for your growth through feats of skills and having fun with your families. *(Draw the first toe in black.)*

The second toe of the wolf paw represents what you have learned about your home, community, and country as well as learning more about your religious beliefs. *(Draw the second toe in black.)*

The third toe of the wolf paw stands for the skills you have gained in handling tools, tying things, using books, and making collections. *(Draw the third toe in black.)*

The fourth toe of the wolf paw represents your new appreciation for conservation as well as safety in home and traffic. *(Draw the fourth toe in black.)*

The pad of the wolf paw represents your growth as a Cub and the increased responsibility you are now capable of carrying. *(Draw the pad in black.)*

Wolf cubs, remember the inscription of this paw. It shows you are ready to move along the Scouting trail. Families, please pin these badges on your boys.

For Bears:

NARRATOR: Today, we have some Cub Scouts who have worked hard to achieve the rank of Bear. Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names of the Bear badge recipients.)*

You are climbing the trail to reach the honor of Arrow of Light in Cub Scouting and the rank of Eagle in Boy Scouting. To help you on your journey, we will inscribe you with the paw of the bear. *(The den leader draws the following marks on the boys' vinyl badges with a brown marking pen.)*

The first toe of the bear paw symbolizes your increased understanding of God. *(Draw the brown circle of the first toe.)*

The second toe of the bear paw symbolizes your knowledge of your country, its folklore and heritage. *(Draw the brown circle of the second toe.)*

The third toe of the bear paw, shows your increased appreciation of your family and its value. *(Draw the brown circle of the third toe.)*

The fourth toe of the bear paw stands for your increased understanding of your self-worth. *(Draw the brown circle of the fourth toe.)*

The fifth toe of the bear paw represents your knowledge of the Law of the Pack. *(Draw the brown circle of the fifth toe.)*

The palm of the bear paw represents your growth as a Cub Scout, and the increased responsibility you carry. *(Draw the brown palm of the paw.)*

The climb is getting shorter but steeper...not everyone will finish. Follow the guidelines of the Law of the Pack so that you will be safe along the trail. Congratulations to you and your families for your hard work. *(Present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

For Webelos Scouts:

NARRATOR: Webelos stands for "WE'll BE LOyal Scouts." Will the following Webelos Scouts and their families please come forward. *(Call the names of the Webelos badge recipients.)*

The Webelos badge signifies a major step on the path of Cub Scouting on your way to Arrow of Light Award and into Boy Scouting. We will be painting you with the colors of the Webelos. *(The Webelos leader draws the following marks on the boys' vinyl badges with blue, gold, green, and red marking pens.)*

The first blue dot represents the three activity badges you have earned as an active member of your Webelos den. *(Draw a blue dot on the back of the hand.)*

The second blue dot stands for your understanding of the Webelos badge and uniform. *(Draw a second blue dot.)*

The third dot shows that you understand and intend to live by the Boy Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan. *(Draw a third blue dot.)*

The fourth blue dot shows that you know the Boy Scout salute, the Scout sign, and the Scout handclasp and that you know when to use them. *(Draw a fourth blue dot below the top three.)*

The fifth blue dot represents your agreement to follow the Outdoor Code. *(Draw a fifth blue dot below the top three.)*

Two V's will now connect these dots. The first V stands for the flag ceremony you have led. *(Connect the two dots on top with one lower blue dot to make one side of the W.)* The second V represents the practice of your religious faith. *(Draw a second V connecting the two dots on top with the other lower dot, completing the W.)* The letter that has been formed is a "W," symbolic of the total effort you have made to attain your Webelos badge.

The Webelos colors are gold, green, and red. These colors represent the Scouting program. Gold represents the Cub Scout program. Gold is the color of the sun and will light your way along the Scouting trail. *(Draw a gold line under the W.)*

Red represents the Boy Scout program. Red stands for your heart so that you will have a burning desire to scout new areas. *(Draw a red line under the gold one.)*

Green represents the Venturing program. Green stands for the tree so that you will stand tall as you venture onward. *(Draw a green line under the red one.)*

Wear your Webelos badge proudly as you continue to work toward your Arrow of Light Award. *(Present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

For Arrow of Light Recipients:

NARRATOR: Today, we have some Webelos Scouts who have earned Cub Scouting's highest award. Will the following Scouts and their families, please come forward? *(Call the names of Arrow of Light recipients.)*

