



Webelos to Scout Transition

PTC 2021- Session 108

LEADERSHIP

CUB SCOUT



BOY SCOUTS



In Cub Scouts, the kids are lead by the adults. In Scouts BSA the kids lead, and the adults follow.



The BSA Organization

Cub Scouts (age 5-10)

Scouts BSA (age 11-18)

Venturing (age 14-21)

Sea Scouting (age 14-21)

Exploring (age 14-20)



Differences

Cub Scouts

- Pack is lead by a Cubmaster, and a Committee Chair
- Group is organized into dens with adult den leaders
- Dens are usually just one grade level
- Ranks are earned separately. You need not a rank to be eligible for the next rank
- You only have 1 year to earn each rank usually ending with the end of the school year

Scouts BSA

- A troop is lead by an elected Youth Council, Scoutmasters, and an Adult Committee
- Group is organized into patrols with youth patrol leaders and an adult advisor
- Patrols are usually mixed age, but can be single age
- Ranks stack. You must earn all ranks in order (Scout thru 1st Class can be worked on simultaneously)
- You have until your 18th birthday to earn Eagle which is the final rank, but progress at your own speed.



Differences: Dens vs. Patrols

	Den	Patrol
Size:	6-9 Scouts	6-9 Scouts
Leader:	Den Leader: Adult	Patrol Leader: Scout
Ranks:	Scouts are working on same adventure	Scouts are different ranks
Ages:	All same grade	Can be all ages
Teaching:	Scouts learn from adults	Scouts learn from each other (EDGE method)
Names:	Similar names: Den 1, Den 2, etc.	Cool and crazy names: Falcons, Knights, Battle Turtles, etc..
Activities:	Do stuff that gets them to their belt loop	Scouts decide what to do. Might be merit badges, rank, scout skills, or just fun



Troop Leadership Positions

- Senior Patrol Leader (**SPL**)- elected by entire Troop
 - Assistant Patrol Leader(**ASPL**)- chosen by SPL
- Patrol Leader (**PL**)- elected by patrol members
 - Assistant Patrol Leader (**APL**)- chosen by PL
- Quartermaster, Scribe, Historian, Bugler, Chaplin's Aide- all elected by Troop
- Troop Guide- usually chosen by Scoutmaster





Other Abbreviations/Things you should know

- **PLC-** Patrol Leader Council- These are Scouts who hold leadership positions in the troop. If you hear a meeting is a PLC, then only elected Scouts need attend.
- **Scoutmaster Conference-** A Scout must meet with a Scoutmaster to verify that they have finished all required parts of a rank.
- **BOR-** Board of Review- An interview conducted by 3 members of the Adult Committee that is the final step for earning Tenderfoot and above. Very important to have wide pool of adult committee members! It's a fun way to watch the Scouts grow in confidence and interview skills!!!
- **Adult Committee-** adults who are not part of the Troop Leadership, who help regulate the troop. They approve budgets and sit on BORs. Must become adult members of the troop. (Every family should have at least 1 adult be a part of this!!!)
- **COH-** Court of Honor- a ceremony to present all earned merit badges and honor all ranks earned. Normally held every 6 months.



The Trail to Eagle



Scout



Tenderfoot



Second
Class



First
Class



Star



Life



Eagle

BSA Ranks





Finding a Troop

- It is the job of the parent, Pack Leadership, Troop Leadership and the Webelos to work together and find the troop. We want a troop that fits the youth's personality, interests, and schedule. It is important that Webelos take the time to visit several Troops in both their regular meetings as well as a Recruiting Event such as an overnight.



Pointers for Visiting Scout Troops



1. Visit 3-4 troops
 - Like shopping for a pair of jeans:
 - Try on a lot of them.
 - Choose the one that fits best
2. Spend at least 3 hours with your favorite troops
 - At least 2 troop meetings (~1.5 hours each)
 - Outings and campouts are better
3. As much as it can be, troop choice should be the Scout's decision
 - Leadership skills: Ownership, decision making
4. Parents should guide the Scout:
 - Interview after each troop visit
 - Take notes of each conversation
 - Compare and contrast based upon conversations and notes

Choosing a Scout Troop: Some obvious things...

There are a few obvious things to look for in a troop:

- Is it close to you?
- Does it fit your schedule?
- Does the Scout have friends that go there?
- How frequently does it meet?
 - Some meet once per week, others twice per month.



