



## **GREAT SAUK TRAIL COUNCIL**

### ***WEBELOS TO SCOUT TRANSITION***

### **CROSSING THE BRIDGE TO BOY SCOUTING**

Huron Trails District  
Membership Committee

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## **The Transition Team**

The Cubmaster, as the primary adult leader of the Pack, ensures that fifth-grade Webelos Den Leaders are linked with the Troop and are aware of the different Boy Scout Troops in the neighborhood. He or she coordinates with the Troop liaison leader in order to establish an impressive Arrow of Light Award ceremony and graduation (crossing) of Webelos Scouts into the Troop at the conclusion of the fifth-grade Webelos Scouts year in the Pack.

The Webelos Den Leader works with the Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmaster responsible for new boys to provide an introduction to Boy Scouting for every fifth-grade Webelos Scout. This is done through the Webelos advancement program, visits and joint activities with the Troop and an impressive graduation (crossing) ceremony with the entire fifth-grade Den moving into the Troop as the new Scout Patrol.

The Webelos Den Chief is a registered Boy Scout, active in the Troop, and selected by the Scoutmaster to serve as a program assistant to the Webelos Den Leader. He should be skilled in conducting ceremonies, leading songs, teaching skills, giving demonstrations, leading games, and helping to prepare the Webelos Scouts for the Troop experience ahead. By his example, he may be the single most important person in influencing Webelos Scouts to join the Troop.

The Scoutmaster, as the primary adult leader of the Troop, directs the establishment of a cooperative link between the Troop and the Pack. He or she selects and appoints the Webelos Den Chief. The Scoutmaster also encourages joint activities and the graduation of Webelos Scouts into the Troop. Through the Troop's Junior Leaders, he or she sets the tone for welcoming new members.

The Troop Liaison Leader, usually an Assistant Scoutmaster, in addition to guiding the new Scout Patrol in the Troop, serves as an adult link between the Troop and the Webelos Den. He or she, along with the Webelos den Leader, helps plan joint activities, including an exciting graduation (crossing) ceremony. The Troop Liaison Leader is also principally responsible for the smooth transition of Webelos Scouts into the Troop by working closely with the Webelos Den Chief, Webelos Den Leader, Scoutmaster, and Unit Commissioner.

# How to Use the Webelos to Scout Transition Packet

## For District and Assistant District Commissioners:

- Fill in the local information with regards to Webelos Dens, leadership, etc.
- Fill in the local information with regards to Troops, sponsors, meeting time, etc. Don't forget any additional comments regarding the Troop.
- Distribute copies of Troop information to all Den leadership; distribute copies of Webelos Den information to all Troop leadership.
- You cannot tell anyone where they must join, but you can and should guide undecided Dens and individuals to selected Troops in order to achieve balanced unit growth within your District.
- Ensure that Unit Commissioners are checking periodically on transition progress.
- Collect names of all fifth-grade Webelos Scouts in the district. Track their progress on transition day.
- Follow-up on dropped Scouts!

## For Webelos Den Leaders:

- Check to see what local Troops are available in your community. (See your District Commissioner)
- Call the Scoutmaster to arrange a visit. Give plenty of advance notice.
- Parents of Webelos Scouts should also visit the unit.
- Visit several units; each unit has its own personality. Make sure you will fit before committing to join.
- Participate in joint Webelos/Troop activities.
- After selecting a Troop, make certain that you coordinate programs and continue to communicate.

## For Scoutmasters:

- Arrange to visit a Pack meeting to promote the Troop to the Webelos Scouts and parents.
- Ensure that your unit has a Webelos Liaison Leader to coordinate activities with the Webelos Den.
- Provide a program for the Webelos scouts when they visit; have an adult available to talk to parents.
- Sell your unit! Don't forget to recruit parents along with the boys!
- Plan several joint activities for the Webelos Scouts to give them the "flavor" of your Troop.
- Coordinate Troop and Den programs and schedule the Joining Ceremony.
- Recognize your Webelos Den Chiefs, they are absolutely critical to the transition process!
- Start selecting next years Den Chiefs; schedule training for them.

## For Webelos Den Chiefs:

- You are the Troop ambassador to the Webelos Den! You have more influence than anyone on the transition team. Set the example!
- Be prepared to conduct ceremonies, lead songs, teach Scouting skills, give demonstrations, lead games, and help prepare the Webelos Scouts for the Boy Scout experience.

