Interest Topic: Webelos/Arrow of Light Transition to Scouts

Cub Scout Roundtable			
Time Allotted	**Activity**	**Assigned to**	**Content**
30–40 minutes	General session for all participants	Cub Scout roundtable and participants	This session will provide an overview of the Webelos/AOL to Scout transition process and what steps need to be taken to ensure a smooth transition for each Scout. This is also important to the ongoing relationship between the pack and the troop. "Tiger Scout to Venturing," located in the General Session section, may also be shared during this session. Encourage the pack to participate in occasional activities with a local Scout troop. Invite the troop to participate in pack activities as well. Share ideas for joint pack/troop activities, such as pinewood derbies, raingutter regattas, bicycle rodeos, or using a den chief. Share some best practices for retention and transitioning from one rank to the next in the Cub Scouting program. Also provide a quick overview of the Webelos Scout program. Discuss the role of adult leaders in the Webelos/AOL to Scout transition process, including a review of the timeline involved (see General Session section). Discuss the Cubmaster's role in the transition process. From the Resources section of this interest topic, review the transition timetable, pack responsibilities, and the duties of a district Webelos transition chair. Discuss the committee's role in the transition process, including a review of the timeline involved, pack responsibilities, and the duties of a district Webelos transition chair (all in General Session section).
10 minutes	Q&A	Cub Scout roundtable team	Opportunity to answer any additional questions
5 minutes	Closing	Cub Scout roundtable commissioner	Perform the Cub Scout Trail ceremony located in the Resources section.

Topic: Webelos/Arrow of Light to Scout Transition
Takeaway: Transition time (crossing over) is important to the Scout, as it is the next big step in a Scouting career. It is also important to the health of the Scout troop. Having a transition plan that includes the Scout, the family, the pack, and the troop is the key to successful transition. Smooth and effective transition through the ranks and into a troop will be helpful in retention of the Scout.

Transition from Arrow of Light (Cub Scouting) to Scouting may occur at any time of year, but ideally it occurs sometime in the months of November through February. The local pack(s) and troop(s) should work together. The transition may or may not be a part of a pack meeting. If it is, the pack meeting agenda will need to include the crossover ceremony, and the time necessary for it.

GENERAL SESSION

Explain that although this roundtable session is focused on Webelos/AOL to Scout transition, it is important that the leaders remember there is a transition period between each rank, and, as leaders, each of us is responsible for doing all we can to ensure that the transition happens: Lion to Tiger, Tiger to Wolf, Wolf to Bear, and Bear to Webelos.

Keeping the Webelos program front and center of the pack—along with the crossover ceremony—will create a visual enticement for the Lion, Tiger, Wolf, and Bear Scout to continue to work hard. Seeing the age-appropriate activities and camping opportunities as well as troop interaction will make them aspire to the Eagle rank.

Discuss the Webelos leader's role in the Webelos to Scout transition process. Provide a discussion on the timeline involved (see Resources section) so that the transition

happens and the Cub Scout goes from the pack to the troop without missing any meetings or events with the troop.

- Troop visits—When the Cub Scout transitions into a Scout troop, there should be a feeling of comfort and familiarity with the troop being joined. If you are in a large area with many units, how do you share contact information for all of the packs and troops?
- Timeline—Review the Webelos to Scout transition timeline found in the Webelos to Scout Transition Plan below. Discussion may include visiting troop meetings, participating in troop activities, and getting to know the members of the troop. All of these things happening in a timely manner will enable each Scout to have a smooth transition.
- Discuss the Cubmaster's role in the transition process. Review the pack responsibilities in the Webelos to Scout Transition Plan. Discussion may include having den chiefs from the troop and planning Webelos overnight activities.
- Discuss the committee's role in the transition process. Review the Webelos to Scout Transition Plan. Discussions could include involving the unit commissioner, involving the district Webelos to Scout transition chair, and comparing calendars with the troop and pack to coordinate activities.

Tiger Scout to Venturing

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

- 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 Scouts. Your unit commissioner can help put you in contact with troop leaders.
- Compare troop and pack calendars to coordinate activities. Community events can be done together.
- Work with troop leaders to secure den chiefs for each 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 making arrangements 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 at the pack's blue and gold banquet. Have troop leadership present to accept the Webelos Scouts as they graduate to Scouting.
- Webelos leaders should be strongly encouraged to move into the troop with the Scouts, 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 Scouting.
- If a troop does not exist in your community, discuss with the head of the pack's chartered organization the possibility of organizing a troop. A graduating Webelos Scout den can form the nucleus of a new troop.

Webelos to Scout Transition Timetable

August

- Get names, addresses, and telephone numbers of second-year Webelos Scouts.
- Plan a joint Scout troop/Webelos den camping trip for October or earlier.
- Plan a Scout presentation at a Webelos den meeting to be held two months prior to the crossover to explain to the Webelos Scouts how the Scout troop works.
- Select a den chief for each Webelos den.
- Have den chiefs attend a local council or district training course.

