

SCOUTS-L

**WEBELOS CROSS-
OVER CEREMONIES**

From mfbowman@CapAccess.org **Mon Feb 17 03:07:32 1997**
Date: Mon, 17 Feb 1997 03:07:31 -0500 (EST)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
To: SCOUTS-L - Youth Groups Discussion List <scouts-l@tcu.edu>
Subject: Webelos Crossover Ceremonies
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91-FP.970217030704.21315A-100000@cap1.capaccess.org>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII
Status: RO
X-Status:

Try this simple cross-over idea with some great symbology. Needed: four 4"x4"x5' posts and five 12"x2"x5' planks. Paint one plank blue, one gold, one red, and one BSA green. Leave one unpainted. Paint the posts brown.

Ask the Webelos Den Leaders to place one of the posts on the ground in a N-S direction. Then ask the Scoutmaster to place a second post on the ground about four feet away and parallel in a N-S direction. Anounce that this is symbolic of the foundations of Scouting that these leaders have laid through outings represented by the natural brown color. Then ask each set of leaders to place an E-W post over the N-S posts about three to four feet apart, pointing out that by building on Scouting's foundations these leaders have set the stage for bridging the boys from Cub Scouting to Boy Scouting. Have Webelos #1 and his parents bring the unpainted plank forward and place it across the E-W posts. State that this represents the boys as the arrived in Cub Scouting full of potential but unfinished. (If they were in Tigers use a plank painted orange and make a statement about how they were on fire to learn about Scouting). Ask Webelos #2 and parents to bring the blue plank forward and place it snugly against the unfinsihed plank. State that this represents the Wolf and Bear years where with the help of their parents the Scouts became true blue and loyal friends. Next Webelos #3 comes forward with his parents and places the gold plank next to the blue to represent their golden years in Cubbing as Webelos learning important skills through activity badges culminating in the Arrow of Light. Webelos # 4 comes forward with his parents and the green plank. Announce that this represents their new beginning as Boy Scouts who will soon be green Tenderfoot Scouts, anxious to begin the Boy Scout trail to Eagle. Finally, Webelos #5 and parents put down the red

plank. Comment that this plank is red like the predominant color in the Eagle badge and represents the beginning of their journey to become Eagles.

Webelos are assembled at the unfinished board side of the now completed bridge and presented graduation certificates and a patch board of their Cub Scout badges and awards (many use a large piece of plywood cut in the shape of a Scout emblem and covered with blue felt on which are mounted the badges earned by the Scout).

When these presentations are over, the Scoutmaster invites each boy in turn to cross the bridge. Once over, he is welcomed into the Troop. His Webelos neckerchief is replaced by the Troop neckerchief in a presentation. Same thing for each boy. Say some personal words about how proud you are of their accomplishments and how you know they will work hard and succeed in whatever they try in Boy Scouting (Positive expectations = positive results). End of ceremony. Go home and cry tears of pride and joy at seeing them grow up so fast and well.

Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
Dep. Dist. Commissioner-Training, G.W. Dist., NCAC, BSA (Virginia)
U. S. Scouting Service Project FTP Site Administrator (PC Area)
ftp1 or ftp2.scouters.com/usscouts E-mail: mfbowman@capaccess.org

Date: Sat, 3 May 1997 17:39:22 -0400
From: Andrew Hagemann <hagemann@VISI.NET>
Subject: A Crossover Ceremony

A darkened room, a single candle burning on a table. The Webelo Scouts (their parents behind them) are lined up near the Scoutmaster who is standing beside the flame.

SM: "The flame you see before you represents the Flame of Knowledge. You Webelos Scouts who are bridging over to Boy Scouts have shown me that you bring with you a hunger for Knowledge. The Scouting program offers you a special kind of knowledge that will serve you well as you walk the sometimes difficult Road to Manhood."

SM takes up another candle from the table where the Flame of Knowledge

sits and holds it near the Flame but does not light it yet.

SM: "The Flame of Knowledge never goes out as long as there are people who are willing to seek knowledge. It burns eternally in the mind of Humankind as a beacon, casting it's rays to guide us as we seek a higher level of understanding or our world."

SM lights candle, saying: "This candle represents a Youth who seeks knowledge. Each of you Webelos here with me tonight is that Youth."

SM hands the newly-lit candle to the nearest Webelo Scout, saying: "You have sought to continue building upon your Scouting knowledge by finding a Boy Scout Troop that will help you gain your ample portion of this special knowledge. Take custody of the Flame." [Places candle in the closest boy's hand.] "Hold this sacred Flame for a moment and then transfer this Flame to the next Webelo Scout. Hand it around from boy to boy until it reaches the last one of you in line who will return it to me."

