

Webelos to Scout Transition

Stanley M Krieger
orig: September 14, 2016
rev1: September 27, 2023

How To Approach It

The 5th Grade Scouting Program

- The **5th grade Scouting program** starts in a Cub Scout Pack and continues in a Scouts BSA Troop in **February**
- Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA are not separate organizations
 - There is only one activity- SCOUTING
 - Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA are simply age-appropriate Scouting programs
- Arrow of Light Dens and Scouts BSA Troops **work together**
 - Prepare 5th graders and parents for the entire year's program
 - This includes the Troop's week at summer camp between the 5th and 6th grades

Preparing AoL Dens for Scouts BSA

- Tan Uniform
- Advancement Method (it's more like Troop)
- Den Camping (in addition to Pack camping)
- **Scouts BSA Sign and Salute**
- Treat AoL Den as a Patrol
 - Denner and Assistant Denner act as PL and APL
- Joint Activities with Troop
 - Campout
 - Service Project
- Concept of 5th Grade Program

Why Do 5th Graders Need to Join Troops in February?

- To prepare them for summer camp
 - Realize that there's no Cub Scout summer camp program for incoming 6th graders as they should be in Troops by the time they finish 5th grade
 - The 5th graders participating in a few Troop camping trips will give them, and their parents, the confidence needed to attend summer camp with the Troop
 - Scouts that attend Troop summer camp are more likely to continue because of the experience and their personal accomplishments (e.g., rank requirements, merit badges)
- To get them into Troops before the spring sports season (primarily baseball) starts
 - Once in a Troop, we can work with them on scheduling conflicts
 - If they're not in a Troop, we may never see them again

AoL Dens Working with a Troop

- Packs and Troops each designate a *Webelos to Scout Transition Coordinator*
- **A Troop presentation** to Arrow of Light Den members and parents at a September Den Meeting
- Arrow of Light Den **mailing list shared** with Troop
- Joint Arrow of Light Den & Troop Campout in October
- Arrow of Light Den participates in a Troop service project
- Troop provides a Den Chief
- Crossover ceremony at **February** Pack Meeting
 - **NOTICE:** I'm **NOT** saying ***Blue and Gold Dinner*** !

FAQ 1

- Q: Since some/many/most/all of the Cubs in my Arrow of Light Den don't plan to join Scouts BSA, what do I do in that case?
 - A: The 5th grade program makes this a moot point; there are simply no Den or Pack activities for 5th graders after February (except AoL Den alumni participation in District Pinewood Derby)
 - 5th graders joining a Troop in February is no different from Cubs who complete 2nd grade moving on to Bear
 - We don't postpone the transition from Wolf to Bear, **and we don't postpone the transition from Arrow of Light to Scouts**
 - They're registered until December of 6th grade, so give Scouts BSA a try; maybe they'll have fun

FAQ 2

- Q: Cubs who are not yet 11 years old didn't complete Arrow of Light by February; what do we do since their Den no longer exists and they're too young to join Scouts BSA?
 - A: This is really no longer a problem since 5th graders can join a Troop on March 1, so in a worse-case situation, there's a week or two where they'd still officially be Cubs

FAQ 3

- Q: Since the Webelos program includes Den camping, what training do I need?
 - A: As with any Cub Scout camping, there needs to be a BALOO-trained adult (preferably two) present
 - When the Arrow of Light Den camps with a Troop, it's officially two different units just sharing a common camping area
 - If the Pack and Troop have different Charter Organizations, Council approval is required for joint camping
 - For the AoL Den, Cub Scout camping rules still apply (e.g., each Cub must have their own responsible adult accompanying them, 2-deep registered Scouter leadership)
 - Even if under Cub Scout rules an accompanying adult doesn't need to be a registered Scouter, local rules should require they be YPT-trained

Actual Pack Pushback

From a WDL:

- Den Leader's child didn't plan to continue in a Troop (which is why there was no interaction with a Troop)
- The parents don't want to miss one more Pinewood Derby (Packs should consider having them in January or early February)

Packs do not respond to Troop emails or return phone calls

- Often the Troops let it drop (i.e., they don't say anything until their Commissioner asks in January how recruiting is going)
- In some cases, Packs claim to have an “official” Feeder Pack arrangement with another Troop (FYI, BSA policy is they don't exist)

Pack leadership often doesn't fully understand the concept of a 5th Grade Scouting program

- It's something we need to teach at all live Cub Scout leader classes (i.e., Leader Specific, BALOO, University of Scouting).
- BSA reduced the original 7 Adventures for AoL to 5 in order to ensure that the rank can be earned by February.

Overall Objectives

- The Webelos Program is a Transition from Cub Scouts to Scouts BSA
- Working with a Troop, Including Having a Den Chief, Helps Prepare the Webelos Scouts for Scouts BSA
- Webelos Cross Over from Cub Scouts to Scouts BSA in February of the 5th Grade

The key factor to improved Webelos transition is the ongoing working relationship of the leaders of a Cub Scout pack(s) and a Scouts BSA troop(s).

scouting.org Link

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/troop-resources/recruitment-marketing/webelos-to-scouts-transition/>

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/troop-resources/recruitment-marketing/webelos-to-scouts-transition/>