

Bears to Webelos Transition

Bears To Webelos Transition, 2014 Tri-Council Powwow,
Richard Chung

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You're not in Bear Country Anymore

- The Webelos rank is the transition from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts.
- Bears scouts are in a den. Webelos scouts are in patrols. They should choose a patrol name.
- Unlike the other ranks where they can knock off their requirements at their own pace, the Webelos patrol goes through the program as a team.

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What are some of the differences?

- Term: T/W/B program is one year. The Webelos program is 18 months.
- Uniform. Webelos scouts can wear the olive shirt. (Not recommended until after the scout has earned their Webelos badge).
- Webelos scouts can camp overnight as a patrol. One leader must take the Webelos Outdoor Leader Training class.

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Let's get started

- Two main goals for the Webelos program: the Webelos badge and the Arrow Of Light award (AOL).
- The scouts will have 18 months to do one or both of these. But remember if after the 18 months (usually around February/ March) the scout has not earned his AOL, he will not be allowed to bridge into boy Scouts. That scout must wait until he finishes the 5th grade.

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Record Keeping

- My personal preferences:
- Have the scouts keep a notebook.
- Use worksheets for each achievement. (www.meritbadge.org).
- Only allow the Den Leader or the assistant to sign off on achievements.
- This notebook serves a proof that the scout has fulfilled the requirements.

Plan your year

- The program is 18 months long. There are 20 achievements. Some units will allot about 1 month per achievement. There is a "Got them all" patch for those scouts that get all 20.
- Remember to include Pinewood derby, Raingutter Regatta, Space derby.
- With proper planning, the scouts should get both the Webelos badge and AOL without the mad rush before bridging.

Get connected

- If you have not done so already, get connected to one or more Boy Scout Troops or Venture Crew. You want the scouts to have as much interaction with a Troop/ Crew as possible.
- Troops/ Crew can be a resource for you when you get to certain achievements.
- Troops can help you with your bridging ceremony.

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Things to do before Bridging

- Before bridging, each scout needs to visit one or more Troops. Not only is this a requirement for the AOL, but it allows them to choose which Troop they will want to bridge into. One Troop may not be a perfect fit for a certain scout. A Troop may do more backpacking, whereas another will do more High Adventure. Find out what the scout wants, and then go find it.

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Things to do before Bridging

- For your planned Troop visit, NEVER tell the Troop you will be visiting beforehand. You want to be able to see how they operate normally. You might fall for a “song and dance” only to be disappointed later.
- Plan a campout with a Troop. This you can do and is a requirement for AOL.

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Let's have some fun

- Baden-Powell, the Founder of Scouting, referred to scouting as “Fun with a Purpose”.
- There are outings where Webelos can have fun:
 - Webelos Woods
 - Rocket Academy
 - Overnights: U.S.S. Midway

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Recommended Training

- Attend a live Webelos Den Leader's specific training course.
- Take on-line training.
- -Youth Protection
- -This is Scouting and Fast Start
- -Webelos Den Leader Specific

Other Recommended Training

- CPR
- First Aid
- Webelos Outdoor Leader Training
- BALOO (Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation)
- Wood Badge

Resources

- Any Scout shop.
- Other leaders/ parents in your Pack.
- Roundtables.
- On-line.

Thank You

- Thank you for taking time out of your day to attend this course. The Boy Scouts of America would not be what it is today without dedicated adults like yourselves.