



## WEBELOS-TO-SCOUT TRANSITION

Presented by  
 Peg Cohen, Council Transition Committee Chair and  
 Assistant District Commissioner, Towpath District  
 Lorry Wisse, Training Chair, Black Creek District




Proposed for LSC 

Boy Scout  
 tenderfoot  
 2nd class  
 1st class


## Introductions

Presenter and Participants

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## Council Statistics

- Historically, 45% of 2<sup>nd</sup> year Webelos transition to boy scout troops
- Of course 100% is the goal!
- National organization would like to see a minimum of 60%

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Why talk about this?

**What is our mission?**

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The Mission of Boy Scouting:

*Prepare young people  
to make ethical choices  
over their lifetimes by instilling in them  
the values of the Scout Oath & Law*

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The Boy Scout Oath and Law

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

A Scout is  
Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful,  
Friendly, Courteous, Kind,  
Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty,  
Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

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## Why retention is important...

- How can we achieve our mission without boy scouts?
- Loss of youth from the scouting program weakens all aspects of the program: camping, Order of the Arrow, Venturing, Explorers, ...
- Let's retain the boys who are already in the program!

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## Webelos to Scout

- Transition begins during cub scouting
  - Active outdoor program in cub scouting
  - Active den chief program
  - Joint activities between dens & troops
- No later than early in the fifth grade year (Webelos II [old] AOL [new])
  - Participate in council & district events as Webelos
  - Webelos advancement
    - Arrow of Light requirements mirror requirements for the Scout Badge
  - Visit troops in the fall
  - Webelos should crossover to scouts no later than ???

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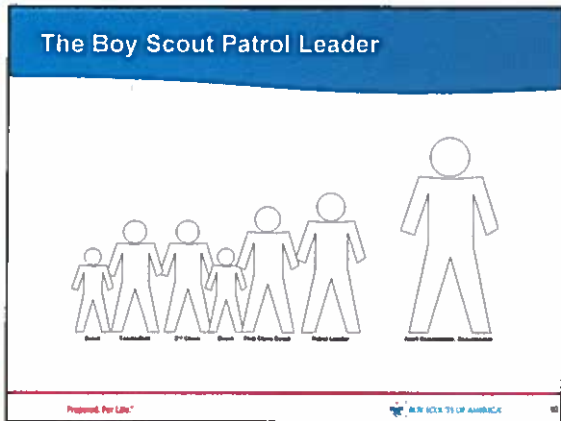
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## The Scout's New Role

- | Cub Scouts                                     | Boy Scouts   |
|--|--|
| • Den  | • Patrol   |
| • Den Number (or Name)                         | • Patrol Name  |
| • Den Leaders lead the den                     | • Patrol leaders (boys) lead the patrol  |
| • Pack leaders & parents plan the campouts     | • Boy Scouts plan the campouts   |
| • Adults build the campfire & plan the program | • Boy Scouts build the campfire & plan the program   |
| • Adults plan the meals, cook and clean-up     | • Boy Scouts plan the meals, cook and clean-up   |
| • Pack leaders are parent volunteers           | • Boy Scouts provide the troop leadership. (Troop committee provides resources for the troop program.) |

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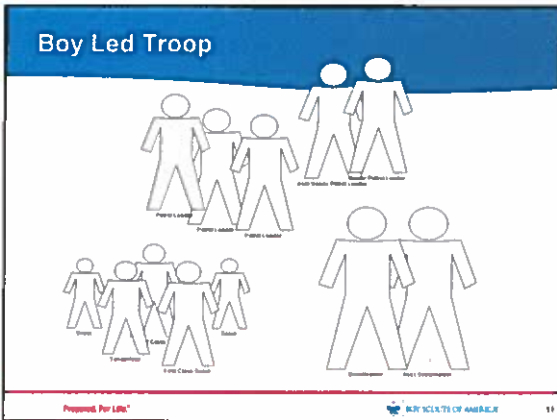
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### The Leader's New Role

