

Webelos 2009 Program Resources

The Webelos Program works best when you do it the BSA way. It works less well when you do it your way. To do it the best way consider the following:

- Get Trained - Fast Start, Cub Scout Leader Training, and Webelos Outdoor Leader Skills
- Attend supplementary training regularly, such as Roundtable
- Work closely with a Boy Scout Troop - visit the Troop, go on outings with the Troop
- Work with your Cubmaster and the Boy Scout Troop to get Den Chiefs into the Dens
- Have two independent Dens - a First Year and a Second Year Den (also called the Fourth Grade Den and the Fifth Grade Den)
- Work the Activity Badge program according to the BSA plan - as advertised, the easier badges for the 1st year Den, more difficult ones for the 2nd year Den.

Webelos Den Leaders have two objectives:

1. Provide every Webelos Scout the opportunity to earn his Arrow of Light
2. Successfully lead the boys to a positive Boy Scouting experience

Keep in mind that you do not have to do it all yourself. There are plenty of Scouters who are willing to help. In addition, there is a wealth of community resources, publications and teaching aides to help you succeed despite your limited time and lack of background in some areas. Using these people and materials will not only enrich the program for the boys, but increase your enjoyment of it as well.

And don't forget the Internet. Besides this CD and other Pow Wow resources, you will find a lot of help for your program at <http://www.usscouts.org>, <http://www.macscouter.com> and <http://www.cubmaster.org>.

The 2009 Activity Badge Resources

The Webelos Activity Badges by month, according to the 2009-10 BSA plan, are shown below. You will find resources in this section to use in addition to your program helps and other resources, to help you deliver the very best Webelos Program this year.

Scouting Month	Activity Badges
February 2009	Scholar (1 st year Den) Start Engineer (2 nd year Den)
March 2009	Athlete (1 st year Den) Complete Engineer (2 nd year Den)
April 2009	Sportsman (1 st year Den) Family Member (2 nd year Den)
May 2009	Outdoorsman (1 st year Den) Artist (2 nd year Den)
June 2009	Traveler (1 st year Den) Handyman (2 nd year Den)
July 2009	Aquanaut (1 st year Den) Geologist (2 nd year Den)
August 2009	Naturalist (1 st year Den) Forester (2 nd year Den)
September 2009	Start Citizen (1 st year Den) Communicator (2 nd year Den)
October 2009	Complete Citizen (1 st year Den) Showman (2 nd year Den)
November 2009	Start Craftsman (1 st year Den) Readyman (2 nd year Den)
December 2009	Complete Craftsman (1 st year Den) Start Scientist (2 nd year Den)
January 2010	Fitness (1 st year Den) Complete Scientist (2 nd year Den)

Although Webelos Scouts are still part of Cub Scouting, with the same purposes, it is a transitional program. It is moving the boys from a family based program in which the parents approve their work, to a unit leader led program where the Webelos Den leader must approve advancement. It is a transition from the simpler Cub Scouting program and ideals to the more challenging program of Boy Scouting and the more complex ideals of the Scout Oath and Law

Understanding Webelos Scouts

As a Webelos leader, this may be your first exposure to dealing with several boys in this age group. You may feel intimidated or even frightened. If you are in either of these groups you are not

alone. Many new leaders feel the same way. As nine and ten year olds, a group of boys can be a challenge, but they are also a lot of fun. The Webelos program allows boys of this age group to stretch themselves, be challenged and have fun.

Nine year old boys are very inquisitive by nature and want to be challenged. The program you provide should fill their needs, yet not be so difficult as to discourage them. Exposure to skills does not necessarily mean mastery of skills, just a challenge, a learning experience and fun. Some boys this age have a terrible time with skills. The desire is there, but ability may not be. Remember, any real effort on their part is the challenge and even the reward. At this age a boy needs a compliment for a job done to the best of his ability.

At nine, boys can be unpredictable. One week they love the current activity. The next week the same activity bores them. The key is to keep them busy, and to keep all the boys involved. Have the bored boy show the others or you how he is doing his project or skill. Two-deep leadership is an important factor here. Two adults helping and guiding works well.

The ten year old is generally more mature than he was in his first year in your Den. His self-control is greater. His willingness and ability to lead is better. His strength and self-confidence are higher. The poking, teasing and silliness generally decreases. The unit becomes stronger as a result. As this happens you as their leader should hand over more of the Den responsibilities to the boys. 'Faking roll, collecting dues, deciding which activity pins to work on, Den activities planning, etc. that may have been done with you in their first year should now become the responsibility of the boys.

