



Webelos to Scout Transition Guide for Scouts BSA Troops





Dear Troop Leadership,

The lifeblood for many Scouts BSA troops are the Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts that transition into the troop from a pack. Making sure the Webelos to Scout transition process is as smooth as possible for every Scout and his or her family is critical to that Scout's future as well as the future of the troop.

The Webelos to Scout process is not something that should be an afterthought and it is not merely conducting a ceremony in the spring of each year. Webelos to Scout transition is making sure that Scouts get to know you, your youth leadership, and your troop. A Webelos or Arrow of Light Scout can go to any troop they want to, why should they come to yours? Why is your program the best fit for that Scout and their family? The more you can do to help make sure every Scout and family knows the answers to those questions, the more successful you will be in transitioning Scouts into your unit.

Don't forget that every Scout has a parent or adult guardian. Some of them have been active in the pack and may be on your radar, some of them may be looking to get involved for the first time. As you are talking with Scouts don't forget to talk with the parents and see how they can be a part of making your troop program and operation the best that it can be!

We look forward to hearing about the many adventures your new Scouts will participate in as part of your troop! Thank you for taking the time to make sure that Webelos to Scout transition is a major part of your Scouting year!

Yours in Scouting,

Craig Raisner
Council Membership Chair

Webelos to Scout Transition

All youth in the New Birth of Freedom Council should have the opportunity to benefit from a Scouting program.

The transition from Cub Scouts to Scouts BSA is often a point where youth leave Scouting. There are a number of reasons for this including being tired of the Cub Scout program after 5 years, more competing activities, or they are simply not asked.



The first two are more challenging to address; however, the last should never be a reason for a Scout to not continue. It is important that packs and troops work together to make sure that Scouts and their families are aware of local Scouting opportunities and get a chance to visit them and try them out before having to commit to which troop they want to join.

The crossover ceremony should not be the Scout's first introduction to the troop, but should be the culmination of "getting to know you" opportunities where the Scout and family are excited about this next big step on their Scouting journey.

Webelos to Scout transition shouldn't be a time where troops sit back and wait for Scouts to them. Just like a pack works to recruit Scouts and families a troop should do the same. This guide is a blueprint for troops to be successful in recruiting Scouts and their families.

Webelos to Scout transition is everyone's responsibility – Webelos Leaders, Cubmasters, Parents, Scoutmasters, Commissioners, and District Committee. All must work together to ensure that Webelos and their parents know all the great fun and adventure in store for them as they become Scouts BSA. Remember, Webelos is not the end of Cub Scouts. The transition from Webelos to Scouts BSA is a normal and expected part of the program.

Eligibility

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.

All new Scouts, either through transition, or otherwise must make sure to submit a new youth application.

Responsibilities of the Troop

- Troop Committee Chair appoints a Troop Membership Chair (position description follows) and reports name and contact information to the District Membership Chair. Some troops go so far as to name this person the Webelos to Scout Transition Chair or New Member Coordinator.
- Troop Membership Chair with the advice and agreement of the Scoutmaster selects Scouts to serve as den chiefs for each Webelos Scout den and Cub Scout den in Packs associated with your troop. Arrange for Den Chiefs to attend training.
- Troop serves as a resource for overnight activities. The troop can be of service to provide equipment, leadership, and logistics for Webelos parent-child campouts.
- Troop Membership Chair conducts an orientation in the Bear Cub Scout dens to explain the changing role as Scouts become Webelos Scouts, and then again as they become Scouts BSA. Explain how being a Webelos Scout will help prepare them for Scouts BSA. Take some Eagle Scouts with you.
- Webelos den/Scout troop campouts should show Webelos Scouts and their parents what to expect when they move into the troop. The troop should cook and camp by patrol, and use skills in which the Webelos Scouts can participate.
- Troop Membership Chair arranges for Webelos dens to visit a troop meeting. This should be planned several weeks in advance.
- Troop Membership Chair provides each Webelos Scout a copy of the troop's activities for the upcoming year. Troop Membership Chair/Scoutmaster works with Webelos den leaders to encourage them to plan to move into the troop with their Webelos Scouts and to serve either as committee members or assistant Scoutmasters.
- Troop Membership Chair arranges to have a Scoutmaster conference for each Webelos II under the guidance of the Scoutmaster or the assistant designated by the Scoutmaster. This conference should cover the meaning of the Scout Oath and Scout Law, the advancement program, troop camping, the patrol method, summer camp, and personal equipment.
- Troop Membership Chair works with the Cubmaster in planning a meaningful crossover ceremony at the pack's blue and gold banquet. Coordinate the ceremony and arrange for each Webelos Scout to receive a troop neckerchief and *Scouts BSA Handbook* along with his Arrow of Light Award. Members of the Order of the Arrow may assist in the ceremony.



