



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
THREE FIRES COUNCIL



WEBELOS TO SCOUT TRANSITION GUIDE

2016-2017





Scouting is a movement that helps to shape a boy's life throughout his childhood and adolescence. A Webelos Scout can continue learning and living Scouting values in Boy Scouts. It is each of our responsibility to ensure every Webelos Scout is given the opportunity to join Boy Scouts.

Webelos is an opportunity to learn about the Boy Scout program, experience activities with older youth, and prepare for the transition into a Boy Scout troop. Providing Webelos with a chance to participate in campouts or other activities with Boy Scouts while being active in a Pack increases the likelihood that a boy will complete the transition into Boy Scouts and continue to develop Scouting values.

This packet is designed to help outline the role we play in this transition. From Webelos den leader to Scoutmaster, the transition is an all-hands effort to offer Scouting to every available youth.

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CUB SCOUTS VS. BOY SCOUTS

Cub Scouts

- A pack holds monthly meetings about 60 minutes in length, led by the Cubmaster and adult leaders.
- Youth are put into dens based on age and grade in school.
- Youth advance based on age and grade in school. Even a new scout in 3rd grade will be a Bear, not a Tiger.
- Packs are family oriented with family campouts and "go see it" activities. Boys participate in summer day camp and are introduced to Boy Scout camping.
- Adults lead meetings, events, and oversee the planning of all pack activities.

Webeles

- An interim period between Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts designed to prepare youth to transition into Boy Scouts

Boy Scouts

- Troops hold weekly meetings about 90 minutes in length, led by youth.
- Patrols are youth of different ages and ranks. A twelve year old can be in the same patrol as an Seventeen year old.
- Advancement is based on youth pace and responsibility. A boy can participate in Boy Scouts without obtaining Eagle rank.
- A troop is action-oriented with high adventure trips, outdoor skills, and monthly camping trips.
- Youth are primarily responsible for running troop meetings, coordinating and planning events, and completing merit badges and advancement requirements.
- Adults act as mentors, offering assistance and support where needed, but letting youth take the lead the majority of the time.

ROLE OF THE UNIT COMMISSIONER

Our best source of interested boys are our Webelos. In fact, over 70% of all Boy Scouts were Webelos. It makes good sense to be sure every interested Webelos Scout and his parents are invited, oriented, and welcomed into a Boy Scout troop.

You are the key to this process.

- Be a catalyst in developing good relationships between troop and pack leaders.
- Ensure that Webelos leaders complete and return their Fifth Grade Webelos Inventory List (Pg.9) to the District Membership Chair, no later than November 30.
- Promote communication by scheduling a meeting of key volunteers, including Webelos Den Leader, Scoutmaster and Committee Chairs.
- Determine if the troop can accommodate more Scouts. If not, contact your District Executive immediately and help Webelos parents form a new troop. New troop organization should be completed between February and April.
- Help plan a Webelos den visit to a troop meeting and other joint activities.
- Keep the pack and troop on schedule as plans develop for the crossover ceremony at the blue and gold banquet. Attend the crossover ceremony.
- Be sure new Scouts have completed a Boy Scout application, they have a copy of the troop's activities, and they know when and where the troop meets.
- Work with the pack and troop in their charter renewal process to help ensure Webelos Scouts are moved from pack rosters to troop rosters.
- Work with the Webelos transition chair to follow up on boys who have not yet joined a troop. Make sure they are invited to visit and join a troop.
- Be sure Webelos Scouts join a troop in time to prepare for Boy Scout summer camp.



- Lion - Kindergarten
- Tiger - 1st grade
- Wolf - 2nd grade
- Bear - 3rd grade
- Webelos - 4th grade
- Arrow of Light - 5th grade



- Scout
- Tenderfoot
- Second Class
- First Class
- Star
- Life
- Eagle

ROLE OF THE CUBMASTER

Your pack has given your Webelos a good beginning on the Scouting Trail. As you know, the purpose of the Webelos program is to prepare and help boys become Boy Scouts. We found that boys succeed best in becoming Scouts when the Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, and Webelos leaders work on their transition together, as a Scouting team.



