

THE WEBELOS SCOUT PROGRAM

THE WEBELOS DEN, 21-1

WEBELOS DEN LEADERSHIP, 21-1

PLANNING THE WEBELOS DEN MEETING, 21-2

Who Attends the Webelos Den Meeting?, 21-2

Who Is Responsible?, 21-2

What Resources Are Available?, 21-2

Webelos Den Meeting Location, 21-2

Webelos Den Meeting Date and Time, 21-2

Webelos Den Records and Charts, 21-3

Webelos Den Tools and Equipment, 21-3

SEVEN PARTS OF A WEBELOS DEN MEETING, 21-3

ELEMENTS OF A GOOD WEBELOS DEN MEETING, 21-4

ADVANCEMENT, 21-5

Webelos Badge, 21-5

Webelos Activity Badges, 21-5

Compass Points, 21-7

Arrow of Light Award, 21-7

WEBELOS DEN ADULTS' MEETING, 21-7

Den Adults' Meeting Agenda, 21-8

WEBELOS DEN OVERNIGHT CAMPOUTS, 21-9

Purpose, 21-9

How Often Are They Held and Who

Attends?, 21-9

Location, 21-9

Transportation, 21-10

Equipment, 21-10

Webelos Campout Preparation, 21-10

Webelos Den Overnight Campout Planning

Meeting Agenda, 21-11

JOINING A BOY SCOUT TROOP, 21-11

THE WEBELOS DEN

Webelos dens are for boys who have completed third grade (or reached age 10). The Webelos den program is different from the Cub Scout den program: Instead of being based on a monthly theme, the Webelos den program is based on one of 20 Webelos activity badges.

Webelos Scouts work on activity badge requirements during their weekly den meetings. When they have completed the activity badge requirements, the Webelos den leader or activity badge counselor, rather than a parent, approves most of the activity badges.

Den meetings also include games, songs, stunts, and preparation for the Webelos den's part in the pack meeting. In addition, Webelos Scouts prepare for overnight campouts and joint activities with a Boy Scout troop. One of the purposes of the Webelos den is to prepare boys for Boy Scouting and to graduate Webelos Scouts into a Boy Scout troop.

WEBELOS DEN LEADERSHIP

- The **Webelos den leader** plans and carries out a year-round program of activities for the Webelos den.
- The **assistant Webelos den leader** helps the Webelos den leader as needed.
- The **Webelos den chief** is a Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer who serves as an activities assistant at den meetings.
- **Activity badge counselors** are adults who counsel a Webelos den on one or more of the activity badges. With their skills and resources, activity badge counselors can help den leaders plan activity badge experiences.
- The **troop Webelos resource person** is an adult leader in a Boy Scout troop who works with the Webelos den leader in using the resources of the troop to help prepare Webelos Scouts and their parents or guardians for Boy Scouting.

- The **Webelos Scout denner** is a Webelos Scout who has been selected by the Webelos den for a short term of office, usually three to six months. The Webelos den leader and Webelos den chief determine his responsibilities, which may include leading ceremonies, preparing equipment, setting up the meeting room, or helping with games or other activities.
- The **Webelos Scout assistant denner** is a den member selected by the Webelos den for a term of office that coincides with the Webelos Scout denner's term. He helps the denner and may become the Webelos Scout denner for the next term.

PLANNING THE WEBELOS DEN MEETING

Determining the program plan for a Webelos den will depend on the starting and graduation dates of your boys. Activity badges, the Webelos badge, and Arrow of Light Award requirements are other factors that also need to be considered. The Webelos den leader needs to schedule the den program so that each Webelos Scout has the opportunity to earn the Arrow of Light Award while he prepares to become a Boy Scout.

The basic information for planning and conducting Webelos den meetings and activities can be found in this book and the *Webelos Leader Guide* (No. 33853).

A long-range plan is developed for each Webelos den schedule to include areas of major emphasis for each month, special activities, joint Webelos den–troop activities, and an outdoor program. The Webelos den leader may plan this calendar with help from the assistant Webelos den leader, Webelos den chief, the assistant Scoutmaster of the troop, and others.

One activity badge is covered each month during den meetings. Some of the more challenging badges, such as Craftsman and Engineer, are featured for two months. The *Webelos Leader Guide* provides den meeting outlines for each activity badge. Many Webelos den leaders use these outlines as a guide and incorporate ideas or plans they develop themselves or read about in *Boys' Life*. A well-planned den meeting program will ensure that most of the boys will qualify for the activity badge by the end of the month.

The Webelos den meeting activities lead up to the monthly pack meeting. Each month's pack meeting should feature displays or demonstrations by Webelos Scouts that are related to the activity badge they completed that month. These demonstrations give boys a chance to share what they have learned, as well as stimulating interest in and anticipation of Webelos Scouting in younger boys.

