



# Webelos to Scout Transition



## Council and District Volunteers:

- Include Webelos to Scout Transition as a topic at Council, District, Membership and Marketing meetings. Create a goal of 100% Webelos to Scout Transition.
- Communicate with first and second year Webelos scout parents at the start of each school year and in March of the second year.
- Contact all packs, or the Council registrar, in the fall, to obtain a list of all fifth-grade Webelos scouts.
- Coach Cubmasters and Webelos den leaders in the transition process at roundtables, training courses, Weborees, Camporees, and through personal contact.
- Report to the membership committee chair, and keep the district committees informed.
- Track and maintain records of Webelos.
- Follow up with Webelos who do not join a troop (work with unit commissioners).

## Commissioners:

- Encourage Den Leaders, Cubmasters, and Scoutmasters to follow the Webelos to Scout Transition guidelines throughout the year.
- Track the transition of Webelos scouts to troops.
- Encourage good relationships between troops and packs.
- Promote communication by scheduling an annual meeting of key pack/troop volunteers.
- Attend crossover ceremonies and act as an ambassador, answering questions from Webelos and their parents.
- Encourage Scoutmasters to submit transfer applications for new scouts to the council office.
- Work closely with troop and pack committees to follow up on scouts who have not yet joined a troop by May.

# Scoutmasters:

- Attend the Roundtable meetings to pick up information and ideas from others.
- Mail a letter of introduction to second-year Webelos scouts at the start of the school year.
- Know the Cubmaster of your feeder pack and have his/her email and phone number available. Obtain names, email addresses, and phone numbers for Webelos den leaders.
- Introduce yourself to each Webelos den leader as early as possible. Set up a 15 minute meeting to get to know them and make sure they know how valuable their work is to your troop. Offer the services of your scouts to help with their program.
- Offer to have Boy Scouts help with pack events such as the Pinewood Derby, Blue and Gold, and service projects.
- Select a Den Chief from your troop to help with each Webelos den. Have them attend Den Chief training. If your troop changes leadership positions in September or October, a scout becoming Den Chief at that time for a 5th grade den can become their Troop Guide in the spring.
- Serve as a resource for overnight activities. The troop can be of service in providing 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.
- Encourage Webelos den leaders to transition to the troop to serve on the committee or as Assistant Scoutmasters.
- Work with your Senior Patrol Leader to ensure there are activities on the fall schedule to support the Arrow of Light requirements that the Webelos can attend. They need to attend a troop meeting and one outdoor scout activity.
- Make sure Webelos den leaders and Cubmasters are aware of your scheduled events well in advance. Give them copies of the coming year's schedule - enough copies so every Webelos scout can have one.
- Contact the Cubmaster in January to find out when and where the pack crossover ceremony will be held. Offer to have troop representatives there to welcome Webelos crossing over into your troop. Present each Webelos scout with a troop neckerchief and Boy Scout Handbook (one creative Scoutmaster presents each new Boy Scout with a synthetic eagle feather, to symbolize the path on which they have just embarked.)
- Contact Webelos den leaders in December or January to arrange scoutmaster conferences with each Webelos scout earning the Arrow of Light.
- When Webelos decide to join your troop, remind them that this is the BEST time for a boy to join scouting. It is a new adventure in a new group so it's all brand new. Ask every new scout to invite one non-scout friend to visit a troop meeting with him. Let him know that he can earn a Recruiter strip if a friend joins the troop.
- Encourage new scouts to attend summer camp with the troop in the summer after 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Work on rank advancement with new scouts during the first few months after they join the troop so that they achieve a tangible goal early on and see that they have completed the first step in their journey to Eagle.

## Cubmasters, Webelos Den Leaders and other Pack leadership:

- Compare calendars of troop and pack activities to coordinate the events. 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. Using a trained Den Chief from a local troop gives the scouts great exposure to what a Boy Scout is.
- Attend Webelos Den Leader training before you start your program.
- In the spring, while your scouts are Bears, talk to the current Webelos leaders for ideas, suggestions, and advice.
- Start your program in May or June for fourth grade Webelos to get all of them to Arrow of Light and have opportunities to try every adventure.
- Work with Scoutmasters to plan visits to troop meetings and participation in troop outdoor activities in order to help your scouts earn the Arrow of Light.
- Have a parent meeting at the start of 4<sup>th</sup> grade to explain the differences between Cub Scouts, Webelos, and Boy Scouts and what you expect of them. Invite a representative from the Troop to lead or attend.
- From the very start of the program, expect the boys to become Boy Scouts. Never say 'if', always say 'when' and keep them looking forward to being in a troop.
- Encourage scouts to attend a Weboree.
- Start presenting the requirements for 'joining Boy Scouts' early in the program and continually until they finish.
- Attend the Roundtable meetings to pick up information and ideas from others.
- Make the scouts more and more responsible for the program, from leading games, to leading entire meetings, to planning the upcoming month's outings. As Boy Scouts, they will plan and execute their entire program.
- Start thinking as a patrol rather than as a den once everyone earns their Webelos badge. This is a good time to transfer to tan uniforms. The patrol also chooses a patrol name, emblem patch, patrol yell, and makes a patrol flag. These are all things they'll do in Boy Scouts, too.
- Encourage inactive parents to participate. A successful scout needs the support of his parents.
- Buy a Boy Scout Handbook for your reference, and to get your Webelos excited about what lies ahead.
- Work with your Cubmaster to ensure a good AOL ceremony with Order of the Arrow participants.
- Know which troops your scouts are going to so the Scoutmaster can be at the ceremony. Contact the Scoutmaster well before the ceremony and ask him/her to attend.

## Parents:

- Support your Cub Scout throughout his experience. Attend meetings, pack events, campouts, and ceremonies.
- Talk about Boy Scouts as the next exciting step in his scouting experience, as opposed to "finishing" or "graduating" Cub Scouts when he earns his Arrow of Light.
- Help your son research the troops in your area in order to help him choose the one that is right for him.
- Volunteer to help out on a committee or as an Assistant Scoutmaster in your son's new troop.