

Webelos-to-Scout Transition Guidelines & Recommendations

Northeast Iowa Council, Boy Scouts of America

November 4, 2019 *(last update)*



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www.scoutsiowa.com

563-556-4343 Council office

GOAL 1: To help encourage all Cub Scouts to transition to Scouts BSA seamlessly and to provide support for all leaders and parents in helping their units facilitate this transition.

GOAL 2: Get all Packs and Troops in NEIC on same timeline to allow time for scouts to be active with their Troop with time to be prepared for a week-long summer camp.

Troops and Packs are encouraged to communicate early and often in the Webelos-to-Scout transition process and should make sure they are coordinating events, visits and open houses throughout the year.

The **NEIC recommends the Cub Scout Webelos 5th grade program ends in February.** Ideally, Webelos scouts should transition to Scouts BSA in February so they have time to get prepared for Scout summer camp experience away from home for a week.

It is acceptable for the Webelos Scout to attend both Pack/Den Meetings and Scouts BSA Troop meetings if necessary until he/she finishes their Arrow of Light requirements. But, once you are registered as Scouts BSA, you may not go back to earning any Webelos or Cub-level awards. Conversely, you cannot earn any Scouts BSA ranks until you register as a scout in Scouts BSA.

There is no requirement that a Webelos Scout join a specific Troop, even if the Troop is hosted by or at the same chartered-organization as the Pack. A **Webelo can join any Troop that meets the needs, beliefs and values of their family.**

Recommendations for Cub Scout Leaders and Scouts BSA Leaders and the roles they play in Webelos-to-Scout Transition are provided by the NEIC at scoutsiowa.org. There is also a list of suggested questions that parents may ask at Scouts BSA Troop visits.

You may also reference national scouting site for recommendations at <https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/improved-webelos-transition/>

Scouts BSA Joining Requirements:

Youth can join Scouts BSA if they have completed the fifth grade and are at least 10 years old, OR have earned the Arrow of Light Award and are at least 10 years old, OR are age 11 but have not reached age 18. (<https://www.scouting.org/discover/faq/question1/>)

Northeast Iowa Council, BSA Recommended Timeline for Webelos-to-Scout Transition

last update 10/28/19

April (3rd Grade) - Sign up graduating 3rd graders for Webelos Overnight Camp during summer (See scoutsiowa.org >Camping > Cub Scout Camp)

4th Grade - Webelos activities should start in 4th Grade Webelos. Work on Webelos badge achievements and Arrow of Light.

5th Grade Webelos:

August - Sept. (5th grade) - Webelos leaders and Troop leaders should make contact and start sharing schedules/calendars of activities that could be mutually beneficial. If you don't know them, contact your Unit Commissioner or the Scout Office for leader info.

Sept. - Nov. (5th grade)

- Webelos Dens and Troops can plan outings, visits or other activities together. Webelos Dens should not visit Troop meetings unannounced. Always set this up in advance between leaders.*
- Meet with Webelos parents and scouts to communicate the requirements for joining a Scouts BSA Troop. Encourage all Webelos to join Scouts BSA and make connections with one or more Troops to see what fits them and their family best.

Nov. - Dec. (5th grade) - The District/Council will be providing a Webelos-to-Scout Transition Meeting for all leaders, parents and scouts in late Fall which you should attend and encourage your parents/scouts to also. Review this information in one of your Den Meetings including parents if everyone cannot attend the district meeting.

November - January (5th grade)- recommend that Troops host Open Houses. Invite all Cub Packs that you have relationships with as well as any other potential scouts and the public. Webelos should attend as many of these Open Houses as possible or desired. Webelos can join any Troop they wish.

- **Troops:** Remember to use the NEIC to get your info posted to the website, scoutsiowa.org. Contact the office at 563-556-4343 or Melissa Neuhaus, Melissa.Neuhaus@scouting.org .

February (5th grade) - The **NEIC recommends the Cub Scout Webelos 5th grade program ends in February.** Ideally, Webelos scouts should transition to Scouts BSA in February so they have time to get prepared for Scout summer camp experience.

Scouts BSA Joining Requirements:

Youth can join Scouts BSA if they have completed the fifth grade and are at least 10 years old, OR have earned the Arrow of Light Award and are at least 10 years old, OR are age 11 but have not reached age 18. (<https://www.scouting.org/discover/faq/question1/>)

* **Leaders:** For a list of Troops, Packs or Webelos leaders and direct contact info, please contact the Northeast Iowa Council Office at 563-556-4343.

CUB LEADERS

Ideas/suggestions on how to support your Cub Scouts in the Webelos-to-Scout transition.