Who Attends the Webelos Den Meeting?

Den meetings are for the boys. They are attended by the Webelos Scouts, Webelos den leader, assistant Webelos den leader, and Webelos den chief. An activity badge counselor who has been asked to help with a specific badge may also attend. This person may be a parent, but parents don't normally attend den meetings.

Who Is Responsible?

The Webelos den leader is responsible for ensuring that the weekly Webelos den meetings are planned and conducted. The basic outline for the den meeting is planned at the monthly pack leaders' meeting (see Chapter 24, "Program Planning"). A wise Webelos den leader will involve the other members of the den leadership team (assistant Webelos den leader and Webelos den chief) in the planning process.

What Resources Are Available?

Several resources are available to help you make plans for den meetings:

- The *Webelos Leader Guide* (No. 33853) provides suggestions for den meetings, activity badge projects, advancement requirements, and Webelos Scout transition activities. Different den program plans are also provided for you to use according to your unique den situation.
- **Cub Scout Leader roundtable** is a combined planning meeting for the packs in your district that provides program ideas, activity badge helps, policy guidelines, and information on events in your district and council. Check with pack leadership for the time and place of the district roundtable.
- **Other BSA literature and helps** are available for you to use in your planning. Check your pack library or council service center for appropriate materials on songs, ceremonies, the BSA Family program, Cub Scout Academics and Sports, and outdoor opportunities that you could use with your den.

Webelos Den Meeting Location

The Webelos den meeting can take place in the home of the Webelos den leader or in another suitable meeting place, such as a room in the chartered organization's building or even a basement, garage, backyard, apartment building, recreation center room, or park. Meetings are usually held in the same place and at the same time each week, except when the den is on a trip or other outing.

Webelos Den Meeting Date and Time

A regularly scheduled meeting day and time for your den meeting will result in better attendance. Webelos den meetings are usually held once a week and usually in the early evening

or on weekends. The Webelos den leader selects a suitable meeting day and time after talking with all den families.

Most Webelos den meetings are no longer than an hour and 15 minutes. This is sufficient time for you to accomplish all that needs to be done. There are times, however, when the Webelos den may have a longer activity, especially if it is an outdoor or joint troop activity.

Webelos Den Records and Charts

Several BSA forms and charts have been developed to help you with den records. (See Chapter 10, "Den and Pack Management," for more information.)

- **Webelos Den Meeting Program** (see page 34-15). This form helps you plan a Webelos den meeting. You can fill in the details for each portion of a den meeting, including plans and the equipment needed.
- **Den Advancement Report** (see page 34-24). Use this form to report advancement of boys in the den so that badges can be obtained and presented at the pack meeting.

At the end of the third Webelos den meeting each month, fill out the Cub Scout and Webelos Scout Den Advancement Report so that it can be turned in at the monthly pack leaders' meeting along with the den dues for the month.
- **Den Advancement Chart.** Use this wall chart to record Webelos advancement; it can also serve as an incentive for boys in the Webelos den to continue their advancement progress.
- **Webelos Den Record** (see page 34-21). Complete this two-sided form weekly to keep track of advancement, attendance, and dues. The form also includes phone numbers, addresses, and other information to help you and other leaders stay in contact with the boys' families.
- **Individual Cub Scout Record** (see page 34-29). This record, kept by den leaders, provides more detail than the Webelos Den Record. Space is provided for a four-year record of attendance and dues, personal and family data, and a detailed advancement record. (A separate individual record form is used for Tiger Cubs.) Whenever a boy transfers into a new program area (Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, or Webelos Scouts), the record should go with him and be given to his new den leader.
- **Monthly Den Dues Envelope** (No. 34209). Use this envelope to collect den dues.

Webelos Den Tools and Equipment

Because the Webelos den is not involved in the same types of activities as Cub Scout dens, different tools and equipment are needed. Each activity badge will call for certain materials, which can be determined by the Webelos den leader and activity badge counselor.

Generally, the den should have a Webelos den flag and a U.S. flag, which is sometimes furnished by the pack, along with flag stands or holders. Other ceremony equipment may be accumulated over time. Many dens have den doodles (see Chapter 18, "Advancement").

SEVEN PARTS OF A WEBELOS DEN MEETING

Most Webelos den meetings follow a regular pattern consisting of seven parts. If you will follow this when you plan meetings, you will have balance, accomplish a purpose, and provide fun for the Webelos Scouts.

