



The Dulaney District Advancement Committee News

February 2014

Webelos to Scout Transition *Finishing Your Job*

This is the time of year when fifth grade Webelos Scouts experience a marvelous transformation: they earn the Arrow of Light, crossover to Boy Scout troops, and are soon presented their Scout badge. It is easy for Pack leadership to slip into the habit of viewing this experience as the culmination of the boys scouting—they have gone through 5 years of program with you and now they ‘graduate’ out of the Pack.

Not to stress a point too strongly, but one of the purposes of the Cub Scout Program is “Preparation for Boy Scouts.” (CSLB p10 Chapter: What is Cub Scouting?)

It is part of the Cubmaster’s Position Description to “Help organize and encourage graduation into a Boy Scout troop by establishing and maintaining good relationships with Boy Scout troops” and “Conduct impressive advancement, recognition, and graduation ceremonies. For Webelos ceremonies, involve Scoutmasters and other Boy Scout leaders.” (CSLB p 62-63 Chapter: Leader and Family Roles and Responsibilities)

The Pack’s job is not to graduate boys *from* the Pack but to graduate them *into* a Boy Scout Troop. At present approximately 25 – 30% of 2nd year Webelos do not graduate into a Troop. This means that of a Den of 10 boys 2 or 3 will not become Boy Scouts!

The National Advancement Team in their December 2013 newsletter recommends:

“The passage from Cub Scout to Boy Scout should be planned by packs and troops to be a smooth process with no time lost in “transit.” By the time an Arrow of Light den (*sic*) is ready to crossover, the Cub Scouts and their families should be familiar and comfortable with their role in troop activities, and also the youth and adult leaders of the troop, and they should feel excited about beginning this new adventure.

“The transition should begin with the Webelos Scouts having a final special moment with their pack: a meaning-full Arrow of Light Award ceremony befitting Cub

Scouting's highest rank. The award should be presented during an impressive pack ceremony, perhaps as the highlight of the blue and gold banquet. Working with the troop, pack leaders should then schedule and conduct a *separate* (*emphasis added*) crossover ceremony to formally mark each boy's transition to a new level of Scouting, regardless if he earned the Arrow of Light Award. If it is desirable to conduct this ceremony at a monthly pack meeting, it should occur, ideally, not more than a month after the blue and gold. By having separate ceremonies, the Webelos Den Leader can work in the interim with a leader from the troop, often an Assistant Scoutmaster, to review the requirements for the Scout badge. This way, once the boys officially join a troop, everyone should be ready to earn his Scout badge as soon as possible. Following this two-step plan will not only result in each Arrow of Light Scout being recognized for his achievements at the pack level, but will put the last Cub Scouting days of each Webelos Scout to valuable use by preparing him to earn his first award as a Boy Scout.

For further information or assistance with planning or making arrangements feel free to contact me at the coordinates below.

Let's finish the job so that every 2nd year Webelos becomes a Boy Scout!

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