As you reflect back on the Webelos years, you will find that the boys have undergone a change much greater than you ever imagined possible.

Training Available

Webelos Den leaders and assistants should complete their district's New Leader Essentials, if they haven't already taken it, and the Leader Specific Training for Webelos Leaders. An outdoor skills training, sometimes known as WLOT or OWL training, would also be helpful. They should also attend their district's monthly Roundtables and Council Pow Wow.

By participating in these activities you as a leader will be better prepared to offer a quality program to the boys.

Fifth grade Webelos leaders and assistants are encouraged to attend the Boy Scout Leader Training before they start the second year. In this way, the leaders will better understand the Boy Scout program and will be able to adapt their meeting and activities in the final stages of this transitional program.

Program Planning

The Webelos Den does not operate with the recommended monthly themes. Instead, it uses a monthly activity badge focus. Part of each month's activity badge program should include something to do at the Pack meeting. The Webelos Den remains an integral part of the Pack and should have a part in each Pack meeting.

The mission of the Webelos program is to provide activities, which are fun for boys and meet their needs, interests, desires, and contribute to their growth. The goal of the Webelos Den is to hold a boy in the Cub Scout Pack and to graduate him into a troop. That is why the quality of the program is so important.

involve the boys in program planning. They need to learn leadership, and will surprise you with their ideas. Get them involved in setting a code of discipline for the group.

Leadership is learned and developed. You can become an effective Webelos Leader if you will prepare yourself and take the time to learn. Remember to be flexible in your planning. There is a great deal of satisfaction in helping boys along the way to manhood.

The Two-Year Webelos Program

The Webelos program is structured as a two-year program for 4th and 5th grade boys (Actually, with the second year Webelos bridging into Boy Scouts in the Spring, it's more of a 21 month program). While the two-year program is not optional, the way it is administered can be varied to accommodate the circumstances for each Pack. There will be two main ways of running the program.

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The first is having separate first and second year Dens. The second is to have a Den with a mixture of first and second year boys. The former is best to deliver a complete program, a two year transition to Boy Scouts. The latter is often necessary for a small Pack, with only a few Webelos Scouts. It is more difficult to deliver a complete program, but even so, can be a very valuable transition.

The activity badges are broken down into recommended 4th and 5th grade levels. Checkout the Cub Scout Program Helps or your Webelos Leader Book to see which badges are recommended for each month of each Webelos year.

In general, Dens should work to allow first year boys to concentrate on the Webelos rank and the activity badges necessary to achieve it, while the second year Den should concentrate on the Arrow of Light and moving into Boy Scouting. The Fitness and Citizen activity badges are required for the Webelos rank and Outdoorsman and Readyman are required for Arrow of Light.

Parent Involvement

Parent involvement is key to a good program and makes your job as a Webelos Den leader more manageable. Take advantage of the special skills and interests that your parents have. Some parents like to camp, some are good at woodworking, some are familiar with nature, or maybe they are engineers or geologists. All of these are important activities within the Webelos program. Ask a parent for help other than transportation or snacks.

Communication is the key to getting parents involved and keeping them there. Provide them with a monthly calendar. Hold an annual or bi-annual parent meeting. They need to be told how the Webelos program is different from the Cub program and how they can be involved. Give them support and encouragement.

Remember to use your Resources and KISMIF!

Turning Your Webelos Into Boy Scouts

1. Start early with your program for the first year boys to get all of them to Arrow of Light (A.O.L.).
2. Do not wait for September to start new Webelos den into active program.

3. Get together during the summer months to do some special activities. The Aquanaut can be completed right away.
4. Pull the den together during the summer by doing small and simple service projects for school, church, or community.
5. While doing regular programs with boys add those requirements for 'joining Boy Scouts'. Get boys into the outdoors as soon as they start the Webelos Program.
6. Do as many activity pins outside as possible. Plan around a patio, yard, Garage, Park, Pool, a business or any other place.
7. Have special Visitors over for den meetings to talk about specific skill activities.
8. Spend sufficient time with each activity pin. Not one week, but two to four weeks.
9. Try to get all the boys in the den to the Webelos badge at the same time. Make it special for them at their recognition pack meeting.
10. Attend the monthly Roundtable meetings and 'Cub Leader Pow-Wow' to get activity pin ideas and help.
11. Once into the program start planning ahead, up to six months, those activities you want to do. Work your program into your schedule, the seasons, the weather, the Boy Scout Troop and sudden changes. Always have a back-up plan.
12. If a leader feels uncomfortable about doing an activity with the boys, get help: do not pass up the opportunity to learn
13. Give boys a sample of the skills, activities, requirements that the Boy Scouts do.
14. Start early to get boys ready for camping. Have a backyard Day Camp or overnighter.
15. Look for Troops in your area that the boys may go to and visit. Go Camping with them. Have skills demonstrations with them.
16. Take boys on meaningful tours and trips (more special than their earlier Cub outings).
17. Now is the time to take boys out for hikes - in neighborhood, park, construction site, open fields.
18. Know what your boys want and give them all they can take. Every Activity Pin if they so desire.

