

BRIDGING THE WAY

Webelos to Scout Transition

“A critical step in the journey of Scouting”

PLANNING

PREPARATION

PERFORMANCE

SUCCESS

Lincoln Heritage Council

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Prepared by:

Adrian L. Shephard

Scout BSA Recruitment Chair

Outline

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Numerous BSA publications, and both BSA websites were consulted to prepare this document. Most sources are listed in the Resource section.

I. What is Webelos to Scouts Transition?

The goal of each Webelos Den Leader is to graduate every Webelos Scout into a troop. This is accomplished with help from other pack and troop leaders, and by following the suggested Webelos-to-Scout Transition plan described in this handout. There is one simple way to measure the success of the Webelos den. Ask yourself: Are the Scouts going directly from the Webelos dens into Scouts BSA? If the answer is that nearly all graduate into a troop, you know your Webelos dens are thriving. If not, then you'd better take a close look at the Webelos den program, and the Scouts BSA troops in your area.

You must plan for what you are going to do, to recruit Webelos Scouts into your Troop (from the Scoutmaster's point of view) or what you are going to do to get the Webelos sent on to Scouts BSA (from a Webelos Leader's point of view). You must then prepare for this transition with activities, not just part of them, to achieve success.

Why?

- Seventy to eighty percent of all new Scouts BSA were Webelos first. Therefore, Webelos transition is of critical importance.
- Scouts BSA who attend summer camp are retained in the program much better than Scouts who do not attend camp. Therefore, getting them to camp is critical.
- Many new Scouts BSA drop out during the first year. There is not second chance to get them to summer camp the first summer, immediately after transition, is critical.
- May is "quitting time." School, school sports, and other youth programs come to an end. People get out of programs to which they are not fully committed. Cub Scouting and Scouts BSA are not one program in most parent's minds. At the end of Cub Scouts, parents and scouts are graduating and "scanning the horizon" for something fun for the summer. If they are not yet comfortable with the troop, leaders, and troop program, it is easy to not join this new and unfamiliar program with new, unfamiliar leaders.
- The patrol method (youth leadership) is one of the number one satisfier that retain Scouts BSA program.

See the BSA publication "Webelos to Scout Transition Plan."

The Plan

Two basic components of the transition plan are:

- Partnering of Webelos dens and Scouts BSA Troops
- Joint Webelos-Scouts BSA activities

However, advance preparation of Webelos Leaders and advanced planning by those leaders is critical.

The Webelos-to Scout plan is a cooperative effort between the pack and troop that results in increased transition of Webelos Scouts to Scouts BSA. It gives Webelos Scouts and their families an awareness of the troop program, troop leadership, advancement, and an appreciation of troop organization and relationships. Studies have shown that when the plan is used a high percentage of Webelos Scouts move into the troop easily and eagerly.

The transition plan emphasizes making connections between the fifth grade Webelos patrol and Scouts BSA Troops. The Webelos Program, particularly outdoor activities, and the Arrow of Light award are part of this plan.

- Scoutmasters and Webelos Leaders meet in the fall of the fifth-grade year to get acquainted, share the Webelos roster, plan transition, review camp plans and fee schedule, and set a date for Webelos parents' camp promotion meeting.
- During December-February of the fifth-grade year, Webelos and their parents visit local troops to observe meetings, learn about troop activities and summer camp plans, meet the troop, and ask questions.
- Second year Webelos choose a patrol name, make a flag, wear patrol medallions, and use patrol leader (Denner). This will further ease their transition into the troop and its patrol method.
- The den will take part in one or more Boy Scout activities with a local troop.
- Webelos graduate in February-April, often at the Blue and Gold, as a group, with or without their Arrow of Light award. Scouts become active in their selected troop in March-April. The critically important issue here is that the scouts become integrated into a troop before the end of the fifth grade.
- The second year Webelos Leader's job description should include acting as an Assistant Scoutmaster (patrol advisor?), with the troop approval, starting in March-June, for the new patrol.