Seven Parts of a Webelos Den Meeting

1. Before the Meeting
2. Gathering
3. Opening
4. Activity Badge Fun
5. Preparation
6. Closing
7. After the Meeting

1. **Before the Meeting** the Webelos den leadership team (Webelos den leader, assistant den leader, and den chief) has the chance to make last-minute preparations for the den meeting program and make sure that everything is ready. If the Webelos Scout denner can arrive early, he can help set up the meeting place, too. If the Webelos den chief is not able to arrive at the meeting before the Webelos Scouts, a phone call the day before the meeting will verify that he knows what is expected.
2. **Gathering.** The boys usually won't arrive at the same time, so it's wise to have a gathering activity to keep them busy until the meeting begins. This is a good time for tricks, puzzles, games, and contests. The most appropriate types of games are those that can be started with a few boys and continue to be played as more boys arrive and join in the game. The Webelos den chief can help lead this activity.

Another gathering-time activity is practicing the Boy Scout joining requirements under the leadership of the Webelos den chief. He can instruct boys as they arrive, and they can practice while he helps each additional boy.
3. **Opening.** Boys need to recognize that the meeting has officially started. A simple opening ceremony accomplishes this objective and also provides opportunities for you to teach important values. Webelos Scouts soon will be Boy Scouts, so using the Scout Oath and Scout Law in

ceremonies helps them better understand their meaning and importance. (See *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs*, No. 33212B, for information about and ideas for opening ceremonies.)

The opening period is also a good time to have uniform inspections. Check the boys' uniforms to be sure they are worn correctly and have proper insignia. The Webelos den chief can help.

After the opening ceremony, the boys can sit in a circle for a brief business period. The denner can take roll and collect dues, and you can discuss plans for upcoming events.

4. **Activity Badge Fun** is the heart of the den meeting. It's a time for instruction, practice, games, and contests related to the activity badge of the month. The boys should have the opportunity to learn by doing. They will learn, have fun, and retain their knowledge longer if they are actively involved. Activity badge counselors can be a great help during this period.

Some activity badge requirements lend themselves to special field trips or outings. Be sure to file appropriate tour permits and obtain permission slips from parents.

This is also a good time to introduce and practice some basic Scouting skills. Teach the meaning of the Scout Oath, Law, motto, and slogan; practice the Scout salute.

See the *Webelos Leader Guide* (No. 33853A) for helpful ideas on how to complete the activity badges. Your monthly district roundtable is also a good resource for activity badge ideas and information.

5. **Preparation.** This is the part of the den meeting where the boys prepare for the den's part in the next pack meeting.

- Webelos Scouts should plan to exhibit projects they have worked on during the month.
- Webelos Scouts should prepare any equipment or props they will need to demonstrate the month's activity badge at the pack meeting.
- Webelos Scouts should practice ceremonies or other assignments that they have agreed to do at the pack meeting.

This is also the time to make detailed plans for service projects, outdoor events, and other special activities. This period could include games, songs, and other fun.

6. **Closing.** The closing ceremony is another opportunity to help instill the aims of Scouting—citizenship training, character building, and personal fitness. It also formally marks the close of the meeting.

Make any announcements just before the closing ceremony, when boys are more apt to remember them.

7. **After the Meeting.** Boys should help clean up and put the meeting place back in order. Part of citizenship training is

teaching boys responsibility and respecting the property of others.

ELEMENTS OF A GOOD WEBELOS DEN MEETING

- The meeting is no longer than an hour and 15 minutes. The meeting begins and ends on time.
- The den meeting program includes all seven parts of a Webelos den meeting.
- The meeting is conducted by a trained Webelos den leader with help from a trained assistant Webelos den leader and trained Webelos den chief.
- The Webelos Scouts and leaders are properly uniformed.
- Before the meeting begins, equipment and materials are ready for use.
- A well-planned written program is conducted.
- Activities are related to that month's activity badge and the next pack meeting.
- Activity badge counselors are involved in guiding activity badge work.
- Activities are geared to helping the boys prepare to become Boy Scouts.
- Leaders effectively manage boy behavior. Boys show proper respect for adult leaders, the den chief, and each other.
- Boys bring their handbooks to each meeting.
- Den records are accurate and kept up-to-date.
- Inspiration and motivation are provided through ceremonies and discussion of activity badge projects.
- The Webelos Scouts have fun.

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- Activities are geared to helping the boys prepare to become Boy Scouts.
- Leaders effectively manage boy behavior. Boys show proper respect for adult leaders, the den chief, and each other.
- Boys bring their handbooks to each meeting.
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- Inspiration and motivation are provided through ceremonies and discussion of activity badge projects.
- The Webelos Scouts have fun.

ADVANCEMENT

Webelos Badge



Webelos badge
option 1



Webelos badge
option 2

The Webelos rank is for boys who have completed third grade (or are 10 years old). A boy may begin working on the Webelos badge as soon as he joins a Webelos den. This is the first step in his transition from the Webelos den to the Boy Scout troop. As he completes the requirements found in the *Webelos Handbook*, he will work on activity badges, attend meetings led by adults, and become familiar with the Boy Scout joining requirements—all leading to the Arrow of Light Award.

