



Pack 1540 Arrow of Light & Crossover Ceremony

PURPOSE

The Arrow of Light & Crossover Ceremony is designed to have a powerful inspirational effect, not only on the Webelos Scouts participating in it, but on the other Cub Scouts witnessing it, giving them a glimpse into what lies ahead on their Scouting journey.

The goal for this ceremony is to start these new Scouts BSA members on the trail to Eagle with confidence and resolve, in addition to impressing upon parents and other loved ones the amazing Scouting journey their newly minted Scouts BSA member is beginning. Even if the audience for this ceremony (i.e. the Scout, Cub Scout leaders, siblings, friends, parents, and other family members) knows very little about the Scouts BSA program, they will almost certainly know about the honor and prestige of becoming an Eagle Scout. While there is clearly much more to the Scouts BSA program than completing the requirements to become an Eagle Scout; the goal of this ceremony is to start these newly minted Scouts BSA members enthusiastically on the trail to Eagle with the full support of their family so that they will be receptive to the many life-changing experiences that they can enjoy while continuing as a Scout.

SETUP

Pre-measure the locations of the two end stanchions (stairs) so that they are by themselves but are the right distance apart for when the Scouts bring out and insert the three girders (middle boards). Have the girders and planks organized in their order of presentation so that a leader can easily hand them to the Scouts to carry out and present to the audience. For each girder, two Scouts carry it out to the front of the stage, announce what it says, and place it in the slots of the stanchions. Place the "God and Country" girder in the forward-most slots so it remains visible throughout the ceremony. The Scouts bring out the planks (one per Scout) and keep rotating themselves through if there are more planks than Scouts. Install the planks from "Cub Logo stanchion" to "Scout Logo stanchion."

The ceremonialists dress in complete field uniform. When performed by an Order of the Arrow lodge or chapter team, ceremonialists should wear sashes for the ceremony. Neckerchiefs, handbooks, shoulder loops, and any other customary items for presentation should be pre-staged and ready for presentation.

OPENING

Lion and/or Tiger Den leads the opening Flag Ceremony and lead the Pledge, Scout Oath, and Scout Law.

RANKS

Cubmaster: Good evening Pack 1540 and guests. We are gathered here to celebrate our Scouts who have attained the highest award of Cub Scouting, the Arrow of Light. Along the way, these Scouts have learned many useful skills such as knot tying, knife safety, camping, identifying trees and wildlife, weather safety, and how to cook a meal in the outdoors. These are the same skills that the many of us here learned while in Scouts and continue to use so many years later.

Arrow of Light Scouts, I want you to remember the skills and knowledge you learned as well as the memories and friendships you have gained. Your journey in Scouting will begin anew tonight. You will build and expand the skills learned in Cub Scouts to more complex skills. You will learn leadership skills at the same time.

Most importantly each one of you learned the Scout Oath and Law. We purposely recited these at every meeting so as to build a foundation for you to live by. I ask that each of you purposely put these in your minds and hearts and Do Your Best at living these daily.

For our younger Scouts in the audience - the highest rank you are working toward earning in Cub Scouting is the Arrow of Light. You may be asking, just how does a Scout reach this high goal? Let's ask Scouts in our Pack who are currently on the trail.

Lion: I am a Lion Cub Scout - a new member of the Pack. I am just starting my Scout trail and have formed a new Den with fellow Lions and family members.

Tiger: I first earned my Bobcat badge when I learned the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Now I am a Tiger Cub Scout. Our Den plays games to develop physical fitness, teamwork, fair play, and good sportsmanship.

Wolf: As a Wolf Cub Scout. I have a great deal of fun as we learn about art, science, music, and computers which inspire my imagination.

Bear: I am a Bear Cub Scout. We have completed projects in woodworking, leather-working, and participated in various service projects in our community.

Webelos: As a Webelos Scout, I am working on completing outdoor adventures such as camping, hiking, and fishing which will prepare me for Scouts BSA.

Arrow of Light: I am an Arrow of Light Scout at the summit of Cub Scouting. We know the deeper meanings behind the Scout Oath and Scout Law and do our best to live them each day. We know what to expect in Scouts BSA and are ready to crossover and continue our scouting journey to Eagle.