## For Unit Liaison Leaders:

- Check to see what local Dens are expecting to join Boy Scouting in your area. (See your District Commissioner)
- Call the Den Leader and invite the Den to a Troop meeting. Invite parents also!
- Work with district Liaison Leaders in the transition process.
- Coordinate Troop and Den programs and schedule the Joining Ceremony.

## **The Transition Plan**

Every graduating Webelos Scout deserves the opportunity to continue his Scouting experience as a member of a Boy Scout Troop. You can help make a difference.

Here's a plan that presents a smooth transition between Webelos Scouting and Boy Scouting. It results in better prepared and more enthusiastic new members for the Troop, a strong feeling of success for the Pack and, most important of all, an outstanding new Scouting experience for the boys.

Many Webelos Scouts go on to Boy Scouting with no help at all, but a lot of them need to know more about their opportunities for fun and adventure in the Troop.

That's the purpose of the Webelos-to-Scout transition plan: to give every Webelos Scout a sampling of the Troop program, Troop leadership, advancement opportunities, and the fun and excitement of Boy Scouting. **We must let him know that he is wanted!**

The boy's progress toward the Webelos badge and the Arrow of Light introduces him to some of the basic elements of Boy Scouting, and gives him an early taste of Scouting skills and the Boy Scout advancement program. He learns more about the Troop through joint Den/Troop activities, which let him see boy leadership at work and sense his own potential as a leader. He becomes more confident and enthusiastic about his Scouting future as he becomes more familiar with the boys and adult leaders of the Troop he will be joining.

## **Here's How it Works**

The Webelos-to-Scout transition plan offers a clear path into Boy Scouting for every Webelos Scout, beginning early in fifth-grade year. By linking his Webelos Den and Boy Scout Troop in a transition partnership, he is provided an opportunity, through joint activities, to sample the fun of Boy Scouting. As his Webelos advancement plan helps him prepare for Boy Scout advancement, he might also learn more about Boy Scouting through council and district activities designed to support the transition plan.

At the Blue and Gold Banquet, after he has earned the Arrow of Light, he graduates with the other members of his Den into the Troop.

## **The Pack/Troop Partnership**

One of the key factors in the transition process is the establishment of a working partnership between the Webelos Den and the Boy Scout Troop that most Webelos Scouts will join. This partnership should be firmly in place by the start of the Webelos fifth-grade year. Every fifth-grade Webelos Den should be linked to a Troop, and every Troop should have one or more Webelos Dens as partners.

Of course in many cases these partnerships already exist, and have been effective for many years, but some Webelos Dens are not linked to Troops and need help from the district in establishing a partnership. Similarly, Troops with no "feeder" Webelos Dens might need help.

## **Joint Activities**

The partner Troop should provide Webelos Den Chiefs for the Pack, as well as assistance in planning and conducting outdoor activities, but the most important result of the Den/Troop partnership is the experience of joint activities.

The Fifth-grade Webelos Den and the Troop should hold several activities together, including one or two joint campouts. The Den could also join the Troop in a Court of Honor, campfire program, day hike, field trip, or joint Good Turn for the chartered organization or community. Visiting a Camporee or other district or council Boy Scout events as guests of the Troop might also be included. Dens are also encouraged to meet with the Troop before the expected graduation date.

Through these joint activities and meeting, Webelos Scouts not only learn of the fun of Boy Scouting, they also get acquainted with the older Scouts in the Troop. When the time comes to move into Boy Scouting, it is no longer a leap into unknown, but a step into an already familiar and friendly situation.

### **Webelos Advancement**

The Webelos Scout advancement pattern has been developed to lead naturally to earning the Webelos badge in the forth-grade year and the Arrow of Light Award in the fifth-grade year, but still allows boys who join the Webelos Dens as fifth-graders (or 10-year olds) to earn both ranks. By following the pattern detailed in the *Webelos Scout Program Helps*, the Webelos Den Leader will ensure that most Webelos Scouts will earn the Webelos badge in January of their fourth-grade year and the Arrow of Light Award in January or February of the fifth-grade year.

### **Early Spring Graduation**

Summer Camp is a vital part of the Boy Scout experience, particularly for the new Scout. The transition program gives us a great opportunity to guarantee that graduating Webelos Scouts participate in Summer Camp by getting them into the Troop in time to prepare for Boy Scout camp.

### **From Den to Patrol**

Webelos Scouting and Boy Scouting have been designed to neatly dovetail together, and the Webelos Den can move right into the Troop as a new Scout Patrol. When the whole Den moves into Scouting together, they continue to provide friendship and support each other, which allows each boy to make a smooth transition with his friends into the Troop.

