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WEBELOS-TO-SCOUT TRANSITION

One of Scouting's greatest challenges is to make the next level of Scouting readily available for a youth once he meets the joining requirements. It is the goal of every Webelos den leader to graduate every Webelos Scout into a troop.

The key factor to 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 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.

The Webelos-to-Scout transition should be seamless. Graduating Webelos Scouts into Boy Scouting is a cooperative effort between the pack and troop. It gives Webelos Scouts and their families an awareness of the troop program, troop leadership, and advancement and an appreciation for troop organization and relationships.

The Webelos-to-Scout transition helps boys by

- Introducing them to Boy Scouting skills and future advancement experiences
- Giving them the opportunity to see boy leadership at work in the troop and sense their own potential as junior leaders
- Allowing them to become more confident and enthusiastic about the patrol method
- Giving them the desire for troop membership as the result of this gradual exposure to troop-oriented activities.

The Webelos-to-Scout transition plan also helps leaders:

- **For the Webelos den leader**, it means fulfillment. He or she can see the time spent with a boy as productive because of the boy's desire to continue in Scouting. It also means direct help in advancement and on Webelos overnight campouts, as well as a pleasant association with the Boy Scout troop.
- **For the Cubmaster**, it means assurance of stable Webelos dens, more graduations, better ceremonies, easy access to den chiefs, and pack meetings that feature lively Webelos dens with Boy Scout troop guests.
- **For the troop leader**, it means more boys—boys already trained in the Boy Scout joining requirements and boys whose families have been supporting them in pack activities.

A pack and troop can work together in a number of ways to enhance the Scouting experience of their boys. Assuring a smooth transition requires cooperation among the Cub Scout pack, Boy Scout troop, unit commissioner, and district Webelos transition chair.

Pack Responsibilities

- Develop a working relationship with the leadership of a Boy Scout troop or troops in the community. Most troops should have either an assistant Scoutmaster or a committee member assigned to new Scout transition. Your unit commissioner can help put you in contact with troop leaders.
- Compare calendars of troop and pack activities to coordinate activities. Community events can be done together, and planning can help prevent conflicts in the use of equipment and facilities.