Cubmaster: Younger Scouts – thank you for your help tonight, you may be seated.

Along their Cub Scout trail, our Scouts begin to experience a deeper understanding of the ways of a Scout. Now at last they have reached the summit and the high point of this part of their journey.

Seven ranks of Cub Scouting are represented by the seven rays creating an Arrow of light. You will find that if you live by the virtues of the Scout Oath and Law, they will guide you throughout your life.

ARROW OF LIGHT AWARD

Den Leader: Arrow of Light Scouts – please join me in a straight line in front of the stage.

The Arrow of Light badge is a symbol of your achievement. The arrow point is sharp, to pierce the wind. The shaft is straight, to keep it on a true path. The fletching is strong, to guide the arrow to its target. The Arrow of Light Badge is the only Cub Scout Award that can be worn on the Scouts BSA uniform. It serves as a link between the two programs and points the way toward new adventures in Scouting. It is the first step on the path to Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Scouting. Wear it proudly!

These Scouts have not made this journey alone. Many have aided them in their cause. Family members who have stood by them, please come forward, and stand behind them now.

Give out the Arrow of Light Award to parent(s) to present to Scouts

Parents, please pin the Arrow of Light Award, just below their left-hand pocket, upside down. Once the Scout has completed a “Good Turn”, the badge may be attached the right side up.

Scouts, the sunrise on these badges shows us that you have completed the first steps of your journey. We also recognize your achievements with these arrows.

Scouts, now, as arrows arching skyward in the sunrise catch the light, know that you are seen by others as examples, shining and bright!

Give Arrows to each Scout

The arrow in your hands and on your Arrow of Light badge points you in the direction forward, to continue on to more adventures and fun, on the trail to Eagle Scout!

_____, please step forward. Your arrows are special. Your yellow fletching includes dark stripes like the dark manes of male lions. You began your Cub Scouting adventures as Lion scouts in kindergarten. You are actually pioneers in scouting. You were Lions Scouts, the very 1st year Cub Scouts welcomed Lions. Your arrow’s yellow and black fletching represent that loyalty.

Arrow of Light Scouts be proud. Now, as arrows arching skyward in the sunrise catch the light, know that you are seen by the other Scouts of Pack 1540 as examples, shining and bright!

Let us now congratulate these new Arrow of Light Scouts!

Pause for applause

Parents you may now return to your seats. Arrow of Light Scouts, please join me to the right of the stage.

BRIDGE INTRODUCTION

Cubmaster: Ladies and Gentlemen, tonight we stand at a crossroad. The end of one journey that leads to the beginning of another. These Cub Scouts have come to the end of the Cub Scouting trail and they will now start down the trail of the Eagle Scout. To symbolize this transition, they will cross a bridge from our Cub Scout Pack to join their new Scout Troops.

Scouts, As a member of a Troop, you will take on many new challenges. We know you have come a long way already. The trail to Eagle will only become more challenging. You will experience many adventures and challenges along the trail. You will discover that the best part will be that you will share this journey hand in hand, not with just with your friends, or the fellow Scouts in your Troop, but also with your family and the entire community.

Before you here are the stanchions that represent Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA. There is a gap that separates them. This gap must be filled in, filled in with the recognition and knowledge of what it means to be a Scout.

On this side of the bridge (point to the left side) we have a stanchion that represents Cub Scouting and the oath that we all previously recited. It helps Cub Scouts develop a sense of spiritual awareness, loyalty, unselfishness, self-discipline, and service to others; it is a good promise for a young Scout to live up to. The Cub Scout motto "Do Your Best" is engraved on the first step, reminding you to do everything to the best of your ability.

On the other side of this bridge (point to the right side) is a stanchion that represents the destination our Scouts are about to embark upon. As a Scout, more is expected as you grows into a responsible citizen with duties which you must learn to shoulder. The Scout motto "Be Prepared" is engraved on the last step. Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, wrote that to Be Prepared means "you are always in a state of readiness in mind and body to do your duty." The skills and knowledge you pick up along the trail to Eagle will equip you to always be prepared.