Our pack honors you for the work you have done. You have earned your Webelos badge and have been active in your Webelos den. You can now repeat from memory the Boy Scout Oath and the 12 points of the Scout Law. You practice them in your everyday life. You know the Scout motto, slogan, sign, salute, and handclasp and what they stand for. You understand the different parts of the Scout badge and know what they represent. You know the parts of the Boy Scout uniform and have visited a Boy Scout troop. You have attended a Boy Scout-oriented outdoor activity. You have participated in a Webelos overnight campout or day hike and have shown an interest in becoming a Boy Scout. In earning the Arrow of Light Award, you have shown that you have done your best. To show this, we will mark your special badge with the Arrow of Light. *(A Webelos leader makes markings on the back of the boys' vinyl badges.)*

The color blue stands for the spirit of Cub Scouting, and this arrow shows the way of the Scouting trail. *(Draw a long arrow in blue.)*

The color gold stands for the rays of the sun and is used to show the seven virtues of life. *(Draw a curved yellow line for the sun.)* The first ray represents wisdom. *(Draw the first yellow ray.)* The second ray stands for courage. *(Draw the second yellow ray.)* The third ray shows your self-control. *(Draw the third yellow ray.)* The fourth ray is for justice. *(Draw the fourth yellow ray.)* The fifth ray is for faith. *(Draw the fifth yellow ray.)* The sixth ray is for hope. *(Draw the sixth yellow ray.)* The seventh ray is for love. *(Draw the seventh yellow ray.)*

These seven virtues will help you lead a happy and successful life. Will your families please pin on your Arrow of Light Award. *(Present the badges to families.)* Congratulations!

History of Cub Scouting (All Ranks)

NARRATOR: We all have heard that William Boyce started the Boy Scouts of America after he was helped in a London fog by a boy who refused a tip because he was a Scout. Mr. Boyce was so impressed by this boy and his talk with Lord Baden-Powell that he helped start the Boy Scouts of America, which was incorporated on February 8, 1910.

Almost as soon as Scouting began, younger boys started clamoring for a chance to participate in Scouting. This resulted in the Wolf Cub program being started

in England in 1916. As we read in the *Wolf Cub Scout Book*, the basis for much of this program came from *The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling, who was a friend of Baden-Powell's. This book is the story of two wolves that find a man-cub who is being hunted by Shere Khan, the tiger. They take in the boy and raise him as part of their family. He is named Mowgli, which means frog.

The wolves are part of a pack that is led by Akela, the great gray wolf. New cubs must be presented to the wolf pack for acceptance. If they are not accepted by two members of the pack, they are turned away. When Mowgli was presented to the council, none of the other wolves would speak for him. Baloo, the kindly brown bear who taught the wolves the law of the jungle, stood up and said, "I will speak for the man-cub." When no one else spoke, Bagheera, the black panther, rose and offered to pay the price of one bull if the man-cub would be accepted into the pack. And so it was that Mowgli became a part of the Seonee wolf pack, for the price of a bull and on Baloo's good word.

For Bobcats:

NARRATOR: In looking back at old Cub Scout books, we are reminded that the Cub Scout program has survived with very little change. In a 1934 Cub Scout book, the rules for becoming a Bobcat are: "He has taken the Cub Scout Promise, explained and repeated the Law of the Pack, explained the meaning of the ranks, shown the Cub sign and handclasp, given the Cub motto and salute."

Today, as Bobcats, we do most of the same requirements. When Akela says that we are ready, we are presented to the pack for acceptance and recognition.

Will the following Cub Scouts and their families please come forward. *(Call the names of the Bobcats and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)* Just as the wolf cubs learned about the world around them by taking short trips into the woods, so have our own Bobcats grown in their understanding of nature and their families.

For Wolves and Arrow Points:

NARRATOR: Will the following Cub Scouts and their families please come forward. *(Call the names of the Wolf recipients and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)* Originally, only two Arrow Points could be earned for each rank. The first 10 electives earned the gold rank, and the next 10 earned the silver rank. Today, we award the Gold Arrow Point for the first 10 electives completed and Silver Arrow Points for each 10 additional electives that Wolf and Bear Cub Scouts complete. Will the following boys please come forward. *(Call the names and present the Arrow Points.)*

For Bears:

NARRATOR: Baloo, the kindly brown bear, taught the young wolves the secret names of the trees, the calls of the birds, and the language of the air. Each of you has learned to help others in your den meet the requirements for Bear. Will the following Cub Scouts and their

families please come forward. *(Call the names of the Bear recipients and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

For Webelos Scouts:

NARRATOR: Up until 1967, the next rank was Lion. It was then changed to Webelos, and the program was expanded. At that time, the word Webelos stood for Wolf, Bear, Lion, and Scouts. When the Lion rank was changed, the meaning of Webelos also changed to "WE'll BE LOyal Scouts." The Webelos colors and 15 activity badges were added at that time. A new Webelos badge was introduced, and the original Webelos badge became the Arrow of Light Award. The Webelos program is the transition between Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. To achieve the Webelos rank, Cub Scouts earn activity badges, and they are encouraged to get involved in religious and community activities.

