

Transitioning from Cubs to Scouts

BSA - CS400

Dave Kindberg



Westchester-Putnam Council, Hawthorne, NY

OBJECTIVE

Our most important job as Cub Scout Leaders is to prepare our scouts to join Scouts BSA. Learn how to assist your scouts and their parents in making the most important transition in their scouting career-choosing and transitioning to a Scouts BSA Troop.

For all Cub Leaders, Cubmasters, Assistant Cubmasters, Committee Members, and especially important for Bear and Webelos Den Leaders



TOPICS

- **Introductions**
- **It's a Partnership!**
- **The Webelos / AoL Program**
- **The Crossover**
- **Picking the Right Troop**
- **Virtual Scouting**
- **Q/A**



About Me...



Dave Kindberg

- Scoutmaster - Troop 19
- Asst. Scoutmaster - Troop 16
- AoL Den Leader - Pack 7
- Algonquin Dist. Nominating Comm.
- WPC Fishing Committee
- Woodbadge Staff
- Eagle Scout - 1991

DaveKindberg@gmail.com



It's a Partnership!

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.



The Webelos Den Leader

- Key to planning and preparing boys for Boy Scouts.
- Trains for and implements an outdoor program.
- Leads the den as a Patrol and teaches scout skills.
- Coordinates Troop visits and co-activities for activities for AoL.
- Requests a Den Chief from local Troop
- Plans graduation ceremony with Pack
- Promotes participation in the Troop's summer camp.
- Work with den parents to explain and highlight the differences between cub scouting and Scouts BSA.



The Scoutmaster

- Recognize that Webelos must be must be actively recruited.
- Reserve space for 2nd year Webelos at summer camp.
Inform Webelos leader of camp dates and costs early
- Coordinate Webelos Den visits and co-activities.
- Share the Troop schedule and collect Webelos contact information
- Recruit Den Chiefs as a key leadership position.
- Prepare Webelos Parent orientations and recruit new adult leaders.



The Cubmaster

- Main point of contact for Troop-Pack coordination.
- Includes Troop visits in the pack program.
- Recruits Webelos leaders and promotes Den, Webelos, and BALOO leader training.
- Helps plan and conduct graduation ceremony
- Promotes the Pack Camping program.



The Den Chief

- A role model for Boy Scouts
- A resource for teaching Scout skills
- Shares experiences in Troop to build excitement
- Helps Webelos Den operations
- Assists in the Arrow of Light and Graduation ceremony
- Gains leadership experience for rank advancement



The Webelos / AoL Program

The easiest way to prepare a Webelos scout for Scouts BSA is by earning the Arrow of Light.

Required Adventures provide an introduction to many Scouts BSA concepts:

- **Scouting Adventure: Meeting Structure / Troop Leadership**
- **Outdoor Adventurer: Expand outdoor skills in anticipation of joining a Scouts BSA troop.**
- **Building a Better World: Practice citizenship at the local, national, and world levels.**
- **Duty to God In Action: Learn about and practice the scout's religious faith.**



The Webelos / AoL Program (cont.)

Elective adventures are similar to the BSA merit badge program, where scouts are able to explore particular topics in greater depth.

Webelos Den overnights are an excellent time to work on the required adventures and to get the scouts excited about camping more in the future.

Webelos can camp with a Scouts BSA troop for 1 night only (if invited)

Aim to complete AoL requirements by February / March and plan your crossover early. This gives the new scouts a chance to build a level of comfort with their troop before Summer Camp.



The Crossover

The main purpose of the Crossover Ceremony is to recognize Scouts who are moving forward in the Scouting program, but it is also an opportunity to inspire other Cub Scouts to reach this significant milestone as well.

- Keep it simple
- Make it meaningful
- Involve the youth leaders

There are many resources available to Pack leaders online to help plan your crossing over ceremony.

The Order of the Arrow [Http://www.ktemaque.org](http://www.ktemaque.org), can assist as well.



Picking the Right Troop

Each Troop has it's own “personality”. It's important that your scout finds the right fit in order to be successful.


Troop Considerations:

- Meeting Time / Location
- Troop Size. Large vs Small.
- Meeting Format. Youth led?
- Are all scouts in uniform?
- How are Troop Communications handled?
- How are new scouts integrated into the troop? New Scout patrol?
- How is advancement managed? Target First Class?
- Does Troop have a published calendar?
- Does the Troop go to Summer Camp? Where?
- Are all adult leaders trained?
- Cost? Required gear? How are troop funds managed
- Parental Expectations?
- Was the meeting FUN??




Picking the Right Troop

Consider taking notes or using a checklist to help make your decision easier



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



Virtual Scouting

How do we keep our AOL den / new scouts engaged during this period of social distancing?

Virtual “Zoom” Troop or Den Meetings - Zoom offers free accounts (45 minutes), and many troops are having their weekly meetings via Zoom

Virtual Merit Badges - Many merit badge counselors are willing to meet virtually to work on badges.

Rank Advancement Modifications - BSA has recently announced modifications to rank requirements to allow Scouts to continue their advancement.

Virtual Camping - Virtual Campouts can be used to fulfill the Tenderfoot camping requirement.



QUESTIONS?



COURSE EVALUATION

Thank you for attending the WPC University of Scouting. In order to ensure a quality program for future events, please take a moment to fill out our survey. You do not have to put your name, but please let us know your position in scouting to assist us in our rating procedures.

**Course Title: Transitioning from Cubs to
Scouts BSA - CS400**

Trainer: Dave Kindberg

Feedback is a gift!