- Start your program in Aug or Sept for 4th grade Webelos to allow the required 18 months to get all of them to Arrow of Light by Feb of 5th Grade year.
- Plan ahead - make a 18-20 month schedule, including which activity/badge for each month. See “NEIC Webelos Timeline” for detailed sample plan to include all requirements! You can use other plans, but this one is helpful if you don’t have a full plan/timeline yet.
- Provide a high-quality program.
- Train for and implement an outdoor program.
- Share the load - ask every parent if they can lead/help with 1 or 2 activity badges.
- Establish connections with area troops. Get to know Scoutmasters & committee members.
- Recruit a Den Chief at Troop / Roundtable Meetings or by talking with a Scoutmaster. See Scoutslowa.org for Roundtable Schedule - 1st Thursday of month.
- Coordinate Den visits to troop meetings and activities, such as campouts, for Arrow of Light requirements and to see Scouts BSA scouts in action.
- Encourage scouts to attend Webelos Camp before 4th and 5th grades. (Graduating 3rd graders should/can attend Webelos Overnight Camp.)
- Attend the Roundtable meetings to pick up information and ideas from others.

OUTDOOR PROGRAM:

- It is important that Cub Scouts experience camping before joining Scouts BSA. Start early to get youth ready for camping by doing leader training for and having Pack Campouts.
- Teach how to safely camp, and provide camping opportunities as often as possible (or encourage scouts to participate in District/Council-run camps).
- Keep the program going during the summer, especially between 4th and 5th grade.
- Fun summer activities like Pack campouts or campfires, hikes, swimming (at approved areas w/ lifeguard) will give scouts a good taste of what to expect in Scouts BSA.

WEBELOS-TO-SCOUT TRANSITION:

- From the very start of the program, expect the Cub Scouts to join Scouts BSA. Never say 'if', always say 'when' and keep them looking forward to being in a troop.
- Have a Parent Meeting at the start of the program to explain differences between Cub Scouts, Webelos, and Scouts BSA and what you expect of them.
- Talk with parents and help educate Webelos and their parents about the older Scout program, requirements for joining, and the role of parents.
- District/Council may also offer Webelos-to-Scout Transition Night, so plan to attend yourself and encourage your Webelos and parents to attend also, or make it part of your den plan!
- Work together on requirements to earn the Webelos badge. Try to have all scouts earn it and receive it at one pack ceremony.
- Increase Webelos’ responsibility for the program, from leading games, to leading entire meetings, to planning the upcoming month’s outings. As Scouts BSA, they will plan and execute their entire program.
- Webelos is a good time to transfer to tan uniforms if the Cub Scout outgrows his other uniform. The tan shirt can be worn in Scouts BSA later also if insignia is changed.
- Plan graduation ceremony with Pack and Order of the Arrow leaders (usually done at Pack Blue & Gold Banquet). Know and invite Scoutmaster(s) from Troop(s) your scouts will be moving into to come and receive your Webelos that night as part of that ceremony.
- Remember the 5th grade program ends in February - ideally scouts should transition to Scouts BSA in February. NEIC recommends they transition by March 1 to a Troop so they have time to get prepared for summer camp experience away from home for a week.

Other Leader Suggestions:

- Buy a Scouts BSA Handbook for your reference, and get your Webelos excited about Scouts BSA.
- Ask Scouts BSA troop representative (scout & adult) to come to your den & discuss Scouts BSA.
- Webelos and Arrow of Light is an 18-month program. These may be worked on concurrently.

SCOUTS BSA LEADERS

Ideas/suggestions on how to support the Webelos-to-Scout transition to your Troop.

- Recognize that Webelos must be actively recruited!
- Appoint Assistant SM(s) to lead transition team.
- Establish connections with packs in your area (get to know the Webelos leader(s), Cubmaster and Committee)
- Coordinate Webelos Den visits and co-activities with the Troop.
- Recognize Den Chiefs as a key leadership position. Facilitate initial contact between them and the Cub Leaders who may need one.
- Hold Webelos Parent orientations.
- Conduct Webelos orientation meetings/campouts
- Make troop camping gear available to the Webelos den. Invite the den to participate at appropriate troop activities and a Webelos den/troop campout.
- Invite second-year Webelos den(s) to meet at your troop location.
- History has shown that more Webelos Scouts join Scouts BSA when an entire den joins the troop together.
- Make sure Webelos Scouts who have earned the Arrow of Light award know that they have already completed the majority of the Scout rank requirements.
- Assist Cubmasters with cross over ceremonies
- Provide a high-quality program
- **Host a Troop Open House (Nov - Jan optimal time) and do the following:**
 - Make sure you personally invite Webelos and parents to attend (have your Scouts invite their friends too!)
 - Create a flier or basic info about Open House & send to Northeast Iowa Council Office so marketing can put it on the website to promote to others in the council.
 - Make everyone feel welcome
 - Provide Troop activity calendar to each Webelos so they can see what your troop does.
 - Have hands-on activities for the youth and parents to do - teach a skill such as starting a fire with flint and steel
 - Show a video from summer camp
 - Create display of photos or videos from activities or trips you have done in past as a troop
 - Encourage the Webelos to try Scouts BSA no matter what troop they decide to join! Remind them they have a choice.

