



Step 3 - How to Move to Webelos II and Keep Them Interested

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Webelos Leader Series

- **Step 1 – Planning for the Webelos Years**
 - How to put together a successful Webelos/ Arrow of Light plan
 - For upcoming Webelos Den Leaders
- **Step 2 – Transition to Boy Scouts**
 - What to expect in Boy Scouts and what to do to prepare
 - For Webelos Den Leaders and Webelos parents
- **Step 3 – How to Move to Webelos II and Keep Them Interested**
 - How to find a good Troop and keep the interest prior to joining it.
 - For Webelos Den Leaders and Webelos parents

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Objectives of Webelos II Year

- **Finish Arrow of Light (AOL)**
- **Prepare for Boy Scouts**
- **Keep the Guys Excited**

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Finishing AOL

- **Why Finish?**
 - A boy does not have to get their Arrow of Light
 - However, attainment of AOL allows a boy to join a Boy Scout Troop before they are 11, they only must be in the 5th grade
 - What does the boy do if they don't attain AOL and turn 11 well after their friends are already in a Troop?
 - Concern about dropping out
 - Let the parents know why their son should go for AOL

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Finishing AOL

- **What to Finish?**

- Need to get their required 6 Activity Badges
 - Finish any Activity Badges needed but not done as a Webelos I
- Visit a Troop and camp with a Troop
- Learn Boy Scout basics

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Prepare for Boy Scouts

- **Avoid Surprises**
- **Learn What Boy Scouts Do**
- **Find a Troop That “Fits”**
- **Solidify Skills**

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Prepare for Boy Scouts

- **Avoid Surprises**

- Webelos and their parents need to understand that the Boy Scout program is different than the Cub Scout program
- Emphasis is on:
 - Outdoors
 - Achievement at your own pace (not all together like a Den)
 - Boys lead, adults coach so there can be “controlled chaos”
 - Boys learn responsibility, leadership, and accountability
 - Environment where “controlled failure” is acceptable since it leads to learning without long term negative
- Webelos and parents who think it is just like Cub Scouts can be surprised and quit – Webelos Leaders must avoid that.

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Prepare for Boy Scouts

- **Learn What Boy Scouts Do**

- Go to Troop meetings, see what Scouts do there
 - Have the Troop involve the Webelos in their activities
- Go camping with Troops, see how they do it
 - If Webelos have not gone to Akela Camp previously, consider it the summer before they cross over. It is a shortened version of the Boy Scout “full summer camp”
- Understand the requirements for Scout, Tenderfoot, and even Second Class. See how the requirements for Webelos and AOL are almost exactly the same.
 - Make sure the Webelos know that and learn the skills

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Prepare for Boy Scouts

- **Find a Troop That “Fits”**

- Encourage the Webelos to visit several Troops

- Don’t “just follow the herd”

- *While all their friends may not go there, the Webelos needs to feel the Troop “fits” and they will quickly make new friends.*

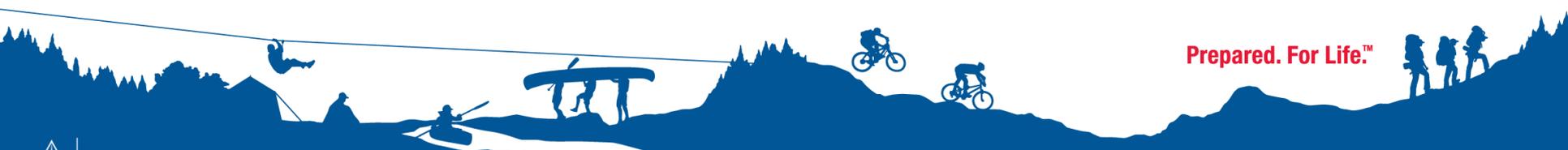
- *If the Troop doesn’t “Fit” even being with your friends doesn’t help and the Scout may quit the Troop and Scouting*

- Have the Webelos and parents get involved

- *Make sure they know that this is the boy’s decision, not someone else’s*

- Encourage them to ask questions

- *Why are they looking to go to a certain Troop? Do they know?*



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Prepare for Boy Scouts

- **Find a Troop That “Fits”**

- The Webelos and their parents should ask and find out:

- Is the Troop truly “boy led”?

- *If not, how will the boys gain leadership experience?*

- Do the adult leaders “coach” or “do it themselves”?

- *If the adults “do it themselves”, how will the boys learn?*

- Does the Senior Patrol Leader lead the Troop meeting?