- Develop a working relationship with the leadership of a Boy Scout troop or troops in the community. Most troops should have either an assistant Scoutmaster or a committee member assigned to new Scouts. Your unit commissioner can help put you in contact with troop leaders.
- Compare calendars of troop and pack activities to coordinate the activities. Community events can be done together, and planning can help prevent conflicts in the use of equipment and facilities.
- Work with troop leaders to secure den chiefs for each Webelos den and Cub Scout den.
- Work with troop leaders to plan and conduct Webelos overnight activities.
- Work with troop leaders to plan visits to troop meetings. Never show up without first calling in advance.
- Invite the Scoutmaster and troop youth leaders to special pack activities. This will help create familiarity and a level of comfort for the Webelos Scouts and their parents as they ease into the troop.
- Plan a meaningful crossover ceremony at the pack's blue and gold banquet. Have troop leadership be present to accept the Webelos Scouts as they graduate to Boy Scouting. The local Order of the Arrow lodge can often be a valuable resource in conducting ceremonies.
- Webelos leaders should be strongly encouraged to move into the troop with the boys, either as assistant Scoutmasters or troop committee members. This will give the new Scouts a familiar face at troop meetings and a connecting link to Boy Scouting.
- If a troop does not exist in your community, discuss with the head of the pack's chartered organization the possibility of organizing a troop. A graduating Webelos den can form the nucleus of a new troop.

ROLE OF THE WEBELOS DEN LEADER

Your ultimate success in Scouting is getting your Webelos to join a Boy Scout troop in February. Your efforts through the Webelos program have made a major contribution towards the Scouting trail for boys in your den.

You are the key to a smooth transition.

- Attend transition orientation at Roundtable.
- Complete and return your Webelos roster (tracking sheet) to the District Membership Chair by November 30th. This is important so troops can send your Webelos information and invitations to orientations and camp promotion meetings.
- Attend a troop outdoor activity with your Webelos den.
- Take your Webelos and their parents to visit troop meetings. A new Parent/Scout Information Meeting conducted by the troop should include summer camp plans. Encourage your Webelos to be the final decision makers in choosing a troop to join.
- Assist the Cubmaster in planning a personalized graduation ceremony for transitioning Webelos for a pack meeting between February and April 1.
- Graduate your Webelos into Boy Scouts. Have them complete a Scout Application and register with the troop at the graduation. New Scouts should be given a Scout Handbook at this time.
- Ensure new Scouts have a troop schedule and begin attending troop activities. Encourage parents to get involved with the troop committee.
- Consider transitioning into the troop with the boys, either as assistant Scoutmaster or troop committee member. This will give the new Scouts a familiar face at troop meetings and a connecting link to Boy Scouting.
- Help as needed with any final details for summer camp preparedness.
- Follow up with any Webelos that did not join a troop. Ensure they have the opportunity to visit and join a troop.



**WE CAN ONLY INSTILL THE
VALUES OF BOY SCOUTING
INTO THE LIVES OF BOYS WHO
BECOME BOY SCOUTS.**

PACK WEBELOS TO SCOUT TRANSITION TIMETABLE

August

- Get contact information of Scoutmasters, and Troop Committee Chairs.
- Plan a joint Boy Scout Troop/Webelos den camping trip for October.

September – October

- Attend the joint camping trip with the Boy Scout troop.
- Continue talking with parents and youth about the transition process and the upcoming events.

November – December

- Begin planning for Graduation Ceremony.
- Begin finishing Arrow of Light requirements for Webelos.
- Invite Boy Scout troop to attend a Webelos den meeting to teach Webelos Scouts how the Boy Scout troop works.
- Begin visiting Boy Scout troop meetings and informational open houses.



January – February

- Complete tours of Boy Scout troops in your area and encourage youth to narrow down their choice of troops.
- Finish details of Graduation Ceremony. If a youth has chosen a Boy Scout troop, invite the Scoutmaster to the graduation ceremony.
- Finalize work on Webelos Arrow of Light.

February – March

- Coordinate with the Boy Scout troop to host a crossover ceremony at your Blue and Gold banquet.
- Help scouts become actively involved in troop activities.
- Encourage Webelos parents and leaders to become adult leaders in the Boy Scout troop.

March-April

- Encourage 4th and 5th grade Webelos Den Leaders to attend transition orientation.
- Identify 3rd grade new Webelos Den Leaders and ensure they have the opportunity to complete position specific training.
- Ensure any Webelos that have not chosen a troop have the opportunity to visit and select a troop for transition.

May

- 4th grade den leaders and Cubmasters can begin prospecting for troops for next year's transition


June-July

- Webelos attend summer camp.

ROLE OF THE SCOUTMASTER

Knowing that over 70% of all boys who join Boy Scouts were Webelos first, it makes good sense to “go after” those Webelos. New members have vitality, new ideas, and add new parents to the troop! You can play a critical role in recruiting new Scouts to your Troop through the Webelos Graduation Plan.