How the Webelos-to-Scouts Transition Plan Help Scouts BSA

The Webelos Program introduces the Webelos Scout to Scouts BSA skills and future advancement experiences. The Den Chief's leadership at work in the troop and senses his own potential as a junior leader. The Scout becomes more confident and enthusiastic about the patrol's method, district camporees, summer camp, and perhaps even a national Jamboree or high adventure trip.

How the Webelos-to-Scout Plan Helps Lead

For the troop leader, it means scouts – scouts already trained in the Scouts BSA joining requirement, and boys whose families have been supporting them in the pack activities.

For the Webelos Den Leader, it means fulfillment. It means direct help in advancement and on Webelos overnights, as well as a pleasant association with the Scouts BSA troop. The time spent with a scout is productive as seen in the boy's desire to continue in Scouting.

To the Cubmaster it means assurance of stable Webelos dens, more graduations, better ceremonies, easy access to Den Chiefs, and pack meetings that feature lively and participating Webelos dens and Scouts BSA troop guests.

What this achieves

This plan assists increased transition and increased camp attendance, both of which should increase long-term Scouts BSA membership and impact more scouts, lives.

The emphasis at graduation is: This is the same program with the same, familiar leaders, but now with a new program emphasis... Scouts BSA outdoor fun and adventure and preparing for camp.

Hopefully, Webelos leaders will enjoy the troop and become active adult leaders helping to retain “their scouts.

February-April graduation gives new Scouts and parents more time to “plug in” to Scout BSA camp promotion programs and fee schedules.

February-April graduation gives Scoutmaster's time to get to know Scouts and parents and prepare them for camp. (Some are reluctant to take new, April-May graduated Scouts to camp.)

February-April graduation gives parents time to get to know troop leaders before they send their scouts, who perhaps has never been away from home before, to camp. Obviously, parents are more willing to encourage their scout to go with a familiar leader whom they know, as opposed to a stranger they have just met.

February-April graduation gives the new scouts more time to get to know and be comfortable with older scouts, so the scout is more willing and excited to go to camp, and better prepared to have a good first experience.

February-April graduation of the whole den keeps scouts together with friends, this is probably the single most important point for the new scouts. It also focuses units and districts on Webelos transition as a major event.

The overall emphasis is that second year Webelos begin their second year in May of their 4th grade year. The next February or so, they become scouts, and by May, they are oriented Scouts BSA, Familiar with troop and leaders and signed up for camp. This should happen as a smooth flowing, continuous plan.

II. Key Leaders

Leaders in the Webelos-to-Scouts Transition Plan

Each of the leaders in the plan has an important role to play in getting Webelos Scouts into a troop. Key leaders in the plan are the

Webelos Den Leader and Assistant Webelos Den Leader

Cubmaster

Scoutmaster

Assistant Scoutmaster

Webelos Den Chief

Unit Commissioners/ District Committees

Webelos Leaders

These leaders are the most influential in the Scouts preparation for Scouts BSA. Webelos leaders should be trained (Webelos Leader-specific Training and BALOO) by the end of the scouts Bear year in Cubs. They should continue with Scoutmaster IOLS (Introduction Outdoor Leadership Skills) during their tenure.

The Webelos leaders:

- Should have the den function as a patrol, particularly in the fifth-grade year
- Ensure the Scouts attend camp, ideally between fourth and fifth grade
- Verify the presence of the necessary BSA Scouts skills
- Attend Roundtables and get to know Scoutmasters
- Recruit a Den Chief
- Plan a year-round, two-year program to complete requirements
- Plan the graduation ceremony and promote troop summer activities
- Accept the need for a good outdoor program, including camping
- Have knowledge of outdoor skills, fire building, cooking, wood tools and knots, camping, sanitation, tents, and equipment.

Cubmaster

- Encourages prospective Webelos leaders to obtain training early
- Searches for Scouts BSA troops and develops point(s)-of-contact
- Encourages visitation to troop meetings
- Confirms the graduation, and invites the Scoutmaster(s), SPL(s) and ASPL. (s) to the graduation ceremony.
- Conducts a memorable graduation ceremony.