### **Council and District Support**

There are several ways that the council and district can help Packs to Troops with the Webelos-to-Scout transition process.

**Webelos tracking.** Every district needs to have a system to identify and track each fifth-grade Webelos Scout to ensure that he has the opportunity to continue his Scouting experience as a Boy Scout. Follow-up should be planned to maintain contact with each boy until he is enrolled in a Troop. This may be assigned as the responsibility of the Commissioner Staff of the Membership Committee.

**Troop Crossing Ceremony.** Many units have found that a Troop crossing ceremony where Webelos Scouts are officially welcomed into Boy Scouting helps motivate the boys to move ahead. The ceremony may be held at the Pack Blue and Gold banquet after the Webelos Scouts receive their Arrow of Light Award. It is important to remember that this ceremony is a Troop function and takes place after the Arrow of Light Award presentation, which is a Pack function.

**Joint Troop/Den Meetings.** In the months just prior to joining the Troop, unit leaders might want to consider Webelos Den meetings with the Troop part time and as a Den part time. This helps the new Scouts adjust to the Troop atmosphere and encourages completion of the Arrow of Light Award as a climax to Cub Scouting.

**Joint Roundtables.** A joint roundtable, where Webelos Den Leaders and assistants, Webelos Den Coaches, and Cubmasters are invited to participate in a special Boy Scout roundtable event, is an excellent way to match up Webelos Dens with Troops in the transition partnerships. September and January roundtables are recommended.

In summary, the Webelos-to-Scout transition plan links fifth-grade Webelos Dens and Boy Scout Troops together, encourages joint activities, introduces Webelos Scouts and their leaders to Boy Scouting, and ensures the graduation of the Webelos Dens into the Troop in early spring. **Our Goal: Every Webelos Scout continues his Scouting experience as a Boy Scout.**

## Webelos Transition

One of Scouting's greatest challenges is to make the next level of Scouting readily available for a young man once he meets the joining requirements.

Few boys join Tiger Cubs, with the intent of remaining in Scouting until their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday as a Venturer. However, Scouting offers a continuous program that becomes progressively more challenging and boys can find that they want to return every year.

Cub Scouting takes place largely in the family, and a boy advances from Tiger Cub at age 6 through Wolf Cub Scout at age 7, Bear Cub Scout at age 8, and Webelos Scout at ages 9 and 10. The Cub Scout parents serve as leaders, and most events take place in the homes of the Cub Scouts.

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 Award, a *Boy Scout Handbook*, and a Troop neckerchief.

A Webelos Scout who has earned the Arrow of Light Award 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 the 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, and the District Webelos Transition Chair.

By planning and coordinating their efforts, the Pack and Troop can:

- Help make the Webelos-to-Scout transition seamless.
- Give all Webelos Scouts a chance to experience the fun and excitement of Boy Scouting.









# Boy Scout Recruiting Calendar

## AUGUST

### Webelos-to-Scout Transition

1. Get names, addresses, and telephone numbers of second-year Webelos Scouts. Record the information on the Webelos Scouts Tracking form.
2. Plan a joint Boy Scout Troop/Second Year Webelos Den camping trip for October.
3. Select a Den Chief for each Webelos Den.

## SEPTEMBER

### Webelos-to-Scout Transition

1. Mail a letter of introduction from the Boy Scout Troop to second-year Webelos Scouts on the mailing list to receive the Troop newsletter.
2. Put second-year Webelos Scouts in the mailing list to receive the Troop newsletter.
3. Continue planning the joint camping trip for October.

### Boy-to-Boy Recruitment

1. Announce a recruitment drive in the Troop. Display awards and Incentives for the top recruiters.
2. Ask Scouts to list non-Scout friends they would like to invite to the next Troop meeting as part of their recruitment drive.

## OCTOBER

### Webelos-to-Scout Transition

1. Conduct the joint camping trip with the Webelos Den.
2. Webelos Leaders go through Scoutmaster/Scout Assistant Leader specific Training and Outdoor Leader Skills.

### Boy-to-Boy Recruitment

1. Monitor the Troop's recruitment efforts and present incentive awards to those who have recruited a new Scout.

### Persons Responsible

TMC, WL, CM

SM, PLC, CM, WL

SM, SPL, CM

TMC, SM

TMC

SM, PLC, SM, WL

SM, TMC

SM, TMC

SMC, TMC, SPL, CM

SM, TMC

<b>Key:</b>	CM – Cubmaster	PLC – Patrol Leaders' Council	TCC – Troop Committee Chair	TMC – Troop Membership Chair
	SM – Scoutmaster	SPL – Senior Patrol Leader	TG – Troop Guide	WL – Webelos Den Leader

# NOVEMBER

## Webelos-to-Scout Transition

1. Attend a Webelos Den meeting to teach the Webelos Scouts how the Boy Scout Troop works.
2. Have Den Chiefs attend Den Chief Training at Pow Wow.

