seeds in fertile soil, has reached for the light above and tried to incorporate the ideals of Scouting into his life. The evidence is in the award he is receiving, the Arrow of Light Award. His path to this award has given him the opportunity to give service, experience the sciences, the arts, the outdoors, academics, sports activities and family life. Through the principles of Scouting and the Scout Law, he is developing character that will be evident to all who meet him through out his life. This is why we have the honor of presenting the Arrow of Light, the highest award given in Cub Scouting to _____.

*Note—If available, have such things as pine cones, pine nuts and acorns as props.

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

Just as when a disease sweeps through a forest and the weak trees are taken, the Cub Scouts who are strong can survive. In preparation for the Boy Scouts, the Webelos learn the Scout promise. In it they pledge to stay "physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight." Staying true to this pledge will protect them from the many physical, mental and moral diseases that may be flung their way.

In a major draught, it is the trees with deep roots that survive, and the Scouts that have deep moral and ethical roots are unaffected by the draughts that may hit society.

Fire storms come and devastate vast stands of trees. Many of these fires seem unstoppable and enormous amounts of time and resources are committed to fight them. Those trees with substantial fire breaks around them are able to escape the flames. As a Webelos Scout, the young men learn the Scout Law, which is, "A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent." Living by the Scout Law is that fire break that can protect the young men from the fire storms of the world. Living by the standards of the Scout Law creates strength of character that sets a young man apart from others, a strength that shines through and is visible in every aspect of his life.

And what is to keep the young men from falling over in the strong winds of opposition? What is it that keeps a tree standing tall when buffeted by harsh winds? It is his deep spiritual roots. Belief and loyalty to God is one of the major principles of Scouting. As long as the Scout has fed his roots of spirituality and allowed them to grow deep, he will be able to withstand all the winds the world may throw at him. The smile on his face and the light in his eyes will be just a few of the outward signs of his spiritual roots. The true sign will be in the life he lives.

Today we have with us a young man who is doing those things to create a life that is like the tall majestic trees. He has planted his

ARROW OF LIGHT CERIMOMY
TALL TREES

There are few things more beautiful than a tall majestic tree. As scouts, we enjoy the outdoors and the chance to be in the woods.

When we look at where these trees came from, their seeds seem very small. The mighty oak tree starts from the acorn. The giant evergreens come from a small seed inside the pinecones. If the seeds find good soil and the right amount of moisture, they will sprout and start to reach for the sky. But not all seeds that start to grow will become majestic trees.

Some may sprout but never find sun to give them strength because they are over shadowed by the canopy of growth around them. Some may start to grow but be taken out by disease, drought or fast moving fire. Others may never be tested sufficiently, only to be brought down later on by a strong wind it could not withstand. This is very evident as you hike in certain areas such as Vancouver Island in Canada, or as close as the High Uinta mountains at our front door. Many tall and beautiful trees lie on their sides, for when you look at their roots, you discover that the seed tried to sprout where the soil was thin and the roots were forced to spread out shallow over a hard rocky surface. When the strong winds came, there were no deep roots to support the tree and it tumbled to the ground.

A young Cub Scout is like the acorn or the pine nut, full of potential and ready to be planted. And just like those seeds, they need fertile soil to grow in. The scouting program is that rich soil that can offer them the chance to grow. Unfortunately, some boys may be overshadowed by older, larger boys who hide them from the light. Many boys look up to older boys who may be the wrong role models. Following the wrong example can keep them from ever growing to their full capabilities.