September

- Mail a letter of introduction from the Scout troop to second-year Webelos Scouts to introduce them to the troop. The letter should include an invitation to join the troop.
- Put second-year Webelos Scouts on the mailing list to receive the troop newsletter electronically.
- Continue planning the joint camping trip.
- Set a date for Webelos Scouts and their parents to visit a Scout troop meeting.

October

- Conduct the joint camping trip with the Webelos Scouts, if you have not already done so.
- Conduct the Scout presentation during the Webelos den meeting visit two months prior to the crossover to explain to the Webelos Scouts how the troop works.

- Have the Webelos Scouts and their parents visit a troop meeting. Conduct a recruitment meeting/orientation for the parents of the prospective Scouts. Discuss summer camp.
- Plan an Arrow of Light ceremony and bridging to be conducted at the blue and gold banquet in February (or another time) to welcome graduating Webelos Scouts to their new troop.

November–February

- Conduct the Arrow of Light ceremony and bridging. Include Scouts from the troop and the Scoutmaster.
- Get new Scouts actively involved with the troop through troop activities.
- Recruit parents of new Scouts to become assistant Scoutmasters or troop committee members.

November–May

- Work closely with new Scouts and parents during their transition to the Scout troop, ensuring their needs are met and that their move has been smooth and fun.

December–May

- Work on rank advancement with new Scouts.
- Prepare the new Scouts for summer camp. Conduct a camp orientation for the parents.

January

- Attend a meeting for first-year Webelos Scouts to introduce them to Scouting.

March–April

- Invite Boy Scouts to assist the pack with its pinewood derby.

April

- Attend a meeting of Bear Scouts to introduce them to Scouting.

May

- Continue to prepare the new Boy Scouts for summer camp.

June–August

- Ensure that all new Scouts attend summer camp.
- Work on rank advancement with new Scouts.

Duties of the District Webelos Transition Chair

- Contact all packs in early fall to update a list of all fifth-grade Webelos Scouts.
- Coach Cubmasters and Webelos den leaders in the transition process at roundtables and training courses, and through personal contact.
- Report to the membership committee chair, and keep the district committee informed.
- Track and maintain records of Webelos graduation by using a wall chart that lists the transition record of each pack.
- Work with unit commissioners to follow up on Webelos Scouts who have not joined a troop.
- Work toward 100 percent Webelos to Scout transition.

Note: A helpful hint is to set up a wall chart (or similar monitoring method) of the months your district units intend to transition to a troop. This will be the guide for activity planning, ceremony arrangements, etc.

RESOURCES

Closing: Cub Scout Trail
Preparation: A leader holds a Bobcat badge; a Tiger Scout holds a Tiger badge; a Wolf Scout holds a Wolf badge; a Bear Scout holds a Bear badge; a Webelos Scout leader holds a Webelos badge, a den chief holds an Arrow of Light award, and a Scoutmaster or senior patrol leader holds a Boy Scout badge. (Enlarged color print outs may be used as well.) Space the badges apart so that they form a trail.

Narrator: Tonight, we are honoring some Webelos Scouts who are moving forward along the Scouting trail. Will the following Scouts please come forward? (Call the names.) You are taking a giant step—from Cub Scouting to Scouting. We would like to think back on some of the steps you have taken along the way.

(Walk with the Scouts to the Bobcat station.) Remember when you joined Cub Scouts? The Cub Scout motto, the Scout Law, and the Scout Oath were new to you then. It seemed hard at first, but now you know them well.

(Walk with the Scouts to the Tiger station.) At this stop, you worked on adventures that included exploring the world around you, and learning to be part of a team.

(Walk with the Scouts to the Wolf station.) At this stop, you worked on adventures that taught you how to howl at the moon and how to help your community.

(Walk with the Scouts to the Bear station.) While working on the Bear badge, your adventures were becoming full of responsibility as you earned your Whittling Chip card and learned how to take care of yourself on a campout.

(Walk with the Scouts to the Webelos station.) As Webelos Scouts, your adventures continued, becoming more difficult as your skills grew. You explored how to be strong in body and spirit and how to help others in need.

(Walk with the Scouts to the Arrow of Light station.) As you reached for the highest award in Cub Scouting, you learned

how you can build a better world and experienced outdoor activities in your Scouting Adventure. All you have learned during your Cub Scout trail has made you better, stronger, and wiser.

(Walk with the Scouts to the Scout station.) And now you have reached the beginning of a new trail. I would like to introduce your new Scoutmaster and senior patrol leader. (The Scoutmaster and senior patrol leader take a few moments to welcome the new Scouts.)