Will the following Webelos Scouts and their families please come forward. *(Call the names of the Webelos recipients and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

For Arrow of Light Recipients:

The Arrow of Light Award is the highest award in Cub Scouting. It can also be worn on the Boy Scout uniform in recognition of your achievement. Will the following Webelos Scouts and their families please come forward. *(Call the names of the Arrow of Light recipients and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

You won't want to stop here because the trail leads on to Boy Scouting and great new adventures.

Inventions and Computers (All Ranks)

Preparation: Decorate a box so that it looks like a computer and monitor and place it on a table. Include slots for inserting large cards you make to represent each Cub Scout rank that you will award and hidden flaps that open. Store badges and awards behind these flaps. Cover the computer with a sheet.

NARRATOR: We've been talking about inventions today, and I'd like to share my newest invention. *(Unveil the computer.)* This amazing device is able to collect all the information that comes in from our pack committee members, den leaders, and families. It can then determine which Cub Scouts have earned awards. Allow me to demonstrate. *(Hold up a Bobcat card and insert it into slot in machine. Then remove Bobcat awards from a hidden flap that opens.)*

Will the following Cub Scouts and their families please come forward. *(Call the names and present the badges to families to pin on their boys. Follow the same procedure for each rank or award.)* These young men have worked long and hard to achieve these goals. What they have built is not a better mousetrap, but something far more valuable to the world today—better young men. Congratulations to all of you for doing your best.

Climbing the Ladder (All Ranks)

Materials: Ladder advancement board and clothespins shown on page 3-4.

NARRATOR: Several of our Cub Scouts have climbed the achievement ladder and have grown in knowledge this month. Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names.)* What are some of the achievements you completed to earn this rank? *(Talk to the boys and families ahead of time so that they will be prepared. Give them each 30 seconds.)*

Will you please move your name to the next level on the advancement ladder. *(Allow time for this.)* Your families are an important part in your advancement, and it is their honor to present this badge to you. *(Present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)* Congratulations!

Meaning of the Blue and Gold (All Ranks and Arrow Points and Webelos Activity Badges)

NARRATOR: Blue and gold represent some of what Cub Scouts learn as they walk the Cub Scout trail.

Gold stands for good cheer. The boys who have learned the basics of Cub Scouting and have earned their Bobcat badge are full of the good cheer of Cub Scouting. Will the following Cub Scouts and their families please come forward. *(Call the names and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

Gold stands for happiness, and no one seems to be more full of happiness than those who have completed the 12 achievements for the rank of Wolf. Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)* After earning this rank, several boys have gone on to complete additional electives to earn Gold and Silver Arrow Points. *(Call the names and present Gold and Silver Arrow Points to families to pin on their boys.)*

Blue stands for truth. Truth comes through as a quality in our Cub Scouts who have completed the achievements for the rank of Bear. They have learned that Cub Scout honor is important and that truth is always the best. Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)* After earning this rank, several boys have gone on to complete additional electives to earn Gold and Silver Arrow Points. *(Call the names and present the Gold and Silver Arrow Points.)*

Another meaning for the color blue is loyalty. This is an important quality a boy can develop in the process of becoming a man. Boys who have completed the requirements for the Webelos badge are developing this quality. Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names and present the badges to*

families to pin on their boys.) Several of our Webelos Scouts have completed activity badges during the past month. Will the following boys please come forward. *(Call the names and present the badges.)*

Arrow of Light candidates prove that they are true to the gold and the blue by demonstrating the traits of our Cub Scout colors: good cheer, happiness, truth, and loyalty. They also show that they are striving toward the qualities of Boy Scouting by being trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

Let's show all these boys with a cheer how much we admire their efforts. *(Lead applause.)* Who's the best in blue and gold? Pack [number]!

Five Steps to Boy Scouting **(All Ranks)**

Materials: Holder with five candles or lights

NARRATOR: We are here tonight to honor Cub Scouts who have advanced in rank since we last met as a pack. As he walks the achievement trail, the Cub Scout achieves many goals. These candles represent steps in his advancement. Their light stands for the help and encouragement given to him by his family, friends, and leaders.