Choosing a Scout Troop: Look for a “Right Sized” Troop

What size troop do you want?

- There is a wide range of troop sizes
 - As small as 8-10 Scouts
 - As large as 100 (or more)
 - Advantages to both
- Small Troops:
 - Advantages: Individual attention & scout won't get lost in the crowd
 - Disadvantage: Maybe not as many opportunities. (E.g. TTFC, Merit badges)
- Large Troops:
 - Advantages: Lots of opportunity (Merit badges, TTFC, etc.), Lots of variety, lots of friends
 - Disadvantages: Can be loud & chaotic, scouts can get lost in the crowd



How to Choose a Scout Troop: Things to Look For



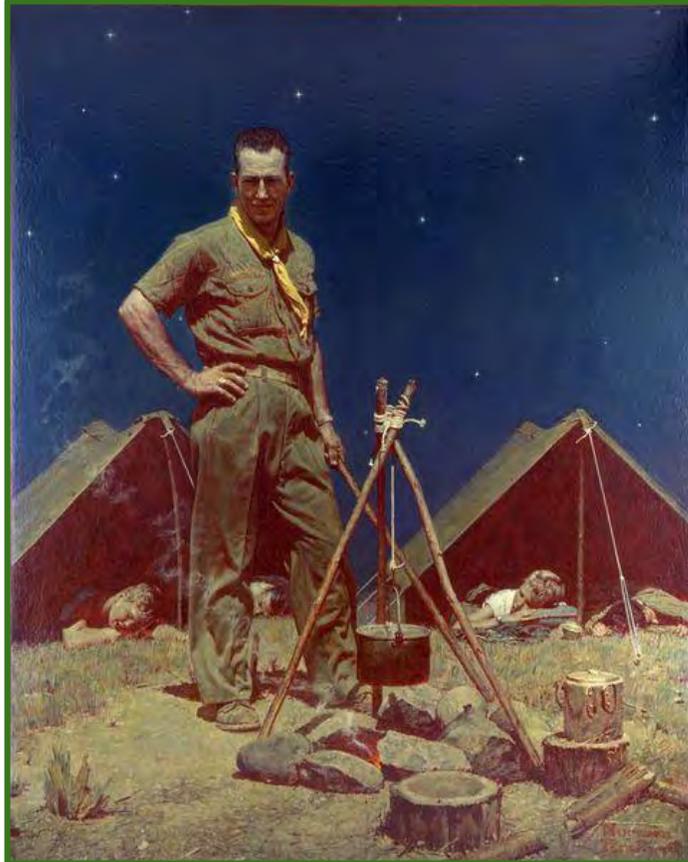
- Are there plenty of adult leaders?
 - Even though a troop is Scout led, there should be plenty of adult leaders at troop meetings and outings
 - Are adult leaders paying attention to what the scouts are doing?
- Are the adult leaders enthusiastic, skilled and knowledgeable?
 - Do they seem to enjoy talking about Scouting?
 - Can they answer most or all of your questions?
 - Is the Scoutmaster available to talk and does he seem to enjoy his role?

How to Choose a Scout Troop: Things to Look For



- Is the troop Scout led?
 - Are older Scouts teaching younger Scouts?
 - Is the SPL leading the meeting or outing?
 - Do the Scouts seem to fix their own problems?
 - Are adults intervening a lot and doing things for the Scouts?
- Is there a good distribution of ages?
 - Due to attrition, there will usually be more younger Scouts than older Scouts in a troop
 - Are enough Scouts at each age level to provide leadership for the next 3-4 years?
 - Enough younger scouts (11-12) so the Scout won't feel like they are the only young Scout?

