

Webelos to Scout Transition Plan

Discover ways to make the move
for new Boy Scouts natural and fun

Join today.
scouting.org



TRUSTWORTHY LOYAL HELPFUL FRIENDLY COURTEOUS KIND

words to live by™

OBEDIENT CHEERFUL THRIFTY BRAVE CLEAN REVERENT

Webelos to Scout Transition Timetable

August

- Get names, addresses, and telephone numbers of second-year Webelos.
- Plan a joint Boy Scout troop/Webelos den camping trip for October.
- Plan a program of upcoming events to present at a Webelos den meeting visit in November.
- Select a den chief for each Webelos den.

September

- Mail a letter of introduction from the Boy Scout troop to second-year Webelos Scouts to introduce them to the troop.
- Put second-year Webelos Scouts on the mailing list to receive the troop newsletter.
- Continue planning the joint camping trip for October.

October

- Conduct the joint camping trip with the Webelos den.

November

- Attend a Webelos den meeting to teach the Webelos Scouts how the Boy Scout troop works.
- Have den chiefs attend a local council or district training course.

December

- Set a date for Webelos Scouts and their parents to visit a Boy Scout troop meeting in January.
- Send a form of information or greeting, letting Webelos you look forward to them joining the troop.

January

- Host Webelos Scouts and their parents at a Boy Scout troop meeting.
- Plan a bridging ceremony for the blue and gold banquets in February to welcome graduating Webelos Scouts to their new troop.

- Attend a meeting for first-year Webelos Scouts to introduce them to Boy Scouting.

February

- Hold the bridging ceremony at the blue and gold banquet.
- Get new Scouts actively involved with the troop through troop activities.
- Recruit parents of new Scouts to become assistant Scoutmasters or troop committee members.

March

- Plan a troop activity for new Scouts to get them involved with their new troop.

April

- Conduct summer camp orientation to encourage troop involvement.
- Attend a meeting of Bear Cub Scouts to introduce them to Boy Scouting.
- Sponsor a troop activity for new Scouts.

May

- Work closely with new Scouts and parents during their transition to the Boy Scout troop, ensuring their needs are met and that their move has been natural and fun.
- Work on rank advancement with new Scouts.

June

- Ensure that all new Scouts attend summer camp.

July

- Work closely with new Scouts and parents during their transition to the Boy Scout troop, ensuring their needs are met and that their move has been natural and fun.
- Work on rank advancement with new Scouts.

District Webelos Transition Chair

- Contact all packs in early fall to update a list of all fifth-grade Webelos Scouts.
- Coach Cubmasters and Webelos den leaders in the transition process at roundtables, training courses, and through personal contact.
- Report to the membership committee chair, and keep the district committee informed.
- Track and maintain records of Webelos graduation by using a wall chart that lists the transition record of each pack.
- Work with unit commissioners to follow up on Webelos Scouts who have not joined a troop.
- Work toward 100 percent Webelos transition.

Troop Responsibilities

- Select Scouts to serve as den chiefs for each Webelos Scout den and Cub Scout den. Arrange for Den Chief Training.
- Serve as a resource for overnight activities. The troop can be of service to provide equipment, leadership, and logistics for Webelos parent-son campouts.
- Conduct an orientation in the Bear Cub Scout dens to explain the changing role as boys become Webelos Scouts, and then again as they become Boy Scouts. Explain how being a Webelos Scout will help prepare them for Boy Scouting.
- Webelos den/Scout troop campouts should show Webelos Scouts and their parents what to expect when they move into the troop. The troop should cook and camp by patrol, and use skills in which the Webelos Scouts can participate.
- Arrange for Webelos dens to visit a troop meeting. This should be planned several weeks in advance.
- Provide each Webelos Scout a copy of the troop's activities for the upcoming year.
- Work with Webelos den leaders to encourage them to plan to move into the troop with their Webelos Scouts and to serve either as committee members or assistant Scoutmasters.
- Conduct a Scoutmaster conference under the guidance of the Scoutmaster or the assistant designated by the Scoutmaster. This conference should cover the meaning of the Scout Oath and Scout Law, the advancement program, troop camping, the patrol method, summer camp, and personal equipment.
- Work with the Cubmaster in planning a meaningful crossover ceremony at the pack's blue and gold banquet. Coordinate the ceremony and arrange for each Webelos Scout to receive a troop neckerchief and *Boy Scout Handbook* along with his Arrow of Light Award. Members of the Order of the Arrow may assist in the ceremony.

