

Pack 214 – Arrow of Light Ceremony

Drum starts to beat. Slow tempo. Chief Akela enters the ceremony area, positions himself 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, 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, facing the audience with his head bowed.

Guard enters the ceremony area and positions himself on the east side of the ceremony area, facing the audience with his head bowed.

When all are in position with their heads bowed the drum will continue to beat for a short time. When the drum stops, all will raise their heads. The chief will start the four winds. The drum stops.

Chief Akela: *(raises the feather flag)* 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.

Medicine Man: *(raises the dream catcher)* 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.

Guard: *(raises the deer antler staff)* I am the East Wind. I wish you well. I have spread the story of your fun and happiness in Cub Scouting with Pack 214 and how you lived up to the Cub Scout Promise and were fair and helpful.

Guide: *(raises the bow)* I am the West 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 feather flag 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 goes among the audience and finds the Webelos Scouts who are getting their Arrow of Light. He forms them into a line and tells them to follow him. The drum beats slowly. Scouts stop at each station along the Cub Scout Trail.

Pack 214 – Arrow of Light Ceremony

Bobcat: Remember when you first joined Cub Scouts? The Cub Scout Motto, the Law of the Pack, and the Cub Scout Promise were new to you then.

Drum beat while going to the next station

Wolf: At this stop, you worked on achievements that included knowledge about the flag, fitness, tools, safety, and feats of skill.

Drum beat while going to the next station

Bear: While working on the Bear Badge you completed achievements in four areas: God, country, family, self. You were able to choose which achievements to complete.

Drum beat while going to the next station

Webelos: As Webelos scouts, you worked on activity badges. You learned the different parts of the Webelos uniform, the Outdoor Code, and furthered your knowledge about your duty to God. You began to discover the meaning behind the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

Guard slowly leads the Webelos to the Guide. He stops when he is about two feet away. He raises his right hand in the Cub Scout sign. The drum stops.

Guard: Hakola.

Guide: Hakola. Who are these who follow the path of the arrow?

Guard: These are they who are worthy of the Arrow of Light.

Guide: Go forth, seek the arrow on the upward trail.

The drum starts to beat. Guard leads the Webelos to the Medicine Man. The drum stops.

Guard: Hakola.

Medicine Man: Hakola. Who are these who follow the path of the arrow?

Guard: These are they who are worthy of the Arrow of Light.

Medicine Man: Go forth, seek the arrow on the upward trail.

The drum starts to beat. Guard leads the Webelos to Chief Akela. The drum stops.

Guard: Hakola.

Pack 214 – Arrow of Light Ceremony

Chief Akela: Hakola. Who are these who follow the path of the arrow?

Guard: These are they who are worthy of the Arrow of Light.

Chief Akela: Go forth, seek the arrow on the upward trail.

The drum starts to beat. Guard leads the Webelos to the blanket and tells them to stand facing Chief Akela. The drum stops.

Chief Akela: Webelos Scouts, listen to the Story of the Arrow.

Fire Keeper who is hidden from the audience, reads the Story of the Arrow.

The drum starts after the Story of the Arrow is finished.

The Medicine Man walks over to the Arrow of Light board.

When the Medicine Man is in position at the board, Guard leads the Webelos to the board and positions them facing it.

Guide walks over and positions himself behind the Webelos.

Guard walks to the side of the Arrow of Light board to read the meaning of the seven virtues. The drum stops.

Guard: The 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.

Medicine Man lights the first candle and says the name of the candle, while Guard recites the script for the seven virtues.

Medicine Man: The first virtue is Wisdom.

Guard: 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.

Guard: Courage is not the quality that enables men to meet danger without fear, it is being able to meet danger in spite of one's fears.

Medicine Man: The third virtue is Self-control.

Guard: 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.

Pack 214 – Arrow of Light Ceremony

Medicine Man: The fourth virtue is Justice.

Guard: 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.

Guard: 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.

Guard: 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.

Medicine Man: The seventh virtue is Love.

Guard: 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.

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 with all seven virtues he leads the Webelos back to the position in front of the blanket, facing the audience.

Guide and Medicine Man return to their places by the council fire.

Chief Akela tilts the feather flag towards Guard.

Chief Akela: My brother, go forth and seek out the parents of these Webelos Scouts and bring them before the council fire.

Guard goes out into the audience and finds the parents of the Webelos (Cubmaster/Webelos Den Leader job to set them up) and brings them forward, placing them behind their sons. Guard returns to his position.

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 the two programs and points the way toward new adventures in Boy Scouting. It is the first step on the path to Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Boy Scouts. Wear it proudly!

Pack 214 – Arrow of Light Ceremony

Chief Akela gives out the large Arrow of Light Pin to the mother.

Chief Akela: Will you pin on the Arrow of Light Badge on the left pocket flap of your son.

Chief Akela gives each Webelos a miniature Arrow of Light Pin.

Chief Akela: Here is a miniature Arrow of Light Pin for you to pin on your Mother. Do so now, if she is present.

Mothers, you should take pride in wearing the miniature Arrow of Light pin. It symbolizes not only your sons achievements, but that he has had your support during his time in Cub Scouting. He will need your continued support when he moves on to Boy Scouting.

Chief Akela then gives the cloth Arrow of Light Badge to the father.

Chief Akela: Here is your sons Arrow of Light Award, please present it to him now.

Chief Akela moves to the Arrow Rack and inspects each arrow, explaining how it must be straight to keep it on a true path.

The arrow point must be sharp, to pierce the wind. The arrow shaft must be straight, to keep it on a true path. The arrow fletching must be strong, to guide the arrow to its target.

BREAKS arrow not worthy.

Chief Akela now gives each Webelos an arrow and shakes his right hand as a Cub Scout. Medicine Man helps pass out the arrows.

Chief Akela: These arrows have passed down from previous Arrow of Light recipients, so one day you may be asked to pass it on to Cub Scout who is about to receive their Arrow of Light.

Chief Akela and Medicine Man returns to their position after the arrows have been passed out. Chief Akela tilts the feather flag toward Guard.

Chief Akela: My brother, please escort these parents back to their seats.

Guard escorts parents to their seats and returns after they are all seated.

Chief Akela tilts the feather flag toward Guide.

Chief Akela: My brother, please escort these Arrow of Light recipients back to their seats.

Guide escorts scouts to their seats and returns after they are all seated.

Pack 214 – Arrow of Light Ceremony

The drum start to beat.

Guard slowly leaves the ceremony area.

Guide blows out the seven rays candles and slowly leaves the ceremony area.

Medicine Man folds the blanket and slowly leaves the ceremony area.

Chief Akela walks over to the Spirit of Scouting candle and carefully blows it out.

The drum stops.

Chief Akela: A scout is reverent. We now call upon the Great Spirit 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 their 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 Cubmaster of all Scouts be with us until we meet again. This brings our Arrow of Light ceremony to a close. Safe travels.

Chief Akela picks up the Spirit of Scouting candle and slowly leaves the ceremony area.

The Story of the Arrow

Fire Keeper: 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 highest mountain to think about the question. The Bear returned to the deepest forest. The Buffalo returned to the grassy plains. The Indian returned to his campfire. They all began to think about their answer.

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 others." 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 rewarded".

Pack 214 – Arrow of Light Ceremony

"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 highest 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.

This is the story of the arrow.