Cub Scout Roundtable Planning Sheet – 60 minute Format

**Topic:** AOL to Boy Scout Transition

**Take Away:** The transition time (crossing over) from the Cub Scout pack to the Boy Scout troop is important to the Scout. It is the next big step in a Scouting career. It is also important to the health of the Boy Scout Troop. Having a transition plan that includes the Scout, the Scout’s family, the pack, and the troop is the key to successful transition. It’s also important to remember that every year is a transition for a Scout as rank is completed and the Scout advances to the next year and increasing challenges. How can the Pack work with the Scouts and families to make certain there is a smooth transition from year to year? 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 Boy Scouting may occur any time of year, but ideally it occurs sometime in the months of November through February. Pack/troop tradition may be a decisive factor in determining the time of the crossover. 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.

Roundtable:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Time Allotted | Activity | Assigned To | Content Ideas | Notes for Media Team |
| 5 min | Opening Ceremony | Cub RT Staff or participants | Flag ceremony |  |
| 40 min | General Session (All) | Cub RT Staff | This session will provide an overview of the AOL to Boy Scout Transition process and what steps need to be taken to enable it to happen smoothly. This is important to the ongoing relationship between the Pack and the Troop.  *Tiger Scout to Venturing* is a BSA document located in the Resource section which can be shared during this session.  Explain that although this Roundtable session is focused on Webelos/Arrow of Light to Boy Scout Transition, it is important that the leaders remember that there is a transition between each rank and it is our responsibility as a leader to do all we can to ensure that the transition happens smoothly - Tiger to Wolf, Wolf to Bear, and Bear to Webelos.  Keeping the Webelos program a focus of the pack, along with the crossover ceremony, will create a visual enticement for the Tiger, Wolf, and Bear Scout to continue to work hard. Seeing the age appropriate activities, camping opportunities, as well as troop interaction will keep them excited about climbing the mountain to Eagle.  Provide an overview of the Webelos program. Explain to the leaders that even if they are not Webelos leaders, they should be familiar with how the Webelos to Scout Transition works. Keep the discussion brief.  Discuss the Webelos Leader’s role in the Webelos to Scout transition process. Provide a discussion on the timeline involved so that the transition goes smoothly and the Cub Scout goes from the Pack to the Troop without any missed meetings or events with the Troop. This information can be found in the **Webelos to Scout Transition Plan. (**See Resource information.)   1. Share some best practices for retention and transitioning from year to year. Make certain the Cub Scouts in your pack complete their badge of rank in time for the Blue and Gold Banquet each year. Doing so makes a Scout more likely to be retained in Scouting from one year to the next. 2. Troop Visits – When the Cub Scout transitions into a Boy Scout Troop, the Cub Scout should be familiar with and feel comfortable with the Troop that will be joined. If your area is large and has many units, how do you share contact information for both the Packs and Troops? Plan Webelos overnight activities. 3. Timeline – Review the Webelos to Scout Transition Timeline found in the **Webelos to Scout Transition Plan**. Discussion can include:   Visiting Troop Meetings, participating in Troop activities and getting to know the members of the Troop should all happen in a timely manner so that when it is time for the Cub Scout to bridge, there is a smooth transition from one to the other.   1. Discuss the Cubmaster’s role in the transition process. Review the Pack Responsibilities in the **Webelos to Scout Transition Plan**. Discussion can include:   Den Chiefs from the Troop,  Planning Webelos Overnight Activities   1. 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,  Comparing calendars with the Troop and Pack to coordinate activities. |  |
| 25 min | Break Out Option | Cub RT Staff |  |  |
|  | - Den Leaders |  | Explain that although this Roundtable session is focused on Webelos to Boy Scout Transition, it is important that  Does a unit have a plan in place to contact Scouts who have dropped to discover why they are no longer in the Scouting program and to invite them to re-join. |  |
| 10 min | Q & A | Cub Scout RT Staff | Opportunity to answer any additional AOL To Boy Scout Transition questions. |  |
| 5 min | Closing | Cub Scout RTC | Perform the Cub Scout Trail Ceremony located in the Resource information. |  |

Resource Information

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.

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Work with troop leaders to secure den chiefs for each Cub Scout den, including the Webelos dens.
4. Work with troop leaders to plan and conduct Webelos overnight activities.
5. Work with troop leaders to plan visits to troop meetings. Never show up without first calling in advance.
6. 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.
7. 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. The local Order of the Arrow lodge can often be a valuable resource in conducting ceremonies.
8. 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.
9. 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 den can form the nucleus of a new troop.