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

- Get names, addresses, and telephone numbers of second year Webelos and parents from the packs from which your troop recruits. Record the information on the Webelos to Scout tracking form.
- Plan a joint Scouts BSA Troop/2nd year Webelos Den/ Arrow of Light Den camping trip for October.
- Select a Den Chief for each Webelos Den.

Other “connecting” activities: Scouts BSA Scouts assist with Pack School Nights or Sign Up Nights, organizing games for the incoming Scouts while their parents sign registration forms. Scoutmaster attends 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

- Mail a letter of introduction from Scouts BSA troop to the Arrow of Light den to introduce them to the troop.
- 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
- Invite Arrow of Light Den Scouts to the mailing list to receive the troop newsletter.
- Continue planning the joint camping trip for October.

Other “connecting” activities: Scouts BSA Scouts assist with Pack School Nights or Sign Up Nights, organizing games for the incoming Scouts while their parents sign registration forms.

October

- Conduct the joint camping trip with Arrow of Light Den.
- Webelos leaders go through Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills.
- Send invitations to Arrow of Light Den to visit troop.

- Discuss with Webelos leaders fundraising opportunities in which Arrow of Light Scouts may participate with the Troop to have funds for camp next summer.
- Encourage Webelos leaders to begin discussing Scouts BSA summer camp with Webelos and parents. Troops should provide printed material for Webelos leaders to distribute.

Other “connecting” activities: Scouts BSA Troop should plan a Webelos campout and 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

- Attend an Arrow of Light den meeting to teach the Scouts how the troop works.
- Have Den Chiefs attend Den Chief 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

- Set a date for Arrow of Light Scouts and their parents to visit a troop meeting in January if they have not already visited.
- Send a small holiday gift or card to each Arrow of Light Scout.

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.
- Attend a meeting for 1st year Webelos to introduce them to Scouts BSA.
- Accommodate those Packs and Arrow of Light Scouts that wish to cross-over early with an appropriate ceremony.



Other “connecting” activities: Have some 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.
- Depending on troop policy/preference: form a new Scout patrol for the new Scouts; or complete assignment of new Scouts to existing patrols with specific mentors to help with the transition to Scouts BSA.
- Get new Scouts actively involved with the troop through troop activities.
- Recruit parents of new Scouts to become assistant Scoutmasters or troop committee members.
- Conduct a summer camp orientation for the Scouts and parents to encourage attendance.

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

- Plan a troop activity for new Scouts to get them involved with their new troop.
- Start training new Scouts for camping, don't forget proper equipment, first aid, and survival skills. Conduct a Scoutcraft competition with prizes. Do a campout tailored to new Scouts needs and to accommodate weather. Don't scare them off by making it difficult or a Bootcamp type environment.
- Follow-up with the family by phone, email, and letter of every youth that did not crossover into your troop from the packs where your troop recruits. Assure them it is not too late, describe the fun events scheduled, and invite them again.

Other “connecting” activities: Troop and pack committees should coordinate service project activities so Scouts can work as teams and parents of new Scouts can get to know the other parents. Plan a pizza lunch for the whole crowd after the work is done.

April

- Ensure all new Scouts are planning to attend summer camp. Provide additional briefings and summer camp materials for new Scouts and parents as necessary.
- Ensure new Scouts are working on requirements for Scout and Tenderfoot.
- Attend a meeting of Bear Cub Scouts to introduce them to Scouts BSA.
- Attend a meeting of 1st year Webelos and pick a date with Den Leader for a field trip to summer camp one day during the week you are at camp.
- Sponsor a troop activity for the new Scouts. Camping is why they are there.

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.

May

- Work closely with new Scouts and parents during their transition to the troop, ensuring their needs are met and that their move has been natural and fun.
- Work on rank advancement with new Scouts. Ensure new Scouts are well on the way to Tenderfoot before camp.

June/July

- Make sure all new Scouts attend summer camp with the troop.
- New Arrow of Light Scouts take a field trip to summer camp for one day the week you are 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.