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19. Realize that the second year for Webelos is a short one. Know when to graduate them ahead of time.
20. Plan well ahead for the Arrow of Light and get an O.A. (Order of the Arrow) ceremony or other special ceremony scheduled. Contact Troops for help.
21. Be sure to fulfill all the requirements for Arrow of Light and those to get the boys started into Boy Scouts.
22. Get parents involved, even more than before, so they will help carry boys into Boy Scouts.
23. Visit more than one Troop in your area - early. Have parents go along. Also to get a better understanding of the Boy Scout Program.
24. Having a Boy Scout Handbook to work from, refer to, show boys, get ideas from and get them prepared with is a great training aid.
25. Be aware that boys are lost from the Boy Scout Program during the first year if not properly prepared.
26. It is very important that boys experience camping before they join the Boy Scouts to make it more comfortable for them.
27. Remember that a parent must be with a boy on campouts as Webelos, but let the boys live the experience themselves.
28. Having and using a trained 'Den Chief' will add to the program and help leaders, too. The Webelos will enjoy having an older boy there.
29. Use as many assistant leaders and parents as possible to help with any and all hands-on skills activities. A good safety factor, too.
30. Get outside experienced help to give boys the 'Whittling Chit' Requirements and Demonstrations.
31. Boys should start working towards proper uniforming for the Boy Scouts. A proper insignia placement is important.
32. Having a den doodle for the boys is a good tracking and incentive tool to get them all into Boy Scouts.
33. Work with the Webelos at the beginning of their second year, a little at a time, so that they know the Boy Scout Joining Requirements.
34. Have them start working towards the Boy Scout Tenderfoot physical fitness requirements. This is the hardest requirement to fulfill.
35. Get boys started in making out duty rosters and menus for campouts soon. They will have to do these on their own as Boy Scouts.
36. Get all of your boys to Webelos Summer Camp after their first year. This will be their best Outdoor experience as a Webelos den.
37. Games, Skits, Songs, Stories, Competition with each other and a den flag are very important parts of the Webelos Program.
38. Letting the boys pick a patrol name, with a patch, instead of a den number will bring the boys closer to the Boy Scout Program.
39. The most important part of the Webelos Program is having well trained leaders to pass on all those new skills to the Scouts.

Keys to Cub Scouts Continuing in Boy Scouts

- ✓ Visit troop before moving up from cub scouts
- ✓ Having friends in the Boy Scout troop
- ✓ Going to summer camp the first summer as a boy scout

Webelos To Scout Transition:

How The Transition Plan Helps The Boy

Webelos to Boy Scout Transition is one of the most, if not the most important job you have as a Webelos leader. It is your job to guide the boys through the Webelos requirements, their Arrow of Light ceremony, and on to Boy Scouts. Transition to Boy Scouting is not that difficult a task if you plan ahead. Planning is the key.

Many Webelos Scouts will go on into Scouting with no help at all. But at least half of them need to know more about their opportunities for fun and adventure in the Scout troop. That is really the purpose of the Webelos-to-Scout transition plan, to give the Webelos Scout a sampling of the troop program, troop leadership, personal advancement, a training and learning experience and an appreciation of troop organization and relationships.

You, as a Webelos leader, are the means for the boys transition to Boy Scouting. As a leader you supply the road which the boys must travel for successful transition to a Boy Scout Troop. If the

road you provide is not well marked the boys will be fearful of what is around the next turn and they may never complete the journey. The boys' transition involves knowledge, understanding, and communication. Through your leadership and teamwork with other pack leaders, and with the Boy Scout Troops in your area you can supply the necessary road map for your Webelos to follow.

Preparing your Webelos to become Boy Scouts actually begins early in the first year of the Webelos program. As Webelos the boys learn about outdoor skills, about more challenging tasks through activity badge requirements, through greater independence and leadership. As second year Webelos your boys should be exposed to Boy Scout Troops in your area. In their second year they should be learning the Boy Scout Oath, Motto, Slogan, Sign, Salute and Handshake. They have been camping as a den and might have gone to a Webelos Long Term Summer Camp. If all this has been done then the transition has begun and the Webelos you lead are ready to visit troop meetings and camp with the Boy Scouts as guests.

