

Complete Swimming Up Otter & Timberwolf Ceremony | BPSA-US | Western Region | 2016

Note

The swim up ceremony for Otters should ideally be done in the evening at the campfire during a time when both Otters and Timberwolves are present. Otters sit on one side of the fire and Timberwolves sit on the opposite side of the fire. If Pathfinders and Rovers are present, they can stand in an outer ring around the otters and Timberwolves.

Ceremony begins

Ahmeek: welcomes **Akela** and the TW Pack

TW Pack: proceeds with a Pack Howl: *"Look well O wolves, look well... Aaahuuooooo..."* (Pack Howls)

Otter Raft and **TW Pack** are in "**Council Rock**" formation. (a log object is placed in between both circles that will eventually open into two horse-shoe formations, which the Otters will step over as they join the pack.)

Otters recite "Thank You Friends: *"Thank you, friends for this day, for my family, and for my play. Thank you for the good things to eat, for eyes and ears and hands and feet. Thank you friends for all you do, and I will try to help you too."*

Otters sing Vespers: *"Softly falls the light of day, as our meeting fades away; silently each otter asks, have I done my daily task? Have I kept my honor bright? Can I guiltless sleep tonight? Have I done and have I dared, everything to "Be Prepared."*

Ahmeek: then calls out each Otter who is swimming or moving up by full name and asks them to stand

Ahmeek: (addresses moving and swimming-up Otters) I hope you will always remember your Otter promise. For the last time, I ask you to join me in the Otter promise.

Otters: (either together if in a group or individually, if four or less) Make the Otter sign and recite the Otter promise, *"I promise to do my best, to obey my leaders and my parents and to be a good Otter."*

Ahmeek: *"Do I have your honor that you will always remember and obey this promise?"*

Otters: YES!

Ahmeek: *Otters, this is the last time you will ever be addressed as an Otter. I ask you to take a moment and think upon your time with the Otters and remember them well. Look up at the sky (starry or blue), the same constellations (cosmos if daytime) that have looked down on you as an Otter will continue to look down on you as a Timberwolf. Take Solace in Knowing that the things you have learned as an Otter will serve you well as you make your journey into your new Timberwolf pack. Think for a moment about one of your favorite memories of your time as an Otter... (pause about a minute)... when you are ready, you may swim through you Otter raft,*

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weaving in and out of the council circle until the otters complete swimming around the entire circle.

Otters: Join their escort (Parent/Leader) in the center of the Council Rock Circle and wait.

Ahmeek: *“Akela!.. will you accept these Otters into your Timberwolf Pack, and will you teach them the ways and Laws of the Jungle?”*

******* Timberwolf Ceremony *******

Akela: *YES!* (The Pack and Raft open both Council Rock circles to create two horse-shoe formations that face one another)

Akela: *“Bring forth the new Cub(s)!”* (Otters are escorted to the log and stop)

Parent/Leader: *“Here is(are) the man-cub(s)! Akela! will you keep him/her/them?”*

Akela: *“Of course I will keep him/her/them, BUT, what will the pack say? The Law of the Jungle says that as soon as a wolf cub is ready, he must be taken to the Pack Council so that the other wolves may identify him/her/them.”*

Akela: New Cub(s) to the center of the circle.

Otters: Step over the log object and make their way to the center of the circle in front of Akela.

Akela: *“Look well O wolves, look well! (Pack Howls). It is the Law of the Jungle that, if a Timberwolf is to be accepted into the pack, he must be spoken for by two members that are not his parents. Who speaks for this Timberwolf?”*

Baloo: *“I speak for this Timberwolf, I will teach him the Laws of the Jungle.”*

Akela: *“We need yet another, who speaks besides Baloo?”*

Bagheera: (Uncomfortable Pause) *“O Akela and the free people. I have no right here at your Council, but the Law of the Jungle says that the Timberwolf may be accepted for a price. If he is willing to pay the price, let him be accepted into the Pack.*

Akela: *“The price we ask is the Promise all Timberwolves make and strive to keep. Do you know the Law and Promise of the Timberwolf Pack, The Gand Howl and the Salute?”*

New Cubs: Yes Akela, I/We do.

Akela: What is the Law?

New Cubs: *“The cub gives into the old wolf, the cub does not give into themselves.”*

Akela: *“Are you ready to make the solemn Promise of the Timberwolves?”*

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New Cubs: Yes Akela, I am

Pack: Timberwolves and Tenderpads in the horse-shoe formation all make the sign...New Cubs do not.

New Cubs: Recite the promise- *"I promise to do my best, to do my duty to (God and Country/render service to my country), to keep the law of the Timberwolf Pack and to do a good turn to somebody every day.*

Akela: *"I trust you to do your best and to keep this promise. You are now a Timberwolf and one of the Great Worldwide Family of Scouts."*

Akela/Bagheera/Baloo: Will hand the new Timberwolf their cap, 2 Timberwolf badges and the WFIS badge and replace the white neckerchief with the group neckerchief. Left handed shake and have the new Timberwolf scouts salute the pack.

Note: This can be done individually or as a group.

Akela: "You may join your Six. Woof!"

Note: Pack can also take the new Timberwolf cubs away for private time, such as a simple hike or Grand Howl, or just campfire time.