Unit Commissioner Responsibilities

- Be a catalyst in developing good relationships between troop and pack leaders.
- Promote communication by scheduling a meeting of key volunteers.
- Help plan a Webelos den visit to a troop meeting and other joint activities.
- Keep the pack and troop on schedule as plans develop for the crossover ceremony at the blue and gold banquet.
- Attend the crossover ceremony.
- Be sure new Scouts have completed a Boy Scout application, that they have a copy of the troop's activities, and that they know when and where the troop meets.
- Work with the pack and troop in their charter renewal process to help ensure Webelos Scouts are moved from pack rosters to troop rosters.
- Work with the Webelos transition chair to follow up on boys who have not yet joined a troop. Make sure they are invited to join a troop.
- Be sure Webelos Scouts join a troop in time to prepare for Boy Scout summer camp.

Pack Responsibilities

- Develop a working relationship with the leadership of a Boy Scout troop or troops in the community. Most troops should have either an assistant Scoutmaster or a committee member assigned to new Scouts. Your unit commissioner can help put you in contact with troop leaders.
- Compare calendars of troop and pack activities to coordinate the activities. Community events can be done together, and planning can help prevent conflicts in the use of equipment and facilities.
- Work with troop leaders to secure den chiefs for each Webelos den and Cub Scout den.
- Work with troop leaders to plan and conduct Webelos overnight activities.
- Work with troop leaders to plan visits to troop meetings. Never show up without first calling in advance.
- Invite the Scoutmaster and troop youth leaders to special pack activities. This will help create familiarity and a level of comfort for the Webelos Scouts and their parents as they ease into the troop.
- Plan a meaningful crossover ceremony at the pack's blue and gold banquet. Have troop leadership be present to accept the Webelos Scouts as they graduate to Boy Scouting. The local Order of the Arrow lodge can often be a valuable resource in conducting ceremonies.
- Webelos leaders should be strongly encouraged to move into the troop with the boys, either as assistant Scoutmasters or troop committee members. This will give the new Scouts a familiar face at troop meetings and a connecting link to Boy Scouting.
- If a troop does not exist in your community, discuss with the head of the pack's chartered organization the possibility of organizing a troop. A graduating Webelos den can form the nucleus of a new troop.

Samples of Transition Ceremonies

Webelos Scouts to Boy Scouts

Colors of the Wind

Materials: Holder with four candles or lights (blue, yellow, white, and red). Webelos den leader lights the candles. Have a trail ready if you are using one in this ceremony.

NARRATOR: Tonight, we are honoring some Webelos Scouts who are moving forward along the Scouting trail. Will the following boys please come forward. (*Call the names.*)

Today, you are making a giant step—that from Cub Scouting to Boy Scouting. As we present to you the colors of the four winds, remember them, and let them continue to guide you along the Scouting trail.

(*Light the blue candle or light.*) Blue stands for the Cub Scout spirit and the north wind. You are a true blue Cub Scout and live up to the Law of the Pack. It brings you only the warmest of winds.

(*Light the yellow candle or light.*) Yellow stands for the south wind that carries the story of your achievements far and wide. As a Cub Scout you have been eager, fair, and a credit to your den and pack.

(*Light the white candle or light.*) White stands for the east wind and the spirit of Scouting. The east wind carries the story of your fun and happiness to your Scout troop and tells others how you live up to the Cub Scout Promise.