The boy's Webelos badge and Arrow of Light Award reach into the requirements bordering on Scouting skills, giving him a view of Scouting advancement. He sees boy leadership at work and senses his own potential as a junior leader.

In short, the boy's desire for troop membership is the result of this gradual change in appetite for troop oriented activities.

You And The Troop Leaders Work Together

When the Webelos-to-Scout transition program is used, Webelos Scouts want to join Boy Scout troops. As a part of this program, Boy Scout leaders give you help and support, participate in the joint meetings and campouts with you, supply a den chief and a troop Webelos resource person, and establish a pack-troop relationship of a permanent basis.

Your unit commissioner can help you make a list of nearby troops, with leaders' names and phone numbers. If a unit commissioner is not available, either the Cubmaster or the Webelos den leader will need to take the initiative to get things going.

If available, the unit commissioner can help bring together the Webelos den leader, Cubmaster and Scoutmaster for their first meeting. If commissioner is not available, call the Scoutmaster and arrange for all to sit down together and to share your mutual needs. It will be a time to get acquainted, define responsibilities, discuss leadership needs and make plans to recruit any needed leaders. Set up a plan for regular communications between key leaders to keep every one interested and informed.

You And The Pack Leaders Work Together

The following responsibilities should be done by den and pack leaders for a smooth transition.

Webelos Den Leader

- Use the parent-talent survey sheets to identify potential activity badge counselors.
- Train the Webelos den chief and help him to register for and attend den chief's training.
- Recognize the Webelos den chief in front of the pack or Webelos den.
- Complete Webelos den leader training as soon as possible.
- Work with the Webelos resource person and Cubmaster to conduct effective graduation ceremonies at the pack meeting.
- Attend roundtables on a regular basis, especially any joint Webelos and Scout leaders' roundtables.

Webelos Den Chief

- Receive training from the Webelos den leader and attend den chief training. Secure a Den Chief Handbook.
- Participate in the yearly Webelos program planning meeting.
- Be familiar with the Webelos badge and Arrow of Light Award requirements in order to assist Webelos Scouts in their advancement.
- Attend all Webelos den meetings and participate in district "Webelos Woods" activities.
- Assist with all pack (or den)/troop activities and participate at pack meetings with Webelos Scouts in skits, stunts, songs, demonstrations, etc.

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- Assist with Webelos overnight campouts, showing Webelos Scouts the proper use of troop equipment.
- Secure help from troop junior leaders.
- Assist activity badge counselors at Webelos den meetings as needed.
- Represent the Webelos den to the troop and the Scouts to the Webelos den. Explain the "patrol method" enthusiastically.
- Participate with the pack, Webelos den and troop in joint service projects.

Cubmaster

- Sit down with your unit commissioner, Scoutmaster and Webelos den leader to determine what needs to be done to improve Webelos graduations.
- Assist in planning and conducting stimulating graduation ceremonies, involving parents, the Scoutmaster, the den chief, the Webelos den leader and boy leaders from the troop.
- Conduct Webelos den induction ceremonies and Arrow of Light Award ceremonies.
- Support the Webelos den leader in pack/troop activities.
- Help establish and maintain strong pack/troop relationships.
- Encourage high advancement standards for the Webelos Scouts.
- Include Webelos den participation in pack meeting activities.
- Attend roundtables on a regular basis. Attend any Webelos and Scout leader's roundtables with the Webelos den leader.
- Recognize the den chiefs at the pack meetings.
- Support the year-round Webelos den program.
- Help to recruit activity badge counselors from the pack.

Pack Committee

- Help recruit and support the Webelos den leader(s) and provide resources for the Webelos den.
- Promote Webelos-to-Scout transition through the chartered organizations.
- At each monthly meeting, keep informed of Webelos den progress and needs.

- Help bring families together at joint pack(or den)/troop activities.
- Promote and support strong pack/troop relationships, sharing with the troop committee the need for graduations into the troop.
- Work closely with the unit commissioner in effecting a smooth flow of boys into the troop.

Activity Badge Counselor

- Provide activity badge instruction at the Webelos den meeting.
- Be familiar with the Webelos Scout book in presenting activity badge information and certifying advancement.
- Help recruit other activity badge counselors.
- Lead field trips related to activity badges.
- Provide resources and instruction on selected activity badge.
- Hold to the time schedule for activity badge instruction.