Let's build this bridge between our Cub Scout Pack and the Scouts Troops, starting with our promise to live by the Scout Oath.

2-5 Scouts from receiving Troop pickup and install beams while another reads the script, taking turns between the roles

DO YOUR BEST (Cub Scout Steps)

Scout 1 _____ : On my honor . . . I will do my best . . .

By giving your word, you are promising to be guided by the ideals of the Scout Oath.

Try hard to live up to the points of the Scout Oath. Measure your achievements against your own high standards and don't be influenced by peer pressure or what other people do.

DUTY TO GOD AND COUNTRY

Scout 2 _____ and Scout 3 _____ pick up first support beam which states: "Duty to God and Country" and hold it up so that all can see it.

Scout 4 _____ : To do my duty to God . . .

Your family and religious leaders teach you about God and the ways you can serve. You do your duty to God by following the wisdom of those teachings every day and by respecting and defending the rights of others to practice their own beliefs.

and my country . . .

Help keep the United States a strong and fair nation by learning about our system of government and your responsibilities as a citizen and future voter. America is made up of countless families and communities. When you work to improve your community and your home, you are serving your country.

and to obey the Scout Law; . . .

The twelve points of the Scout Law are guidelines that can lead you toward wise choices. When you obey the Scout Law, other people will respect you for the way you live, and you will respect yourself.

Scouts – please insert the "DUTY TO GOD AND COUNTRY" support beam

DUTY TO OTHERS

Scout 5 _____ and Scout 1 _____ pick up second support beam which states: "Duty to Others" and hold it up so that all can see it.

Scout 2 _____ : To help other people at all times; . . .

Many people need help. Scouts are trained in first aid and how to react in an emergency. With that training comes a responsibility to use it when necessary to come to the aid of those in distress. Scouts are expected to put service to others before themselves to help those less fortunate and in need in their communities. In the same way, a Scout is old enough to know that a cheery smile and a helping hand make life easier for others. By doing a Good Turn daily and helping when you're needed, you prove yourself a Scout and do your part to make this a better world.

Scouts – please insert the "DUTY TO OTHERS" support beam

DUTY TO SELF

Scout 4 _____ and Scout 5 _____ pick up third support beam which states: "Duty to Self" and hold it up so that all can see it.

Scout 4 _____ : To keep myself physically strong, . . .

Take care of your body so that it will serve you well for an entire lifetime. That means eating nutritious foods, getting enough sleep, and exercising regularly to build strength and endurance. It also means avoiding harmful drugs and anything else that can harm your health.

mentally awake, . . .

Develop your mind both in the classroom and outside of school. Be curious about everything around you, and work hard to make the most of your abilities. With an inquiring attitude and the willingness to ask questions, you can learn much about the exciting world around you and your role in it.

and morally straight.

To be a person of strong character, your relationships with others should be honest and open. You should respect and defend the rights of all people. Be clean in your speech and actions, and remain faithful in your religious beliefs. The values you practice as a Scout will help you shape a life of virtue and self-reliance.

Scouts – please insert the "DUTY TO SELF" support beam

These are the three promises contained within the Scout Oath every time a Scout raises their hand with the Scout sign, they are reminded of the three promises to which they are committing: Duty to God and country, Duty to others, and Duty to self

SCOUT LAW

Cubmaster: Now, if you look at the bridge the gap is closed, but it would be very hard to cross. We need to add something with substance that will give the Scouts something on which to stand. For this, we add the virtues that every Scout agrees to strive towards each day - the Scout Law. Each point of the law will become a plank upon which they can stand as they crossover

Listen now and be reminded of the meaning of each point of the Scout Law.

Each Cub Scout who is going to put in a plank hold the plank so that it is not visible to the audience, when that Scouts word is up they should take a step forward and hold it up for the audience to see once the speaker announces the word. Once the speaker is done talking about each word, the Cub Scout proceeds to place it across the girders to build the walkway- an adult should be there to help secure it, they may need a gentle nudge to get them in place. The words should face the Scouts as they view the bridge in the direction they are crossing it.

