

Webelos to Boy Scouts Transition Hints

Scoutmaster Hints

As a Scoutmaster of a troop, the ongoing success of the troop is directly dependent on new boys joining the group. Most boys join by crossing over from a Webelos den so a good relationship with the packs in your area is important. The end of the Webelos program is also a time when many scouts drop out of scouting because they saw it as an end rather than a beginning.

Many troops have a 'Webelos Transition Chairman' or 'Recruiting Chairman' that handles much of the tasks listed here.

1. Expect to be the driving force of getting Webelos to move on to Boy Scouts. Most Webelos den leaders are not familiar with Boy Scouts. They volunteered to be a Tiger leader out of necessity for their son and now feel they are nearly at the end of their time commitment. Many of them do not understand that the Webelos program's main goal is to prepare boys to join a troop.
2. Know the Cubmaster of your feeder pack and have his/her email and phone number available. Ask when in the year Webelos den leaders are identified and then ask for their names, email, and phone numbers as soon as they are chosen.
3. Offer to have scouts help with Pack events such as Pinewood Derby, Blue and Gold, or Conservation projects.
4. Introduce yourself to each Webelos den leader as early as possible. Set up a 15 minute meeting to get to know them and make sure they know how valuable their work is to your troop. Offer the services of your scouts to help with their program.
5. Select a Den Chief from your troop to help with each Webelos den. Have them attend Den Chief training. If your troop changes leadership positions in September or October, a scout becoming Den Chief at that time for a 5th grade den can become their Troop Guide in the spring. This consistency is good for the new scouts. It does require a one year commitment from the Den Chief scout, but it is a great opportunity to increase his leadership skills.
6. Work with your Senior Patrol Leader to ensure there are activities on the fall schedule to support the Arrow of Light requirements that the Webelos can attend. They need to attend a troop meeting and one outdoor scout activity.
7. Make sure Webelos den leaders and Cubmasters are aware of your scheduled events well in advance. Give them copies of the coming year's schedule - enough copies so every Webelos scout can have one.
8. Promote the Summit Award and take advantage of returning to the pack in the fall with some of the scouts to present their award.
9. Contact Cubmaster in January to find out when and where the pack cross-over ceremony will be held. Offer to have troop representatives there to welcome Webelos crossing over into your troop.
10. Contact Webelos den leader in December or January to arrange scoutmaster conferences with each Webelos scout earning the Arrow of Light.
11. Attend Roundtable meetings and greet Cubmasters and den leaders that you see.
12. When Webelos decide to join your troop, remind them that this is the BEST time for a boy to join scouting. It is a new adventure in a new group so it's all brand new. Ask every new scout to invite one non-scout friend to visit a troop meeting with him. Let him know that he can earn a Recruiter strip if a friend joins the troop.