Our founding fathers left us a legacy of examples for us to follow. As Webelos we have a chance to follow in their footsteps. We spend much of our time working on activity badges. Some are in the mental skills group such as scholar and traveler, much like many of our founding fathers. Others are in the physical skills group such as fitness and athlete, just like George Washington. The outdoor group includes such badges as forester and naturalist following Thomas Jefferson, while the technology group encompasses engineer and scientist, following the example of both Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin. In the community group we learn first aid through the readyman badge after Dr. Benjamin Rush, communicator such as Franklin, and of course, the citizen badge following the example of all the founding fathers.

Truly, this young man on his journey to his Arrow of Light has followed in the footsteps of our founding fathers.

By Eric Christiansen, WE7-590-3-08

Thomas Jefferson was one of the great intellectuals of our founding fathers. He is the one who penned the Declaration of Independence. He was a designer and architect who built his beautiful home, Monticello, and designed the buildings for the University of Virginia. He was also an inventor, holding the patent on a plow and redesigning many devises and objects.

He was a naturalist, sending Lewis and Clark on an expedition to explore and map the Louisiana Purchase. Part of their job was to catalog and retrieve new plant and animal species. Jefferson was planter and a traveler. While ambassador to France he traveled to Italy and was influence by both their architecture and their agriculture. At Monticello he surrounded the grounds with gardens, vineyards and orchards. Jefferson was a scholar, engineer, naturalist, traveler and a great citizen.

There were four physicians among the signers of the Declaration of Independence, with Benjamin Rush being the most prominent. He was a scholar and writer having published books on medical practices.

One of our country's best known and most colorful founding fathers was Benjamin Franklin. He was a printer, a writer, a scientist, a political theorist and an inventor. He gave us such items as bifocal glasses, the lightning rod and the Franklin stove. His scientific discoveries included the proof lightning being electrically charged and a study of the Atlantic Ocean Gulf Stream. He was granted honorary doctorate degrees from both Harvard and Yale Universities and was considered one of the great minds of his time.

Franklin developed the first lending library where one could check out books such as we have today. He was also the first Postmaster General developing our national postal service. Thus, he was leader in communications.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR FOUNDING FATHERS
ARROW OF LIGHT CEREMONY

Our founding fathers are the ones who created our form of government and set the direction of our country. The freedoms and liberties we enjoy are because of their wisdom and foresight in protecting them through the foundations or our laws.

What kind of men were these patriots? What were they like and what made them special? How are we like them?

Lets start with George Washington. He was tall and athletic, standing at 6' 3 ½ ". Benjamin Franklin, himself 6' tall, stated, "We always choose him to lead us because he was always the tallest man in the room". As the first president of the United States he was a great traveler, visiting every state in the union. Although he rode in a coach much of the time, he preferred to travel on horseback, and would enter the cities and villages on his beautiful white horse, much to the delight of the crowds.

As president he set the example and policies for the presidents who followed. Upon his death Washington was hailed as "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen". George Washington was a great citizen.

John Adams was the first vice president and the second president of the United States. He loved to read and had an extensive library. He attended Harvard University and became an attorney. He had a significant voice in preparing Declaration of Independence and the constitution. He was truly a scholar, and even came from Braintree, Massachusetts.

Adams was also a traveler, being an American ambassador to both England and France. He lived the life of a patriot and great citizen.