

Webelos-to-Scout Transition

The Mission of Scouting

"It is the mission of Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and in other ways to prepare them to make ethical choices over their lifetime in achieving their full potential."

The Path of Boy Scouts

- Scouting is for the life of the boy
- Cub Scouting is only the first step
- The Arrow of Light is NOT the final step
- Without a Crossover to Boy Scouts...
...the boy has only traveled half the journey

Webelos & Boy Scouts Comparison

	Webelos Scouts	Boy Scouts
Organization	Pack and Dens	Troop and Patrols
Composition	1 st thru 5 th grade Dens grouped by age	5 th grade thru high school Patrols have all ages
Leadership	Cubmaster Den Leaders Denners/Den Chiefs	Senior Patrol Leader Scoutmaster Ass't Scoutmasters Patrol Leaders
Meetings	Weekly den meetings Outings by den Big events by pack	Weekly troop meeting w/ patrol breakout Outings by troop Patrol outings OK Big events by troop

Advancement	Generally by den Sign-off by Den Leader Confirmed by Committee	Generally individually and in small groups Sign-off by boy and adult leaders Ranks - SM/Board of Review Merit Badges - Counselors
Awards [show awards]	Activity Badges Belt Loops and Pins Group interest	Merit Badges Other awards Individual interest
Outings	Generally as den or pack Planned and conducted by adults Adults bail out scouts	As troop, but by patrol OK Planned and conducted by scouts Scouts bail out scouts

First Year Webelos

- Plan on failure, have a back-up plan
- Outline Webelos Badge and AOL requirements
[show Webelos Advancement chart]
- Set goals that boys can understand
- Meet with parents to go over plan
- Establish Denner position
- Have boys do calling/presentation/game
- Complete Webelos Badge requirements
- Establish contacts with local Boy Scout troops

Second Year Webelos

- Plan on success, no back-up plan
- Have boys be main communicators
- Have boys plan an outing, teach skill
- Have boys plan/lead group activity badge
- Have boys do some activity badges individually (at home)
- Practice Scout Oath and Law
- Complete Arrow of Light requirements

- Discuss differences between Cub/Boy Scouts and new adventures to come
- Reinforce their readiness to move up
- Compare troops visited
- Have Webelos tell what they did on troop outing(s)

Preparing Families for Boy Scouts

- Involve families in troop visits/decision
- Prepare family for boy's desire to move up
- Inform family of parental role in Boy Scouts, including financial and time commitments
- Prepare family for "boy led" organization
- Set expectation of "chaotic maturation"
- Parents must learn to allow *small* failures

Guidelines for Webelos Leaders

- Attend Outdoor Webelos Leader training
- Incorporate outdoor program into den meetings and outings
- Integrate Boy Scout topics into meetings
- Emphasize differences between Cubs and Boy Scouts
- Set firm schedule to accomplish remaining activities for den, allow individual progress
- Encourage boys to earn the Arrow of Light, the only Cub Scout emblem allowed on Boy Scout uniform
- Obtain Boy Scout Handbook and Requirements book
- Broadcast troop visit schedule and outings available
- Plan troop visits end of 4th grade and start of 5th grade
- Plan joint den and troop outings by fall of 5th grade
- Plan bridging ceremony with Cubmaster and Scoutmaster(s)

What to expect on a visit to a Troop Meeting

- Wear full uniform
- Be made welcome by the Boy Scouts!
- Line up with Boy Scouts, and participate in Opening and Closing ceremonies
- Listen/Participate in whatever demo or skill is given
- Participate in games and activities
- Parents will *hopefully* be invited to sit down with adult leaders for a presentation or discussion on what the troop has to offer
- Ask for troop's annual schedule/plan, and ask what outings Webelos are invited to (don't be shy!)

What to Expect on a Boy Scout outing

- Webelos may be assigned to existing Boy Scout patrols
- Webelos pack their own gear, with parent supervision, and know where their stuff is!
- Webelos may cook, eat, and clean up with patrols
- Adults may eat with Boy Scout adults
- Webelos should be prepared to pay their patrol leader for their share of patrol food

Stumbling Blocks Along the Way

- Some think Boy Scouts are sissies (yeah, right!)
- Some parents are afraid of high adventure
- Families don't know what Boy Scouts has to offer
- Parents don't realize that being a Boy Scout parent is a lot less effort than being a Cub Scout parent
- Families burnt out after five years of Cub Scouts
- Troop meetings and outings may look disorganized
- Parents don't let scouts take responsibility

How to Learn More

- Recruit a Den Chief for your den
- Contact local troop leaders - invite them to visit!
- Contact your Unit Commissioner
- Attend District Roundtable
- Attend WeST Fair
- Use contacts made today!