A boy completes most Webelos badge requirements with his Webelos den leader and activity badge counselors. After the boy has completed all requirements, the Webelos den leader turns in the den advancement report. The Webelos badge is obtained and presented to the boy's parent or guardian at the next pack meeting in an impressive advancement ceremony, during which the parent/guardian in turn presents the badge to the boy.

See Chapter 12, "Uniforms and Insignia," for placement of the Webelos badge on the uniform.

Webelos Activity Badges

A Webelos Scout is required to earn eight of the 20 available activity badges on the trail to earning the Webelos badge and Arrow of Light Award. The 20 activity badge areas are hobby and career fields ranging from science to sports. Most activity badge requirements are approved by the Webelos den leader or activity badge counselors.

The Webelos den meeting program will usually feature one activity badge each month. (See detailed suggestions in the *Webelos Leader Guide*, No. 33853.) The boys receive instruction, practice what they have learned, and take part in games or contests using the skills. In some cases they actually complete the badge requirements.

Once the boy learns the skill, he practices it at den meetings and at home on his own. The boy's family should be encouraged to help him at home. Boys bring to den meetings completed or partially completed projects done at home to show others, as well as to be approved by the Webelos den leader. This sharing encourages a boy to do his best and helps to build his confidence and self-esteem.

Boys turn essays, notebooks, drawings, and other written work in to the Webelos den leader for approval. If a boy is supposed to "tell" something for a requirement, he should do that at a den meeting.

Many people can be involved in activity badge work: the Webelos den leader, the Webelos den chief, and activity badge counselors. The troop Webelos resource person may help recruit the counselors. Also, parents, other family members, or other adults with talents and skills related to certain badges might be invited to help. The activity badges will be more meaningful to boys if a qualified person coaches them.

Any boy may earn any activity badge during any month; however, having all den members working on the same badge at the same time is recommended because that way, more resources and qualified help are available. If a boy has worked on an activity badge on his own, it may also be difficult to hold his interest during a den meeting focused on that same activity badge.

New boys entering the Webelos den should be given opportunities to earn the required badges. Call on activity badge counselors to attend your den meetings and help boys working on badges that the rest of the den has already covered.

When boys complete activity badges, indicate it on the den advancement report. The activity badges are obtained and presented to the parent or guardian during an impressive advancement ceremony at the pack meeting, during which the parent/guardian in turn presents them to the boy.

The following are brief descriptions of the 20 activity badges:

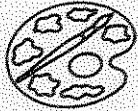
Webelos Activity Badges

Aquanaut



Swimming 100 feet using different strokes; learning how to snorkel and handle a boat; learning three basic water-rescue methods.

Artist



Painting, sculpturing, and making constructions and mobiles.

Athlete



Doing exercises including curl-ups, pull-ups, the standing long jump, the 50-yard dash, and the 600-yard run (walk).

Citizen



Learning about the Declaration of Independence and the "Star-Spangled Banner" and why laws and government are important.

Communicator



Learning about languages and codes, speaking to a group, communicating with the media, and using a computer.

Craftsman



Using tools and making things of wood and leather or plastic.

Engineer



Finding out what engineers do, and making some engineering devices.

Family Member



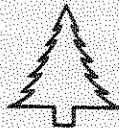
Learning about the family, being helpful at home, safety, and budgeting.

Fitness



Keeping the body healthy through proper diet and exercise, and avoiding harmful substances.

Forester



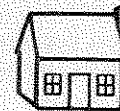
Identifying forest trees and learning how they grow; planting trees; learning how to prevent wildfires.

Geologist



Studying rocks and minerals, and learning how they are formed and their uses.

Handyman



Helping to maintain an automobile, bicycle, home, and yard.

Naturalist



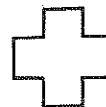
Examining insects, birds, plants, reptiles, and wild animals.

Outdoorsman



Participating in outdoor activities, making a safe fire and cooking outdoors, learning knots.

Readyman



Being prepared to give first aid, getting help for problems, swimming and traveling safely.

Scholar



Maintaining a good record in school, and learning how schools are run.

Scientist



Performing experiments that show some scientific principles.

Showman



Doing projects in the arts—drama, music, or puppetry.

Sportsman



Playing two team sports and two individual sports, and learning official sports signals.

Traveler



Planning a trip, from securing timetables to packing a bag; preparing for and taking an auto trip with the family.

Compass Points



After completing the Webelos badge, the Webelos Scout may receive compass points for earning additional activity badges. The compass points emblem is presented to the boy who has earned four activity badges in addition to those required for the Webelos badge (for a total of seven). A metal compass point, to be pinned to the emblem, is awarded for each additional four activity badges that the boy earns.