The Troop Visit

Either by invitation or by research, it is important for an Arrow of Light Scout to visit the troop(s) that he or she is interested in becoming a part. Scouts are encouraged to visit multiple troops with the information below being what visiting Scouts and their families are encouraged to look for. By following the timeline above, Troops should be able to do a great job of orienting prospective new Scouts and their families. When a Scout officially becomes an Arrow Light Scout in June, he/she and his/her family will receive a Webelos to Scout Transition Guide that includes things that they should be looking for in a troop as well as suggested questions to be asked.

Those documents are provided below so that the troop can be prepared to answer these questions when Scouts visit. In addition, we have provided some examples of what a unit visit might look like as well as a camping trip so that a troop can make sure they do their best in sharing information with new Scouting families.

Top Ten - Things to Look for in a Troop

When looking for a troop, this is a great list of some of the best things to look for in a local troop.

1. Fun - It's got to be fun! Most of the activities within the troop have to be understood by the Scout as a fun, friendly, pleasurable, and rewarding experience. If a troop is too strict and regimented the Scout will lose interest.

2. Program - this is key to a well-run troop. The program has to be planned out by the troop committee with input from the Scouts. This should be done annually and tied to a budget. The program needs to include all the elements of Scouting, weekly troop meetings, monthly outings/events, weekend campouts, and yearly summer camps. The activities have to be new, exciting, and fresh to keep the Scouts interested.

3. Adult Leadership - All troops should have —Trained adult leadership. Trained leaders are crucial to any well-run troop. The training provides the leader with the knowledge to understand the aims and methods of the Scouting program. The training presents a wealth of advice and resources to run a successful program. When you visit a troop, look for the trained patch on the leader's uniform.

4. Youth Leadership - The Scouting program is designed to have the youth elected and appointed into leadership roles. A troop should have periodic elections to fill those positions. In addition, the troop should provide leadership training for those roles. The troop should conduct Junior Leadership Training (JLT) and/or send Scouts to council JLT training. Look for the trained patch on the youth leader's uniform.



5. Scout-Run Troop - the whole philosophy of Scouting is for the Scouts to run the troop. The adult leaders are there to provide guidance, counsel, and support. The weekly meetings, troop campouts, and troop activities should be planned and executed by the Scouts and the junior leaders. The troop should encourage and strive to have its junior leaders run the troop. When observing a troop in action, see if the Scouts are running the program or the adults.

6. Patrol Method - A troop should divide its Scouts into patrols of not more than 8. These patrols act like a team within the troop. They will elect a patrol leader and have periodic meetings either at the troop meetings or at a separate time and place. The troop should provide competitive activities at meetings and outings for the patrols to work as a team. This allows them to demonstrate their Scouting skills and plan for camping events or district camp-o-rees. The troop should also have functioning monthly Patrol Leaders Council, which plans the troop activities.

7. Meetings - Weekly troop meetings are pretty much the norm in Scouting. The troop should have a calendar for the year with the dates established for regular meetings.

8. Uniform - the field uniform is an important part of Scouting and should be required in troop functions, like: ceremonies, religious activities, troop dinners, and district & council events. An activity uniform, which usually consists of a scouting T-shirt and Scout shorts or pants, is commonly used for troop/patrol meetings, day activities, and weeklong camps. Troops may define or require uniforms in different variations, but should have some defined requirements and periodic inspections.

9. District & Council Involvement - A troop should have representatives attending monthly district roundtable meetings. The district and council provide a wealth of experience and knowledge to help the troop run a great program. They are a wonderful resource for information on training, activities, advancement, planning, and ideas.

10. Recruiting - A troop needs to bring in new Scouts. New Scouts provide the older Scouts with opportunities to mentor and teach them what Scouting is all about. It helps them build leadership and charter. The best source for new Scouts is from the Cub Scouts Webelos program. A troop should have established a working relationship with local Cub Scout pack(s) to help bridge graduating Webelos to Scouts BSA.

Questions To Ask When Visiting Troops

Webelos should ask:

1. Is the Troop active? Do they do things I would enjoy?
2. What size is the Troop? What size of Troop would I like?
3. Are there other boys/girls my age in the Troop?
4. Does the Troop go to a summer camp? Which one(s)? Is it important to me where they go?
5. Should I / could I go to summer camp?
6. Does the Troop participate in any Honor Camper programs (i.e. Order of the Arrow)? Do they matter?
7. How often does this Troop do outdoor activities (i.e. camping)?
8. Will I have a say in decision making?
9. Does the Troop have advanced programs for older Scouts?
10. How often does the Troop meet?
11. Do I have a good chance of advancing to Eagle with this Troop?
12. Will I have fun?

