**TRANSITION CEREMONIES FOR MOVING UP DENS AND MOVING AOLs TO SCOUTS BSA**

See *Staging Den and Pack Ceremonies (2010 version)* Chapter 9 for starter suggestions for your ceremonies <https://www.cubsource.org/trng/CeremoniesforDensPacks.pdf>

**Let’s Have a Celebration!**

Do you remember what it feels like to move into a new class in school? There is some fear on one hand and excitement on the other. When we celebrate the moment of a Cub Scout Den’s transition to the next Den level, the celebration helps smooth that adjustment and make it ***FUN***. So…celebrate each step: from Lion to Tiger, Tiger to Wolf, Wolf to Bear, Bear to Webelos, Webelos to AOL Scout, and AOL Scout to Scouts BSA.

Be careful to make all of your props “barrier-free.” A transition bridge could prevent someone who is visually or physically impaired from participating with the den. Instead of making the Scout feel different, adapt the plan so that all Scouts have this experience in the same way. Make freestanding holders for a rope, suggesting a bridge, instead of raising the floor. Use your imagination.

**Timing Is Everything**

When do you transition your Cub Scouts and start their work on the next rank? The Cub Scout cycle recommends that Lions, Tigers, Wolves, Bears, and Webelos (1st year) transition into the next program at the end of the school year. This gives them the opportunity to work in their new books during summertime activities.

It is important that AOL Scouts receive the Arrow of Light by February or March and then cross over (in a ceremony!) to Scouts BSA and start immediately to attend Troop meetings, campouts, and other Troop activities. They need to have time to develop friendships and skills before attending summer camp with their new Troop. Studies show that Scouts BSA members who attend summer camp their first year are much more likely to stay in Scouting than those who miss out on this opportunity.

**Who Plans the Ceremony?**

The responsibility of planning the transition ceremonies belongs to many people in the Pack and should be discussed at a Pack Leaders’ meeting. The key is to involve as many people as possible in the ceremony, with one person leading the group.

* For Dens moving up a Den level, use your parents, Cubmaster, Assistant Cubmasters, Lion and Tiger Den Leaders, Wolf and Bear Den Leaders, Webelos Den Leaders and Den Chiefs.
* For cross-over ceremonies to Scouts BSA, include all the same people, along with the AOL Den Leaders, Scoutmasters, and all the Cub Scouts (if possible), in sending the AOLs off to their Troop(s).

In other words, involve all the people who have played an important part in providing the Cub Scout program for the boys and girls. When you schedule these events ahead of time during your Annual Pack Program Planning Conference, you’ll be sure to make it a memorable and impressive event!!

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