- *Even if a bit chaotic, this gives them experience and provides an environment where they can learn without fear of total failure*

- How does the Troop conduct their meetings?

- *Do the boys overall conduct the meeting or is the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster(s) forcing the action?*

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Prepare for Boy Scouts

- **Find a Troop That “Fits”**

- What typically happens at a Troop meeting?
 - *Does the Troop typically just work on a merit badge every week to “keep the guys under control”? Not a good sign.*
 - *Instead, are monthly themes followed and the boys prepare for activities by learning skills or planning for the activity?*
- Are the Scouts organized in Patrols? Do they even know?
 - *Are patrols obvious?*
 - *Do the boys work as patrols?*
- Do the Patrol Leaders have a monthly patrol meeting?
 - *To plan the campout and work on junior skills?*
- Does the Troop have monthly events (except during summer camp)?
 - *If not, what do they do and why not?*

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Prepare for Boy Scouts

- **Find a Troop That “Fits”**

- How does the Troop do its camping?
 - *Does it look like the Third Army going to war with massive amounts of gear or is it manageable (and easier to do)?*
- On Campouts, who cooks and how?
 - *Do the boys plan and cook their meals as a patrol?*
 - *Or do the adults cook (and the boys don't learn)?*
- On Campouts, do the adult leaders sit or command the Scouts?
 - *The boys can't learn if the adults are leading*
- Does the Troop attend summer camp?
 - *If not, what do the younger boys do?*
- Does the Troop have High Adventure trips every 2-3 years?
 - *To keep the older boys interested and coming back*

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Prepare for Boy Scouts

- **Find a Troop That “Fits”**

- Does the Troop have a strong Troop Committee that supports the Scouts and adult leaders?
 - *How often do they meet?*
 - *What do they do?*
 - *Are all positions filled or do a few people have to “do it all”?*
- Does the Troop encourage parents to become involved in the Committee?
 - *Makes everyone feel appreciated and the parents learn about how the Troop is run and how it works*
- How are communications handled in the Troop?
 - *Is there a good method or is everyone in the dark about what is going on and will happen?*

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Prepare for Boy Scouts

- **Find a Troop That “Fits”**
 - Do parents just “drop off” their Scout?
 - *How are parents involved?*
 - Do you feel comfortable with the adult leaders?
 - *Are the leaders committed to helping the boys and the Troop or just “going through the motions since no one else will”?*
 - *Do the leaders set a good example in leadership, wearing the uniform, and ability to coach?*

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Prepare for Boy Scouts

- **Solidify Skills**

- To Repeat

- Understand the requirements for Scout, Tenderfoot, and even Second Class. See how the requirements for Webelos and AOL are almost exactly the same.
 - *Make sure the Webelos know that and learn these skills*
 - This helps the boys “hit the ground running” since they can get involved with the Troop quickly
 - *Know how to begin to camp easier*
 - *Advance and feel good about achievement*

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Keep the Guys Excited

- **Keep Interest Up**

- The second year is all about transition
 - Moving to Boy Scouts
 - If not already, have the Webelos obtain Scout shirts to begin to “feel like Boy Scouts”

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Keep the Guys Excited

- **Keep Interest Up**

- Keep interest up by interacting with Troops, let the guys get a taste of being a Boy Scout
 - As noted earlier, participate with local Troops in some of their activities. Webelos tend to love this and it makes the Webelos Leader's job easier (less program)
 - Go to a Troop meeting instead of a Den Meeting
 - Go on a Campout instead of a Den Activity
 - Go to Akela Camp in the summer before Webelos II

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Keep the Guys Excited

- **Keep Interest Up**

- However, make sure they still are part of the Pack and show leadership by attending Pack meetings and participating.
 - Attend Pack meetings and have the guys participate.
 - Have the guys show leadership. The Cub Master can ask them to do special activities for the Pack and the younger guys will enjoy seeing the “older guys” doing something fun.
- **HAVE FUN!!!**
 - The Webelos II part year should be a special time. Interaction with Troops should enable the Webelos to have fun and learn about the future.

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Keep the Guys Excited

- **Keep Interest Up**

- Webelos Den Leader “Little Secret”

- Ironically, the Webelos II year can and should be easier on the Den Leader.

- *Far fewer Den Meetings*

- *More programs are done by the Troop (you just get the guys there)*

- So enjoy this year instead of dreading it

- *Do what the Webelos need to do and it makes your job easier*

- *No need to invent things to keep them interested, there are many things that the guys will do with Troops while finding the “right one”*

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