(Light Bobcat candle or light.) First comes the Bobcat Cub Scout, the beginner. He learns the Cub Scout motto, the Cub Scout Promise, and the Law of the Pack. He stands with much enthusiasm on the first step of the advancement trail. As he climbs this trail, he grows in knowledge, skills, and fun. Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

(Light Wolf candle or light.) Next comes the Wolf Cub Scout, who completes 12 achievements in reaching the rank of Wolf. These require knowledge of the flag, about fitness, tools, safety, and books. He has mastered several feats of skill, has made a collection, and has accomplished much more. Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

(Light Bear candle or light.) The Bear Cub Scout completes 12 achievements that show he is growing in knowledge and skills. The Bear Cub Scout is proud that he has climbed more than halfway up the Cub Scout achievement trail. Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

(Light Webelos candle or light.) When a Cub Scout enters the Webelos den, he begins the final stage of his climb up the trail. As a Webelos Scout, he works on a variety of activity badges that challenge him to do new things. Will the following boys and their families please

come forward. *(Call the names and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

(Light Arrow of Light candle or light.) The Arrow of Light Award is the highest award in Cub Scouting and is the only Cub Scout rank that a boy may wear on his Boy Scout uniform. A boy who has earned the Arrow of Light is fully prepared to enter Boy Scouts. Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

As we walk this Cub Scout trail, may our steps be guided by the Cub Scout motto: Do Your Best.

Value of a Badge **(All Ranks)**

NARRATOR: A badge in Cub Scouting is a piece of embroidered cloth. It might not be worth a lot of money because the real value of the badge is in what it represents—the things you learned to earn it.

For Bobcats:

NARRATOR: We have some boys who are to receive the badge of Bobcat and take their first step along the Scouting trail. Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)* To earn the badge of Bobcat, these boys learned the Cub Scout Promise, the Law of the Pack, the Cub Scout sign, and the Cub Scout motto. These things are part of the map that guide you along the Cub Scouting trail. As your families pin this badge on your shirt, please remember the value of this badge and the Cub Scout motto to Do Your Best.

For Wolves:

NARRATOR: Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)* As each of you worked toward your Wolf badge, you had the opportunity to develop new skills, help at home and in your community, and learn respect for our flag. You have completed the achievements for the Wolf badge. As your families pin this award on your shirt, think about how you will wear it with pride.

For Bears:

NARRATOR: Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)* As you worked toward your Bear badge, you found that the challenges became more difficult with each step. We all experience choices in our lives and must decide the best path to follow. To achieve the rank of Bear, you made choices as you selected which requirements to complete. As your families pin this badge on your shirt, think about the choices you make in your lives.

For Webelos Scouts:

NARRATOR: Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)* As each of

you joined the Webelos den, you faced new challenges and choices in working toward the Webelos badge. Your Webelos den leader now approves the completion of your requirements. Achievements are in the form of activity badges. As your family pins this award on your shirt, think about the value of the Webelos badge and the changes that took place while you earned this award.

Arrow of Light:

NARRATOR: Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)* The trail to the Arrow of Light is a long and difficult trail to climb. It was full of adventure as you stretched to experience new challenges. Many of the achievements you accomplished have prepared you to move into Boy Scouts. These achievements have been new and varied with the promise of even greater adventures in the future. As your family places this award on your uniform, think about the adventures to come.

The Cub Scout trail is full of the traditions you learn as a Bobcat, the skills you learn as a Wolf, the choices you make as a Bear, the changes you experience as a Webelos Scout, and the adventures that challenge you while working toward the Arrow of Light. Think of the value of each badge you have earned. Each badge is a step-by-step adventure in your life along the Scouting trail. Remember the value of each of your badges.

Woodworking (All Ranks)

NARRATOR: Woodworkers use tools to transform plain wood into objects of beauty and usefulness. There are many steps between beginning to plan your project to displaying your completed masterpiece.

A woodworker has to start with a plan. Once he has a plan on paper, he uses the first saws to roughly shape the wood. Some of our Cub Scouts have earned the Bobcat badge that has begun to shape their Cub Scout experience. Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

The woodworker's next step is to finish cutting all the pieces so that they match the specifications on his plan. He then completes additional steps such as drilling and then shaping the edges. We have several Cub Scouts who have completed the steps for the Wolf badge. Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

Now the wood pieces are ready for the assembly process. This stage requires using dowels, screws, and glue to assemble the project. Patience and precision are needed. Some of our Cub Scouts have completed a tougher set of requirements for the Bear award. Will the following boys and their families please come forward.

