

CUB SCOUT PACK 376

ARROW OF LIGHT

Parent Guide

5th Grade • 2026–2027 Scouting Year

As of the 2024 program update, Arrow of Light is its own rank tied strictly to 5th grade. It is the final Cub Scout rank and the bridge to Scouts BSA.

Welcome to the Arrow of Light year — the final and most adventurous year of Cub Scouting! Fifth graders work as a patrol, complete a required overnight campout and a two-hour service project, learn real first aid, and visit a Scouts BSA troop as they prepare to cross over. This is the most outdoors-heavy year, so a little more family planning helps. Here's everything to expect.

How Your Scout Earns the Arrow of Light Badge

To earn the Arrow of Light rank badge, your Scout completes all 6 required adventures below, plus at least 2 elective adventures of their choosing. Most of this is done together as a den at meetings and pack events. Your den leader tracks progress and gives final sign-off.

The 6 Required Adventures

Adventure	What your Scout will work on	Where
Bobcat <i>Character & Leadership</i>	Form a patrol and elect a leader, recite the Scout Oath and Law, learn Scouts BSA signs, slogan, and motto, visit a Scouts BSA troop, and complete the child-protection booklet at home.	Den / Patrol + Home
Outdoor Adventurer <i>Outdoors</i>	Take part in an overnight campout — pack gear, set up camp, keep food safe, and follow the Outdoor Code. (This is the year's required overnight.)	Pack / Troop campout
Personal Fitness <i>Personal Fitness</i>	Cook a camping meal, track 14 days of activity, do 30 minutes of stretching and moving, and review the health form with you.	Home + Den
Citizenship <i>Citizenship</i>	Plan and carry out a service project totaling at least two hours, using the BSA SAFE Checklist.	Pack
First Aid <i>Personal Safety</i>	Watch the Protect Yourself Rules video, handle "hurry cases," choking, and shock, treat common injuries, and build a personal first-aid kit.	Den + Home
Duty to God <i>Family & Reverence</i>	Connect a family faith value to the Scout Law, meet a faith-based community helper, and discuss what "Duty to God" means to you.	Family

Family & Reverence note: this adventure can also be earned by completing the religious emblem of your family's choosing.

Choosing Elective Adventures (pick at least 2)

Your Scout chooses at least 2 of these to round out the year. The den usually does a few of them together, and your Scout can add more for fun or to earn extra recognition:

Elective adventures

Champions for Nature • Cycling • Engineer • Estimations • Fishing • High Tech
Outdoors • Into the Wild • Into the Woods • Knife Safety • Paddle Craft • Race Time •
Summertime Fun • Swimming

Shooting Sports (Archery, BB Gun, Slingshot): optional electives that can only be earned at a council camp with certified instructors — not at regular pack meetings.

Year at a Glance — What to Plan For

Here's the quick summary of the bigger commitments across the 10-month scouting year (roughly September through June):

Overnights	One overnight campout is REQUIRED this year as part of the "Outdoor Adventurer" adventure. The pack and troop organize campouts you can use — plan to attend at least one.
Service project	A service project totaling AT LEAST two hours is required (one project, or several adding up to two hours). This is the only rank with a minimum service-hour requirement.
Outdoor / hiking	An overnight campout (above) plus outdoor electives if chosen. Bike and paddle electives reach 10-mile rides and require the swimmer test.
Swimming & water	Optional only — "Swimming" and "Paddle Craft" require Safe Swim Defense / Safety Afloat and the BSA swimmer test.
Shooting sports	Optional only — Archery, BB Gun, and Slingshot are available at council camps with certified instructors.
Parent involvement	Not required at every meeting. This year leans outdoors, so please plan ahead for the required campout and service project.

What We Need From You at Home

A few items are done at home with your Scout. Everything else happens at den and pack meetings:

- Complete the "How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide" booklet activities (part of Bobcat).
- Watch the Arrow of Light Protect Yourself Rules video together.
- Review the BSA Annual Health and Medical Record together (part of Personal Fitness).
- Discuss your family's faith values and what "Duty to God" means (part of Duty to God).
- Plan ahead for the required overnight campout and two-hour service project.

Tips for a Great Year

- Come to den and pack meetings — that's where most adventures are earned.
- Watch for the pack calendar so you can plan around campouts, the Pinewood Derby, and service projects.
- Keep the handbook handy and celebrate each adventure as it's completed.
- Ask your den leader anytime you're unsure what's coming up next.

Questions? Reach out to your den leader or pack leadership — we're glad to help.