

# The Bear Claw Story

These Scouts have just completed the six required and one elective Bear Adventures for the Bear rank. These #----scouts are an elite group among their peers because they completed an additional six elective Bear Adventures and earned the religious emblem award of their faith, entitling them to wear the Bear Claw lanyard and beads.

Why the bear claw? Bears are the largest and most respected carnivore in North America. Native Americans who wear a bear claw lanyard are respected members of their tribe.

The adventures these young scouts have earned, will help them navigate through their life's journey. They learned about God, country, and self. The wisdom they acquired will prepare them for future decisions they make about themselves and others.

Through the journey to the Bear rank, Akela has been there to help guide them. As a constant reminder, Akela has arranged the stars to make a special constellation. The constellation Ursa Major (big bear) represents Akela and Ursa Minor (little bear) represents the scout. We also know these two constellations as the Big and Little Dippers. They have had a special meaning to man since the beginning of time because the end star of Ursa Minor's tail (or little dippers handle) is known as Polaris or North Star. The location of which is above the North Pole and allows navigators to find their direction.

The North Star is a constant reminder to follow the true and right course to where ever life takes you.

Earning the bear claw now creates opportunities for you to help in guiding other boys in earning their bear claw.

The first bead is **gold**, a precious metal highly valued since early man. It represents your first six adventures including Duty to God of which you should highly value.

The three stars represent the two bear constellations, and the Northern Lights District. Showing others that you are a member of the Northern Lights community.

The next twelve beads, four **red**/four **white**/ four **blue** on each side of your lanyard represent the men who wrote and signed our Declaration of Independence and The Constitution. They were wise and understood people needed to be able to choose their religious and political leaders. In your scout oath, you promise to do your best, to do your duty, to God, to country, and to yourself. The beads also represent the twelve adventures you earned, six for the Bear Rank and six for the Bear Claw. They prove to anyone who sees them that the wearer, the den leader, and parents of this scout are committed to the ideals of Scouting. You have all gone above and beyond what was expected. You are all examples of our Northern Lights district.

The last bead is **silver** another precious metal. It is to be your guiding light, keeping you on the right path in Scouting toward Webelos. Which we all know means, **“We Be Loyal Scouts”**.

The Northern Lights District proudly presents you your Bear Claw Lanyard. It's to be worn at any Pack, Den, or other Scouting activity where you wear your uniform. Congratulations on your accomplishment.