

Scouts BSA Breakout Session

Preparing New Scouts and Understanding Scout Led Program

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**Best Practices of Troop Adult
Leaders: Each leader speak about
what is done in their Troop**



Preparing New Scouts

- Webelos-to Scouts Transition:
 - Review Web Page: [Webelos-to-Scouts Transition | Boy Scouts of America \(scouting.org\)](https://www.scouting.org/webelos-to-scouts-transition/)
 - Responsibilities
 - Webelos to Scout Plan
 - Calendar



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Preparing New Scouts

- Webelos-to-Scouts Transition
- “Webelos” stands for “We’ll Be Loyal Scouts.” As Webelos near the end of the Cub Scout trail, it’s time for them to embrace that pledge and prepare for the next leg of the journey: Scouts BSA.
- **Webelos and their families should be familiar and comfortable with the youth and adult leaders of the Scouts BSA troop, their role in the troop and troop activities, and feel excited about beginning this new adventure.** The passage from a pack to a troop should be smooth, with no time lost in between. The crossover ceremony should clearly signify the transition to a new level of Scouting. It could include the presentation of the Arrow of Light badge, a Scouts BSA Handbook, and a troop neckerchief.
- The key factor to a good Webelos transition is the ongoing working **relationship of the leaders of a Cub Scout pack and a Scouts BSA 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 Scouts BSA troop the same way schools move students from elementary school to middle school.
- By **planning and coordinating** their efforts, the pack and troop can help make the Webelos-to-Scout transition seamless and give all Webelos Scouts a chance to experience the fun and excitement of joining a Scouts BSA troop.



Preparing New Scouts

Pack Responsibilities

It should be the goal of the Cubmaster and Webelos den leaders to graduate every Webelos Scout into a Scouts BSA troop. The key to accomplishing this is to **begin promoting the full Scouting journey when Cub Scouts** are still in their Tiger, Wolf, and Bear dens, helping Scouts and their families view Scouting as an ongoing adventure.

Pack and den leaders can use these tips to help Webelos take the next step and bridge into a Scouts BSA troop:

- Develop a working relationship with the leadership of a Scouts BSA troop or troops in the community. Most troops should have either an assistant Scoutmaster or a committee member assigned to new Scouts. Your unit commissioner can help put you in contact with troop leaders.
- Compare calendars of **troop and pack activities to coordinate**. Community events can be done together, and planning can help prevent conflicts in use of equipment and facilities.
- Work with troop leaders to secure **den chiefs** for each Webelos den and Cub Scout den.
- Work with troop leaders to plan and conduct **Webelos overnight activities**.
- Work with troop leaders to plan **visits to troop meetings**. Never show up without first calling in advance.
- Invite the **Scoutmaster and troop youth leaders to special pack activities**. This will help create familiarity and a level of comfort for the Webelos Scouts and their parents as they ease into the troop.
- Plan a meaningful **crossover** ceremony. Include troop leadership to be present to **accept the Webelos Scouts** as they graduate.
- Webelos leaders** should be strongly encouraged to **move into the troop with their Scouts**, either as assistant Scoutmasters or troop committee members. This will give them a familiar face at troop meetings and a connecting link.
- If a troop does not exist in your community, discuss with the head of the pack's chartered organization about the possibility of organizing a troop. **A graduating Webelos den can form the nucleus of a new troop.**



Preparing New Scouts

Troop Responsibilities

The transition from a Webelos den to a Scouts BSA troop is an important stage in the Scouting journey, but one of Scouting's greatest challenges is to make the next level of Scouting readily available for youth once they meet the joining requirements.

It is crucial that **Scout leaders do everything they can to make the process as seamless and inviting as possible for Webelos and their parents**, including:

- Select Scouts to serve as **den chiefs** for each Webelos Scout den and Cub Scout den. Arrange for den chief training.
- Serve as a resource for **overnight activities**. The troop can be of service to provide equipment, leadership, and logistics for Webelos campouts.
- Conduct an **orientation in the Bear Cub Scout dens** to explain how being a Webelos Scout will help prepare them for joining Scouts BSA.
- Webelos den/Scout troop campouts should show Webelos Scouts and their parents what to expect when they move into the troop. The troop should cook and camp by patrol and use skills that the Webelos Scouts can participate in.
- Arrange for **Webelos dens to visit a troop meeting**. This should be planned several weeks in advance.
- Provide each Webelos Scout a copy of the troop's activities for the upcoming year.
- Work with **Webelos den leaders to encourage them to move into the troop with their Webelos Scouts** and to serve either as committee members or assistant Scoutmasters to help create familiarity and a level of comfort for the Webelos Scouts and their parents as they ease into the troop.
- Conduct a Scoutmaster conference under the guidance of the Scoutmaster or the assistant designated by the Scoutmaster. This conference should cover the meaning of the Scout Oath and Law, the advancement program, troop camping, the patrol method, summer camp, and personal equipment.
- Work with the Cubmaster in planning a **meaningful crossover ceremony**.