## Boy-to-Boy Recruitment

1. Continue to monitor progress and recognize top recruiters.

# DECEMBER

## Webelos-to-Scout Transition

1. Set a date for Webelos Scouts and their parents to visit a Boy Scout Troop meeting in January.
2. Send a small holiday gift to each Webelos Scout.

## Boy-to-Boy Recruitment

1. End the recruitment drive and honor the new Scouts and top recruiters.

# JANUARY

## Webelos-to-Scout Transition

1. Host Webelos Scouts and their parents at a Boy Scout Troop meeting.
2. Plan a bridging ceremony for the Blue and Gold banquet.
3. Attend a meeting of first-year Webelos Scouts to introduce them to Boy Scouting.
4. Send potential Troop Guides to Troop Guide Training at Pow Wow or Council Training.

## Persons Responsible

SM, TMC, SPL

SM

SM, TMC

SM, WL

SM, TMC

SM, TMC

SM, SPL

SM, CM, TMC, SPL

SM, TMC, CM

SM

**Key:**  
CM – Cubmaster      PLC – Patrol Leaders' Council      TCC – Troop Committee Chair      TMC – Troop Membership Chair  
SM – Scoutmaster      SPL – Senior Patrol Leader      TG – Troop Guide      WL – Webelos Den Leader

## FEBRUARY

### Webelos-to-Scout Transition

1. Hold the bridging ceremony at the Blue and Gold banquet.
2. Form a new Scout Patrol.
3. Get new Scouts actively involved with the Troop through Troop activities.
4. Recruit parents of new Scouts to become assistant Scoutmasters or Troop Committee Members.

### Troop Open House

1. Set a date and plan a Troop open house for March.

## MARCH

### Webelos-to-Scout Transition

1. Plan a Troop activity for new Scouts to get them involved with their new Troop.

### Troop Open House

1. Conduct a school rally introducing fifth and sixth-grade boys to Scouting. Have them complete the High Adventure Survey, No. 34241.
2. Follow-up with interested youth by sending a personal invitation to the Troop open house to their parents.
3. Hold the Troop open house to welcome potential Boy Scouts and their parents.
4. Plan a troop activity to get new Scouts involved with the Troop shortly after they join.

### Persons Responsible

SM, CM, SPL, TMC

SM

TMC, SM, CM, TG

TCC, SM

SM, TMC, SPL

PLC, SM, TMC, TG

SM, TMC, SPL

SM

SM, TMC, SPL

SM, TMC, TG, PLC

#### **Key:**

CM – Cubmaster  
SM – Scoutmaster

PLC – Patrol Leaders' Council  
SPL – Senior Patrol Leader

TCC – Troop Committee Chair  
TG – Troop Guide

TMC – Troop Membership Chair  
WL – Webelos Den Leader

## APRIL

### Webelos-to-Scout Transition

1. Conduct summer camp orientation to encourage Troop involvement.
2. Attend a meeting of Bear Cub Scouts to introduce them to Boy Scouting.
3. Sponsor a Troop activity for the new Scouts.

### Troop Open House

1. Sponsor a Troop activity for new Scouts.
2. Encourage each Troop member to attend summer camp. Conduct summer camp orientation to encourage full Troop involvement.

## MAY

### Webelos-to-Scout Transition

1. 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.
2. Work on rank advancement with new Scouts.

### Troop Open House

1. Work closely with new Scouts and parents, ensuring their needs are met and that joining has been natural and fun.
2. Work on rank advancement with new Scouts.

## JUNE

### All New Scouts

1. Ensure that all new Scouts attend summer camp.

## JULY

### All New Scouts

1. Work closely with new Scouts and parents, ensuring their needs are met and that Scouting is natural and fun.
2. Work on rank advancement with new Scouts.

### Persons Responsible

SM

SM, TMC, CM

SM, TMC, TG, PLC

SM, TMC, TG, PLC

SM, TMC

TMC

SM, SPL, TG

TMC

SM, SPL, TG

TMC, SM

TMC

SM, SPL, TG

#### **Key:**

CM – Cubmaster  
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WL – Webelos Den Leader

CONGRATULATIONS

YOU MADE IT ACROSS THE BRIDGE

Welcome to the Boy Scouts