(*Light the red candle or light.*) Red stands for the west wind and represents the families of these Webelos Scouts. It tells of the help and guidance that these Webelos Scouts receive from their families. Continue to help your boy go and grow as he continues to walk the Scouting trail in Boy Scouting.

As you cross into Boy Scouting, we'll give you the Cub Scout handshake one last time. (*The Cubmaster and Webelos leader shake hands with the Webelos Scout. The boy walks to the Scoutmaster, giving him and the senior patrol leader the Scout handclasp.*)

Seven Virtues of Life

Materials: Holder with seven candles or lights, graduation certificates, troop neckerchief (if one is going to be presented; if the neckerchief is not going to be presented, reword the ending of the ceremony).

NARRATOR: Will the following Webelos Scouts please come forward. (*Call the names.*) Today, we are honoring these boys who have brought honor to our pack as they climbed the Cub Scout trail. They are now ready to go into Boy Scouting. With the help of their families, they will soon start walking the Boy Scout trail.

WEBELOS LEADER: The seven candles (lights) before you represent the rays in the Arrow of Light. As they are lighted, you will hear how they stand for the seven great virtues of life. (*The narrator lights the candles or lights.*)

1. Wisdom doesn't mean that you are smarter than others. It means that you use what you know to lead a better life.
2. Courage doesn't mean that you have no fear of danger. It means that you can face danger despite your fear.
3. Self-control means being able to stop when you have had enough of something, such as eating, playing, or even working too much.
4. Justice means being fair with others as you play and work with them.

5. Faith is belief in God and things you cannot see but feel are true.
6. Hope means to look forward to good things you believe will happen and work hard today to make them happen.
7. Many kinds of love are important: love of family, fellow humans, God, and our country.

NARRATOR: If you live by these virtues, you will be a happier person. It is my pleasure to present to you your graduation certificates. Scoutmaster [Name] is here to receive you into your troop. *(Scoutmaster says a few words of welcome.)*

SENIOR PATROL LEADER: As you remove your Cub Scout neckerchief, remember the things you learned in Cub Scouting. And as you wear this Boy Scout neckerchief, remember that it represents the members of our troop who always try to do their best and be prepared. Welcome to our troop. *(He gives each boy a Scout handclasp.)*

Cub Scout Trail

Preparation: A Tiger Cub holds a Tiger Cub badge; a Wolf Cub Scout holds a Wolf badge; a Bear Cub Scout holds a Bear badge; a Webelos leader holds a Webelos badge; a den chief holds an Arrow of Light Award; a Scoutmaster or senior patrol leader holds a Boy Scout badge. Space the badges apart so that they form a trail. This ceremony can be done inside or outside (arrange them around the edge of a clearing).

NARRATOR: Tonight, we are honoring some Webelos Scouts who are moving forward along the Scouting trail. Will the following boys please come forward? *(Call the names.)*

You are taking a giant step—that from Cub Scouting to Boy Scouting. We would like to think back on some of the steps you have taken along the way.

(Walk with the boys to the Bobcat station.) Remember when you first joined Cub Scouts? The Cub Scout motto, Law of the Pack, and the Cub Scout Promise were new to you then.

(Walk with the boys to the Wolf station.) At this stop, you worked on achievements that included knowledge about the flag, fitness, tools, safety, and feats of skill.

(Walk with the boys to the Bear station.) While working on the Bear badge, you completed achievements in four areas: God, country, family, and self. You were able to choose which achievements to complete.

(Walk with the boys to the Webelos station.) As Webelos Scouts, you worked on activity badges. You learned the different parts of the Webelos uniform, the Outdoor Code, and furthered your knowledge about your duty to God. You began to discover the meaning behind the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

(Walk with the boys to the Arrow of Light station.) To earn the highest award in Cub Scouting, you committed yourself to living the Scout Oath and Scout Law. You learned about the Boy Scout uniform and the parts of the Scout badge. You participated in a Webelos overnight campout [or day hike] and visited a Boy Scout troop meeting [or activity].

