

## Bear Badge Advancement Ceremony

**Preparation:** *Cut small strips of litmus paper. On each piece of paper write one of the boy's names. Have a large jar filled with warm water and ammonia and something to stir it with. Gather 20 or so small thin twigs. Bear badges and cards. Parent pins. Alternative to litmus paper is the eatable paper used by bakers. Use in warm water without the ammonia.*

**Cubmaster:** This evening a number of our young Scouts will take their final test to earn their Bear Badge. As I read your name, come forward and take this piece of paper with your name: **<read boys names>**. You are climbing even higher on the trail to the Arrow of Light. Do you see the rank of Bear? *[Wait for response.]* Then recite the Law of the Pack.

*The Cub Scout follows Akela.*

*The Cub Scout helps the Pack go.*

*The Pack helps the Cub Scout grow.*

*The Cub Scout gives good will.*

To earn your Bear badge you have completed 12 achievements. These require knowledge of God, Country, Family, and Self. I see that you have worked hard with your parents and Den Leaders to achieve your rank. Are you ready to take your final test to earn your Bear badge? *[Wait for response.]* One important lesson you have learned is the importance of working together as a team in your den and with your family. As an individual you stand alone and are weak. *[Pass out twigs to each boy.]* Hold this single twig and break it in half. Bundle one of your broken twigs together with mine.

*[Collect one twig from each scout and wrap together with a rubber band.]*

Each of you take this bundle and attempt to break it in half. *[Wait for each Scout to attempt to break the bundle.]* As you can see, there is strength in the unity of the Pack. Together you are stronger than any single individual. Each of you has been given a piece of paper with your name. This is no ordinary paper. What you hold is truth paper. This is paper handed down from generation-to-generation to test the truth of an individual. If you have spoken the truth of your accomplishments this paper will turn red in the water; however, if your paper remains orange, you are not yet ready to continue on the next phase of your Scouting journey.

*[Have each scout place their piece of paper in the water, stir the water a little, show the scout the paper has changed color and hand them their badge.]*

Congratulations! You all pass the final test and have demonstrated your worthiness to grow as a Cub Scout and take on increased responsibility. Would your parents please come forward and join your son. *[Wait for parents.]*

The climb up the Scouting trail is getting shorter, but steeper. Not everyone will finish. Follow the Promise and the Law so that no harm will come to you along the trail. *[Present badges and cards to parents and have them pin them to their sons. Shake hands with boys. Have boys give parents their Bear parent pin.]*