Arrow of Light Award



The next step on the Webelos trail to becoming a Boy Scout is the Arrow of Light Award, the highest award a boy can earn as a Cub Scout. This recognition is the only Cub Scout badge authorized to be worn on the Boy Scout uniform when a boy graduates into a troop.

After he has earned the Webelos badge, the Webelos Scout should begin focusing on the requirements for the Arrow of Light Award. (See the *Webelos Handbook*.) Working on these requirements gives him a chance to practice some Scouting skills that he has already learned, earn more activity badges, and learn more about Boy Scouting. You, the Webelos den leader, approve completion of the requirements.

When a boy has completed all of the Arrow of Light Award requirements, indicate it on the den advancement report and turn it in to the pack leadership. The award is obtained and presented to the boy and parent or guardian at an impressive pack ceremony. (See *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs*, No. 33212B, for ideas.)

Webelos Scouts who have earned the Arrow of Light Award have also completed all requirements for the Boy Scout badge. This helps ensure a seamless transition to a Boy Scout troop.

WEBELOS DEN ADULTS' MEETING

Three or four times a year, a Webelos den leader is encouraged to hold a den adults' meeting to keep families informed of how they can support their child's Scouting experience. These meetings are led by the Webelos den leader with the help of the assistant Webelos den leader.

One of these meetings might be held as an orientation meeting in conjunction with a Rally Night for Cub Scouting if a boy joins Scouting as a Webelos Scout. (See Chapter 10, "Den and Pack Management.") Another meeting may be a parent orientation conference that is held at the beginning of a Webelos Scout's fourth grade year, with leaders from a Boy Scout troop, parents, and the Cubmaster. (See the *Webelos Leader Guide*, No. 33853A, "Webelos-to-Scout Transition.")

Experience shows that most families are willing to help with the program for their Webelos Scouts if they know what is expected and have the time and ability to do it. The purposes of the Webelos den adults' meeting are

- To let families know what is expected
- To find out their abilities
- To get better acquainted

When a new Webelos den is organized or when several boys transfer into a Webelos den at the same time, a Webelos den adults' meeting should be held. When only one family is involved, the Webelos den leader can visit at the home and talk with the family individually. The Webelos den adults' meeting is informal and held at a time that is convenient for all families.

As most Webelos Scouts have been Cub Scouts, it may not be necessary at this meeting to repeat all of the basic information about dues, pack meeting attendance, etc.. Some of the information may also be covered during a parent orientation with the Boy Scout troop. The Webelos den leader can pay a personal visit to any new families and provide them with this information. The den adults' meeting is still very important, however. The Webelos den program is different from that of Wolf or Bear Cub Scouts, so you will want to make sure that all families understand the differences and know what is expected of them. Establish a close relationship with adult family members and involve them in the Webelos den's activities.

There are many items to cover during the first Webelos den adults' meeting, so it is recommended that boys don't attend. If any families can't be represented at the meeting, the Webelos den leader will want to make a call or pay a personal visit to be that sure they have all the information.

The Webelos den leader should prepare a written agenda so nothing will be forgotten. The meeting is usually followed by refreshment and fellowship.

Den Adults' Meeting Agenda

I. Welcome and Introductions

1. Help the participants feel at ease.
2. Let them introduce themselves.

II. Webelos Den Meeting and Pack Meetings

1. Announce the den and pack meeting dates and times. (If the den meeting day has not already been determined, make that decision now.)
2. Explain the den meeting format.
3. Review attendance at meetings.
 - Adults usually don't attend den meetings unless they are asked to help in some special way.
 - All family members are encouraged to attend pack meetings.
 - Regular attendance by boys at den and pack meetings is important if they are to get the most benefit from the program.
 - Families are responsible for seeing that boys get to meetings on time and are picked up immediately afterward.

III. Advancement

1. Review the *Webelos Handbook* and the "Parent Guide."
2. Discuss the Webelos advancement plan.
 - Review the requirements for the Webelos badge, various activity badges, and the Arrow of Light Award.
 - Explain that the Webelos den leader or activity badge counselor rather than the parents now approve advancement requirements. Explain that the boys should always bring their handbooks to den meetings so their advancement progress can be recorded.
 - Explain that boys need continuous encouragement and motivation.
 - Explain what modifications might be necessary to help boys with disabilities in their advancement.
 - Tell how awards are presented at pack meetings and that families are expected to attend and to present the awards to their boys.

IV. Den Dues

1. Explain that the annual registration fee is for membership in the national organization and is not used by the den or pack.
2. Explain how den dues are used—to buy advancement badges, equipment, and materials for den projects.
3. Tell how much den dues are and when they are collected. Encourage families to find ways for the boys to earn this money at home so that they can help pay their own way. Emphasize the importance of paying dues regularly.