Suggestions For A Successful Transition

- Sign up for and attend your district's next New Leaders Essentials Training that is specific for Boy Scout Leaders. The course is not only for Scoutmasters. Parents, committee members and anyone interested is welcome to attend. This is a great way to get firsthand knowledge of how a troop works. You can then take your knowledge back to your Webelos and get them excited.
- At every opportunity talk about Boy Scouting.
- Take your Webelos camping. Teach them the basics about fire building, knots, camp tasks, cooking, site selection and camp rules.
- Introduce them to service projects.
- Show pride in your uniform.
- Gradually hand over den leadership to the boys. Let them learn what it is like to have the added responsibility.
- In their second year expose the boys to as many Boy Scout Troops as you have time for.
- Create games as a form of learning the Scout oath, law, motto, and slogan. There is nothing like a little competition to spark boys this age.

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- If you were a Boy Scout, talk about your adventures and apprehensions. Show the boys some of your old gear or pictures.
- Let the boys talk about their ideas of what Boy Scouting is, their anticipation and their fears.

Overview Of The Boy Scout Program

Like Cub Scouts, a Boy Scout Troop is structured with a chartering organization, a charter representative, a committee, and adult leaders, in the case a Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters. The boys are divided into patrols, rather than dens, and are boy led. The Senior Patrol Leader fills the position of the troop's boy leader.

The chartering organization provides a meeting place and helps the troop in any way it can. The representative acts as liaison between the troop and the sponsor. The committee insures the troop is following BSA policy, helps conduct boards of review for rank advancement, and considers the troop's means of finance.

The Scoutmaster and his/her assistants carry out the program with the boys and have the closest exposure to the troop as a whole.

The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) not the Scoutmaster, conducts the troop meetings. The SPL is an elected position, determined by regularly scheduled elections and voted on by the boys in the troop. The SPL is not picked by the Scoutmaster or the committee. Patrol leaders are also elected by the boys within each patrol. The SPL, his assistants, and the patrol leaders comprise the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC). The PLC meets generally once a month to plan and review the troop's progress. With the assistance of the Scoutmaster the PLC determines the troop's program.

The Patrol Leader conducts the individual patrol meetings with the assistance of an adult Assistant Scoutmaster. The Patrol Leader leads the patrol in planning for campouts, other activities, Scouting skills, games, advancement, etc.

As members of a patrol the boys work as a unit, and individually. As a unit they camp, work on patrol service projects, and carry out troop assignments together. As individuals they work on merit badges, rank advancement and self-improvement.

Webelos Ceremonies

Webelos Activity Badge Ceremony Ideas

AQUANAUT - If the Pack meeting is held at a pool, have the boys swim across the pool to receive their badge. If inside, have them demonstrate a swimming stroke and pretend to swim to you to receive his badge.

ARTIST - Webelos leader is dressed as an artist and pretends to paint portrait of the Webelos as he is sitting on a stool posing. He puts down his palette and paintbrush and says "Each boy is a masterpiece." He then hands the boy a pre-made silhouette of the boy and the activity badge he has earned.

ATHLETE - Do a standing long jump and catch badge that the Webelos Leader is holding at arms length.

CITIZEN - The Webelos Leader dressed as judge, pounds gavel on table and says, "Hear ye, Hear ye, Hear ye. I present to you on this day of in the year of Our Lord. 20_____, (boy's name) as a new citizen of our Pack and community."

COMMUNICATOR - Webelos leader uses sign language to tell what the activity badge is. He gives the badge to the Webelos Scout who thanks him in sign language also.

CRAFTSMAN - Webelos leader and boys are busy building crafts and leader says, "Well boys, we've sure had a busy month making all these things, but I think we have made more than just toys. We have come a step closer in making you young men." He then gives them their badge.

ENGINEER - Several boxes with the name of Pack Officers (Cubmaster, Den Leader, Committee Chairman, etc.) are scattered around. The Webelos Den Leader comes on stage and picks up a box and reads out loud what it says, and then places it back on the floor facing the audience. Start with the committee members first. Build the boxes up in the shape of a pyramid. As the name of a boy is read that has earned the activity badge he comes forward and is given the badge. His leader congratulates him on the achievement and tells him how great it is that he can be part of the Cub Scout pyramid.

FAMILY MEMBER - The Webelos Leader calls the Webelos Scout and all the members of his

family including brothers, sisters, and aunts, uncles, etc. He lines them all up according to size from the tallest one next to him to the smallest one next to the Webelos Scout. He then says "Since this activity badge was earned with the help of all the family, I will give it to the tallest member of the family. Each of you will pass it down the line until it reaches the Webelos Scout."

FITNESS - Do a sit up and reach out and take the badge that is being held at the end of his feet. (Just far enough to give him a good stretch before getting it.)