Scoutmaster

- Include the Webelos in summer camp reservations
- Discuss camp and troop activity costs with the Webelos' parents
- Have Webelos and their parents attend troop meetings
- Become part of the Pack graduation ceremony
- Assist in finding Den Chiefs for Webelos Dens
- Ensure all forms are completed
- Invite the Webelos Den Leader to become part of the troop
- Hold a pre-summer camp orientation for Scout skills

Assistant Scoutmaster

- Helps to form the new scout patrol
- Makes sure the Webelos feel welcome, and they belong to the troop
- Works with the Troop Guide in planning instruction of scout skills and patrol methods
- Assist with advancement through the First-Class rank
- Verify and reinforce the basic scout skills

Den Chief

- A resource for scout skills
- Sets a good Scouts BSA example
- Helps form the patrol and patrol spirit
- Helps the Webelos Den Leader to operate the patrol
- Assists in the Arrow of Light and graduation ceremonies
- Counts as a leadership time for his Scouts BSA Advancement

Unit Commissioner/District Committee

- Determines which Troops can accommodate more scouts
- Contact District Executive to start more Troops, if necessary
- Ensure graduations are planned
- Track graduating Scouts and ensure they get registered as Scouts BSA
- Attend graduations if possible
- For those Webelos who do not join a Troop, determine why

III. THE WEBELOS PROGRAM

The Webelos Program is scheduled for year-round, two full years. It is important for a new Webelos Leader to realize this and plan accordingly. Ideally, the Webelos den will begin to function in June after the third-grade year when the scouts may attend the Webelos resident camp (see Chapter IV). The Webelos den will likely cease to function in April-May of the fifth-grade year, with the graduation and Arrow of Light ceremonies taking place in Feb.-April of the fifth-grade year.

The Webelos Program is a transition between Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA. As a Cub, the scouts had to convince their parents that they did their best. In Webelos, they now must convince the Webelos Leader that they have done their best. While you should start emphasizing outdoors and camping, you will still follow the Cub Scout rules. The idea is to acquaint the scouts to the outdoors in friendly and hospitable way, starting the development of skills they will need to fine-tune in Scouts BSA.

The Webelos den is still a Cub Scout den but may use a patrol patch for identification. Either the blue or the Khaki uniform is permissible (decided the individual scout's parents). Rotate the Denner position (like the Scouts BSA Patrol Leader). Give the Denner/Patrol Leader some responsibilities and assignments to make this position meaningful to the scouts.

Activity Badges are designed to be like Scouts BSA merit badges. Use expertise from your parents and from outside the den; the Webelos Den Leader should not try to lead all Activity Badge instruction. The Webelos Den Leader must now decide if the scouts have done his or her best to meet the requirements.

If you want to complete all the activity badges it is necessary to get started in June, after third grade. Many badges can be completed in one month, but several will take two months and perhaps require some take-home work. In the Webelos Program Helps, two activity badges are listed for each month. The first is intended for fourth grade Webelos and the second is intended for fifth grade Webelos. Some leaders try to do two badges in a month, but you can't do justice of the requirements with this arrangement (and what does that teach the boy or girl). If you don't get started early, or if you have scouts joining late, you will need to modify the schedule and, perhaps, drop some activity badges. Pay particular attention to the required badges for the Webelos Badge and Arrow of Light Award.

The Arrow of Light Award can aid you in the Webelos to Scout Transition. Key requirements for the Arrow of Light involves scouts start the fifth-grade year. It may be difficult to set up an activity with Scouts BSA in mid-winter; this is typically the most difficult requirement to schedule (see Chapter V).

The Webelos Den Chief is a Scouts BSA that serves as an assistant to the Webelos Den Leader. They are the Webelos Leader's tie into a Scout troop. Use them as an example Scouts BSA. Have them talk often with the Webelos about what he or she likes about Scouts BSA. Make sure that the Den Chief understands he or she is your backup leader and not "one of the scouts. Give them specific assignments to handle during den meetings.

Prepare the scouts for outdoors (see Chapter IV). Build as much outdoors into the activity badges as possible. Begin their camping experience with Webelos den camping and then take advantage of Council-offered resident camping programs for Cub Scout-aged scouts.