V. Uniform

1. Explain how the Webelos Scout uniform is different from the Cub Scout uniform.
2. Explain that boys should wear uniforms to all den and pack meetings and other Cub Scout activities.
3. Tell where to buy the uniform—the names and addresses of local Scouting distributors—and how much it costs.

VI. Boy Behavior

1. Explain what type of behavior is expected during den meetings.
2. Tell how behavior problems will be handled.
3. Explain the den code of conduct (see Chapter 16, "Managing Boys").

VII. Parent or Guardian Responsibilities

1. Ask each parent or guardian to fill out a Family Talent Survey Sheet for the den (see page 34-11).
2. Ask whether any adult family members have expertise in the activity badge areas. Recruit activity badge counselors.
3. Review the religious emblems program and show how families can encourage their boys to earn the emblem appropriate for their family's beliefs.
4. Make specific assignments or ask for volunteers for refreshments, telephoning, transportation, etc.

VIII. Medical Information

1. Explain the importance of knowing about any medical problems Webelos Scouts may have.
2. Suggest to parents and guardians that you would like to talk privately with anyone whose boy has a medical problem.

3. If not already on file, have the parents or guardians of each Webelos Scout complete a Class 1 Personal Health and Medical Record for their boy (No. 34414, page 34-51). This information should be readily accessible to you, the den leader, in case of an emergency.

IX. Webelos Den Program

1. Briefly review the Webelos den program, including dates of Webelos overnight campouts and/or any joint activities with a Boy Scout troop.

X. Fellowship and Refreshments

1. Take time for all participants to get to know the families of their Webelos Scout's friends.
2. Exchange telephone numbers and e-mail addresses and encourage den families to get better acquainted.

Subsequent Webelos den adults' meetings might follow this same format but cover different information that is more specific to the den calendar at the time.

WEBELOS DEN OVERNIGHT CAMPOUTS

Webelos den overnight campouts provide opportunities for Webelos Scout to enjoy the increasing camping challenges offered by BSA's progressive outdoor program, but still within the family environment of Cub Scouting. Webelos camping experiences should help prepare Webelos Scouts for the camping adventures of Boy Scouting without taking away from the type of camping they will experience as a member of a Boy Scout troop.

Purpose

The Webelos den overnight campout

- Helps strengthen the relationship between a boy and his parent or guardian while introducing him to the progressive camping program of BSA.
- Offers a variety of activities—some just for fun and others to help boys with advancement requirements, such as for the Outdoorsman, Geologist, Naturalist, and Forester activity badges.
- Helps prepare Webelos Scouts for their camping experience in Boy Scouting. It's an important step in the total outdoor program of the BSA.
- Is exciting and fun for the Webelos Scouts!

How Often Are They Held and Who Attends?

Webelos dens are encouraged to have several overnight campouts each year.

Webelos den overnight campouts are parent-son events, under the direction of the Webelos den leader. The Webelos den leader should be trained in Outdoor Leader Skills for Webelos Leaders, which is in addition to basic training. At the den overnight campout, the Webelos den leader may be assisted by the assistant Webelos den leader and the Webelos den chief. Sometimes, additional leadership from a Boy Scout troop may join you. In most cases, each Webelos Scout is under the supervision of his own father, mother, or guardian.

If a parent or guardian cannot attend, the boy's family should make arrangements for one of the other parents or another adult relative or friend to be a substitute at the campout. It is essential that each Webelos Scout is under the supervision of an adult and that every adult has a share of the responsibility for the campout.

Webelos dens are encouraged to participate in joint overnight campouts with a Boy Scout troop; however, a parent or guardian of each Webelos Scout should still attend.

Location

Webelos Scouts should be experiencing family-type camping, as opposed to the more challenging type of camping that they will be experiencing as Boy Scouts. A location that has a tested water supply, toilets, cooking facilities, space for pitching tents, and an area for indoor activity would be appropriate for a Webelos den overnight campout. (Note that if toilet facilities are not available, proper disposal of solid waste is necessary.) One of the Webelos den families might have a cottage or cabin with some land that would be appropriate. Another possibility is a public campground, which is usually in a good location with appropriate facilities.

Another option is to check with your local council about their facilities for Webelos overnight camping and for a list of other council-approved camping sites.

A council camp or other camping site located so far away that it would involve traveling a considerable distance would not be suitable for a Webelos den overnight campout.

If you use a council camp, be sure that the Webelos campsite is away from regular Boy Scout camping areas. The campsite should be located near a parking area because the family-type equipment that will be used probably will be heavy and difficult to carry any distance.

- In selecting the location for a Webelos overnight campout, remember that Webelos Scouts should not experience Boy Scout-type camping on the overnight.
- Webelos overnights do not include backpacking.
- Webelos overnight camping at Boy Scout camporees and/or events is not a BSA-approved activity.
- Cub Scout health and safety and age-appropriate guidelines apply at all Webelos activities, even when visiting a troop event or campout.