PARENTS

Here are some key questions you may want to ask when visiting a Scouts BSA Troop.

1. When and where does the troop meet?
2. Why should we join your troop?
3. How many Scouts are registered? What is the age distribution? Where do they go to school?
4. Does the troop have an annual plan? If so, can you please provide a copy?
5. Is the Guide to Safe Scouting used and followed?
6. Can my scout participate in scouts if he/she does sports or other activities? How does that affect their advancement?
7. What specific things does your troop do to promote the Aims of Scouting?
8. How are the patrols organized in your troop (New-Scout patrol, patrols of mix ages and experience, other)
9. How often do the patrols or troop camp? Do you have a year-round outdoor program?
10. What council, district, or other Camporee type events do you participate in?
11. What Scout Camp(s) do you attend?
12. Has your troop attended any High Adventure bases or High Adventure trips?
13. Have individuals in the troop participated in a National Jamboree?
14. How does your troop handle Merit Badges?
15. How do you handle Scouts that want to advance past 1st Class (Star, Life, Eagle)?
16. How many Courts of Honor are scheduled each year?
17. How is your troop organized (organization chart)?
18. How many adults are registered?
19. Describe the training of the adult leadership and committee.
20. What is expected from parents?
21. In what ways do the Scouts associate with the adults?
22. What are the uniform expectations?
23. When do you expect the uniform to be worn?
24. How much will a year of Scouts BSA cost in your troop?
25. What money earning projects do the patrols or troop do and what is expected from the Scout?
26. How are fundraisers handled (all money earned goes to the troop, each Scout has an individual account, other)?

Webelos/Arrow of Light requirements – Leader Timeframe

Webelos/Arrow of Light – an 18 month program that can be run concurrently. A Scout does not have to earn Webelos rank to earn Arrow of Light, however, once Arrow of Light is earned, they cannot go back and earn Webelos. A Scout does not have to earn Arrow of Light to cross over to Scouts, BSA if they are 11 years old. Below are all required adventures/activities to earn both Webelos and Arrow of Light along with the approximate number of meetings required to complete each activity.

For a complete list of requirements and meeting plans, please see your den leader guide and/or Scoutbook as this is the bare minimum to earn each rank. Listed here is a minimum of 26 meetings, however, more will be required to complete the elective adventure for each rank.

Webelos Rank

- Be active in your Webelos den for three months. (Start time will depend on if you meet during the summer.)
- Pamphlet Exercises (AT HOME)
- Cyber Chip or Protect Yourself Elective (AT HOME)
- **Cast Iron Chef**
 - Meeting 1-Plan the menu and budget, then go shopping for items
 - Meeting 2-Build a fire and prepare your meal, demonstrate understanding of food safety
- **Duty to God and You**
 - Meeting 1-Discuss what it means to do your duty to God and tell how you do your duty to God in Daily life. Discuss how planning and participating in a service of worship or reflection helps you live your Duty to God. List one thing that will bring you closer to doing your duty to God, and practice it for one month. Write down what you will do each day to help remind you(check in with Scouts one month later and mark off req 4 if completed).
- **First Responder**
 - Meeting 1-Explain what first aid is. Tell what you should do after an accident. Show what to do for hurry cases of first aid: serious bleeding, heart attack or sudden cardiac arrest, stopped breathing, stroke, poisoning
 - Meeting 2-Show how to help a choking victim, show how to treat for shock, demonstrate how to treat at least five of the following: cuts and scratches, burns and scalds, sunburn, blisters on the hand or foot, tick bites, bites and stings of other insects, venomous snakebites, nosebleed, frostbite
 - Meeting 3-Put together a simple first-aid kit. Explain what you included and how to use each item correctly. Create and practice an emergency readiness plan for your home or den meeting place. Visit with a first responder or health care professional.
- **Stronger, Faster, Higher**
 - Meeting 1-Understand why you should warm up before exercising and cool down afterward. Demonstrate the proper way to warm up and cool down. Do these activities and record your results: 20 yard dash, vertical jump, lifting a 5lb weight, push-ups, curls, jumping rope. Make an exercise plan that included at least three physical activities. Carry out your plan for 30 days, and write down your progress each week(check in with Scouts one month later and mark off req 3 if completed).
 - Meeting 2-Complete req 4, 5, or 6

