



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Webelos to Scout Transition



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Why We Need A Plan

In years past, it was almost automatic that Webelos would cross over into Boy Scouts.



Not anymore...



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The percentage of Webelos that cross over into Boy Scouts has been dropping every year due to many factors.

This past Spring, less than 25% made the transition.

Date	5th Grade Webelos	Webelos Retention	Date	Scouts	Scout Retention	
12/31/2017	1120		12/31/2017	2226		
2/28/2018	759	68%	2/28/2018	1799	81%	Scout Retention
			6/30/2018	1934		
				135		Gain in Scouts
				18%		Webelos Crossover



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We need to do something different to change this trend.

Issues we must understand first:

- There are many more options out there for youth than when we were growing up
- The advent of video entertainment
- The dangers to children in our society (bullying)





We need to:

- Provide a program that meets the needs and interests of youth and parents
- Educate youth and parents about the older Scout program – it's different than Cub Scouts
- Give youth and parents to opportunity to become familiar and comfortable with your troop
- Be visible in the community on a regular basis





People involved in the Transition Process

- Webelos den leaders
- Pack leaders
- Troop leaders
- Commissioners
- District Membership team

And of course Webelos and their parents!





District Membership Team

Ideally, the district membership committee has someone that coordinates the Webelos to Scout Transition process. They would:

- Share the plan with Pack and Troop leaders
- Work with the district executive to gather, share and track data
- Inform commissioners how they can help in the process
- Make sure that every youth that hasn't joined a troop by May is contacted





Commissioners

Unit commissioners work directly with unit leaders. They can help the transition process by:

- Assisting with charter renewal and help identify Webelos eligible to join a troop
- Promoting communication among unit leaders
- Helping educate Webelos and their parents about the older Scout program





Troop Leaders

It will take a team effort for troops to attract youth members. Troops that do the following things will be more successful:

- Establish connections with packs in your area (get to know the Webelos leader, Cubmaster and committee)
- Recruit Den Chiefs to work with den leaders
- Invite Cub Scouts to troop activities and campouts
- Assist Cubmasters with cross over ceremonies
- Provide a high-quality program





Pack Leaders

The goal of every pack should be to have as many youth as possible continue in the Scouting program. Pack leaders can:

- Establish connections with troops in your area (get to know the Scoutmaster and committee)
- Helping educate Webelos and their parents about the older Scout program
- Encourage Webelos leaders to participate in troop activities and campouts
- Provide a high-quality program
 - Address issues with dens losing members





Webelos Leaders

Often, where the Webelos leader goes – the youth will follow. But they should encourage all youth to join a troop, even if it is not the one they are joining. Webelos leaders should:

- Run den meetings that are interesting to the Webelos
- Talk with parents about the older Scout program (and the role of parents)
- Take the den on visits to troop activities and campouts





Webelos

When can a youth join a troop?

- A youth must be 11 years of age, or
- Completed the 5th grade, or
- Have earned the Arrow of Light in Cub Scouts and are at least 10 years of age





Timeline

December

List of eligible Scouts distributed to Scoutmasters at Roundtable or via email

January

Confirm Dates for March or April Open House with district executive

February

Webelos personally invited to attend Open House (if scheduled for March)



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Timeline

March

District executive will visit schools and distribute fliers to interested youth inviting them to attend Troop Open House

Troop Open Houses conducted

Webelos personally invited to attend Open House (if scheduled for April)

April

District executive will visit schools and distribute fliers to interested youth inviting them to attend Troop Open House

Troop Open Houses conducted





Timeline

May

Any Webelos that have not joined a troop yet are contacted

Summer

New Scouts attend Summer Camp – very important!

Scouts that don't attend summer camp
are more likely to drop out of Scouting
than those who do.



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When Webelos Visit A Troop

Imagine you are a parent of a Webelos and you visit a troop activity or campout. What would you expect to see?

What would you do if you saw bad behavior from the Scouts?

What would you do if you saw a lack of adult leadership in the troop?

Webelos and parents will join a troop they feel comfortable with.





Troop Open House – Do's & Don'ts

Do's:

- Make sure you personally invite Webelos and parents to attend (have your Scouts invite their friends too!)
- Make everyone feel welcome
- Have hands-on activities for the youth and parents to do – teach a skill such as starting a fire with flint and steel
- Show a video from summer camp
- Have snacks and drinks (or better yet have the youth and parents make something on a campfire)
- Follow up after the open house





Troop Open House – Do's & Don'ts

Don'ts:

- Be disorganized
- Let your Scouts hang out with just their friends by themselves (don't let the leaders do that either)
- Just talk about your troop – show them
- Others?





Now, Something Completely Different...

What if you got to know a den leader really well,

And convinced them to join your troop when the youth were old enough to join,

And offered them space for them to have their den meetings in the same location and time as your troop meeting – kind of like having another patrol

What would happen?





Questions – call (701) 293-5011



Thank you for your time!