As the Flame is transferred from Scout to Scout, the SM continues talking to the assembly, saying: "Knowledge, once gained, must be shared. Each Boy Scout must pass on to other Scouts what he has learned. As you grow more experienced in Scouting, we will ask you to begin to return to Scouting some of what you have received from it. Work diligently as you pass down your Trail to Eagle Scout and you will learn much that you can share with the others who come after you. Remember, you will receive from Scouting only what you put into it. I challenge you to work hard so that you will have much to give back."

When the candle has made it's way back to the SM, he places the second candle in a holder that was placed well away from the original Flame. After a moment, he blows out the second candle. NOTE: The Flame of Knowledge is left burning as long as possible.

SM: "See how easily that Youth's Flame was extinguished by the Breeze of Laziness? Don't let Laziness extinguish the Flame of Knowledge that burns in your own mind. Cherish your Flame by doing your best, by asking questions when you don't understand, and by living up to the Scout Oath and Law." [Pause for effect.] "But, notice how the Flame of Knowledge that burns in the mind of Humankind is still lit? From it you may always relight your own flame should the Breeze of Laziness blow too hard and snuff out your own Flame. Never stop learning. Never give the Breeze Laziness a chance to blow."

Now the Troop's SPL, who has been standing in the middle of a plywood bridge with an ASPL, calls across to the Webelo Scouts and their parents, "Troop 6 invites the Webelo Scouts and their parents to join us on the Boy Scout side of Scouting by crossing over this symbolic bridge."

As the Webelos reach the middle of the span the SPL and his assistant stop him to remove the boy's blue shoulder flashes and replace them with red ones his parent offers up behind the boy's back. After the red flashes are in place, the SPL then places the Troop's neckerchief OVER the boy's Webelos version, removes the boy's slide, puts it on the Troop neckerchief, and then slides away the old neckerchief. [Handing it and the blue flashings off to a parent.]

As the SPL removes the FIRST neckerchief the SM says, "Notice that we removed the Webelos neckerchief after we've placed the Boy Scout neckerchief on the Scout. We do this to be sure that there is no break in a boy's Scouting career."

As the new Boy Scout exits the bridge, he is welcomed by his new Troop's Assistant SM who's in charge of the New Scout Patrol, and by as many other boy leaders as the Troop can muster that evening. The parents are likewise greeted.

When all have bridged over, the SA asks the new Boy Scouts to take hold of the Troop flag with their left hand and raise the Scout sign with their right. He leads them in the Scout Oath, and the ceremony is over.

YiS,
Drew

--

Andrew Hagemann <hagemann@visi.net>
SA, NSP, Troop 6
Colonial Virginia Council
A "Charging" Buffalo, SR-158
Jamboree '97 Metal Work MB Booth Coordinator

Date: Wed, 19 Feb 1997 20:44:54 UT
From: Kenneth De Vilbiss <K_E_DeVilbiss@MSN.COM>
Subject: Re: Broken Arrow Ceremony

Here are the 2 ceremonies I know of and promised to post in my reply to Jan.

Broken Arrow AOL

Equipment: An Arrow for each boy, two council fires, awards

Setting: Cubmaster at first fire, boy scouts at second. Award is attached to arrow.

Akela: Will (Read names) and their parents please come forward and take their place of honor at the Council Fire? Tonight (Read names) have achieved two high honors. They will receive the Arrow of Light award and graduate from Cub Scouting into Boy Scouting.

I hold in my hand an arrow. As you can see, it is straight and true, for only an arrow that is straight and true will hit its mark. (Hold up arrow so Scout can see its shaft.) In order to fly straight, it must also have at least three feathers. These represent the first three ranks of Cub Scouting you achieved; Bobcat, Wolf and Bear. With these awards in place you began to ascend along the shaft, toward the tip of the arrow, the Arrow of Light Award. This is the culmination of all your Cub Scouting efforts. Without a hard, sharp tip, the arrow is not a very effective weapon. Since you have achieved this, the highest rank in Cub Scouting, you will now be a more effective Boy Scout as you take with you the things you've learned and continue to progress along the Scouting trail.

Please stand. I now present you with this arrow, to which is attached your award. Parents, please pin the Arrow of Light on your son. Now give your parents the proper salute. (The proper salute to a mother is a kiss.)

Since you are graduating from Cub Scouting tonight, you will no longer be a Cub Scout, except in memory. Because this arrow represents the path along which you have come, but not the path along which you must now go, I will ask you to return the arrow.