(Call the names and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)

After the assembly, the surfaces of our project need to be sanded and prepared for the finishing treatment. Attention to details like these has led several of our Scouts to receiving the Webelos badge today. Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

The finishing touch to a fine piece of furniture is adding the stain and sealer. Our Arrow of Light recipients have demonstrated a commitment to becoming master craftsmen. Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names and present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

Our Cub Scouts and their families are certainly going to come out with a masterpiece with this advancement plan!

Yule Log (All Ranks)

Materials: A holder with a single candle or light

NARRATOR: In the England of old, a Yule log was burned during the dark days of December to bring good luck. The ashes were then spread around the fruit trees for a good harvest.

In Germany, the Yule log was lighted at Christmas to scare away Father Frost.

In France, starting on Christmas Eve, it was an ancient custom to keep the Yule log burning through the days of Christmas until Twelfth Night. The log was carefully tended each night so it would last all 12 days. These customs were ways of wishing for good luck throughout the coming year.

Will the following boys and their families please come forward. *(Call the names.)* These boys have worked hard to bring out the Yule spirit by doing their best to achieve their next badge. *(Present the badges to families to pin on their boys.)*

I am lighting this candle that represents our pack Yule log as a sign of our joy and to wish each one of you best wishes and good luck in the coming year.

Top of the Mountain (Arrow of Light)

NARRATOR: I'd like to tell you a story that was first told by Ernest Thompson Seton, one of the founders of Scouting in America.

There once was a high mountain that towered above a village. One day, the elder of the village asked the young men to start right after breakfast and to climb as high as they could. Their challenge was to climb until they were tired and then return with a twig from the place where they had turned back.

Away they went, filled with enthusiasm. Soon the first boy came slowly back, carrying a piece of cactus. The elder smiled and said, "My boy, you barely got started." I like to think that this boy is like a newly inducted Cub Scout. He has just barely started.

An hour later, the second boy returned carrying a twig of sagebrush. "Well," said the elder, "you reached a higher level but 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.

After another hour, the third boy came back. He held out a cottonwood sprig. "Good," said the elder, "you reached 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 elder smiled and said, "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.

Later in the afternoon, the fourth boy returned carrying a branch of pine. To him the elder said: "Good, you went to the third level. Keep on trying. Next year, you will surely reach the top." The Cub Scout who has earned his Webelos badge is in sight of the top.

The sun was gone when the last boy returned. He approached the elder and held up his empty hand. He was radiant as he spoke: "My leader, there were no trees where I went. I saw no twigs, no living thing upon the peak. But far and away, I saw other mountains, and beyond them, the shining sea."

The elder's face glowed as he said: "I knew it when I looked upon your face. 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."

This boy who reached the peak is like the Webelos Scout who has reached the top—the Arrow of Light Award. But, beyond the top are the peaks of Boy Scouting that must be met and climbed to reach the shining sea beyond. I would like to now call the names of the Webelos Scouts and have their families present them their Arrow of Light Award.

Spirit of Scouting (Arrow of Light)

Materials: Holder with four candles or lights (blue, white, yellow, green)

NARRATOR: Will the following Webelos Scouts please come forward with their families to receive the Arrow of Light Award. *(Call the names.)*

You have completed all the requirements for the Arrow of Light Award, the highest rank in Cub Scouting. You have also visited a Boy Scout troop and have discovered some of the excitement that awaits you.

(Webelos leader lights the blue candle or light.) This blue candle [light] represents the spirit of Cub Scouting, that spirit of giving goodwill and doing your best.

(Webelos leader lights the white candle or light.) This white candle [light] represents the spirit of Scouting. If you promise to fulfill the Cub Scout Promise and the Cub Scout motto, "Do Your Best," please say, "I do."

WEBELOS SCOUTS: I do.

NARRATOR: This yellow candle [light] represents the Arrow of Light Award.

(Webelos leader lights the yellow candle or light.) Remember that the spirit of Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting are one and the same. The spirit of the entire Scouting movement is one of service, high ideals, and fellowship. To each family, I am presenting the Arrow of Light Award and ask you to pin this on your boy. This award is worn on the Webelos uniform and on the Boy Scout uniform later. *(Present badges to the families.)*

Notice that we are leaving unlit the green candle [light] representing the Boy Scout program. This is to remind you that there is more adventure ahead as you continue in Boy Scouts. Good luck to you and your families as you walk the Scouting trail.

