

# WEBELOS TO SCOUT TRANSITION

## WHO'S RESPONSIBILITY IS IT?

"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.

### Pack Responsibilities

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.

- 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.

### Troop Responsibilities

The transition from a Webelos den to a Scouts BSA troop is an important stage in the Scouting journey. 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.
- Work with Webelos den leaders to encourage them to move into the troop with their Webelos Scouts.
- Work with the Cubmaster in planning a meaningful crossover ceremony.