

WEBELOS-TO-SCOUT TRANSITION PLANNING

Cub Scout Leader Breakout Session at the VHC Roundtable, May 12, 2022

Step 1

During the Fall of the 4th grade Webelos year, become acquainted with the Scoutmaster(s). If you have an associated troop, you probably know a few people in the troop.

If you do not have an associated troop, research to find some appropriate troops in the area. If you have both girl dens and boy dens, look for troops that have a girl troop and a boy troop.

Where to find out about troops:

- Unit commissioner
- Cubmaster
- Scout professionals
- Other Scout parents
- Scouting events, such as Scout-o-Rama, Webelos Woods

Establish what you are looking for in a troop. What is important to the families in your den?

Start talking about the transition to Scouts BSA.

Unlike Packs, troops often draw Scouts from a number of different schools. Active troops have activities year-round, and they go camping or hiking most every month.

Once you get recommendations, you are ready to visit a few troops.

Call ahead to let the Scoutmaster know that you are just observing, and you are NOT bringing them a bunch of new Scouts at this time.

Other considerations:

- Any Scouts with special needs
- Fundraising
- Composition of existing troop (mixture of ages, or all one age group)
- Summer camp plans

Go on a den or pack campout. It can be a council-sponsored event, such as Haunt On or Rocket Academy.

Step 2

Webelos in 4th grade cannot begin working on Arrow of Light requirements until they have completed the Webelos badge. Webelos who join in 5th grade may immediately work on Arrow of Light, or may work on both Webelos badge and Arrow of Light.

So, in the spring of the 4th grade school year, when the Webelos have earned their Webelos badge, begin planning den visits to the troop meeting.

You should call the Scoutmaster and suggest some possible dates. Let the Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) determine which date is best.

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Unless there is an associated troop with your Pack, set up visits with at least two troops.

At least one parent should accompany each Scout to the troop visit. Ideally, the Senior Patrol Leader and the troop should have a Scouting-related activity for the Cubs, while the troop committee can speak to the parents. [What is expected of parents in this troop?]

Review with your den #1-3 of “Scouting Adventure” with your den, and make plans to begin 5th grade as a “patrol”.

Encourage Scouts to attend summer camp — either Cub Scout resident camp or day camp.

Step 3

Over the summer, work with the Scoutmaster(s) to arrange for a campout or other joint outdoor activity. Fall is a busy time in Scouting, so you want to get these activities on everyone’s calendar.

Step 4

The focus in the fall will be earning the Arrow of Light, and the transition to Scouts BSA.

Invite a couple of Scouts from the troop you are going with on the campout to come to your den meeting to help Scouts get prepared.

If possible, have a parents’ meeting for the Arrow of Light Scouts with key members of troop committee. Discuss their role in a Scout troop, the differences between the Webelos program and the Scouts BSA program, and expectations about summer camp.

Step 5

Work with Pack Committee to prepare for the Crossover ceremony. This event should be reserved for just the graduating Webelos. Presentations of rank advancement should be reserved for their Arrow of Light award and adventures this group earned.

BSA recommends scheduling the Crossover in the spring, so the new Scouts become familiar with the troop before going to summer camp.

After consulting with den families, invite to the Crossover ceremony the representative from the troops the Scouts have decided to join. Troop representatives should be present to greet the Scout as they “crossover” in Scouts BSA. Find out what the troop will be presenting to the new Scout: troop neckerchief, ribbon loops, *Scout Handbook*, neckerchief slide, etc.

Remember KISMIF: Keep It Simple, Make It Fun!