Parents should ask [Troops should tell parents if they don't ask]:

1. What values/skills will my son/daughter learn?
2. What are the other adult leaders like?
3. Can I participate in leadership if I desire?
4. Is this a Scout run Troop? Is that important?
5. Where, when, and how often does the Troop meet? Is it convenient for transporting my son/daughter?
6. What is the age ratio of the Scouts? Do the older Scouts help the younger Scouts?
7. How much will it cost? Camping? Summer camp? Fundraisers?
8. How often does the Troop camp? Do I have to camp with them?
9. Does the Troop go to a summer camp? Which one(s)? Is it important to me where they go?
10. Does the Troop participate in the Order of the Arrow?
11. Is the Troop active? Do they do activities my son/daughter would enjoy?
12. Will my son/daughter be encouraged/able to advance to Eagle in this Troop?
13. Can moms/dads participate? Go camping? Go to summer camp?
14. Can this Troop provide a quality Scouting experience for my son/daughter and his/her friends?
15. What is expected of the parents and family by the Troop?
16. Will we have fun?



Webelos Troop Visit Checklist



Information about the Troop

Troop Number: _____ Date of Visit: _____

Meeting Place: _____ Time: _____

Scoutmaster's Name: _____

Senior Patrol Leader's Name: _____

My Evaluation of this Troop:

Are all the Scouts in uniform?	Yes	No
Was the meeting organized?	Yes	No
Is the meeting run by the Scouts?	Yes	No
Do they have Scouts of all ages?	Yes	No
Did I feel welcome?	Yes	No
Did their campouts sound like fun?	Yes	No
Do they have a calendar?	Yes	No
Do I already know Scouts in the troop?	Yes	No
Are there plenty of adult leaders involved?	Yes	No
Were the older Scouts helpful?	Yes	No
Did they answer my questions?	Yes	No
Do they have a program for new Scouts?	Yes	No

Notes:

Things I liked about this troop are:

Things I did not like about this troop are:

Parent Troop Visit Checklist

Troop Number: _____ Date of Visit: _____ Quality Unit: Yes No
Sponsored by: _____ How Long: _____
Scoutmaster's Name: _____
Meeting Place: _____ Time: _____

Meeting Run by: Youth Adults Mixed
Was the meeting organized? Yes No
Does the troop produce a calendar of events: Yes No

Does the program schedule:
___ change yearly
___ remain similar with different summer camps
___ remain similar from year to year

What special events does the troop participate in? (i.e. Scouting for Food, Camporees)

Leadership Corp:

Does the troop have an active Scout leadership corps? Yes No
How often do they meet? _____
How many Scouts in the leadership corps? _____
How is the Scout leadership decided? Elected by Scouts Appointed by adults
Other: _____
How often does the troop hold elections? _____

Uniforms:

Were the Scouts in uniform? Yes No
Were the adults in uniform? Yes No
What are the uniform requirements of the troop? _____
How many uniforms will each Scout need? _____

Camping:

How often does the troop camp? _____
What type of camping does the troop do? (check all that apply)
___ Summer camp: ___ In Council. ___ Out of Council
___ Winter camp
___ Camporees
___ High Adventure
___ Backpacking
___ Canoeing
Most popular camp is located: _____
Do all the Scouts get to go on all of the outings? Yes No
Do campouts have a theme, merit badge or rank requirement focus? Yes No

Costs:

What are the joining costs? _____

What are the local troop costs? _____

Are there additional costs to join the troop? _____

What fundraisers are available for the scouts? _____

How are fund raiser earnings used in the troop?

____ Support the troop needs.

____ Applied to reduce expenses of Scouts who participated.

Notes:

Things I liked about this troop are:

Things I did not like about this troop are:

Unit Visits Program Plans & Ideas

Program ideas for when the Arrow of Light Den visits a Troop meeting.

