

## Bear Claw Camp Ceremonies - What You Need to Know

One of the most important parts of Bear Claw Camp is the special ceremonies.

All participants — both youth and adults — must attend these ceremonies. They are based on how many years a participant has been at the camp.

After each ceremony, participants receive a colored metal claw. This claw is added to a necklace, which is given at the end of every Bear Claw Camp.

There are **three ceremonies**, each with its own meaning and claw color:

1. **Rite of Passage (Bronze Claw)**

Attended during the **first year** of participation at Bear Claw Camp.

2. **The Bear Spirit (Silver Claw)**

Attended during the **third year**, as long as the first ceremony has been completed.

3. **Join the Bear clan (Black Claw)**

Attended during the **fifth year**, as long as the second ceremony has been completed.

### Important Notes:

- **Each ceremony is spaced two years apart.**

Ceremonies cannot be attended in back-to-back years.

For example, you cannot attend the 1st ceremony one year and the 2nd the next.

#### Visual overview:

- 1st camp => 1st ceremony **Bronze**
- 2nd camp => No ceremony (gap year)
- 3rd camp => 2nd ceremony **Silver**
- 4th camp => No ceremony (gap year)
- 5th camp => 3rd ceremony **Black**
- 6th camp => No further ceremonies
- ...

- **First ceremony Sponsor**

Participants attending this ceremony are asked to have a sponsor with them to act as a guide. The sponsor must be someone who has previously attended the first ceremony.

If you cannot find a sponsor, one will be assigned to you during the ceremony.

- **Previous claw necklace must be worn during the next ceremony**

- Wear the **Bronze Claw** necklace at the **2nd ceremony**
- Wear the **Silver Claw** necklace at the **3rd ceremony**

- **Missed a ceremony?**

If a participant attends one or more camps without completing the first ceremony, their ceremony timeline is shifted. Ceremonies must still be completed in order, with two years of camp participation between each.

- **Keep the magic alive!**

These ceremonies are special and mythical. Please do not share any details with participants — especially Scouters — who have not yet experienced them. Let them discover the magic for themselves.