Webelos/AOL to Scouts BSA Transition
When Webelos visit your Scouts BSA troop for the first time.
Why Is It Important?

• Almost all of your recruits are Webelos/AOL Scouts.
• You can’t assume where they are coming from and whether or not they are interested in joining.
  – Some will be a “sure thing,” but not all.
Why Is It Important?

• You need to be sure that the Webelos/AOL parents help their son or daughter make an informed decision about whether and where they join.

  – There are many misconceptions about Scouts BSA:
    • They’ll make me sell stuff.
    • All they do is go camping.
    • Uniforms are required and cost a fortune.
    • I’m going to get suckered into taking a leadership role and really don’t have time to be a treasurer right now.
    • My kid really doesn’t need to know how to tie a thousand knots or identify 30 different birds, even for a patch.
Why Is It Important?

- The Webelos/AOL and their parents need to be prepared to transition into Scouts BSA.
- Scouts BSA is more of a commitment and the parents need to know the benefits of the program.
  - They mostly control the activities in which their son or daughter will be involved.
Help Your “Feeder Pack”

• Invite the Webelos/AOL to go camping with your troop.
• Provide a Den Chief if needed.
• Sit in on a Pack committee meeting
• Assist in the Pinewood Derby:
  – Handle the cars;
  – Crowd control;
  – Give out awards.
Help Your Feeder Pack

• Keep in touch with the Pack leaders and parents all year long.

• Assign someone in your troop to do this – ideally, this position is the Assistant Scoutmaster for new scouts.
  – Recruit a Parent of a new scout who crossed over last year.
    • And/or still has a child in the pack.
    • And/or still has a leadership position in a pack.
Get To Know The Parents Of Your “Feeder Pack”

• Get some “face time” with the parents at a Den or Pack meeting.
• Mention how last year’s Webelos/AOL are doing and which parents are involved.
• Ask each parent if their child is interested in joining a Troop.
Get To Know The Parents Of Your “Feeder Pack”

• Find out what concerns these parents might have.
• Have the parents fill out a brief survey.
• Getting to know these parents better will help, especially with the one’s that get nervous about sending their son’s camping with adults they don’t know.
Sell the Program

✓ Don’t assume the parents know about Scouts BSA and how the program will benefit their son or daughter.
• At the Troop Open House, take the parents aside and talk to them about the Scouts BSA Program.
• Emphasis on character development, physical and mental fitness in a safe and fun environment.
Sell the Program

• Talk about leadership, teamwork, decision making and taking on responsibilities.
• Mention how Merit Badges introduce scouts to potential vocations or avocations.
• Let them know how much the scouting experience will affect their child’s life well into the future.
Sell Your Troop

• Give parents current status and a brief history.
• Mention the SPL and how that scout runs the troop
• Talk about how the patrol method works, how your patrols are set up and how the new scouts fit in.
• Highlight your outdoor program and any special events.
Sell Your Troop

• Mention your trained Youth and Adult Leaders.
• Talk about how your troop committee works.
• For your traditional feeder pack, send a letter of introduction in the fall to each Webelos/AOL scout.
How many of you do this?
Be A Source Of Information

• Keep the Webelos/AOL parents informed about upcoming troop activities:
  – Troop Calendar with campout dates in advance;
  – Permission slips for camping with the troop.
• Refer to the Guide to Safe Scouting.
• How to join a scout troop:
  – Joining requirements:
    • Age, AOL and school grade;
  – Youth application form;
  – Youth protection pamphlet.
Be A Source Of Information

• Explain the difference between Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA and between how a Pack and a Troop are run.

• Provide a list of what a new scout needs for the first campout.
What’s Next!

Thank You!

Questions?  Comments?  Suggestions?