(Walk with boys to the Boy Scout station.) And now you have reached the beginning of a new trail. I would like to introduce your new Scoutmaster and senior patrol leader. *(The Scoutmaster and senior patrol leader take a few moments to welcome the new Boy Scouts.)*

Webelos to Boy Scouts Transition Hints

Webelos Den Leader Hints

This is a list of points for a Webelos den leader to keep in mind to ensure a successful transition of scouts into a Boy Scout troop. The preparation begins before the Webelos program starts, but no matter where in the program you currently are, you can make changes to improve now.

1. Attend Webelos Den Leader training or complete on-line before you start your program.
2. Understand, believe in, and always use the Guide to Safe Scouting - always.
3. In the spring while your scouts are Bears, talk to the current Webelos leaders for ideas, suggestions, and advice.
4. Start your program in May or June for fourth grade Webelos to get all of them to Arrow Of Light and have opportunities to try every activity badge.
5. Plan ahead - make a schedule for the next 20 months, which activity badge for each month.
6. Remember the 5th grade program ends in February - they transition to Boy Scouts in March.
7. Share the load - have a sign-up sheet so every parent can lead one or two activity badges.
8. Have a Parent Meeting at the start of the program to explain differences between Cub Scouts, Webelos, and Boy Scouts and what you expect of them.
9. From the very start of the program, expect the boys to become Boy Scouts. Never say 'if', always say 'when' and keep them looking forward to being in a troop.
10. Plan outdoor badges like Naturalist and Outdoorsman to fall in prime outside seasons. Artist, Family Member, .. can be done more easily indoors.
11. It is important that boys experience camping before joining Boy Scouts. Start early to get boys ready for camping. Have backyard campouts.
12. A parent must be with a Webelos scout on all campouts, but the scouts can do all the work.
13. Keep the program going during the summer between 4th and 5th grade.
14. Fun summer activities like backyard campouts or campfires, hikes, swimming will give scouts a good taste of what to expect in Boy Scouts.
15. Encourage scouts to attend Webelos Camp before 4th and 5th grades.
16. Help scouts create duty rosters and menus for campouts. Healthy meals during Boy Scout camping is one of the bigger challenges so making the habits now is good.
17. Plan a service project for school, church, or community each summer.
18. Start presenting the requirements for 'joining Boy Scouts' early in the program and continually until they finish.
19. Keep your program outdoors as much as possible - a little rain or snow won't kill you.
20. Employ experts to present skills for more excitement and value, for example a retired Forest Ranger for Forester or Paramedic for Readyman.
21. Using a trained Den Chief from a local troop gives the scouts great exposure to what a Boy Scout is - get one!
22. Attend the Roundtable meetings to pick up information and ideas from others.
23. Meet the Scoutmasters of local troops. Arrange some visits for your scouts to see the Boy Scouts in action.

24. Work together on requirements to earn the Webelos badge. Try to have all scouts earn it and receive it at one pack ceremony.
25. After reaching the Webelos badge, transition to individual progress. Each scout is responsible for completing a badge, not all together as a den.
26. Make the scouts more and more responsible for the program, from leading games, to leading entire meetings, to planning the upcoming month's outings. As Boy Scouts, they will plan and execute their entire program.
27. Become thinking as a Patrol rather than a Den once everyone earns their Webelos badge. This is a good time to transfer to tan uniforms. The patrol also chooses a patrol name, emblem patch, patrol yell, and makes a patrol flag. These are all things they'll do in Boy Scouts too.
28. Proper insignia placement on the tan uniform is important - it will carry over to Boy Scouts.
29. Present EVERY activity badge. Get another adult to lead those that require different skills than what you have.
30. Offer a hike at least every other month.
31. Teach how to safely camp, and have the scouts CAMP often.
32. Teach how to safely cook, and have the scouts COOK often. Healthy, tasty, hot food is critical to success in scouting.
33. Teach how to safely use knives, and have the scouts USE them often. Every scout should have his Whittling Chip card.
34. Teach how to safely build fires, and have the scouts BUILD them often. A scout should build all campfires and you should have many fire-building contests.
35. Encourage inactive parents to participate. A successful scout needs the support of his parents.
36. Buy a Boy Scout Handbook for your reference, and to make your Webelos drool.
37. Ask a Boy Scout troop representative (scout and adult) to come to your den and tell you all about Boy Scouts.
38. Work with your Cubmaster to ensure a good AOL ceremony with Order of the Arrow participants.
39. Know which troops your scouts are going to so the Scoutmaster can be at the ceremony. Contact the Scoutmaster well before the ceremony and ask him to attend.

QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS WHEN VISITING A TROOP

General

- When and where does the troop meet?
- Why should we join your troop?
- How much will a year of Boy Scouting cost in your troop? What are the dues? How are they paid?
- How are activities paid for?
- What money earning projects do the patrols or troop do and what is expected from the Boy Scout? How are funds handled (all money earned goes to the troop, each Boy Scout has an individual account, other)?
- Does the troop have an annual plan? If so, can you please provide a copy?
- If your troop was compared with the Scoutmaster Handbook, the Troop Committee Guidebook, and other BSA publications, what differences would be found?
- Is the Guide to Safe Scouting used and followed?
- Will my son have fun in your Troop?

Ideals

- What specific things does your troop do to promote the Aims of Scouting?
- What types of service projects do the patrols or the troop do? How often do the patrols or troop do service projects?
- Do you have Scouts Own religious services at camp?

Patrols

- How many Boy Scouts are registered? What is the age distribution? - Where do they go to school?
- How are the patrols organized in your troop (New-Scout patrol, patrols of mix ages and experience, other)?
- How is patrol and troop leadership chosen? How often does leadership change?

Outdoor Program

- How often do the patrols or troop camp? Do you have a year-round outdoor program?
- Are your campouts organized so that a Boy Scout can return home Saturday afternoon or evening?
- Does the troop always camp together or are there separate patrol activities or campouts?
- What council, district, or other Camporee type events do you participate in?
- What Scout Camp(s) do you attend?
- Has your troop attended any High Adventure bases?
- Have individuals in the troop participated in a Jamboree?

Advancement

- How does your troop handle Merit Badges?
- How do you handle Boy Scouts that want to advance past 1st Class (Star, Life, Eagle) quickly or slowly?
- When do you present awards (next meeting, Court of Honor, other)?
- How many Courts of Honor are scheduled each year?

Association with Adults

- How is your troop organized (organization chart)?
- How many adults are registered?
- Describe the training of the adult leadership and committee.
- What is expected from parents?
- In what ways do the Boy Scouts associate with the adults?

Personal Growth

- Do troop members participate in Order of the Arrow?
- What are your attendance policies?

Leadership Development

- How often does the Patrol Leader's Council meet?
- Does your Patrol Leader's Council plan and carry out the activities of the Troop?
- Does the troop conduct Introduction to Leadership Skill for Troops?
- Are your Scouts encouraged to attend NYLT?
- Does the troop utilize Troop Guides?

Uniform

- What are the uniform expectations?
- When do you expect the uniform to be worn?

As you and your son have moved along the Scouting trail there have been changes, or growth, in both your son and the scouting program.

If your son was a Tiger Scout you went along the trail with him as his Tiger Cub Partner. You attended the den meetings, Go See Its and helped him with advancement.

Then comes Wolf and Bear. You are still Akela, though maybe you don't attend every meeting or outing. You sign off on the activities your son completes at home and the Den leader signs off on activities done at den meetings and den outings. Look back at all that was completed as a Tiger, Wolf and Bear. Look how your son has grown, not only in stature, but also in independence.

As a Webelos Scout, your son is preparing to become a Boy Scout. Webelos is a transitional program shifting the emphasis from home based to group centered activities. The Arrow of Light is a stepping stone to learning about Boy Scouting. The Webelos Activity Badges are similar to Boy Scout Merit Badges. They also are a stepping stone to learning. Learning, Fun and Adventure.