Activity	Description	Run By	Time
Pre-Opening 10 Minutes	Hand out copies of your troop's annual program plan, introduce Webelos to troop members, exchange e-mail addresses, highlight past troop activities.	Senior Patrol Leader, Den Chief	6:55-7:05
Opening 5 Minutes	Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath, Scout Law	Senior Patrol Leader	7:05-7:10
Skills Instruction 25 Minutes	Skills instruction round-robin. 1. Let the Scouts try lighting a cotton ball on fire using a hot spark kit. 2. Allow the Scouts to set up a tent. 3. Have Scouts build a stretcher and have a stretcher relay by first putting a splint on the victims' leg.	Select Scouts within the Troop	7:10-7:35
Patrol Meetings 15 Minutes	Show summer camp promotion video to Webelos. Talk about what the Webelos can expect from Summer Camp.	Senior Patrol Leader, Den Chief	7:35-7:50
Inter-Patrol Activity 10 Minutes	Select a game out of <i>Troop Program Resources</i> .	Senior Patrol Leader	7:50-8:00
Closing 5 Minutes	SPL thanks Webelos for attending meeting, leads closing Flag Ceremony.	Senior Patrol Leader	8:00-8:05
After the meeting	Scoutmaster thanks Webelos for attending.	Scoutmaster	

Program ideas for when the Troop visits a Den meeting.

- o Help the Den Leader teach requirements of the activity for the month.
- o Teach such things as the Totin Chip and Webelos skills for advancement.
- o Bring a *Power Point* slide show or pictures of the fun and adventure your troop does throughout the year (5 minutes max).
- o Show the Summer Camp promotion video.

**Program ideas for joint Arrow of Light Den/Troop Campout.
(Athletics Theme in troop program features)**

Time	Activity	Run By
Friday evening	Load gear at meeting location, leave for campsite. Plan only light meal en route. (Make sure Webelos and parents have enough gear).	Senior Patrol Leader
	Arrive at campsite, unload equipment, set up patrol sites. Stow gear and set up camp. (Have Troop Guide and Assistant Scoutmaster help Webelos and their parents set up their patrol site.)	Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader
Saturday 6:30 a.m.	Cooks and assistants arise and prepare breakfast. (Cooks should be working on First and Second Class requirements). The older Scout patrol also makes breakfast for Webelos and their parents.	Cooks & assistants
7:00 a.m.	Everyone else rises. Take care of personal hygiene, air tents, and hang out sleeping bags.	
7:30 a.m.	Breakfast	
8:00 a.m.	Clean up	Cooks
Patrols set up gear for morning activities, clean up patrol site		
8:30-11:30 a.m.	Conduct athletic skills events (See page 27-28 in <i>Troop Program Features Volume # 1</i>). 1. Frisbee Golf 2. Obstacle Course 3. Volleyball 4. Softball 5. Bicycle Race 6. Patrol Dash 7. Bike Relay 8. Erect a Tent 9. Kim's Game	SPL
11:30 a.m.	Sack Lunch	
Noon	Continue Events	
4:30 p.m.	Start Dinner preparation	Cooks
5:30 p.m.	Meal	
6:00 p.m.	Clean up	Cooks
8:00 p.m.	Campfire	SPL
9:00 p.m.	Cracker barrel	
10:00 p.m.	Lights out	

Sunday 6:30 a.m.	Cooks and assistants arise and prepare breakfast. (Cooks should be working on First and Second Class requirements).	Cooks
7:00 a.m.	Everyone else rises. Take care of personal hygiene, air tents, and hang out sleeping bags.	
7:30 a.m.	Breakfast	
8:00 a.m.	Clean up	Cooks
8:30 a.m.	Worship service	
9:30 a.m.	Break camp	
Equipment needed	Cameras, pens, troop camping equipment, athletic gear needed for events	

**Sample Letter of Introduction from Scouts BSA Troop to Arrow of Light Den
(to be mailed in September)**

(Name)

(Address)

(City, State, Zip Code)

(Date)

Dear _____:

My name is _____ and I am the Senior Patrol Leader for Troop _____. Soon you will cross-over the Cub Scout program into the Scouts BSA program. This is an exciting time, many fun adventures are ahead.

As a troop we go camping once per month. This year we are planning to *(use this paragraph to briefly describe your annual program plan. Tell the Webelos what you are doing: canoeing, climbing and rappelling, backpacking, fishing, etc.)*

Our troop meets weekly *(time/date/location)*. At these meetings, we have skills instruction time where we work on advancements. Our goal is that you would reach 1st class within a year of joining our troop. We also have time for your patrol to get together to plan for upcoming campouts and time for inter-patrol activities.

