



# Best Practices

## Webelos to Scout Transition for Packs



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# Scouting's Organizing Principle #1

**Scouting is a volunteer driven membership movement**

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# Movement

**A group of people joining together  
for a common cause**



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# Scouting's Organizing Principle #2

## Partnership with Community Organizations

(Refer to Annual Charter Agreement)

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# Call to Service

If you or someone else in your unit have unique skills in;

- Leadership
- Fundraising
- Training
- Event planning

and have an interest at another level beyond the unit, please let this presenter know or contact your local district executive.

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# State of the Unit

**Talk about how your unit is doing** (2 minutes)

- **Is it growing**
- **Share some calendar highlights**
- **Is it financially sound**

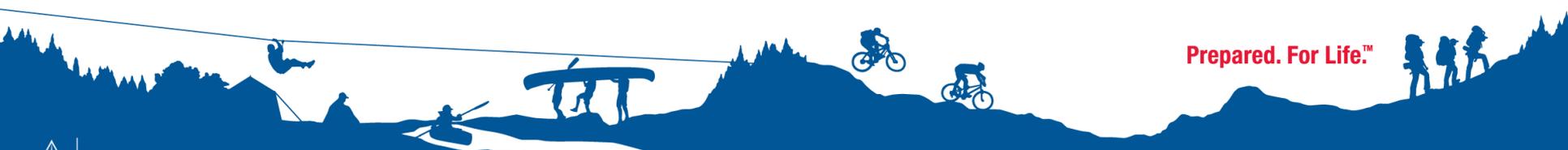
**What do you do best** (5 minutes)

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# Time to begin your module



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# What will I take away from this?

- **The Mission of the Boy Scouts of America**
- **The purpose of helping Cub Scout become Boy Scouts**
- **Successful tips and ideas for help**
- **Why it is important to build a relationship with local troops**
- **Support**
- **Success Matrix**

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# Purpose of Boy Scouts of America

## Mission

- The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.



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# Scout Oath

**On my honor I will do my best  
to do my duty to God and my country  
and to obey the Scout Law;  
to help other people at all times;  
to keep myself physically strong,  
mentally awake, and morally straight.**

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# Scout Law

**A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.**

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# Outcomes

**Men who were Scouts five or more years are more likely than men with no Scouting experience to:**

- ❖ **Graduate from high school (91 percent vs. 87 percent)**
- ❖ **Graduate from college (35 percent vs. 19 percent)**
- ❖ **Earn higher annual household incomes (\$80,000 vs. \$61,000)**

**\*Research Conducted by Harris Interactive**

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# Successful Webelos to Scout Transition

- The passage from Cub Scout pack to Boy Scout troop should be smooth, with no time lost in between. By the time Webelos Scouts are ready to cross over, they and their families should be familiar and comfortable with the youth and adult leaders of the troop, their role in the troop and troop activities, and feel excited about beginning this new adventure.

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# Keys to a Successful Transition into Boy Scouting

- Have a goal
- Promotion
- Engage a local troop or troops

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## Have a goal

- It should be the goal of the Cubmaster and Webelos den leaders to graduate every Webelos Scout into a Boy Scout troop.

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# Promotion

- The key to accomplishing this is to begin promoting Boy Scouting when Cub Scouts are still in their Tiger, Wolf, and Bear dens, and to sell the sizzle of the great outdoors. Scouting should be viewed as an ongoing adventure, and the progression should be as normal as moving from elementary school to middle school.

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# Build a relationship with local troops

- Another key factor to improved Webelos transition is the ongoing working relationship of the leaders of a Cub Scout pack and a Boy Scout troop. Your unit commissioner can help put you in contact with troop leaders
- Contact local troops and invite them to help at key pack events, after all you are the youth and leaders that will be the troop in years to come
- Key events
  - School night (do activities with Cub Scouts so parents can engage in the process)
  - Blue and Gold (support graduation ceremony)
  - Pack planning meeting (do activities with Cub Scouts so parents can engage in the process)

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## Other tips to work with a troop

- **Compare calendars of troop and pack activities to coordinate activities. 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 as many Cub Scout dens as possible.** (A den leader is an older Boy Scout, elected by the troop who is an assistant to the den leader for program and activities)
- **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.**

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## Other tips to work with a troop

- Plan a meaningful crossover ceremony at the pack's blue and gold banquet. Include troop leadership to be present to accept the Webelos Scouts as they graduate to Boy Scouting.
- Webelos leaders should be strongly encouraged to move into the troop with the boys, either as assistant Scoutmasters or troop committee members. This will give the new Scouts a familiar face at troop meetings and a connecting link to Boy Scouting.
- 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.
- If a troop does not exist in your community, discuss with the your district leadership the possibility of organizing a troop. Organizing Webelos den can form the nucleus of a new troop.

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# More suggestions to work with a troop

- Encourage Webelos den to attend at least 1 troop meeting, Skills Night, and 1 campout during their 5th grade year.
- Have the Webelos dens take a field trip their 4th grade and 5th grade year to Camp Ransburg or Camp Krietenstein for one day during the summer. Have someone from the troop give them a tour of camp.
- Invite Boy Scouts to your Webelos dens telling them about the fun and exciting things they get to do within their troop. Ask them to share their annual program plan of outdoor adventure including monthly campouts, canoe trips, backpacking trips, etc.
- Ask Boy Scout leaders within the troop to help the Webelos leader teach the activity pins.

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## Troop support

- Ask your Boy Scout troop(s) to assign an assistant Scoutmaster or a troop committee member to be responsible for new Scouts, which would include developing a relationship with your Cubmasters and the Webelos den leaders. This person serves as a resource during Webelos overnight activities and builds enthusiasm among boys and their parents for the exciting challenges that await them in Boy Scouting. One of a troop's greatest challenges is to make the next level of Scouting readily available for a young man once he meets the joining requirements

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# Where can I find this information?

- **Council and District Websites**
  - Council membership page  
<http://www.crossroadsbsa.org/Membership.aspx>
- **National Boy Scouts of America Website**
  - Improved Webelos Transition  
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/ImprovedWebelosTransition.aspx>
- **Printed materials**
- **Council Newsletter**
- **District Newsletters**
- **Roundtable and District Kick-off**

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# Who can Help?

- **First contact should *always* be your Unit Commissioner**
- **District Webelos to Scout Chair or team**
- **District Commissioner and staff**
- **District Executives**
- **Council Support Staff**

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# What does success look like.....

- **Journey to Excellence worksheet, dashboard with the goal being to earn the Gold JTE Award. Use it as a tool to gauge how well you are doing through the year.**
  - Bronze Level - With a troop, hold two joint activities, one of which is a parent orientation and camp promotion meeting.
  - Silver Level - 60% of eligible Webelos register with a troop.
  - Gold Level - 80% of eligible Webelos register with a troop.

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