[ Source <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/ImprovedWebelosTransition.aspx> }

Webelos/AOL Program

Webelos dens are for Scouts who have completed third grade (or reached age 10). Webelos Scouts get to work on the five required Webelos adventures and choose two of the 18 elective adventures that are shared by the Webelos and Arrow of Light ranks.   
When a Scout has done the requirements for an adventure, the Webelos den leader, rather than a parent, approves most of the adventures. For each adventure a Scout completes, the Scout receives a pin to wear on the Webelos colors or hat. After completing seven adventures, including five required adventures and two elective adventures, a Scout can receive the Webelos badge.

After a Scout has earned the Webelos badge, work can be done on the remaining 18 shared Webelos and Arrow of Light electives until fourth grade is completed or the Scout turns 11 years old. He can choose elective adventures that may introduce new hobbies and teach skills that will be useful during the Boy Scout years. When each elective adventure is completed, the Scout receives an additional adventure pin to wear on the Webelos colors or on hat.

Arrow of Light

The highest rank in Cub Scouting is the Arrow of Light. Earning this rank prepares a Webelos Scout to become a Boy Scout. Scouts must complete four required adventures and three elective adventures to earn the Arrow of Light rank. For each adventure a Scout completes, an additional pin representing the adventure is presented to the Scout.

http://www.scouting.org/filestore/jpg/knotarrowoflight.jpg?w=115&h=49&as=1The Arrow of Light badge is the only Cub Scout badge that can be worn on the Boy Scout uniform when a Scout graduates into a troop. Adult leaders who earned the Arrow of Light rank when they were young may also show their achievement by wearing a special square knot on their adult uniform.

[Scource http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/CubScouts/CubScouts/UniformsAndAwards/advancement.aspx]

**Webelos to Scout Transition Timetable**

Note: It is recommended that transition occur sometime in the months of November through February. It may occur at other times, depending on local circumstances. Once you have determined your target transition month, the timetable shown below may need to be adjusted.

August

• Get names, addresses, and telephone numbers of second-year Webelos.

• Plan a joint Boy Scout troop/Webelos camping trip for October or earlier.

• Plan a Boy Scout presentation at a Webelos den meeting to be held two months prior to the crossover to explain to the Webelos Scouts how the Boy 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 Boy 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.

• Continue planning the joint camping trip.

• Set a date for Webelos Scouts and their parents to visit a Boy Scout troop meeting.

October

• Conduct the joint camping trip with the Webelos, if you have not already done so.

• Conduct the Boy Scout presentation at the Webelos den meeting visit two months prior to the crossover to explain to the Webelos Scouts how the Boy Scout troop works.

• Have the Webelos Scouts and their parents visit a Boy Scout troop meeting. Conduct a recruitment meeting/orientation for the parents of the prospective Boy 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 Boy 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 Boy 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 Boy Scouts for summer camp. Conduct a camp orientation meeting for the parents.

January

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

February

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March-April

• Invite Boy Scouts to assist the pack with its Pinewood Derby

April

• Attend a meeting of Bear Cub Scouts to introduce them to Boy Scouting.

May

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

June-August

• Ensure that all new Boy Scouts attend summer camp.

• Work on rank advancement with new Boy Scouts.

[Source – <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/membership/pdf/Webelos_to_Scout.pdf> ]

Pack Responsibilities

• 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 calendars of troop and pack activities to coordinate the activities. Community events can be done together, and planning can help prevent conflicts in the 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 to make arrangements.

• 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 head of the pack’s chartered organization the possibility of organizing a troop. A graduating Webelos den can form the nucleus of a new troop.

[Source – <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/membership/pdf/Webelos_to_Scout.pdf> ]

Duties of the District Webelos Transition Chair

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.

• 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, 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 transition.

[Source – <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/membership/pdf/Webelos_to_Scout.pdf> ]

**Idea for a crossover ceremony:**

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 holds a Webelos badge; a den chief holds an Arrow of Light Award; 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. This ceremony can be done inside or outside (arrange them around the edge of a clearing if in an outdoor setting).

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

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

(Walk with the boys 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 boys 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 boys 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 how to take care of yourself on a campout.

(Walk with the boys 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 boys 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 boys to the Boy 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 Boy Scouts.)

<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/membership/pdf/Webelos_to_Scout.pdf> ]