Choosing a Scout Troop: How to Ask Questions



How to ask questions:

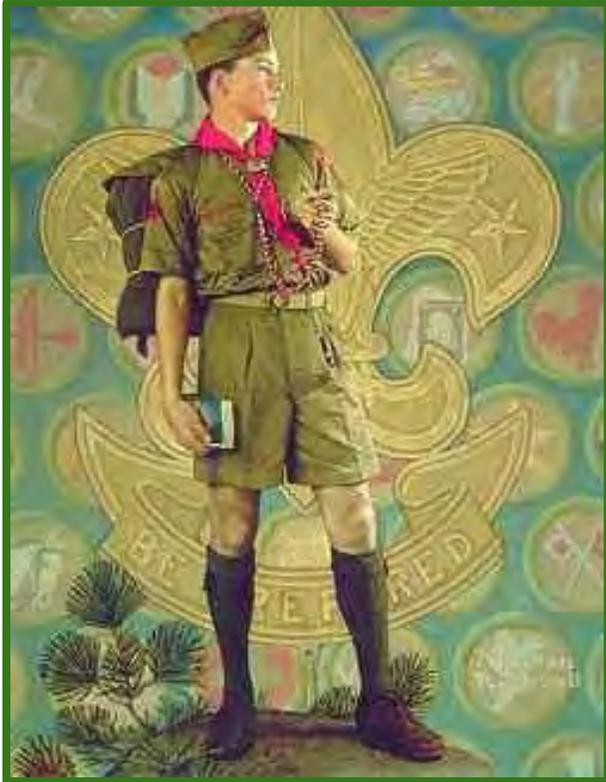
- Ask during a troop meeting or outing
 - Outings are generally better since they are less hectic
- Parents/guardians should ask the questions
 - While the Scout is involved in the meeting or outing
- Bring a list of questions you want to ask
 - Maybe a pencil to jot down things you want to remember
- Look for an experienced, enthusiastic leader to answer your questions
 - Look for someone who's been directly working with the Scouts for a year or more
 - They'll know the most about camp outs, ranks, boy-led, etc.
 - This will probably be an ASM
- Talk with the Scoutmaster if you can!

How to Choose a Scout Troop: Questions to Ask

- What the troop does for Trail to First Class (TTFC)
 - Do they have planned activities and structure to guide a new Scout on TTFC?
 - More planning and structure makes it easier for Scouts to reach 1st Class
- How do they organize their patrols?
 - Same age patrols:
 - Advantages: Scouts have more in common & easier to become good friends
 - Mixed age patrols
 - Advantages: younger scouts learn from older scouts & patrols are approximately equal
 - Hybrid
 - e.g. First year patrol, followed by mixed age patrols



How to Choose a Scout Troop: Questions to Ask



- Ask how often they camp.
 - Most troops camp about once per month
- Ask what “Scout-led” means in their troop.
- All troops do “Scout-led” slightly differently.
- Ask what the challenges of a troop are.
 - All troops have challenges...
 - Involved adult leaders should be aware of what the challenges are.
- Ask what the strengths of the troop are.
 - All troops have strengths
 - Involved adult leaders should be eager to brag about the strengths of the troop

How to Choose a Scout Troop: Questions to Ask

- Ask what they do for fundraising
 - Do they have one big fund raiser or lots of smaller fund raisers
 - Do they do Christmas Tree Recycling?
- Ask what the troop pays for
 - Badges? Dues? Etc....
 - How much do camp outs cost?
 - Strong fundraising makes Scouting more affordable for families
- Ask what the troop does for High Adventure
 - Again, High Adventure is for Scouts that are 1st Class (or higher) and 13 (or older)
 - What have they done recently and what are they planning?
 - Do they do at least one HA trip per year?



How to Choose a Scout Troop: Questions to Ask

Troop Involvement with the rest of the Scouting World:



- Ask if they are involved with Order of the Arrow
 - Honor society for Scouts
- Ask if they are involved with NYLT (National Youth Leadership Training)
 - Leadership training for older Scouts
- Ask if they are involved with Round Table
 - Monthly district information session for adult leaders
- Ask if they are involved with Wood Badge
 - Leadership training for adult leaders