- **Webelos Walkabout**
 - Meeting 1- Plan a hike or outdoor activity, assemble a first aid kit, work on memorizing Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace Principles for Kids. Plan and prepare a nutritious snack or lunch(this may be an at-home assignment). Describe and identify from photos any poisonous plants and dangerous animals and insects you might encounter on your hike or activity.
 - Meeting 2- Hike 3 miles, enjoy the snack you made and clean up after your snack. Perform one of the following leadership roles during your hike: trail leader, first aid leader, or lunch/snack leader.
- **Complete an elective of your choice**
 - See options in the Webelos Handbook and/or Scoutbook

Arrow of Light

- Be active in your Webelos den for at least six months since completing fourth grade or at least six months since becoming 10 years old. (Start time will depend on if you meet during the summer.)
- Pamphlet Exercises (AT HOME)
- Cyber Chip Recharge or Protect Yourself Elective (AT HOME)
- **Building a Better World**
 - Meeting 1- Explain the history of the flag, show how to properly display the flag in public, and help lead a flag ceremony. Learn about and describe your rights as a citizen, and explain what it means to be loyal to your country. Discuss in your Webelos den the term “rule of law” and how it applied to you in everyday life.
 - Meeting 2- Meet with a government or community leader and learn about his or her role in your community. Discuss with the leader an important issue facing your community.
 - Meeting 3-Show that you are an active leader by planning an activity for your den without your den leader’s help. Ask your den leader for approval first.
 - At Home- Do one option from requirement 6.
- **Outdoor Adventurer**
 - Meeting 1- Plan an outdoor activity or campout with your den leader or family. Recite Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace Principles for Kids from memory. Talk about how you can demonstrate them while working on Arrow of Light.
 - Meeting 2-Participate in outdoor activity or campout. If camping, determine where to set up your tent, demonstrate knowledge of what makes a good/bad tent site, and set up your tent without help from an adult. Discuss what actions you will take in case of extreme weather events. Show how to tie a bowline, explain when it should be used.
 - Meeting 3-Teach the bowline know to another Scout who is not a Webelos Scout.
- **Duty to God in Action**
 - Meeting 1-Discuss what it means to do your duty to God and tell how you do that in your daily life. Discuss how the Oath and Law relate to your beliefs about duty to God.
 - Meeting 2- Do an act of service for someone in your family, neighborhood, or community. Talk about your service with your family and how it related to doing your duty to God.
 - AT HOME- For at least a month, pray or reverently meditate each day as taught by your family of faith community. OR Earn the religious emblem of your faith that is appropriate for your age.
- **Scouting Adventure** (Reach out to a Troop for assistance on this adventure, as this is preparation for their first rank in Scouts, BSA.)
 - Meeting 1- Repeat from memory the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout motto, and Scout slogan, In your own words, explain their meanings to your den leader. Explain what Scout spirit is,

Describe to your den leader some ways you have shown Scout spirit by conducting yourself according to the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout motto, and Scout slogan.

- - Give the Scout sign, salute, and handshake. Explain when to use each. Describe the First Meeting 2 Class Scout badge, and tell what each part stands for, and explain the significance of the First Class Scout badge. Repeat from memory the Pledge of Allegiance and explain it's meaning in your own words.
- Meeting 3- Visit a Scouts BSA troop meeting with your parent or den.
- Meeting 4- Describe how the Scouts in the troop provide leadership, describe four steps of advancement, describe how ranks and merit badges are earned.
- Meeting 5+ Practice the patrol method in your den for one month by explaining the patrol method, describing the types of patrols, hold an election to choose a patrol leader, develop a patrol name, emblem, flag, and yell – describe how they create patrol spirit. As a patrol make plans to participate in a troop's campout or other outdoor activity.
- Meeting 6- Participate in a Scout BSA troop's campout or other outdoor activity. Use patrol method while on the outing.
- Meeting 7- Show how to tie a square knot, two half hitches, and a taut-line hitch, explaining how each is used. Show the proper care of a rope by learning how to whip and fuse the ends of different kinds of rope.
- Meeting 8- Demonstrate knowledge of pocketknife safety rules and the pocketknife pledge. (If Scouts have not already done so, earn Whittling Chip).
- **Complete an elective of your choice**
 - See options in the Webelos Handbook and/or Scoutbook