IV. WEBELOS OUTDOORS

This Chapter will give you a few pointers about the Webelos Program with an emphasis on outdoors activities. All prospective Webelos leaders should plan to take Webelos Leader-Specific Training and the separately offered **Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation Training, “BALOO”** ideally while the scouts are still in third grade. Cub Leaders Training is usually offered several times throughout the year in each District – watch the district calendar for dates. BALOO is usually offered by the district training committee’s on conjunction with Scouts BSA Leader Outdoor Skills Instruction, in the spring and the fall. Remember that a goal of Cub Scouts is to prepare boys and girls to become Scouts BSA. The Webelos Den is designed to fulfill this goal; it is the transition from Cub Scouts to Scouts BSA.

Camping in Cub Scouts

Family camping is recommended in Cub Scouts. This means that the scouts should be encouraged to camp with their own families to develop some initial camping skills and to become use to being in the outdoors. The Pack and the Webelos Dens are permitted to hold campouts, but with the provision that each Cub is accompanied by a responsible adult. The Webelos Den Leader and other Pack Leaders **cannot** be responsible for youth on overnight Cub Scout Activities.

Webelos are encouraged to extend this to patrol camping but with parents’ involvement. Do not attempt backpacking; go car camping in easily accessible locations.

- Fourth Grade – emphasis is usually on parent scouts work toward campsite preparation, cooking, and cleaning. Emphasize camping skills and nature/outdoors activities.
- Fifth Grade – while a parent is still required to accompany each scout, you can start to emphasize patrol-style camping. Both boys and girls should start to work as a group to prepare campsites and do the cooking/cleaning with guidance from adults. Rotate job assignments (fire starting, preparation, cooking cleaning).
- Scouts BSA Troop – often, a Webelos Den (fifth grade) will participate with a Scouts BSA Troop in a overnight camping experience. This still requires parent and scout camping if it is done as a Webelos activity. Work with the Scoutmaster to make it simple and easy to do.

Take advantage of Council-sponsored resident camps. Note that this is the only approved Cub Scout camping activity in which the parent of the Webelos rule may be waived. Cub Scout camping promotions should be available from the Council and your District Executive.

Webelos Outdoor Activities

The Webelos dens should do as much outdoors as possible. Try to hold your regular meeting outside. An outdoor activity each month is ideal. Obviously, the amount you do outdoors will be dependent on weather, regular meeting times and days. Plan many hikes, particularly for the outdoors-related activity badges. Avoid backpacking and adhere to the parent and scout camping rule. This is to make the outdoor and camping experience the most pleasurable for the scouts. Doing it on their own and meeting the challenge of hauling heavy packs should wait until Scouts BSA, when they are stronger and more capable.

Plan some activity badge requirements into your hikes. Visit parks, or local trails. Ask the boys or girls:

“How many different trees can we find”

“Are there any orange birds in these woods”

“How can we show people at home this deer prints”

“If these three minerals (quartz, feldspar, mica) are mixed together, what rock would we find (granite)?”

Camping should be car camping “car camping” that is, camp in an area easily accessible by car. In this way, more time can be spent on activities rather than packing in. In addition, most scouts will have gear that is not appropriate for packing into a campsite – bulky sleeping bags or bedrolls, family tents, kitchen pots and pans. Cooking should be on open fires, where possible. Get in the habit of practicing “leave no trace” camping.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with “fair weather” camping with Webelos; we want them to have a pleasant and enjoyable experience. Winter outings should be limited to daytime (unless you have an indoor heated space for sleeping); be sure, as the leader, to bring lots of extra warm clothing, hats, gloves, even boots! Organize extra adults to prepare hot drinks for the scouts. Be sure to have the scouts bring a set of dry clothes to change into for the ride home.

Outdoor Skills

Many of the following skills are covered in detail in the BALOO course. I'll highlight some issues during this part of the session.