While the Scout puts in the plank on the girders, one of the other Scouts say:

Scout 1 _____ : A Scout is TRUSTWORTHY: On the trail to Eagle, you will need to be Trustworthy. Just as for every bridge you cross, placing your trust in the builders and designers who made it, your fellow Scouts will need to be able to trust you. The journey you are taking is not easy. We all must learn to lean on each other for support along the way.

Scout 2 _____ : A Scout is LOYAL: Being Loyal is something that will come in handy on this trail. Just as you need to earn the loyalty of your fellow Scouts in your troop and patrol, they will need to earn your loyalty. You will find that loyalty is best earned by sharing this trail with your fellow Scouts, learning together, through challenges and triumphs.

Scout 3 _____ : A Scout is HELPFUL: There are many who have helped you along the way thus far. Many of those who have been helpful are here with you tonight. We invite you to look around this room and say thank you to your Cub Scout leaders, your family, your friends, and your fellow Scouts that have been a help to you. The best way to repay them for their helpfulness is to promise to be helpful to others. A helping hand can shorten even the longest trails.

Scout 4 _____ : A Scout is FRIENDLY: As you leave the Cub Scout and Webelos program, you will have the opportunity to join a Scouts BSA Troop and meet lots of new friends. We trust they will be Friendly and welcome you into the Troop. A Scout is a friend to all, especially to a fellow Scout, whether from the same troop or from anywhere else in the world.

Scout 5 _____ : A Scout is COURTEOUS: While you have already learned a lot as a Webelos Scout, there is so much more to discover as we begin tonight. Others who have gone before you, older Scouts or adult Scouters, have much to offer you. A Scout is Courteous to others and shows respect, as there is something to be learned from everyone you meet.

Scout 1 _____ : A Scout is KIND: While on the trail to Eagle, you will learn many skills that can benefit your world. You may even learn a skill that you will use to save someone's life. Learning about first aid, how to rescue a drowning person, or even how to tie a knot is useless without committing yourself to being Kind, and to use these skills to make your community, your nation, and your world a little better.

Scout 2 _____ : A Scout is OBEDIENT: Your fellow Scouts and Scouters have much to teach you on your trail. Your fellow travelers deserve your respect. Scouts must be Obedient in order to learn, grow, and protect themselves.

Scout 3 _____ : A Scout is CHEERFUL: The trail to Eagle is not an easy one. You might get discouraged. However, you will find that a Cheerful heart will carry you over even the roughest parts of your journey.

Scout 4 _____ : A Scout is THRIFTY: This trail is not undertaken lightly. It will come at a cost. We learn that a Scout is expected to be Thrifty, to use their money and resources wisely. Take care of what is given to you. The destination you seek at the end of your journey cannot be bought for any price.

Scout 5 _____ : A Scout is BRAVE: A Scout must be Brave to face the trail to Eagle, and all the challenges that lie ahead. Take courage from your fellow Scouts and face the unknown in spite of any doubts or fears.

Scout 1 _____ : A Scout is CLEAN: You will probably get a little dirty at times along the trail to Eagle. It is important that you complete this journey with your honor intact. Therefore, remember that a Scout is Clean, in thought and in actions. Your character will define who you are.

Scout 2 _____ : A Scout is REVERENT: We remember our duty to God as Scouts and trust that you will remain Reverent, and secure in the knowledge that no one walks this trail alone.

CROSSING

Cubmaster: Our bridge is now complete. We have filled the gap between our Pack and your new Troops using the Scout Oath and Scout Law. At this time I would ask the representatives from the Scout Troops to move into place in order to welcome our Cub Scouts into their Scouting program.

Scout 3 _____ : In a few moments, we will invite you to take your first step on the trail to Eagle. This trail will take you through learning new skills of Scoutcraft, leadership, and self-discovery. Mark the stages of this journey by earning the Scout Rank, followed by the Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class Scout Ranks.

Scout 4 _____: Once a First Class Scout, grow as a leader by taking on responsibilities, such as being a patrol leader, quartermaster, or troop guide. Earn merit badges that will show you the wonder of the natural world, open your eyes to a future occupation, and learn valuable skills you will use for the rest of your life.