Water for drinking must be tested if it is not from a known, safe supply. If water has not been tested, bring water from home.

Transportation

As a family member or other adult will accompany each Webelos Scout, transportation should not be a problem. Cars are best for transportation to the campsite. Transporting boys in trucks is unsafe and forbidden except in the cab. Buses are not recommended because chartering transportation could make parents feel less responsible for the trip. Appropriate tour permits should be filed, and individual seat belts are required for each person.

Equipment

An overnight campout requires protection from the weather, equipment for food preparation, and program items to suit the area where the campout is being held. Tents, cabins, campers, or camp trailers will be required for shelter.

Dens or packs should not be required to purchase camping equipment. Many of the families will have their own tents used for family camping or can borrow one from a neighbor. Often, a nearby Boy Scout troop will loan tents and other camping equipment to a Webelos den.

When tents are used, no youth will stay in the tent of an adult other than his parent or legal guardian. When housing other than tents is used, separate housing must be provided for male and female participants.

Each parent and son will need some personal equipment. (See the Outdoorsman activity badge section in the *Webelos Handbook* and the Webelos Scout Overnight Checklist on page 34-50.) Each family unit should bring its own cooking equipment, food, and utensils. Each boy works with his accompanying adult to prepare and eat meals together.

Webelos Campout Preparation

Webelos Leader Preparation

1. **Complete Outdoor Leader Skills for Webelos Leaders** to get a good foundation for the overnight experience. When you go camping, if you are not a seasoned camper, be sure to take along an adult or older Boy Scout who is experienced. More than likely, some of the parents will be campers. If not, many Scouters will be willing to help.
2. **Select the date and the camping location** several weeks in advance. If it is a joint Webelos den-troop campout, meet with the Scoutmaster to work out the details.
3. **Make reservations.** Regardless of whether your Webelos den plans to use a privately owned campsite, public campground, or local council camp, you will need to make reservations. In all cases, turn in a Local Tour Permit Application (see page 34-39) to the local council service center at least two weeks before the campout.
4. **Check fire regulations** regarding the use of fires for cooking and campfire programs.
5. **Enlist the help of others**, such as the assistant Webelos den leader, Webelos den chief, assistant Scoutmaster, activity badge counselors, and parents, in planning the details of the campout. (See Chapter 33, "Cub Scout Camping.")

Boy Preparation

Preparing the boys goes beyond just telling them that a campout has been planned. Preparation for the campout offers boys many opportunities to develop skills that will be helpful in their Webelos training.

1. **Discuss the campout** with the den. Explain how it will help satisfy one of the requirements for the Outdoorsman activity badge.
2. **Teach the boys the rules of outdoor fire safety** to help satisfy another Outdoorsman badge requirement. (See the fire safety rules in the *Webelos Handbook*.)
3. **Review the Outdoor Code** to help prepare Webelos Scouts to be good campers and also to introduce them to Boy Scout-joining requirements as well. (See the *Webelos Handbook* or page 32-3.)
4. **Teach the boys basic knots.** (See the *Webelos Handbook*.) They might need to know certain knots when setting up their tents. The Webelos den chief can help teach this skill.
5. **Teach the boys basic first aid.**

- 6. Plan ahead for campfire program activities.** If the den is taking part in a campout where other dens will be attending or is camping with a troop, you probably will be called upon to participate in the campfire program. If you are on a Webelos den overnight campout rather than a joint troop campout, you will still need a planned campfire program. The Webelos den chief can help provide suitable ideas.
- 7. Send home, at least a week before the campout, a Webelos Scout Overnight Checklist** (page 34-50) and a letter giving the final details about the campout.

Adult Preparation

Preparing the adults for the overnight campout is as important as preparing the boys. The end result will be a smoothly run event with everyone knowing what is expected. Properly informed adults will reduce the load of responsibility on Webelos den leaders.

Information about the campout can best be communicated at an informal meeting with family members and other adults who will be attending the campout. Develop a basic plan but let the other adults get involved in planning the details. Let them know that they share the responsibility for the overnight campout. Build your program using their talents and abilities. You might find a nature specialist, a song leader, a storyteller, or a game leader among them.

Take a positive attitude at the meetings. You aren't asking them to be a part of the campout—you are *expecting* them to be part of the campout.

Hold this adult planning meeting at least two weeks before the campout so that it is close enough to the campout date to avoid last-minute changes. If some parents can't attend, be sure that they receive the necessary information.

Webelos Den Overnight Campout Planning Meeting Agenda

1. Date of Campout
2. Location
3. Time and Place of Rendezvous
4. Schedule of Events
5. Menu
6. Equipment
7. Health and Safety

- 1. Date of Campout.** Announce the date of the campout.

