(Beating drum)
Tonight we have such a young man in our midst, who has spent the last year in the Webelos den. Each month he has learned new skills and gained new knowledge. He has learned about the government of city, state and nation. He has worked on what it means to be a good family member. He has worked on becoming physically fit and taking care of his body. He has worked on skills in communication, scholarship, and showmanship. He has spent time outdoors and leaned about nature and geology. He has learned how to safely build a fire and cook over it. The activity badge pins he has received over these past months represent the things he has accomplished on this journey of skills and knowledge. Tonight he is ready to move on to the next step, on to the Boy Scout level. And as evidence of his advancement is his qualification for the highest achievement possible in Cub Scouting, the Arrow of Light Award. It is the only patch from Cub Scouting that he will wear on his Boy Scout uniform, and as a knot on his adult leader's uniform.

Just before we call up your parents and award you this achievement, I want to pass you the talking wing and let you describe your journey of this past year.

Eric Christiansen
WE7-590-3-08

*Note—my talking wing is a goose wing wrapped at the bottom with fringed buckskin with pony beads. You can also use a series of long craft feathers wrapped at the bottom. Have someone in the background drum the assembly drum. When it comes to the second part of the ceremony, replace the "he"s with the name of the Arrow of Light recipient.

The next elder was the medicine man. He was taught the way of the herb and the root. He learned the method working with wounds and bringing comfort to the ailing and afflicted. He learned to bind his own wounds for the times he might be on a solitary journey. It was a moon of great discovery.

The next moons brought many new skills and knowledge. He learned to fish, to find edible foods in the woods and desert, and how to find and collect water when it was scarce. He learned to compose and sing songs. The poet taught him to bring forth his words and how to tell stories. He learned to find, gather and mix pigments to decorate and tell stories through his paintings. He made things with leather and wood and decorated them. He had learned to swim across the small waters and learned to run longer distances without stopping. He also spent time observing the councils of the elders and learned the politics that governed the village. He learned how to communicate with the travelers and neighboring tribes, and how to trade for their goods.

(Beating drum)
At the turn of the four seasons, one evening Little Beaver once again heard the sounds of the assembly drums as the village gathered around the camp fire. This time was different for he was called forward to stand among the elders. They spoke with admiration of the year they had spent with Little Beaver as he was passing from childhood into young manhood. He was now ready to move on to the next level, and start training to become a brave. Since his name was that of a child, he was now given his new name of Running Fox, for during the past year he had become fast and strong, cunning and smart as the fox. And then for the first time, something new happened, for they passed the wing to young Running Fox and asked him to describe his journey to the village.

ARROW OF LIGHT CEREMONY
THE TALKING WING

(Beating drum)
Little Beaver heard the assembly drums and knew the elders needed to speak. As the village gathered around, the elders took their turn to speak as they held the talking wing. Only the one holding the wing was aloud to speak, and everyone listened quietly and respectfully to him.

Little Beaver longed for the day when he might hold the wing and have the chance to say something of importance. Yet this night was different, for this night the elders called Little Beaver forward. This was his year to learn from the elders and the braves. Each moon Little Beaver would learn skills from those who were the masters of the village.

For the next days Little Beaver worked with the arrow maker. They searched the hills for the stone that would slice into sharp pieces when pounded. They searched for the shoots and branches for the shafts of the arrows. For many hours they worked the stones to shape them into sharp points. He learned to use fire to shape, straighten and harden the arrow shafts. He learned how to split feathers and attach them to make the arrows fly straight and true. By the next moon, though not a master, he had become knowledgeable in the craft.

Next Little Beaver worked with the tracker. He learned to identify the shape of the tracks from the smallest to the largest animal. He learned to tell how fresh the track was and to find their scent and sign. He learned to find their holes, dens and bedding grounds. He observed their habits of travel, grazing or hunting. He learned of their social structure and family life. At the changing of the moon, Little Beaver had gained new knowledge.