Cooking/Fuels/Fire building – see BSA Fuels policy. Webelos should never handle liquid fuels themselves. Adults should supervise for other fuel use. Minimal supervision is needed for cooking on an open fire, so plan to use wood or charcoal to save the forest! Teach the scouts how to build fires – for cooking for light and for heat. Make fire starters at a Den meeting.

Cooking/Food – simple is better. Foil-packs dinners are the normal. Cook away from sleeping areas and latrines. Use this as an opportunity to demonstrate how to no utensil cooking (eggs in a orange cup, pigs in a blanket on a stick). Have them plan a menu at den meetings and have them help buy the food.; these ae some of the Scouts BSA advancement requirements they will do when they are older. Try Dutch oven cooking.

Site selection – away from water, relatively flat with drainage, died trees or limbs and free from rock. Try to avoid damaging the soils and grass.

Tents – you will probably be using family tents – large and heavy. Teach the use of a tarp for protecting the bottom of the tent, shelter (a tent is not needed).

Sleeping – the scouts will probably have cotton rectangular sleeping bags, if anything. Teach the use of bedrolls or “envelope” beds. Don't make families by expensive, down, mummy bags!

First Aid – you should have **Basic First Aid and CPR Training**. Have a Den kit for your use – bandages, antibiotic cream, anti-itch cream, antiseptic, soap, moleskin, or Second Skin. Get them in the habit of packing a personal First Aid Kit.

Cleaning and sanitation – Teach patrol cleanup methods; use bleach solution (kept by the leader and used only under his/her direction) for the final rinse. Leave the area cleaner than you found it!

Planning Campouts

Always plan the outings ahead of time. If you have not planned, use den meetings to involve the boys and girls in planning. Be prepared to use every opportunity on an outing as a learning experience. Use various aids such as:

Campout Planning guides

Campfire Planning Worksheet

V. ARROW OF LIGHT AWARD

Key parts of the Arrow of Light award are there to help plan the transition to Scouts BSA. However, you, the leader, must plan!!!

Key AOL Requirements:

- Visit Troop(s)

- Outing with a Troop

- Join a Troop

Establish contact with troops early to schedule attending troop meetings.

- Ash your Cubmaster

- Contact Commissioners, Scout Executives, and the District Committee

- Ask other Scouters

- Ask Scoutmaster Leader-Specific Training

Parents and the Webelos (AOL) should attend the troop meetings.

Plan joint activities with the troop(s). This can often be the most difficult to arrange. If you wait until mid-winter, you may not find an appropriate activity for Webelos participation. If you take part in a joint campout, remember the requirement for adult and Webelos (AOL) participation.

Other AOL requirements include some of the Scouts BSA “joining” requirements: Oath, Scout Law, Motto, basic knots.

Joining a troop should occur by March or April of fifth grade. The Troop needs to make plans for you to attend summer camp. It is highly recommended that new Scouts participate in the first-year camping program at summer camp. The new Scout needs to meet and become familiar with the other scouts going to camp.

The goal is to complete these requirements before graduation, and to get the scouts firmly established in a troop before the troop goes to summer camp.

The Arrow of Light Award Ceremony equates to the Eagle Ceremony for the Scouts BSA. Ensure that the AOL ceremony is just as nice. Typically, the Arrow of Light Ceremony would be at the different time from graduation. This minimizes any embarrassment or hard feelings in those that did not complete the Arrow of Light requirements. If they all completed the AOL requirements, then the two ceremonies could be combined. An impressive ceremony will instill in the first year Webelos the desire to continue in Scouts BSA (see Chapter VIII).

VI. PICKING A SCOUTS BSA TROOP

The Aims of Scouting

There are three aims of Scouts BSA. These are to build character, to foster citizenship, and to develop fitness. The ideals of Scouting are stated in the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. These aims and ideals are accomplished through a program that involves patrols, outdoor activities, advancement, personal growth, and leadership development. Each troop has its own “flavor” or mix of these methods. Your job is to find the correct fit for you.