This summer, we are planning to attend *list name of camp here on date*. Activities at this camp include canoeing, rowing, swimming, nature programs, sports programs, .22 rifle shooting, archery shooting, and much more.

We are looking forward to having you as part of our troop. To aid in this transition, we would like to invite you, your parents, and your entire den to a campout on October *(date)*. Our theme is Athletics and will play softball, volleyball, Frisbee golf, and have a bicycle race. Food and tents will be provided. All you will need to bring is personal gear (clothes, toiletries, sleeping bag/blankets) and your bicycle. We will be meeting at *location at time*. Please let your Webelos Leader know by *(date)* if you are able to attend.

Sincerely,

(Your Name)

Senior Patrol Leader Troop _____

**Sample Letter of Introduction from Scouts BSA Troop to Arrow of Light Den Parents
(to be mailed in September)**

(Name)

(Address)

(City, State, Zip Code)

(Date)

Dear _____:

My name is _____ and I am the Scoutmaster for Troop _____. In February, your son/daughter will be able to crossover into our troop. Much fun and adventure awaits him/her after he crosses the bridge into our troop.

You should encourage your son/daughter to continue his/her Scouting journey for the following reasons:

1. Scouting Builds Character – A Scout is –Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.
2. Scouts are more likely than non-Scouts to value education, the environment and put the needs of others before themselves (According to a poll taken by Harris Interactive).
3. Scouting teaches leadership skills, problem solving skills, communications skills, and team building skills.
4. Scouting opens the door to possible lifelong career and hobby interests. With over 100 merit badges ranging over many different topics, many Scouts explore opportunities that they ordinarily would not have.
5. Scouting teaches youth to Be Prepared!. Whether it's for emergencies (1st aid, emergency preparedness), life skills (personal management, family life, communication), taking charge and leading others.
6. Scouting builds confidence. Scouting puts youth in charge of situations and allows them to overcome obstacles and challenges.

Scouting accomplishes these things through a fun-filled program in an outdoor education classroom. We go camping as a troop once per month. This year we are planning to *(use this paragraph to briefly describe your annual program plan. Tell the Webelos what you are doing: canoeing, climbing and rappelling, backpacking, fishing, etc.)*

Our troop meets weekly (*time/date/location*). At these meetings, we have skills instruction time when we work on advancements. Our goal is that your son/daughter would reach 1st class within a year of joining our troop. We also have time for your son's/daughter's patrol to get together to plan for upcoming campouts and time for inter-patrol activities.

We hope you and your son/daughter will join us on this exciting adventure!

Sincerely

Scoutmaster, Troop _____

Troop Membership Chair Job Description

Position Concept Membership is a shared concern of all adult leaders. However, the Troop Committee Chair must appoint a qualified individual to serve as the Troop Membership Chair who has the responsibility of coordinating these efforts.

Responsibilities

1. Work with current Scouts to assist them in meeting the —Invite a Friend requirement for First Class Rank. (This is easily accomplished through coordination with a My Best Friend is a Scout! recruiting effort)
2. Schedule spring and fall recruiting events for your troop using suggestions found in the Scouts BSA Year-Round Recruiting Guide. The spring recruitment is especially effective for fifth graders and as follow-up for any Webelos that did not crossover to the Troop in February.
3. Work with the Webelos dens in your affiliated pack to ensure a high percentage successfully progress to Scouting. Assist the parents of the Webelos in finding an appropriate leadership role in the troop.
4. Recruit and train high quality Den Chiefs for Webelos dens affiliated with your troop.
5. Attend most committee meetings for both the pack and the troop and act as the liaison for the two groups, passing information along so that everybody stays "in the loop." Beginning in November or December, invite the Arrow of Light Den Leaders to attend the Troop Committee meetings. Attend some of the Arrow of Light Den meetings to answer questions of youth and parents, take an Eagle Scout or two with you.
6. When planning joint troop/pack activities, take care that the Scouts BSA Scouts do not feel like they are babysitting. Keep them in an instructional role.
7. Consider recruiting Webelos crossover "Ceremonial Teams."

Webelos-to-Scout Transition Den Tracking List – 5th Grade Webelos

Projected Webelos Transition Date: _____

Pack # _____ Webelos Den Leader _____ Email _____

Cubmaster _____ Email _____

Scoutmaster _____ Email _____

Name	Address	City	Zip	Phone	DOB	Date of Arrow of Light	Date Joined Troop