- 2. Location.** Decide whether everyone will get themselves to the campsite or whether someone will organize carpooling. Provide maps if necessary. Use the *Guide to Safe Scouting* as a resource to review transportation safety guidelines.
- 3. Time and Place of Rendezvous.** Announce the date, time, and place of departure and arrival.
- 4. Schedule of Events.** A planned program of activities is important. Involve the parents in deciding what type of activities will be included in the campout. Consider the following:

- Nature hike
- Swimming
- Activity badge work
- Campfire program
- Fishing
- Games
- Conservation
- Service project

If swimming is included, be sure to have someone trained and committed to comply with the eight points of Safe Swim Defense (see Chapter 14, "Water Safety").

Shooting sports such as BB guns and archery are not permitted on Webelos den overnight campouts. Shooting sports are not an approved part of Cub Scouting except at a Cub Scout day or resident camp at a BSA facility range, or at certain other council or district events.

For weekend campouts, a nondenominational worship service is appropriate and recommended. This service should be simple and brief.

- 5. Menu.** Keep the menu simple, remembering that each adult-youth team will cook, eat, and clean up together. This activity completes one of the requirements for the Outdoorsman badge. Suggest that similar (though not necessarily identical) meals be planned for all involved. Everyone should anticipate at least two meals involving some cooking, such as the Saturday breakfast and dinner. Families could bring a sack lunch or a light snack to have before the return home, or it could be prepared in camp at breakfast time.
- 6. Equipment.** Each adult should have a personal equipment checklist similar to the boys' Webelos Scout Overnight Checklist. In addition, other items may need to be brought to help with cooking and camping activities.

Make sure that adequate tents are available. Use the *Guide to Safe Scouting* as a resource, and review the BSA policy on sleeping arrangements.

If firewood is to be used for cooking or a campfire program and is in short supply at the camping location, each team should bring its own supply. Also, consider a hand ax or other tools that might be needed.

7. Health and Safety. Using the *Guide to Safe Scouting* as a resource, review BSA guidelines on

- Drug, alcohol, and tobacco use
- Fuel and fire safety
- Water safety
- First aid

Secure a completed Class 1 Personal Health and Medical Record (No. 34414, page 34-51) for all youth and adults who will attend the campout.

JOINING A BOY SCOUT TROOP

It is the aim of Webelos den leaders to have each of their Webelos Scouts graduate into a Boy Scout troop. The graduation of a Webelos Scout from the pack is the responsibility of many people. The Webelos den leader needs the help of the Cubmaster, pack committee, and Scoutmaster.

When a boy leaves a Webelos den to enter a Boy Scout troop, he is entering a new program of experiences. Ensure that this transition into Boy Scouts is smooth and orderly. He should lose no time during this transition. See Chapter 22, “Webelos Scout Transition to Boy Scouting,” for suggestions on joint troop activities and a description of the leadership roles in the transition process.

The Arrow of Light Award is the arrow that leads to Boy Scouting and tells everyone that a boy is ready to be a Boy Scout. To ensure that a boy earns the Arrow of Light Award, the following steps are recommended:

1. Parents or guardians of Webelos Scouts attend a parent orientation meeting sponsored by the troop at the beginning of the fourth- and fifth-grade years. (See the *Webelos Leader Guide* for more information.)
2. Webelos Scouts, with their parent or guardian, visit a troop meeting before they earn the Arrow of Light Award or complete fifth grade. Some Webelos Scouts visit several troops before they decide which one they want to join.

3. The Webelos Scout lets the Webelos den leader know which Boy Scout troop he wants to join.

4. The Webelos den leader notifies the Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster or designated leader from the troop makes arrangements for a Scoutmaster conference with the Webelos Scout and his parents or guardians.

5. The Webelos Scout and his parents complete a Youth Application (available at www.scouting.org/forms) and submit it to the troop he wishes to join.

6. When the Webelos Scout is ready to move his membership to the troop, the pack leadership conducts a graduation ceremony at the pack meeting. The parents or guardians, Scoutmaster, and troop junior leaders are invited to participate.

Suggestions for graduation ceremonies can be found in *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs* (No. 33212). The ceremony, which should be impressive and memorable, might involve candles and ceremonial boards, the crossing of a bridge, or perhaps an outdoor campfire.

Webelos dens usually graduate together and form a new patrol in the troop. Grade-based Webelos dens are encouraged to graduate by February of the fifth-grade year. If a Webelos Scout has not earned the Arrow of Light Award, he may remain in the den until he turns 11 years old or completes the fifth grade. To be a Boy Scout, a boy must fulfill one of these:

- Have completed the fifth grade and be at least 10 years old
- OR
- Be age 11
- OR
- Have earned the Arrow of Light Award and be at least 10 years old

See Chapter 22, “Webelos Scout Transition to Boy Scouting,” for information and ideas on steps, activities, and suggestions about this transition.