Webelos to Boy Scout Transition

"A critical step in the journey of Scouting"

PLANNING

- PREPARATION

- PERFORMANCE

-SUCCESS

We must plan ahead for what you are going to do. If we are going to transition Webelos Scouts into Boy Scout Troops or (from a Webelos Leader's point of view) what you are going to do to get the Webelos graduated into Boy Scouts. You can then prepare for this transition with activities built along this plan. We must remember that the transition starts as soon as they become Webelos. A big part of the Webelos program (we'll be loyal Scouts) is to get them ready to be Boy Scouts. This is not just one persons or units job it will take the cooperation of both the Cub Scout Pack and the Boy Scout Troop. The Pack and Troop must be friends and work together to reach a common goal to see that all Scouts receive the chance to become successful Boy Scouts that reach the aims of Scouting CITIZENSHIP, PERSONAL FITNESS AND CHARACTER BUILDING. As you go thru the material you will see that getting the Weblos to be Boy Scouts is not just an event or a visit to a meeting, but it is a process that will take time and leadership.

The importance of a good WEBELOS Leader

- The leader must accept the need for a good outdoor program
- Must have knowledge of outdoor skills, fire building, cooking, wood tools and knots, camping, sanitation, tents and equipment.
- If he does not have the knowledge he must find help in an assistant or Den Chief.
- He must enjoy a good relationship with a Boy Scout Troop
- Should be trained in Scoutmaster Fundamentals. (outdoor program section)

The Webelos Den Leader Role

- Most influential in the Scouts preparation
- Should have the Webelos Den function like a patrol
- Make sure the Scouts go camping
- Make sure the necessary Scout Skills are taught

- Attend some Boy Scout Roundtables and get to know the Scoutmasters
- Attend troop meetings and recruit a Den Chief
- Plan the graduation/bridging ceremony with the Scout troop and promote the Troops summer activities
- Verify the transfer of documents (the boys' records)

The Scoutmaster's Role

- Include the Webelos Den in summer camp reservations and promotions
- Discuss camp, troop activities and the costs with the Webelos' parents
- Invite the Webelos and their parents to troop meetings and some outings and be welcoming
- Become part of the Pack graduation ceremony
- Assist in finding Den Chiefs for Webelos Dens
- Ensure all forms are completed
- Must see the good in having Webelos observe the Troop
- Invite the Webelos Den Leader to become part of the troop
- Hold a pre-summer camp orientation for Scout skills make sure these new Scouts are ready for long term camp

The Assistant Scoutmaster's Role

- 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 learning
- Assist with advancement thru first class
- Verify and reinforce the basic scout skills becomes a good role model

The Den Chief's Role

- A resource for scout skills
- Helps form the patrol and patrol spirit
- Help them to operate as a patrol using the patrol method

- Assists in the Arrow of Light and Cross Over ceremonies
- · Counts as Leadership time
- Become a good role model for these new Scouts

The Cubmaster's Role

- **NOW** –Search for Scout Troops; develop point-of-contact for the Troop; examine membership levels and activities within the Troop
- OCTOBER—Confirm the February Graduation; invite the Scoutmaster(s) SPL(s) and ASPL(s) to the Blue and Gold Banquet; encourage visitation to Troop meetings
- FEBRUARY TO APRIL—Conduct the Graduation; ensure the boys' records get transferred

The Unit Commissioner's Role

- Determine 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 Boy Scouts
- Attend graduations
- For those Webelos who do not join a Troop, determine why
 - · Family moving?
 - Parent problem?
 - Scout problem?
 - Troop problem?
 - Transportation?
 - Finances? (Be discreet)

A good Webelos Den Leader will:

- Trains the boys to be good scouts
- Enforce the requirements for camping and troop visitations (at least two and three best)
- Enforce the importance of the Arrow of Light Award (it's as important as the Eagle Award)
- Work for February to April graduation plan (to keep them interested)

Why a two year Webelos plan if they are going to graduate in Feb. to April

- Better retention
- Early transition is important so they are ready to go to summer camp. Summer camp is the highlight of a Scout Troops year
- 70-80% of Boy Scouts were Webelos
- Much better chance of retaining a scout if they attend summer camp their first year and have a good time
- The boys are looking forward to summer time fun
- May is the end of the year for school and sports
- Webelos is really a 22 month program
 - 1st year 4th grade, 12 months
 - 2nd year 5th grade, 10 months
- Arrow of Light in January of the second year
- Join the troop in February
- Graduate as a patrol and stay as a patrol in the Troop
- The SM and SA get to know the boys before they go to summer camp

Second Year Webelos Leaders

- Have the boys begin functioning as a patrol and not a Den
- Choose a patrol name
- Make a patrol flag
- Wear a patrol emblem/patch
- Elect patrol officers
- Rotate patrol positions

Use of Den Chiefs

- Resource for scout skills and help training
- Assists in operating the patrol
- Assist in the patrol graduation
- Counts as leadership time
- Becomes a role model
- Could also become the new patrols Guide

Find a troop early

Contact Commissioners, District Executive and Scoutmasters you know

- Ask other Scouters
- Ask at Scoutmaster Fundamentals
- Ask at Webelos Overnighter Training
- Plan joint activities
- Troop and Pack must work together year round to make this a success
- Build a good relationship with the boys in the troop
- Makes the transition natural and fun
- Make visits to Scout Troops till you find the one that fits

Planning the transition

- The Scoutmaster and the Webelos Den Leader should meet in Nov. or Dec. to:
- Share rosters
- Plan the transition graduation (bridging ceremony)
- Review camp plans and fees
- Set a date for the scoutmaster to meet with the Webelos' parents
- Do not leave them after Graduation visit the Troop when you can

Troop and Pack Committee

- Share the responsibility for the graduation ceremony
- Transfer Cub Scout Camp accounts
- Ensure the transfer of records and transfer application is completed

Graduation briefing to Webelos

- Remind the Webelos that Activity Badges are like Merit Badges
 - Accuracy is important
 - · Neatness is important
 - Timeliness is important
- The Arrow of Light qualifies the Webelos for the Scout Badge
- The Arrow of Light Ceremony equates to the Eagle ceremony for Boy Scouts. Ensure that the AOL ceremony is just as nice
- An impressive ceremony will instill in the boys the desire to continue

- Let them know they are continuing on the journey not starting something new
- Shows that the Scoutmaster and Troop junior leaders really want the boys in their Troop
- Make sure new parent understand the importance of the graduation and that they are only continuing on the Scouting journey