our beacons, our guiding lights, we can navigate through the dangerous waters of life.

The Arrow of Light is one of those beacons. It guides Webelos towards goals, learning experiences, and good values. In order to earn this award the Webelo scout has had to learn about conservation, family life, community service and personal fitness. He has also learned skills in arts and crafts, sports, home repair and outdoor life. He has learned about communications, engineering, and science. He has also learned how to handle the American flag with proper respect and love and respect for his country.

This award is the passage way into Boy Scouts, preparing for the transition into the scout troop. He has learned the scout oath and law as well as the requirements to earn the first rank, the Tenderfoot badge. The journey continues with the foundation built in the Cub Scouting program. The Arrow of Light is a bright light that will adorn his uniform as long as he is involved in scouting. It is the only patch from Cub Scouting that is worn on the scout uniform, and is worn as a knot emblem on the uniform as an adult.

(Addressed to the scout)
As the lighthouses on the shores, this Arrow of Light award is that beacon you have followed helping you to find safety as you continue on the path of life.

*Note—the presenter can wear a costume such as a navy p-coat or yellow rain slicker with a dark knit hat. If wanted, a model of a sailing vessel can be displayed, and at the talk of lighthouses the house lights dimmed and a flash light beam flashed on the ship.

By Eric Christiansen, Wood Badge ticket, WE7-590-3-08

ARROW OF LIGHT CEREMONY
MARINER'S TALE

From ancient times mariners have crossed vast bodies of water; some involved in trading, some as fishers of the sea, others as adventurers seeking new lands, treasures and fortunes. Unlike those who travel by land, when it became dark they could not just stop, set up camp and fall asleep. While on the water they were constantly moving, so they always had to be aware of hidden dangers. The key to safety was light. By day the sailors were guided by the sun. At night they had the moon and the stars to follow. Members of the crew were always on watch. At night the pilot was at the helm, one on watch with a keen eye was high on the mast to assure clear passage, and when moving in shallow waters with hidden reefs, a spotter would be set on the bow (the front of the boat) to help guide the boat safely through. The most dangerous times were rough waters when storm clouds filled the skies, blocking out all light from the celestial bodies.

The ocean floors are littered with the remains of ships that lost their way in dangerous waters. The new world had many inviting islands and coastal shores that were buffered by reefs and shallow rocks. Narrow passages would allow the mariners to navigate safely through them, but these passages were not always apparent.

To help vessels find their bearings and avoid dangerous shores, lighthouses were built to guide the mariners. Lighthouses were there to guide them and keep them safe.

We have lighthouses in our lives to keep us safe. Those beacons are such things as our families, our faith, and scouting. The dangerous shores are such things as tobacco and alcohol, cheating or being dishonest, giving in to peer pressure to do things you should not. Other dangerous waters may be such things as being unkind to those who may be different than you, or not helping those who really need a friend or a kind word. Wasting our natural resources or being disrespectful of the outdoors could be a dangerous reef we need to avoid. By following