- Select Scouts to serve as den chiefs for each Webelos Scout den and Cub Scout den. Arrange for Den Chief Training.
- Serve as a resource for overnight activities. The troop can be of service to provide equipment, leadership, and logistics for Webelos parent-son campouts.
- Conduct an orientation in the Bear Cub Scout dens to explain the changing role as boys become Webelos Scouts, and then again as they become Boy Scouts. Explain how being a Webelos Scout will help prepare them for Boy Scouting.
- Webelos den/Scout troop campouts should show Webelos Scouts and their parents what to expect when they move into the troop. The troop should cook and camp by patrol, and use skills in which the Webelos Scouts can participate.
- Arrange for Webelos dens to visit a troop meeting. This should be planned several weeks in advance. • Provide each Webelos Scout a copy of the troop’s activities for the upcoming year.
- Work with Webelos den leaders to encourage them to plan to move into the troop with their Webelos Scouts and to serve either as committee members or assistant Scoutmasters.
- Work with the Cubmaster in planning a meaningful crossover ceremony at the pack’s blue and gold banquet. Coordinate the ceremony and arrange for each Webelos Scout to receive a troop neckerchief and *Boy Scout Handbook* along with his Arrow of Light Award. Members of the Order of the Arrow may assist in the ceremony.



**A BOY WHO ADVANCES TO
FIRST CLASS WITHIN HIS FIRST
YEAR HAS A BETTER-THAN-
AVERAGE CHANCE OF
EVENTUALLY BECOMING AN
EAGLE SCOUT.**

ROLE OF THE DEN CHIEF

A den chief can be the first link between Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. He is the vision of Boy Scouts to all transitioning Webelos scouts. Webelos are likely to visit and join a troop with older boys they know. A den chief can help promote the exciting events and trips boys can participate in if they transition into a troop. Den chiefs are essential to retaining scouts as they transition from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts.

- Demonstrate the methods of boy led patrols and youth leadership to Cub Scout dens.
- Attend den chief training to understand the purpose and responsibilities of den chiefs.
- Assist the Webelos den leader in promoting Boy Scout open houses and troop visits to transitioning Webelos.
- Help Webelos experience the pride and accomplishment of earning advancements through assisting in activities and meetings with the den.
- Welcome Webelos to the troop and encourage them to participate in activities and advancement.

TROOP WEBELOS TO SCOUT TRANSITION TIMETABLE

August

- Get contact information of Cubmasters, Pack Committee Chairs, and Webelos Den Leaders.
- Plan a joint Boy Scout troop/Webelos den camping trip for October.
- Plan a program of upcoming events to present at a Webelos den meeting visit in November.
- Select a den chief for each Webelos den.

September

- Send a letter of introduction from the Boy Scout troop to second-year Webelos Den to introduce them to the troop.
- Continue planning the joint camping trip for October.

October

- Conduct the joint camping trip with the Webelos den.
- Set a date for Webelos Scouts and their parents to visit a Boy Scout troop meeting in January.

November

- Attend a Webelos den meeting to teach the Webelos Scouts how the Boy Scout troop works.
- Have den chiefs attend a local council or district training course.
- Set a date for Webelos Scouts and their parents to visit a Boy Scout troop meeting in January.

December

- Set a date for Webelos Scouts and their parents to visit a Boy Scout troop meeting in January.
- Send a form of information or greeting, letting Webelos know you look forward to them joining the troop.

January

- Host Webelos Scouts and their parents at a Boy Scout troop meeting.

- Work with Pack to plan a crossover ceremony for the blue and gold banquets in February to welcome graduating Webelos Scouts to their new troop.

- Attend a meeting for first-year Webelos Scouts to introduce them to Boy Scouting.

February

- Hold the crossover ceremony at the Blue and Gold banquet.
- Get new Scouts actively involved with the troop through troop activities.
- Recruit parents of new Scouts to become assistant Scoutmasters or troop committee members.

March

- Plan a troop activity for new Scouts to get them involved with their new troop.

April

- Conduct summer camp orientation to encourage troop involvement.
- Attend a meeting of Bear Cub Scouts to introduce them to Boy Scouting.
- Sponsor a troop activity for new Scouts.

May

- Work closely with new Scouts and parents during their transition to the Boy Scout troop, ensuring their needs are met and that their move has been natural and fun.
- Work on rank advancement with new Scouts.

June/July

- Ensure that all new Scouts attend summer camp.

July

- Work closely with new Scouts and parents during their transition to the Boy Scout troop, ensuring their needs are met and that their move has been natural and fun.
- Work on rank advancement with new Scouts.