Scout 5 _____: After you become a First Class Scout, continue your journey as a Star Scout, advancing to Life Scout. As a Life Scout, your goal will be fully in view, to one day again stand with your family and friends, much like you are today, receiving Scouting's highest honor, the coveted rank of Eagle Scout.

Scout 1 _____: We invite you forward now, first to bid a fond farewell to your Webelos and Cub Scout leaders of Pack 1540 and then make your first step on the trail to Eagle, where we can welcome you to our Troop.

Cubmaster: For the audience, please note that as these Scouts leave our Pack and join their Scout Troops they will take on new marks of identification both as a Scout and as a member of their new Troop. They will change the epaulets on their shoulders from Cub Scout Blue to Scout BSA Green. In addition, they will remove the neckerchief that identified them as Webelos in our Pack and wear the neckwear of the Troop which they are joining.

You should note, that all of these Scouts are now wearing the Arrow of Light, the highest award a Cub Scout can earn, and that they will continue to wear their Arrow of Light award in Scouts BSA. This is one of the very few badges that a Scout earns as a Cub Scout that he continues to wear as a Scout, this will identify them to one and all that they were once part of a Pack, and that they rose to the highest rank in Cub Scouting.

As part of our Pack's tradition, these Scouts will write their name written under one of the planks along those who have crossed over this same bridge before them. For our Cub Scouts who working on their Lion, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos ranks - each of you should strive to someday walk across this same bridge, to follow, literally, in the footsteps of the Scouts who have gone before you and to add your names to the legacy of the Scouts from this Pack who have crossed over from Cub Scouts to Scouts BSA.

Den Leader: During the years you have been in Cub Scouting, we have had numerous opportunities to work together along the trail. Now you are leaving the Pack to enter Scouting where I am sure you are going to make many new discoveries and experience a wide variety of new adventures.

To symbolize your growth and entrance into a Scout Troop, when I call your name, approach the bridge and your Webelos Scout neckerchief will be removed. Then please carefully cross over the bridge into Scouting and be welcomed by your new Troop.

Scouts cross over the bridge, one at a time, as I call your name.

Scouts approach bridge when name called, neckerchief removed and handed to them

- _____ , you may cross over and join Troop _____
- _____ , you may cross over and join Troop _____
- _____ , you may cross over and join Troop _____
- _____ , you may cross over and join Troop _____
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- _____ , you may cross over and join Troop _____
- _____ , you may cross over and join Troop _____

Scout 2: As Scouts of Troops _____ , it is indeed a pleasure for us to welcome you into our Troops. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

We presented to you our Scout neckerchiefs and green should loops. May you wear them with pride. The colors of the neckerchiefs are those of our Troops, which we welcome you as our newest members.

The pre-rolled Troop neckerchief is placed around the Webelos' neck, either with the same slide or with one provided by the Troop. Doing so, ceremoniously, with the friendly participation of assigned Troop leaders creates a memorable moment.

The Scout then moves off the stage for exchanging the blue shoulder loops with olive green shoulder loops. A Scout Handbook as well as the Troop's unit numeral can also be presented at this time.

CLOSING

Scout 5 _____ : As Scouts, we are distinguished not just by our uniforms, but also by the oath or promise we make. The Scout Sign is made by holding up three fingers of your right hand [*demonstrate the Scout Sign*]. I now invite you for the first time as members of the Scouts Troops to commit yourself by making the Scout sign and by joining all Scouts in attendance in the Scout Oath.

On my honor, I will do my best
to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law;
to help other people at all times;
to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

Cubmaster: While it may feel like it, we should remember that we are not losing Scouts from our Pack – We are actually gaining experienced Scouts who can come and be role models for our young Cub Scouts as Den Chiefs or to help with our events like the Pinewood Derby or help welcome Scouts in joining them at future Crossover Ceremonies.

One day in the not-too-distant future, we hope to see you once again, surrounded by your family and friends, much like you are today, as you earn the title and distinction of becoming an Eagle Scout.

On behalf of the entire Scouting Family, we welcome you on the trail to Eagle. Let us once again congratulate our new Scouts!

Applause

DEN LEADER THANKS

CLOSING FLAG CEREMONY