Questions to ask yourself:

1. **What do I want to get out of Scouts BSA?**
2. **What is important to me about any group that I belong to?**
3. **Do I like to camp, hike, backpack?**
4. **Do I like to try different activities; would I like to work on merit badges?**

What to look for in visits to troops:

1. Are the meetings led by the Scouts?
The scout’s troops are supposed to be led by older scouts in the troop. The leaders have advanced in rank, have shown interest in being a leader, and have been trained in their duties. Is the troop organized into patrols?
2. What is the role of the Scoutmaster?
The Scoutmaster should provide guidance to the senior patrol leader, who is the troop meeting leader. The Scoutmaster is not supposed to run everything himself. If the meeting is run only by the Scoutmaster, then the scouts may not have much of a chance to develop leadership skills.
3. Are parents supportive or is everything let to the adult leaders?
A strong troop will have lots of parent’s involvement. Find out about the Troop Committee. Do these adults attend the troop meetings? What “jobs” do these individuals do? Parents see how you may be able to assist the committee.
4. What are the troop’s interests?
Scouts BSA should be a mix of outdoor activities (hiking, camping, other activities, advancement (merit badges, rank advancements), community involvement, District and Council activities.

VII. SUMMARY, PLANNING FOR SUCCESS

Putting the Webelos-to-Scout Transition Plan to Work

You should take away from this session these key points:

- Seek training earlier rather than later
- Begin planning in May of the scouts third grade year
- Take advantage of available camping experiences
- Contact local troops and leaders by fall of fifth grade
- Make plans during the summer after fourth grade for completions of Arrow of Light requirements during the fifth-grade year
- Get the boys/girls into a troop no later than April of fifth grade
- Make sure the scouts sign up for Scouts BSA summer camp for the summer after fifth grade

PLAN AHEAD

VIII. WEBELOS GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Goodbye from the Pack! ... Welcome to the Troop!

Every Webelos Scout should be recognized with a graduation ceremony before leaving the pack and entering the troop. This is not likely to happen, however, unless you have a plan of cooperation developed by your pack and the troop or troops that work with you. This plan should be the result of a joint meeting of the pack and the troop committees or of your Webelos den leader and the Scoutmaster. The ceremony should include, in addition to the Webelos den leader and Den Chief, the graduate's prospective Scoutmaster, his new patrol leader, and their parents. The emphasis in this ceremony should not be merely to graduate the scouts out of the pack, but to **graduate the whole family into the troop**.

Note that we are really dealing with two ceremonies. One is the Arrow of Light Award Ceremony. This does not need to involve Scout BSA troop members. It is the highest award Cub Scouts and deserves a fitting ceremony like the Eagle Award has in Scouts BSA. Upon completion of the Arrow of Light Award, a fifth-grade scout may join Scouts BSA. The other ceremony is the graduation out of Cub Scouts and into a troop. This should require **troop participation**.

If all the scouts will receive the Arrow of Light and graduate into a troop, then the ceremonies could be performed at the same meeting. For many packs, doing an AOL ceremony in conjunction with the other graduation ceremonies make for a very long pack meeting; so, often the two ceremonies are separated. The AOL ceremony could be performed in April, followed by graduation in May. It is not necessary that the Webelos den continue to function until graduation.

Also note, many Packs like to do the graduation and/or AOL ceremony at the February Blue and Gold Banquet. If your Pack does this, you will need to plan carefully to complete all the requirements for Webelos and for AOL in time!

Some ceremony suggestions:

<http://usscouts.org/usscouts/ceremony/aol.asp#one>

<http://usscouts.org/usscouts/ceremony/aol.asp#crossover>

<http://usscouts.org/usscouts/ceremony/aol.asp#rope>

Also, check out local POW WOW books and the BSA book Staging Den and Pack Ceremonies

IX. RESOURCES, FURTHER INFORMATION

World-Wide – Web Resources

www.my.scouting.org

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln_Heritage_Council

<https://lhbsa.org/join-scouting/>

Training

Youth Protection (this is taken every two years) and mandatory for all Leaders or youth 18 and in Venturing

Cub Leader Fast Start (www.scouting.org/cubscouts/faststart/)

New Leader Essential

Cub Scout Leader-specific Training (section on Webelos)

Basic Outdoor Leader Outdoors Orientations (for Pack camping) “BALOO”

Boy Scouts Leader-specific Training (session on Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster)

Boy Scout Leader Outdoor Skills Instruction

Scouting University

Wood Badge (advanced Leader’s training)

Basic First Aid and CPR (from Red Cross, National Safety Council, etc.)

