

Improved Webelos to Scout Transition

Few boys join Tiger Scouts BSA with the intent of remaining in Scouting until their 21st birthday as a Venturer. However, Scouting offers a continuous program that becomes progressively more challenging.

Cub Scouting takes place largely in the family. Beginning Tigers must be under the age of 8, have completed kindergarten or be in the first grade or be age 7. Wolf and Bear Scouts must have completed the first grade but not completed third grade or be age 8 or 9. And Webelos Scouts must have completed third grade but not completed fifth grade or age 10 but not yet 11 1/2.

Boy Scouting is designed for boys ages 11 through 17, who are old enough to be on their own in the out-of-doors. While adults serve as key leaders, Boy Scouts hold leadership positions and plan the troop's program.

The passage from Cub Scout pack to Boy Scout troop should be smooth, with no time lost in between. By the time Webelos Scouts are ready to cross over, they and their families should be familiar and comfortable with the youth and adult leaders of the troop, their role in the troop and troop activities, and feel excited about beginning this new adventure. The Webelos Scout's graduation ceremony should clearly signify his transition to a new level of Scouting, and could include the presentation of his Arrow of Light badge, a *Boy Scout Handbook*, and a troop neckerchief.

A Webelos Scout who has earned the Arrow of Light rank has now completed all the requirements for the Scout badge and may join a Boy Scout troop.

The key factor to improved Webelos transition is the ongoing working relationship of the leaders of a Cub Scout pack and a Boy Scout troop. Ideally a community organization would have both a pack and a troop with leaders who work together to help move Webelos Scouts into a Boy Scout troop the same way schools move students from elementary school to middle school.

There are a number of ways a pack and troop can work together to enhance the Scouting experience of their boys. To help assure maximum transition requires cooperation between the ...



Cub Scout Pack



Boy Scout Troop



Unit Commissioner



District Webelos
Transition Chair

Resources:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/ImprovedWebelosTransition.aspx>

http://www.scouting.org/filestore/membership/pdf/Webelos_to_Scout.pdf

<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/membership/pdf/520-821.pdf>

Webelos to Scout Transition Timetable

August

- ☐ Get names, addresses, and telephone numbers of second-year Webelos.
- ☐ 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

- ☐ Mail a letter of introduction from the Boy Scout troop to second-year Webelos Scouts to introduce them to the troop.
- ☐ Put second-year Webelos Scouts on the mailing list to receive the troop newsletter.
- ☐ Continue planning the joint camping trip for October.

October

- ☐ Conduct the joint camping trip with the Webelos den.

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.

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 you look forward to them joining the troop.

January

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

- ☐ 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.