Do a push-up. The boy will pick up the badge with his mouth as he lowers himself to the floor, and as the Webelos Leader is holding the badge near the floor beneath the boy.

FORESTER -The Webelos Leader has all the activity badges attached to a branch of a tree. he says "I am presenting you this activity badge in the hopes it plants a seed of knowledge that will grow with time."

GEOLOGIST - Webelos Leader is examining several large rocks that are out on the table. He comes to the largest one and picks up a hammer and chisel, and proceeds to chisel on the rock. He removes an award from the rock and calls forward the boy who is to receive it. The chiseling continues until all awards are presented.

HANDYMAN - The Webelos Leader rolls on old tire out. Inside the tire are the activity badges. He says, "This tire is old. It has served its purpose. We have in our midst, several future mechanics." He calls up the boys who have earned the badge and takes the badges out of the tire and presents them.

NATURALIST - Webelos leader is inspecting insect collection and notices something different and out of place, "What is this? I don't remember seeing this before. Oh, (boys name) this must belong to you for earning your Naturalist Activity Badge."

CROSSING OVER TO SCOUTING

Setting: A bridge is in the center stage. One side of the bridge is represented as the Cub Scout side and the other side as the Boy Scout side. You can use your imagination on how to symbolize each side so it is apparent which side is which. Use of Boy Scouts with candles lighting the path is very impressive.

Cubmaster and Scoutmaster standing appropriate sides.

Cubmaster: Tonight we mark a great occasion...the graduation of _____ Webelos Scouts into a boy scout troop. We are sad to see them leave because they have been a great help to our pack...but we are happy for them because they are going on to the great adventure of Boy Scouting. These Webelos have worked hard for this night and have advanced well. As a symbol of their hard work, each Webelos scout will be given an arrow. As I call your name, will each Scout come forward with your parents.

(Call each boys name off.)

Reader: The arrow alone gives meaning to each of these scouts. The wooden shaft gives the strength like the strength the Scout Promise gives each boy. The fletching helps guide the arrow on a straight and true path like the Scout Law guides the Scout on a straight and true path. The arrowhead points the way to the target like Webelos badge and Arrow of Light requirements have pointed the Scout to the ways of Boy Scouting.

Each arrow has these parts...but each arrow is different...it is individual. Each arrow represents their own trail through Cub Scouting.

(Give each boy his arrow.)

It has been a long trail...As you look at the arrow you can look back and see how far you have traveled. Your first trail led you across the Bobcat Ridge, where Akela took you into the Pack as a Bobcat. The yellow mark tells that this boy completed his Bobcat requirements. You may have then climbed the steep Wolf Mountain. The red mark means he has completed the Wolf badge. After that there may be a gold and silver marks for the arrow points that you may have earned. After finding your way through Bear Forest, you may have earned your Bear rank. The green mark shows you have gained your Bear achievements, and again you may have earned a gold and silver arrow points. Your trail next may have led you to Webelos Rank...first earning three Webelos pins shown by three black marks, then your Webelos badge which is marked in blue. The Arrow of Light trail may have been hard and rugged. You first earned another four Webelos pins. Then came the highest Cub Scout Achievement, the Arrow of Light which is signified

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by the white marking on the arrow. The twelve beads will remind you of the twelve points of the Scout Law. The red and white feathers not only stand for the troops colors, but also for devotion and honor.

Your trail in Scouting does not end in Cub Scouting...it is only the beginning...for all of you have prepared yourself for the crossing over to Boy Scouts. The bridge before you is a symbol of your crossing from Cub Scouting to Boy Scouting. The bridge is a structure carrying a pathway or roadway over a depression. It is a means of connection or transition from one side to another...as this bridge represents how our Pack is connected to our Troop . As I call each boys name, please come stand before Your Cubmaster where he will remove your Webelos neckerchief.

(Cubmaster is calling over to the Scoutmaster.)

Cubmaster: Hello, Boy Scouts of Troop .

Scoutmaster: Hello, Cub Scouts of Akela. What do you desire?

Cubmaster: We have several Webelos who have prepared themselves for entrance into your Troop.

Scoutmaster: Bring them and their parents forward to the bridge that joins our Pack and Troop. I will send two of my Scouts over to escort the boys and their parents over the bridge. (Boy Scouts cross over to Pack's side and then escorts the new scout and their parents to the other side.)

Webelos Den Leader (Speaking to the Scoutmaster): These are your new Scouts, ready for the adventures ahead of them. They are going to call themselves the patrol.