Wilderness First Aid

Contact your District Training Chairman, the Council Training Chairman or District Executive for further information on dates and locations. You can also check the Council website for details.

Printed Materials

Guide to Safe Scouting

Webelos Handbook

Cub Scout Leader Book

Cub Scout Leader How-To Book

Webelos Activity Book

Cub Scout and Webelos Scout Program Helps

Webelos to Scout Transition pamphlet

Scouts BSA Handbook

Scoutmaster's Handbook

Scouts BSA Field Guide

Troop Program Resources and Troop Program Features books

Scouts BSA Merit Badges Books

Camping

Hiking

Backpacking

Cooking

First Aid

Canoeing

Geology

Wilderness Survival

Numerous nature merit badges

Scouts BSA Outdoors Skill Instruction books

Backpacking

Team Building

Cooking

Camping

Survival

Venture Scouting Activity books

Philmont Field Guide

X. WEBELOS-TO-SCOUT TRANSITION TRACKING DOCUMENT

(Provide copies to Unit Commissioner, District Membership Committee, and Troop Leader)

Date Prepared:

Pack# _____ 4th or 5th Grade _____ Webelos Den# _____ Total # Webelos _____

Webelos Leader

Assistant Webelos Leader

Name:

Address:

Phone:

11)

<u>Webelos Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone#</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Birthdate</u>
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15)

XI. WEBELOS TO SCOUT TRANSITION

5TH GRADE (SECOND YEAR) WEBELOS LEADER'S ROLE

Your ultimate succession helping scouts get into Scouting is getting your Webelos to join Scouts BSA in February. Your efforts through the Webelos program have made a major contribution towards the Scouting trail for all scouts in your den/patrol. You are the key to a smooth transition for your Webelos

TARGET DATE TASK

SEPT. / OCT. ___ Have your den select a Scout patrol name, get patrol patches to wear, make a patrol Flag and elect a patrol leader (Check the Scout Handbook for ideas)

October ___ Complete and return your Webelos roster (tracking sheet) to your Unit Commissioner or pack committee chairman by October 30th. This is very important so that troops can send you Webelos information and invite them to orientation and camp promotion meetings.

___ Meet with local Scoutmaster(s) for transition planning

OCT./NOV. ___ Take your Webelos and their parents to visit a troop meeting. A new Scout-Parent informational meeting at the troop should include summer camp plans

___ Ask the Troop to appoint a Den Chief. This will aid the new Scouts with their transition into the Troop

DECEMBER ___ Encourage your Webelos to make the final decision on joining a Troop

___ Assist the Cubmaster in planning a top-notch, personalized graduation for the February pack meeting

FEBRUARY ___ Graduate your Webelos into Scouts BSA into Scouts BSA. Have them complete a Scout application and register with the Troop. New Scouts should have the Scout Handbook at this time

___ Webelos should attend Winter Camporee/Klondike Derby with their new troop

FEB./MAR ___ Be sure the Scouts have a schedule and begin attending Troop activities. Encourage parents to get involved with the Troop Committee

___ Talk to the Scoutmaster about continuing to work with the new Scouts as a patrol advisor. This will help the scouts become comfortable in the new troop

___ Help as needed with any final details for summer camp preparedness

___ Follow up with any of your Webelos as to why they did not yet join a Troop

Note: Get the name of the nearest Scoutmaster(s) from your Unit Commissioner or District Executive

SCOUTMASTER'S ROLE

Knowing that 70% of all scouts who join Scouts BSA 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 Transition Plan.