- Webelos Den Leader
  - Training requirements\*
    - Webelos DL Position Specific\*
    - Youth Protection\*
    - Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO) - Recommended PRIOR TO Webelos year
    - Outdoor Leader Skills for Webelos Leaders (OWLS) - Highly Recommended
- Scoutmaster or Asst Scoutmaster
  - Training Requirements\*
    - Scoutmaster & SA Specific\*
    - Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS)\*
    - Youth Protection\*
    - Many supplemental outdoor training opportunities such as Leave No Trace, OUPK,
- Den & pack leaders plan the meetings & activities. Adults plan the campouts, build the campfire, plan program, cook and clean up
- Leaders observe and ensure safety while the boys plan program and campouts, build campfires, cook and clean up

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take outdoor leader skills for webelos (OWLS)

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## Smooth WTS Transition

### Everyone has a role

- The Pack
- The Boy Scout Troop
- The Webelos Scout
- The Parent
- The Unit Commissioner
- The District Transition Chair

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## Keys to Success

- Familiarity
  - Den chief, joint troop activities, pack outdoor program
- Parental support
  - Does the parent understand how troops work & what they can do to support their son?
- Scout interest
  - Friends in the troop, interest in scouting, active program (meeting & campout) participation, summer camp
- The troop environment
  - Welcoming & friendly to all newcomers

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## How to Pick a Troop

### Classic Answer:

Well, you go and visit a bunch of the troops....

....And maybe you do an overnight with them.

And then you just sort of pick one that feels right.

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- 1st year scouts - Do u v a pqr
- fundraisers? popcorn, trees
- Adult involvement
- Active committee
- what is the patrol method?

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## Troop Visits: The Reality

- **THEY ALL LOOK ALIKE**
  - EVERY troop is a Boy Scout Troop (obviously) and each is administering the same Boy Scout program as promoted by the BSA.
  - Very hard to differentiate on program, although quality of program is a concern
- **THEY ALL CLAIM TO BE "BOY LEAD"**
  - Very hard to differentiate on organization, although organizational style is a concern
- Schedule and Organization are subject to change as the Troop evolves

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## How to Pick a Troop

- Where are my friends or siblings?
- What night is convenient?
- **AND THEN.....**
- What's the Best Vehicle for Me??

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## "Best Vehicle": The Methods of Scouting

- The reason scouts, parents, leaders all like Scouting is **BECAUSE** of the various **METHODS**.
- It makes sense to Pick a Troop based on how it implements the **METHODS**

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## "Best Vehicle": The Methods of Scouting

- Parents and Scouts need to think about what METHODS they care about.
- Troops need to know what METHODS they emphasize, and how to do a better job with each.
- Troops emphasize the METHODS differently
- Scouts prioritize these differently
- Parents have their own priorities too

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## WHAT DO YOU WANT?

If you know what you are after, there are questions you can ask that will illustrate how well a troop does at each of the methods. (See Sample Questions)

THERE IS NO "ONE SIZE FITS ALL"

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## DON'T STRESS!!!

- Ford and Chevy both make fine cars.
  - You can get where you are going driving either one.
  - The same holds true for Troops!!
- Let your boy go where his friends are!
  - He only gets something out of it if he is IN THE PROGRAM
  - Do it his way and fight the battles worth fighting.
  - If it really goes sour ... Changing Troops is a trivial matter
  - If a boy is not enjoying my unit, I'd rather help him switch to another unit than see him drop out all together

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## Available Resources

- Improved Webelos to Scout Transition
  - [www.scouting.org/BeyondScout/transitioned/WebelosTransition.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/BeyondScout/transitioned/WebelosTransition.aspx)
- Scouting Magazine articles on WTS
  - [www.scoutingmagazine.org](http://www.scoutingmagazine.org)
  - type in "webelos to scout transition" in the search bar
- Troop Resources
  - New parent orientation & new parent packet

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www.scouting.org/  
goto Volunteer

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## Council Resources

- Peg Cohen,  
 Chair, Council Transition Committee  
 email: [macx2co@yahoo.com](mailto:macx2co@yahoo.com)  
 phone: 585-425-4121  
 cell: 585-455-0583  
 fax: 585-223-9241  
 address: 17 Aconbury Dr, Fairport, NY 14450

Contact your District Executive for the name of the Transition Chair for your District

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## Your Trainers

- Peg Cohen,  
[macx2co@yahoo.com](mailto:macx2co@yahoo.com), 585-425-4121
- Lorry Wisse,  
[lorryawisse@gmail.com](mailto:lorryawisse@gmail.com), 585-705-2159

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