

New Scout's Path to First Class A Troop Program



Patriots Path Council

<http://advancement.ppbsa.org/NewScoutsPathtoFirstClass.htm>

New Scout's Path to First Class **A Troop Program**

Purpose:

- **Engage the individual in the Boy Scout Program**
- **Encourage Webelos to cross over into Boy Scouts**
- **Encourage advancement for 1st year Scouts**
- **Expose boys to all that Scouting has to offer**

We do not want to lose a boy in the Scouting program before or during the transition from Cubs Scouts to Boy Scouts

We do not want to lose a boy in the first year of Boy Scouting!

Why was this document developed?

Retaining Scouts in the program is a challenge presented to every Troop. Why are some Troops successful in retaining members and others are just passing boys through in six to twelve months? Is your troop using the old “sink or swim” approach to introducing and working with younger Scouts, or do you have a plan for addressing the needs of these boys?

Assimilating many new scouts at one time requires some careful planning and preparation. (6Ps)

We must remember there are significant differences between the Cub Scout and the Boy Scout programs and be in a position to assist these new Boy Scouts in a number of ways. One way is to ensure that the new Boy Scout becomes comfortable in his new Troop environment and he is made aware that the Troop, particularly the Youth Leadership, is very concerned about him and his adjustment to the new program. Parental understanding of these differences should be addressed early. For example, many parents do not recognize the emphasis on boy leadership in a Troop as opposed to the close parent and adult hands on leadership provided in Cub Scouts.

The highlight of any Troop year should be attendance at summer camp with all the excitement of living in the woods and the opportunity to try many new activities. Summer camp presents a formidable challenge to the new Boy Scout. But how do we get him to want to go to summer camp and how do we put him in a position to enjoy and participate in the many challenges offered? One way is to have him feel that he is truly a valuable member of the Troop and the leadership wants him to succeed. Have the youth leadership promote (hype-up) summer camp in the Troop.

A method for encouraging this development is included in the enclosed material. **The goal is to have the new Scout complete at least his Tenderfoot requirements before he attends his first summer camp.** The idea is to have him become familiar with the patrol method, obtain a good degree of self-confidence and complete several basic Scout skills. All before he attends his first summer camp experience. Your chances of having that Scout return to the Troop in September are far better when he has a positive experience in his first few months.

Implementation

Address the transition from the Cub Scout program to the Boy Scout program.
Enhance Troop-Pack relationships.

Roll out an advancement program/plan for Troops to utilize giving new Scouts the opportunity to achieve the rank of First Class Scout in the first 12-18 months within the Troop program of meetings, events, and summer camp.

Advancement is not a race, but should have a steady pace; this is not designed to fast track or cut corners, rather to layout the organization to allow a motivated scout the opportunity to advance to First Class in approximately 12-18 months. Advancement is not a group function it occurs at the Scout's individual pace. Be on the lookout for slower paced scouts and focus on them to ensure they don't miss out at the same time motivated scouts who satisfactorily meets the requirements should be supported and not be held back by a unit.

Build Relationship between Troops & Packs

Troops to build relationship with Packs

Assign an Assistant Scout Master (ASM) as Pack liaison *working with the Packs all year long!*

Provide Troop contact information to the Pack Leadership

The Troop offers assistance to the Packs via the following:

- Den programs - Den Chiefs (this does not have to be a year long commitment but at least 6 months to meet Position of Responsibility (POR) requirements)
- Pack programs- Offer use of Troop equipment
Scout assistance at Pack Outings and Pack Events (e.g. Boy Scouts assist running a Webelos overnight teaching outdoor skills and assist at the Pinewood Derby, etc.)

Schedule a time at a Pack meeting for Scouts to demonstrate Troop activities to the entire Cub Pack especially Webelos-**a WOW opportunity**

Invite Webelos (1st & 2nd year) to attend Troop meetings- purpose is to meet/greet & allow Webelos to earn an activity badge (e.g. Readyman) while becoming exposed to a Troop in action. This must be FUN!

Have a few Scouts attend a Den meeting to assist the Webelos Den in earning an Activity Badge. (may be less intimidating for the Webelos)

Publish & distribute the Troop Calendar of events; especially point out the advance notice of the Troop's Summer Camp dates (for family vacation/summer planning)

Strongly encourage Summer Camp 1st year

Recruit Webelos- Sell the Scouting program & the Troop

Scouts present to Webelos (I&II) and Adult Troop Leaders to parents- each session is separate but with similar material presented. Examples of Troop meetings, activities and events- another **WOW opportunity**.

****WOW**-a presentation of activities/events that will leave the target audience saying/thinking "WOW" I want to do that! I want to join now!
e.g. White water rafting, kayaking, backpacking, repelling, camping, doing it on your own with the help of other Scouts!

***The involvement of a Boy Scouts with Webelos, even for a short time,
has a tangible positive impact.***

New Scouts in Troop (*the future of your Troop*)

New Scout Patrols- if the Troop can support it break the new scouts into their own Patrol as soon after crossover as possible.

An ASM(s) is assigned to oversee New Scout Troop Guides, Instructors & New Scouts Patrols (This job should not be handled by the Scout Master(SM)).

Troop Guides are assigned to a New Scout Patrol (during this time the Troop Guides are member of the Senior Patrol/Leadership Corps, not another Patrol)-in role of Patrol Leader (PL) of new scout patrols.

Plan troop calendar/events to meet requirements and offer opportunity for tenderfoot to first class in 12-18 months (Utilize National work sheet #34118B). New Scout Guide(s) must attend Troop calendar planning Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) meeting to ensure calendar incorporates the needs of the New Scouts.

ASM works directly with Troop guides / Instructors / Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPLs) to monitor progress.

Use tracking method on requirement sheet (use advancement tracking #34118B) kept in binder in Troop room or by ASM. The completed requirements are **also** signed off in the Scout's **Handbook** at least every 2 weeks.

Set goals for new Scouts-*mention them frequently*

Most important to recognize rank advancement at least *three (3) times as soon as possible:*

- In front of the Troop all who have successfully completed a Scout Master Conference & Board of Review (BOR) (this may be 2 opportunities)
- In front of the Troop (next meeting after BOR) award rank patch
- Next Court of Honor (COH) recognized for rank advancement & receive rank card

Resources for Troop Guides

Boy Scout Handbook

First Class First Year Tracking sheet

Patrol Leaders Handbook

National Youth Leader Training (NYLT) manual

Troop Leader Training (TLT) training packet

Fieldbook

Resources for ASM in charge of New Scout Program

Boy Scout Handbook

Scoutmaster's Handbook