<u>TARGET DATE</u>	<u>TASK</u>
October	_____ Choose and make reservations for your Troop’s long-term summer camp
	_____ Meet with your Unit Commissioner and let him/her know your desires for increasing the troop size
	_____ Appoint good Scouts to be Webelos Den Chiefs to help get Webelos in nearby Packs interested in joining your troop
	_____ Identify a Webelos Resource Chairman for the troop to help with nearby packs
November	_____ Invite Webelos to visit a troop meeting
	_____ Hold a Webelos parents’ night to promote the troop’s summer camp plans and get Webelos ready to participate. Give them an information sheet with schedule, fees and general camp information
December	_____ Plan to be a part of the pack’s February meeting and Webelos’ graduation
February	_____ Attend the pack meeting in February and help conduct the graduation ceremony
	_____ Webelos should register as Scouts with your troop
Mar/Apr	_____ Invite the Webelos Leaders(s) to be new Scout’s patrol advisor. This will help the new scouts get adjusted and provides an excellent prospect for a new Assistant or committee person for the troop
	_____ Be sure all new Scouts have troop schedule so that they and begin participating in troop activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hold a spring campout for the troop emphasizing basic Scout skills for new boys (e.g., cooking, camping, and patrol methods). This will build confidence in new Scouts and help prepare them for summer camp.• Have a troop “new parent’s” meeting for details on summer camp immediately• Encourage new parents to volunteer by joining the troop committee

A list of Webelos leaders and / or Cubmasters, and/ or Pack Committee Chairman can be provided to you, and you should receive a list of eligible Webelos in November/ December to invite to your troop. Contact your Unit Commissioner or District Executive.

Transition Plan

The Pack's Role

Your pack has given your Webelos a good beginning on the Scouting trail. The Webelos program is to prepare and help scouts become Scouts BSA. You are a key to the process of Webelos transition for your pack.

<u>TARGET DATE</u>	<u>TASK</u>
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Oct./Nov.	_____ Encourage your second year Webelos leaders to complete and return their Den/patrol roster (tracking list) to the District Executive or the Unit Commissioner.
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	_____ Encourage your Webelos leader(s) to meet with Scoutmasters in the area.
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December	_____ Plan for a top-notch Webelos graduation and the February pack meeting. Note: February is the preferred month of graduation so that new Scouts can attend March to May troop meetings to get acquainted and prepare for summer camp.
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	_____ Invite Scoutmaster(s) to your Blue and Gold Banquet as an honored guest. Have him/her sit with the Webelos den/patrol and assist with the graduation ceremony.
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February	_____ Webelos graduation at your pack meeting. Assist with the ceremony.
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	_____ Ensure Webelos complete a Scouts BSA application and register with a troop.
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March	_____ Assist the Webelos leaders(s) in following up with any of your Webelos as to why they did not join a troop.
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Graduation Plan

Unit Commissioner's Role

Our best resource of interested boys and girls is out Webelos. In fact, 70% of the Scouts BSA were Webelos. So, it makes good sense to be sure every interested Webelos and their parents are invited, oriented and welcomed into a Scouts BSA Troop. You are the key to this whole process!

TARGET DATE TASK

Oct./Nov. ___ Ensure that Webelos leaders complete and return their 5th grade Webelos to Scout Transition Tracking List to you, or the District Executive, no later than the November Roundtable. Please forward the list if given to you.

 ___ Determine if your troop(s) can accommodate more Scouts. Some troops feel they are big enough. If not, contact your District Executive immediately and help Webelos parents form a new troop to start activities in February.

 ___ Arrange a phone contact or meeting between Webelos leaders and Scoutmasters to work the plan.

 ___ Assist in planning a Webelos visit to a quality troop meeting, include camp promotion information for new parents. You should attend this troop meeting and ensure that invitations are telephoned to the parents beforehand.

Dec./Jan. ___ Help plan a top-notch graduation for Webelos at their February pack meeting.

February ___ Attend graduation. Be sure Scouts complete a Scouts BSA application and know the troop's program and meeting schedule.

 ___ Assist the troop to turn in applications and Webelos graduation report to the scout service center.

March ___ Begin follow up with boys and girls who have not joined. Get them invited to visit another troop.

We can only instill the values of Scout BSA into the lives of Boys and Girls who become Scouts BSA