Preparing New Scouts

Unit Commissioner Responsibilities

The **unit commissioner is the connecting link in the chain between the troop and the pack**. Often, the same unit commissioner will serve both a pack and troop in the same community, making them a great resource for assisting in the Webelos-to-Scout transition.

Unit commissioners can use these tips to help Webelos take the next step and bridge into a Scouts BSA troop:

- Be a **catalyst** in developing good relationships between troop and pack leaders.
- Promote** communication by scheduling a meeting of key volunteers.
- Help** plan a Webelos den visit to a troop meeting and other joint activities.
- Keep** the pack and troop on schedule as plans develop for the crossover ceremony.
- Attend** the crossover ceremony.
- Be sure** new Scouts have completed a Scouts BSA application, that they have a copy of the troop's activities, and that they know when and where the troop meets.
- Work with the pack and troop in their charter renewal process to help **ensure** Webelos Scouts are moved from pack rosters to troop rosters.
- Work** with the Webelos transition chair to follow up on youth who have not yet joined a troop. **Make sure** they are invited to join a troop.
- Be sure** Webelos Scouts join a troop in time to prepare for Scout summer camp.



Preparing New Scouts

District Webelos Transition Chair

Another key role for a successful Webelos-to-Scout transition is the district Webelos transition chair. This person is a member of the district membership committee and is charged with **making sure every Webelos Scout is given an opportunity to join a troop**. A district Webelos transition chair can use these tips to help Webelos take the next step and bridge into a Scouts BSA troop:

- Contact all packs in early fall to update **a list of all fifth-grade Webelos Scouts**.
- Coach Cubmasters and Webelos den leaders** in the transition process at roundtables, training courses, and through personal contact.
- Report** to the membership committee chair and keep the district committee informed.
- Track and maintain **records of Webelos graduation** by using a wall chart that lists the transition record of each pack.
- Work with unit commissioners to **follow up** on Webelos Scouts who have not joined a troop.
- Work toward 100 percent Webelos transition.**



Preparing New Scouts

August		Person Responsible
	1Get names, addresses, and telephone numbers of second-year Webelos Scouts. Record the information on the Webelos Scout Tracking form.	TMC, WDL, CM
	2Plan a joint Scout troop/Webelos den camping trip for October.	SM, PLC, CM, WDL
	3Plan a program of upcoming events to present at a Webelos den meeting visit in November.	TMC
	4Select a den chief for each Webelos den.	SM, SPL, CM
September		Person Responsible
	1Mail a letter of introduction from the Scout troop to second-year Webelos Scouts to introduce them to the troop.	TMC, SM
	2Put second-year Webelos Scouts on the mailing list to receive the troop newsletter.	TMC
	3Continue planning the joint camping trip for October.	SM, PLC, CM, WDL
October		Person Responsible
	1Conduct the joint camping trip with the Webelos den.	SM, TMC, SPL, CM
November		Person Responsible
	1Attend a Webelos den meeting to teach the Webelos Scouts how the Scout troop works.	SM, TMC, SPL
	2Have den chiefs attend a local council or district training course.	SM
December		Person Responsible
	1Set a date for Webelos Scouts and their parents to visit a Scout troop meeting in January.	SM, WDL
	2If desired, send a small holiday gift to each Webelos Scout.	SM, TMC
January		Person Responsible
	1Host Webelos Scouts and their parents at a troop meeting.	SM, SPL
	2Plan a bridging ceremony to welcome graduating Webelos Scouts to their new troop.	SM, CM, TMC, SPL
	3Attend a meeting of first-year Webelos Scouts to introduce them to Scouts BSA.	SM, TMC, CM
February		Person Responsible
	1Recommended time to hold cross-over ceremony.	SM, CM, SPL, TMC
	2Get new Scouts actively involved with the troop through troop activities.	TMC, SM, CM
	3Recruit parents of new Scouts to become assistant Scoutmasters or troop committee members.	TCC, SM
March		Person Responsible
	1Plan a troop activity for new Scouts to get them involved with their new troop.	PLC, SM, TMC, TG
April		Person Responsible
	1Conduct summer camp orientation to encourage troop involvement.	SM
	2Attend a meeting of Bear Cub Scouts to introduce them to Scouts BSA.	SM, TMC, CM
	3Sponsor a troop activity for the new Scouts.	SM, TMC, TG, PLC
May		Person Responsible
	1Work closely with new Scouts and parents during their transition to a troop, ensuring their needs are met and that their move has been natural and fun.	TMC
	2Work on rank advancement with new Scouts.	SM, SPL, TG
June		Person Responsible
	1Ensure that all new Scouts attend summer camp.	TMC, SM
July		Person Responsible
	1Work closely with new Scouts and parents during their transition to a troop, ensuring their needs are met and that their move has been natural and fun.	TMC
	2Work on rank advancement with new Scouts.	SM, SPL, TG



Understanding Scout Led Program



Watch Video:

[Scouts BSA Roundtable August 2021 - Scout Led Program on Vimeo](#)



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