(Take the arrows and break them over your knee, just enough to crack, but not completely in two.) This broken arrow will now be forever a reminder to you, that you achieved every rank in Cub Scouting, and graduated with honor. It will no longer fly, just as you will no longer be a Cub Scout. But you will always wear the Arrow of Light symbol on your uniform, as a reminder of your accomplishment. You now may keep this broken arrow for your trophy skin. I give you one last salute before you leave our council fire to join your new Boy Scout brothers at their council fire. (Salute.) Always be straight and true! Now walk to your new council fire.

Bear to Webelos - Broken Arrow

Equipment: An Arrow per boy with their name on it. Notch each arrow on the top and bottom about 3" apart.

Call Bear Scouts and their parents forward.

CM: You and your family have worked together to develop the skills of the Wolf and Bear. Together, you have strengthened your family and the Scouting Family. You will now start on the Trail of the Webelos, your goal is the Arrow of Light.

This group of arrows represents you, your family, your adult Scouting Leaders, the Pack, and the Chartering Organization. Without any of these people, Scouting would not be strong. Take this group of arrows. Together, as a group, the arrows are strong.

As you have noticed, your names are on the arrows. When your arrow remains in the group, the strength of the group is added to it. Without any of the other members, Scouting will break as easily as I break this arrow.

(Break each boy's arrow over his shoulder. Hand the point to the parents and the fletched end to the boy.)

Parents, you have received the head of the arrow. This signifies that you and the Webelos Leaders will guide these scouts over the next two years. New Webelos, you have received the flight feathers. This signifies your travels during the next two years. your journey will end in two years with most of you reaching the Arrow of Light. At the end of that journey, you will have enabled this arrow to fly straight and true again.

When the time for their Arrow of Light ceremony comes, collect the arrows, fit the notches back together and with glue and twine wrap them to become whole again. Present them to the boys at their Arrow of Light Ceremony.

Written by Rick McNeal

YIS,

Ellen DeVilbiss

K_E_DeVilbiss@msn.com

Moderation in all things, including moderation.

Date: Mon, 17 Feb 1997 09:02:31 -0600

From: Jim Lindberg <jal@CRAY.COM>

Subject: Re: Arrow of Light Ceremonies

At Pack 116, we separate the two. I've made arrows for the AOL scouts for about the last 4 years. An idea gotten off the net! Just bought arrowheads at a local museum yesterday for the five arrows I need to do this year. The arrows are presented before the crossover. Make sure when you look for arrowheads that you use the thinnest ends you can find. The ones I bought yesterday were .75 apiece.

The arrows:

What I do is get dowels a little bigger than an arrow size. I v-notch one end, then put a split in the other end (for the arrowhead). I buy red, white and blue fletches (the feather part) and glue them on (yes they make fletch glue), I use artificial sinew to lash in the arrowhead. I put a cross in front of the middle fletch (I use marker for all writing, woodburner would be nicer, but I don't have a good one), I write their name, Pack 116 -AOL-, and date. I also usually tie a feather to the shaft with a piece of leather. Finally the stripes: I put stripes indicating the ranks they earned, I put these between two yellow stripes (just for effect); orange - Tiger Cubs; green - Bobcat; light blue - Wolf (followed by gold and silver stripes for arrowpoints); red - Bear (followed by gold and silver stripes for arrowpoints); dk blue - Webelos (followed by silver dashes around the shaft for compass points); and tan - AOL.

We do this earlier than crossover at the end.

Hope this helps,

Jim

Date: Tue, 25 Feb 1997 07:44:22 -0500
From: "Roman J. Smith" <roman.j.smith.13@ND.EDU>
Subject: Crossovers

For those looking for another crossover ceremony:

In our area we have a youth camp (years ago it belonged to the local council). There is creek to cross to get to the fire bowl. The bridge is visible from the fire bowl seating but is at least 60 yards away. We have used this area a number of times. We first have the parents and scouts come down front where the Webelos neckerchief is removed, and the parents present the scouts with a BSA neckerchief and slide. The Troop's ASPL then leads the new scouts to the bridge presents them to the troop guide. The troop guide leads them across the bridge and presents them to the SLP waiting on the other side.

The SPL gives them a handbook and leads them in the Oath and Law. They then all returned and are greeted with appalls. It involves the parents, and Boy Scouts. Very little is done by adult leaders except to narrate.

Roman J. Smith
Systems Administrator
Investment Office
Room 322 Main Building
Notre Dame IN 46556
(219)631-4624
Fax: (219) 631-8223
E-Mail: roman.j.smith.13@nd.edu