Webelos Den Leader (Speaking to the boys): As I call each of your names, please come forward to your Scoutmaster, , where he will place on you the Neckerchief of Troop .

Scoutmaster: I'd like to welcome the new patrol and their families to our Troop .

(Lights on)

Scoutmaster: Will the Troop please form your patrols.

(Have SPL lead all scouts in the Scout Promise)

Bridging Webelos To Scouts

Personnel: Cubmaster, Webelos leader, Den Chief, Scoutmaster, Boy Scout candidates and their parents.

Equipment: American flag, pack flag, troop flag, a bridge, troop neckerchief for each candidate

Setting: The bridge is place in center of room, pack flag is to the left of the bridge, the American flag and troop flag to the right. Cubmaster and Webelos Den Leaders (of boys crossing over) at left of bridge. Candidates and parents to the far left, to be escorted to front. Scoutmaster and Boy Scouts to the right of the bridge.

Narrator/Den Leader: "We'll cross that bridge when we come to it." How many of us have used that phrase when we are faced with something we have not prepared for. On their journey as Webelos Scouts these boys have crossed many "bridges." With the help of their den leaders and parents they are prepared to cross this bridge tonight. They have gone camping, and hiking; they have learned how to cook a meal in tin foil on a campfire; they have learned the importance o physical fitness and they have earned activity pins in a variety of areas. They have spent many hours preparing for this bridge. And now as they begin their journey as Boy Scouts. They will be faced with new "bridges."

"Scoutmaster, will you and your troop help these new Scouts to prepare for the bridges they will be crossing on their journey through the ranks of being a Boy Scout?"

Scoutmaster and Boy Scouts reply "We will help them."

"Would the following Webelos Scouts please come forward and stand to the right end of the bridge; (Scouts are called by name.)

Would the Cubmaster and Den Leaders help these boys cross this bridge."

The Webelos scarf and epaulets are removed and handed to the parents. Shake the Scouts hand and send them across the bridge, accompanied by their parents.

Scoutmaster will welcome the boys with the Boy Scout handshake and give them their new epaulets and ties/scarves.

The new Boy Scouts will form a line and give the Boy Scout salute to the Scoutmaster. The Cubmaster and/or Boy Scouts will lead the new Scouts in the Boy Scout Oath. Scoutmaster: "Congratulations new Boy Scouts and welcome to your journey as a Boy Scout."

PACK 27 WEBELOS CROSSOVER CEREMONY

INTRODUCTION. This paper describes the crossover ceremony our Pack used for the Webelos Crossover at our last Blue and Gold Banquet. It includes a diagram of the bridge we built a few years ago and that we use for both Webelos and Tiger graduations. (For the Tiger ceremony, we change the placarding on the girders to "Search," "Discover," and "Share" and we change eight planks to the eight steps to the Bobcat Badge. One of these days we will make a separate Tiger set of girders and planks so we don't have to change anything! And another one of these days, we will put down on paper the actual plans for building the bridge. For now, if you want to build one, you'll have to figure out the plans from our sketch--it's made with 3/4-inch birch plywood and wood screws, but the next one will be solid wood planks and reinforced [I-beam] girders.) We hope this inspires someone!

SETUP. We premeasure the locations of the two end stanchions so that they are on stage by themselves but are the right distance apart for when the boys bring out and insert the three girders. We have the girders and planks (backstage) organized in their order of presentation so that a leader can easily hand them to the boys to carry out and present to the audience. For each girder, two boys carry it out to the front of the stage, announce what it says, and place it in the slots of the stanchions. We place the "God and Country" girder in the forward-most slots so it remains visible throughout the ceremony. The boys bring out the planks (one per boy) and keep rotating themselves through if there are more planks than boys. We install the planks from "Cub Logo stanchion" to "Scout Logo stanchion."

EMCEE: Tonight we stand at a crossroad—the end of one journey that leads to the beginning of another. Our Webelos Scouts have come to the end of the Cub Scouting trail and they will now start down the trail of Boy Scouting—the trail of the Eagle Scout. To symbolize this transition, they will cross the bridge from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. Before you are the stanchions that represent Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts—there is a gap that separates them. This gap must be filled in—filled in with the recognition and knowledge of what this Boy Scout program is that they are about to begin.

We begin with the Scout Promise: When a Scout raises his hand in the Scout Sign, his three fingers stand for the duties he promises to uphold as a Scout in the Scout Promise.

THE MEANING OF THE BOY SCOUT OATH

Excerpted from page 45-46, Boy Scout Handbook, 11th ed, (#33105), copyright 1998 by BSA, ISBN 0-8395-3105-2

Before you pledge yourself to any oath or promise, you must know what it means. The paragraphs that follow will help you understand the meaning of the Scout Oath.