Websites

The following websites are good places to get started learning about Boy Scouts. Also check out your local council website.

<http://www.scouting.org/> (Main BSA website)

<http://www.usscouts.org/>

<http://olc.scouting.org/> (online leader training)

<http://www.meritbadge.org/>

<http://www.macscouter.com/>

<http://www.scoutorama.com/>

<http://www.inquiry.net/>

Arrow of Light (edited for brevity)

1. Age requirement.
2. Show knowledge of Boy Scout requirements: Repeat from memory and explain the Scout Oath and Law. Give and explain the Motto, Slogan, Sign, Salute and Handshake. Describe the First Class Badge. Tell how the Boy Scout uniform is different from a Webelos uniform. Tie a square knot.
3. Earn five more activity badges in addition to those earned for the Webelos Badge.
4. Visit one Boy Scout troop meeting and one Boy Scout outdoor activity.
5. Participate in a Webelos overnight campout or day hike.
6. Arrange to visit with a Boy Scout troop you might like to join with your parent/guardian. Have a conference with a Scoutmaster.
7. Complete the Honesty Character Connection.

Coming to the end of the Cub Scout trail.....

Purpose of the BSA

The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated to provide a program for community organizations that offers effective character, citizenship, and personal fitness training for youth.

Specifically, the BSA endeavors to develop American citizens who are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit; have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness; have personal values based on religious concepts; have the desire and skills to help others; understand the principles of the American social, economic, and governmental systems; are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand our nation's role in the world; have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people; and are prepared to participate in and give leadership to American society.

....and arriving at the beginning of the Boy Scout trail.

Scout (edited for brevity)

1. Meet age requirements
2. Complete a Boy Scout application.
3. Find a troop near your home.
4. Repeat the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. Demonstrate Scout Sign, Salute and handshake.
6. Demonstrate tying a square knot.
7. Understand and agree to live by the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, Slogan and the Outdoor Code.
8. Describe the Scout badge.
9. Complete the pamphlet exercises-"How to protect your child from abuse: a parent's guide.
10. Participate in a Scoutmaster conference.

Cub Scout Oath

I, Promise to do my best
To do my duty to God
And my country,
To help other people, and
To obey the Law of the Pack

The Law of the Pack

The Cub Scout follows Akela.
The Cub Scout helps the pack go.
The pack helps the Cub grow.
The Cub Scout gives goodwill.

Cub Scout motto

Do your best

Webelos to Boy Scouts

FAQs

Boy Scout Oath

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.

Boy Scout Law

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

Boy Scout motto

Be prepared



Boy Scout slogan

Do a good turn daily

What does 'Boy Led Troop' mean?

A boy led troop is one in which the leadership is carried out by boys. Boys do the planning for meetings and outings. Boys run the meetings and are in charge of the outings. Adults are in the background providing advice, supervision, training and transportation.

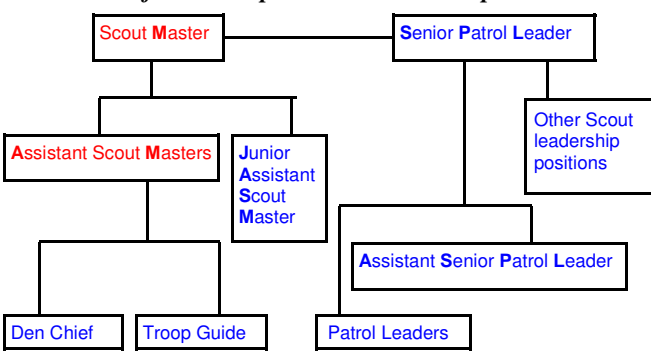
What is the difference between a Den and a Patrol?

A Den is a group of 6 to 8 boys who are led by an adult Leader. A Patrol is a group of 6 to 8 boys within a Troop who are led by their Patrol Leader; one of the boys of that Patrol.

How much responsibility do the boys have?

