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Webelos to Scout Transition

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Commissioners

- What Unit Commissioners need to make sure happens
 - All fifth graders who want to join a Troop have the opportunity to do so
 - No fifth graders who want to join fall through the cracks because either their Pack didn't prepare them or a Troop doesn't have a program to accept them
 - Packs and Troops accept that the February crossover is the way BSA designed the fifth grade Scouting program to be implemented
- How we can help to make this happen

- **Pick a few key low-effort (to Den, Pack, and Troop Leaders) areas or tasks that we'd like Unit Leaders to pick up**
- Boys who probably won't join or remain no matter what we do
 - Those who really don't like camping
 - Those whose parents don't like camping and let their sons know it
 - Those who are constantly in trouble with the Safety Patrol at school

Packs

- Cubmaster, AoL Den Leader(s), and Committee Chair need to understand that the Fifth Grade Scouting Program starts in the Pack, but in **February** continues in a Boy Scout Troop.
 - This needs to be conveyed to the boys **and their parents.**
 - Unit Commissioners need to proactively work with the Packs to ensure that they're on-board with the February (early March at the latest) transition and **push-back**

appropriately if this isn't in the Pack's plans for the year.

- There needs to be someone, usually the AoL Den Leader or an Assistant Cubmaster, who's the contact point for Troops recruiting from the Pack, and whose final tasks as the Troop Contact Person include
 1. working with Troops to coordinate the crossover (aka Arrow of Light) ceremony, and
 2. making sure the boys actually report to the Troop the following week and staying on top of those who don't.
- The Den program, perhaps starting in the spring of 4th grade, needs to include an overnight campout.
- The Den should give themselves a name, similar to a Patrol name, and wear a Patrol patch rather than a Den number.
- Those in the AoL Den should be encouraged to **upgrade to the Boy Scout uniform** (as I'm sure most have already outgrown their blue Cub Scout uniform anyway; also already having the uniform gives one less financial reason for not joining a Troop)
- About Den Chiefs, I recommend that each AoL Den have one, but if they don't, they should be ready to accept a few Den meeting visits from Boy Scouts who can work with the boys on Scout skills; especially, preparing for campouts.

Troops

- The Troop needs to be prepared for Arrow of Light Den visits by having an interesting program in place for when they visit, making sure each 5th grader is immediately welcomed and has something to do, and making sure it's an overall positive experience (like no injuries or incidents during game time).
 - As the boys are participating in meeting activities, there needs to be a recruiting program aimed at the parents
 - I personally feel that a Court of Honor will not provide a positive recruiting experience, as the fifth graders are not involved in any part of the program.
- **The Troop needs to have a program in place to bring the 5th graders up to speed after they cross over.**
 - This includes having older Scouts (i.e., Troop Guides and Instructors) whose jobs are to work on Scout skills, including advancement, with the 5th graders.
 - A Den Chief who had a good rapport with his AoL Den should be considered for the Troop Guide position.
 - **The program should allow, and encourage, incoming 5th graders to earn Tenderfoot by the end of the school year.**

- The fifth graders should be strongly encouraged to participate in the Troop's summer camp program and taught the skills necessary to prepare them for it.
- There needs to be someone (an ASM or Troop Committee Member) who's the contact point for the Packs.
- The Troop should try to place Den Chiefs in AoL dens, or if this can't be done, provide Scouts for a few Den meetings to teach Scouting skills and preparing the Webelos for a campout.
- **Troops need to accept that February is the crossover month and that their meetings and outdoor activities for the remainder of the school year include appropriate activities for the new Scouts.**
 - Unit Commissioners need to be prepared to counter any pushback about Troops really preferring that the crossover not occur until the fall of sixth grade or that the "real" program won't start until after the summer.
- **Troops need to actively recruit the parents of 5th grade Scouts**, starting with the former Arrow of Light Den Leaders and Assistants, as ASM's, Troop Committee members, or just those willing to be on-call for specific activities.

Boy Scout Oath

On my honor, I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout
Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and
morally straight.

Boy Scout Law

A Scout is:

- Trustworthy,
- Loyal,
- Helpful,
- Friendly,
- Courteous,
- Kind,
- Obedient,
- Cheerful,
- Thrifty,
- Brave,
- Clean,
- and Reverent.