

Timeline

The time-line should be modified to accommodate the Arrow of Light dens that complete all requirements and are prepared to cross-over to Scouts BSA, some as early as December. The Troop Membership Chair and Pack Membership Chair are responsible to ensure that Scoutmasters, Cubmasters, and Webelos and Arrow of Light Leaders are informed of and follow the timeline.

June

- Arrow of Light Den Scouts receive Webelos to Scout Transition Guide for Scouts and Parents

August

- Assist troops that request names, addresses, and telephone numbers of second year Webelos and parents from the packs from which your troop recruits.
- Work with the troop to plan a joint Scouts BSA Troop/2nd year Webelos Den/ Arrow of Light Den camping trip for October.
- Help to welcome and orient a Den Chief if one is provided by the troop.

Other “connecting” activities: Invite the local Scouts BSA troops to assist with Pack School Nights or Sign Up Nights. They can be great for organizing games for the incoming Scouts while their parents sign registration forms. Invite the Scoutmaster or Scoutmasters to attend Pack Committee meeting to explain how the Den Chief program works and find out how many dens are interested in securing a Den Chief. This gives the Scoutmaster adequate time to recruit Den Chiefs and send them to Den Chief training.

September

- Pack distributes: “Questions to Ask When Visiting Troops,” “Webelos Troop Visit Checklist,” and “Parent Troop Visit Checklist” to parents and guardians of Arrow of Light Scouts. Forms are at the end of this Recruiting Guide and are part of the Webelos to Scout Transition Guide for Scouts and Parents that families should have received in June.
- Encourage Arrow of Light Den Scouts and their families to join the mailing list of troops they are interested in joining. This is a great way to see how active the troop is and how well they communicate.
- Continue planning the joint camping trip for October.

Other “connecting” activities: Invite the local Scouts BSA troops to assist with Pack School Nights or Sign Up Nights. They can be great for organizing games for the incoming Scouts while their parents sign registration forms.

October

- Participate in the joint camping trip with the troop.
- Webelos leaders go through Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills.
- Encourage the Arrow of Light Den to visit troop meetings and work with local troops to schedule.

- Discuss with troop leadership fundraising opportunities in which Arrow of Light Scouts may participate with the Troop to have funds for camp next summer.
- Begin discussion with troop leadership about Scouts BSA summer camp. Then help share information with Scouts and parents. Troops should provide printed material for Webelos leaders to distribute.

Other “connecting” activities: Scouts BSA Troops should be eager to have your Scouts participate in a campout so the Webelos can get to know the Scouts and adults in the troop. They should invite the first and second year Webelos. The troop could teach skills needed for a variety of Webelos advancements, particularly ones that need to be done outside. Troop conducts a campfire with skits & songs.

November

- Welcome troop leadership to a den meeting to teach the Scouts how the troop works.
- Make sure that your Den Chief is planning to attend training.

Other “connecting” activities: Scouts attend the pack meeting to show camp video/pictures and "talk up" summer camp to the Arrow of Light Scouts. The troop gives the Arrow of Light families the dates the troop will be attending Summer Camp along with the annual troop program plan. The Scoutmaster should prepare a list of basic Scouting equipment that the brand-new Scouts BSA Scout will be needing, like flashlights, pocketknives, mess kits, sleeping bags, backpacks, etc., so that these items can be Christmas gifts. Help the parents by giving tips on best prices, best brands, best sources – remember the Scoutshop is the source for official BSA clothing and equipment.

December

- Work with troop leadership to set a date for Arrow of Light Scouts and their parents to visit a troop meeting in January if they have not already visited.

Other “connecting” activities: Troop Membership Chair should attend Pack Committee meeting to introduce themselves to Webelos Leaders. From now until February crossover, the Troop Membership Chair should work closely with the Den Leaders to assure that all Scouts will be earning the Arrow of Light and to get youth applications completed. This person should attend a Den Meeting in January to explain troop operations, answer questions, and establish a good relationship with all Arrow of Light parents.

January

- All Arrow of Light Scouts and their parents attend a Scouts BSA troop meeting.
- Plan a crossover ceremony for the Blue and Gold Banquet.
- Invite troop leadership to a meeting for 1st year Webelos to introduce them to Scouts BSA.
- Accommodate those Arrow of Light Scouts that wish to cross-over early with an appropriate ceremony.



Other “connecting” activities: Invite Scouts from the troop attend the Pinewood Derby and act as announcers, interviewing winners and "calling" the races. Encourage interaction between the Scouts and all the Cub Scouts.

February

- Hold the crossover ceremony at the Blue and Gold Banquet.

Other “connecting” activities: Scoutmaster and several Scouts attend the Pack's Blue and Gold Banquet to welcome the Arrow of Light Scouts into their new troop. Form an honor guard for the flag ceremony using a mix of graduating Arrow of Light Scouts and Scouts BSA Scouts for the honor guard. The Scouts should change out the Arrow of Light Scouts' shoulder loops and give them their new neckerchiefs, handbooks, etc. Don't forget those Webelos Leaders, they need new green loops too!

March

- Follow-up with the family by phone, email, and letter of every youth that did not crossover into a troop from your pack. Assure them it is not too late, describe the fun events scheduled, and work with them to visit additional troops or to help make the right decision for them.

April

- Invite the troop to attend a meeting of Bear Cub Scouts to introduce them to Scouts BSA.
- Work with the troop leadership to pick a date for a field trip to summer camp one day during the week the troop is in camp.

Other “connecting” activities: Troop invites Webelos (4th graders) to district Camporee or other district event. They can join with the recently crossed-over Scouts to learn basic Scoutcraft, which will meet Webelos/ Arrow of Light requirements for the Webelos and Tenderfoot requirements for new Scouts BSA. If the District Camporee isn't conducive to this, the troop could put on its own campout to teach these skills to the younger Scouts. Invite any Scouts who still have not crossed over and use this event as an "Invite a Friend" activity. Be sure to let the younger Scouts help cook and help tend the campfire.

June/July

- New Arrow of Light Scouts take a field trip to summer camp for one day the week the troop is at camp. Someone from the troop gives them a guided tour of camp.
- Troop offers Scouts to assist Webelos leaders at Webelos camp, for example the evening when there is cooking in the campsite.