The main responsibility for each boy is himself. Wearing his uniform to meetings. Taking care of his gear before, during and after outings. Doing a good job taking care of oneself could lead to leadership positions within the troop.

What kind of leadership is there in the troop?



The **Scoutmaster (SM)** (adult position) advises the **Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)** (boy position). The SPL is in charge of the troop meetings and the **Patrol Leaders Council**. There are many leadership positions within a troop for the boys. Other positions include Quartermaster, Chaplain's Aide, Bugler, Librarian and Historian.

How much parent involvement is required at this level?

Keep in mind that Boy Scout troops are supposed to be boy led. This question needs to be defined by each troop. Troops need adults to be Scoutmasters, troop committee members, merit badge counselors, and even someone to transport boys and equipment on outings. We, as adults, provide a support system and cheerleading squad.

What is Rank?

Rank is a collection of skills, such as cooking, orienteering, knots and first aid. The requirements for each rank are more difficult than the prior rank. The ranks in Boy Scouting are Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle. Doing the requirements for 'rank' prepares boys to become better campers, hikers, better Scouts and most important of all; better citizens.

What are Merit Badges?

Merit Badges are "an invitation to explore an exciting subject. By earning Merit Badges Scouts gain career skills, social skills, physical skills and they may even begin new and healthful hobbies that are kept for a lifetime." ¹

What does my son need to do to earn a Merit Badge?

After deciding on a badge, your son needs to obtain a Merit Badge application and the name of a qualified counselor. Required activities are outlined in each merit badge pamphlet. Requirements are signed off by MB counselors.

Should my son get started on merit badges right away?

Your son may begin working on activities for rank and **Merit Badges (MBs)** as soon as he is a registered Boy Scout. He can continue earning **MBs** until his 18th birthday. Any Boy Scout can work on any badge without regard to his current rank.

When should I expect my son to earn Scout, Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class, etc.?

Boys move along the trail at their own pace. Active Scouts will earn 1st Class within a year of joining, some take 18 months. Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class requirements may be worked on simultaneously, however each rank must be earned in sequence.

Can I sign off my son's requirements?

Generally no. The Scoutmaster of a troop decides who, other than himself, may sign off on rank. Often it is only the SM and ASM, sometimes it will be boys who are in the upper ranks.

To sign off on Merit Badges you must be a registered Merit Badge counselor for that specific Merit Badge.

¹ chapter 7 "The Boy Scout Handbook" 1998 printing.

² page 12 "The Boy Scout Handbook"

How important is a uniform?

"By dressing alike, Scouts show they are equals." ² Boys will act like Scouts and will be recognized as helpful and courteous when in uniform.

What kinds of trips do Boy Scouts take?

Camping, hiking, Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, winter survival, summer camp, rock climbing, sailing, horseback riding, snorkeling, scuba diving, bicycling to name just a few. The types of activities depend on the choices each patrol/troop makes and the skill levels of the boys in the troop.

How much camping equipment does my son need?

This is a good question to ask when you visit Boy Scout troops. Types of equipment depend on the outings the troop takes. Most troops have extra equipment that boys can borrow. As your son grows, he may find equipment that he prefers.

Can/Should I attend campouts with my son?

Again, this is something that differs among troops. Camping with his troop is where your son may build self confidence, self esteem and independence.

Should I pack for my son's campout?

No, if he packs his own duffel bag or back pack he will know where everything is. He will also learn some valuable lessons on what is necessary to bring and what is best left home.

Should I plan my son's meals for these campouts?

Meal planning is done by each patrol during troop meetings. The planning and preparation is overseen by the Patrol Leaders, **SM** and **ASMs**.

Who teaches them about food preparation and cooking skills?

The boys learn many skills, including cooking, from each other, older boys, and adult leaders. They work on these skills while doing activities for rank and Merit Badges.

Should I be doing anything with him at home to help out with this?

Sure. Let him plan and prepare a meal for the family. Have him be responsible for the clean up after the meal. Make sure he understands the health and safety rules of food preparation.