On my honor

By giving your word, you are promising to be guided by the ideals of the Scout Oath.

I will do my best

Try hard to live up to the points of the Scout Oath.

At this point, the leader backstage has the first girder brought forward and the boys say:

"Duty To God And Country"

To do my duty to God

Your family and religious leaders teach you about God and the ways you can serve. You do your duty to God by following the wisdom of those teachings every day and by respecting and defending the rights of others to practice their own beliefs.

and my country...

Help keep the United States a strong and fair nation by learning about our system of government and your responsibilities as a citizen and future voter.

and to obey the Scout Law

The twelve points of the Scout Law are guidelines that can lead you toward wise choices.

Leader sends out boys with next girder and the boys say:

"Duty To Others"

To help other people at all times...

There are many people who need you. Your cheerful smile and helping hand will ease the burden of many who need assistance. By helping out whenever possible, you are doing your part to make this a better world.

Leader sends boys out with last girder and they say:

"Duty To Self"

To keep myself physically strong,...

Take care of your body so that it will serve you well for an entire lifetime.

mentally awake...

Develop your mind both in the classroom and outside of school.

and morally straight.

To be a person of strong character, your relationships with others should be honest and open. You should respect and defend the rights of all people. Be clean in your speech and actions, and remain faithful in your religious beliefs.

Emcee: So the gap is closed, but it would still be very hard to cross. We need to add something with substance that will give the boys something on which to stand. We add the virtues that every Boy Scout agrees to have and keep when he recites the Scout Law:

THE MEANING OF THE SCOUT LAW

[The leader backstage more or less controls the timing of the boys' presentations of the planks. He sends each boy out separately so that the boy can say his "line." The emcee then reads off the meaning as the boy installs the plank and returns backstage.]

A Scout is Trustworthy.

A Scout tells the truth. He is honest, and he keeps his promises. People can depend on him.

A Scout is Loyal.

A Scout is true to his family, friends, Scout leaders, school, and nation.

A Scout is Helpful.

A Scout cares about other people. He willingly volunteers to help others without expecting payment or reward.

A Scout is Friendly.

A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts. He offers his friendship to people of all races and nations, and respects them even if their beliefs and customs are different from his own.

A Scout is Courteous.

A Scout is polite to everyone regardless of age or position. He knows that using good manners makes it easier for people to get along.

A Scout is Kind.

A Scout knows there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated. Without good reason, he does not harm or kill any living thing.

A Scout is Obedient.

A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rules and laws are unfair, he tries to have them changed in an orderly manner rather than disobeying them.

A Scout is Cheerful.

A Scout looks for the bright side of life. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way. He tries to make others happy.

A Scout is Thrifty.

A Scout works to pay his own way and to help others. He saves for the future. He protects and conserves natural resources. He carefully uses time and property.

A Scout is Brave.

A Scout can face danger although he is afraid. He has the courage to stand for what he thinks is right even if others laugh at him or threaten him.

A Scout is Clean.

A Scout keeps his body and mind fit and clean. He chooses the company of those who live by high standards. He helps keep his home and community clean.

A Scout is Reverent.

A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.

EMCEE: And with these—the Scout Promise and Scout Law, we have built the bridge that leads us from Cub Scouting onto Boy Scouting. At this time I would ask the representatives from our Boy Scout Troops to please come forward to welcome our Scouts into the Boy Scout program.

[The troop leaders and parents have already been briefed on where they will stand on stage. The parents are behind the bridge and join up with their sons as their names are called. They cross over with their sons and are greeted on the other side of the bridge by the Boy Scout leaders. The troops typically have some things they present to the boys (neckerchiefs, handbooks, etc.) and we try to get them to hand these out as quickly as possible.

Webelos 2009 Program Resources

The important thing is that we only call one boy at a time and let him cross over and be "welcomed" before we call the next boy.]

EMCEE: To the Troops, the Pack charges you with the responsibility to provide these Scouts with a healthy, fun, and adventure-filled program. They have worked hard to get to this point; don't be afraid to challenge them all the more. Take them along the Boy Scout trail so that someday soon we will be able to say, "That Eagle Scout was from our Pack."

Realizing that the Boy Scout program, much like the Cub Scout program, depends on the active participation of the boys and their parents, we ask our parents to cross over with their sons as they are called forward and recognized.

[Call each boy to cross over. As they cross the bridge, the audience applauds. Give each family ample time to come forward and cross over. After all have crossed over, they Emcee moves onto the next activity in the program.]