Bonus Slide: Bad Assumptions

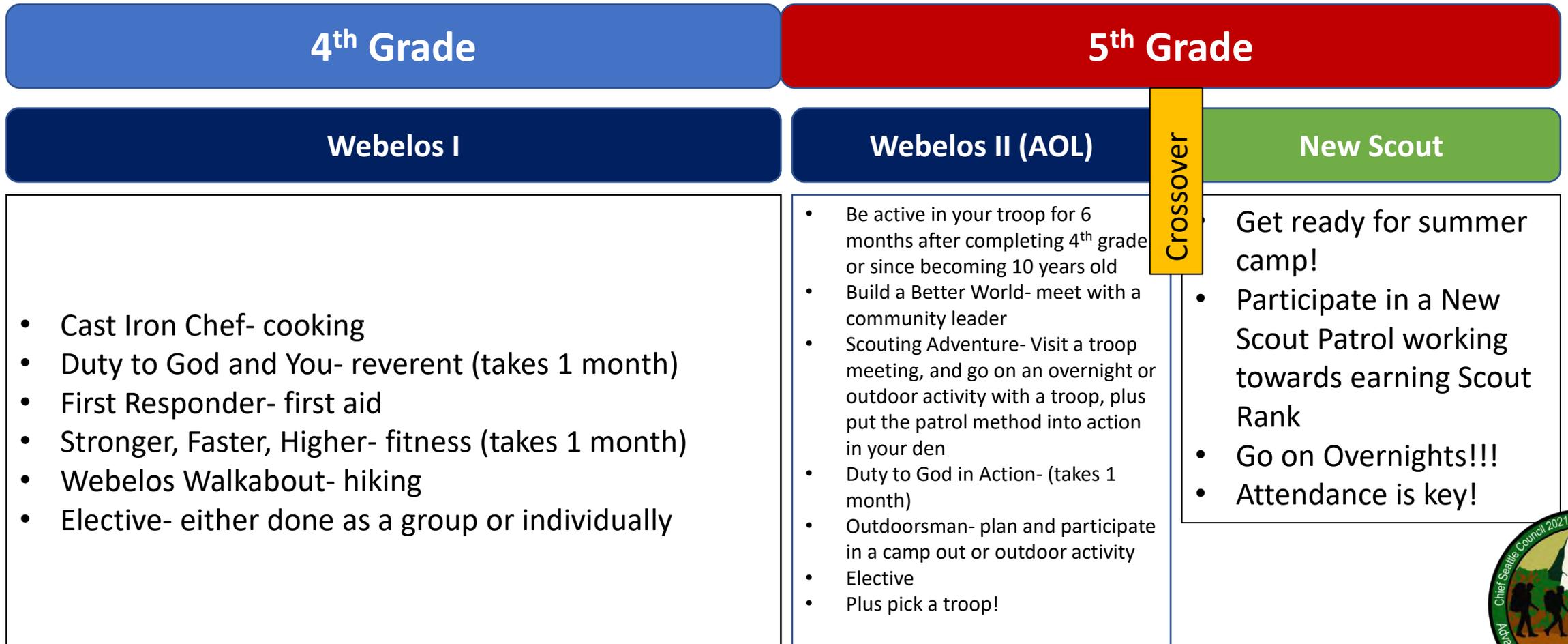
Questions & assumptions that are not that helpful:

- Bad Assumption: Small troops are unhealthy troops
 - Some troops are small by choice
 - Small troops have several real advantages
- Bad Assumption: Few Eagle scouts means an unhealthy troop.
 - Low numbers of Eagle Scouts can be because of low recruitment numbers 4-5 years ago.
- Bad Assumption: Fund raising and service projects are not good times to visit with troops.
 - Fund raising and service projects can be fun team building activities and a great time to visit



Typical Timeline for Webelos

(WE'LL BE LOYAL SCOUTS!)



How to Make it to the Finish Line (aka Crossover)

- AOL Rank can be started in the 4th grade while working on Webelos Rank
- The requirement that the youth be active in their Webelos Den for 6 months since completing 4th grade or becoming 10 years old, is the only requirement they can't do yet
- Form a Patrol as soon as possible so Webelos have time to experience the patrol method in action and take turns in the Patrol Leader role
- Webelos Outreach- Some councils have an event where every troop hosts a station and Webelos and their parents get to go around and gather preliminary info on 3-4 troops they might be interested in
- Visit Troop Meetings ASAP- this allows them to visit for fun and make first impressions without the pressure to chose on a time crunch
- Go on a Troop Overnight- These are fun and if a Webelos can go both in 4th and 5th grade then that gives them more info. Plus, if something happens like bad weather or illness and the 5th grader can't make the overnight then they have already done it, so no stress!
- End Prize- Have the Patrol Plan a party for their last meeting before crossover to celebrate their success! Great incentive to get it done!!!





WOOD BADGE

- Offered in Spring and Fall
- Fantastic Leadership Training
- And a great way to experience the **Patrol Method** for yourself!



Final Thought

Practice saying

“Did you ask
your
PL/SPL?”

