



The Dulaney District Advancement Committee News

December 2014

1. Thank You!

First of all I need to note that Lonnie Clark, who has been writing the District Cub Newsletters for the last year has resigned his position on the Dulaney District Advancement Committee. I need to thank Lonnie for his diligence and insight into the Cub Program and the information that he has provided to you, the Cubbers in Dulaney District.

As a follow-up, if there is anyone in the District who would like to become the Cub Advancement Chairman, please contact me by e-mail, see contact information at the close of this newsletter.

2. Webelos Scouts to Boy Scouts: When Should the Transition Start?

(Excerpted from the October and Nov-Dec Issues of Advancement News from BAS)

A boy's transition from a Cub Scout pack to a Boy Scout troop should begin on the day he first puts on his blue uniform and continue to the day he crosses over the bridge into a Scout troop. By the time Webelos Scouts in an Arrow of Light den are ready to crossover, they and their families should already have become familiar with Boy Scouting. They should be comfortable with the youth and adult leaders of the troop through visits, invitational campouts, den chiefs, and other pack-troop activities. They should be excited about beginning a new adventure. When correctly done, the transition should be almost seamless to the boy—a natural progression.



The key factor for improving Webelos to Boy Scouting transition has to be the ongoing working relationship between the leaders of a Cub Scout pack and those of one or more Boy Scout troops. This can often take the form of cooperative activities, many of which can be tied to the Webelos advancement program. Here are some solid ideas for fostering that relationship:

- Compare the calendars of the troop and pack to coordinate activities. Service projects, community events, and certain outings can all be done together; and the planning can help build relationships, even as it prevents conflicts in the use of equipment and facilities.
- Work with troop leaders to secure den chiefs for all dens, not just Webelos dens. Den chiefs can help with both member retention as well as building relationship between the units. Many den chiefs guide Webelos Scouts across the bridge into Boy Scouting and then continue to serve as troop guides for the new Scout patrols.

- Pack and troop leaders should cooperatively plan and conduct Webelos den-Boy Scout troop overnight activities. The troop can provide equipment, leadership, and logistics for the event. These campouts can show Webelos Scouts and their parents what to expect when they move into the troop, while also building relationships. Camping and cooking should be by patrol, clearly demonstrating the youth-led nature of Boy Scouting. Skills used should be tied to Webelos advancement, fulfilling requirements in Forester, Geologist, Naturalist, and Outdoorsman activity badges, for example. A number of other awards such as the Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award, the World Conservation Award, the Conservation Good Turn Award, the Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award, and even the National Summertime Pack Award, are also good targets for overnight activities.

Here are additional ideas that will help provide a smooth transition, and thus support retention and further advancement. To put it differently, the transition should not end until this year's new Scouts welcome Webelos-to-Scout arrivals into the troop the following year—and the year after that, and the year after that, and on and on.

- For part of the requirements for the Arrow of Light rank, Webelos den leaders should work with troop leaders to plan visits to troop meetings. Here Webelos Scouts and their families can obtain a copy of the troop's activities calendar for the upcoming year. Packs can also invite the Scoutmaster and troop youth leaders to special pack activities and to meetings with specific dens. These visiting Boy Scouts can even help run parts of the meeting. This will help create familiarity and a level of comfort for the Webelos Scouts and their families as they ease into the troop.
- Webelos Scouts should visit several troops, if possible, because different troops have different focus areas. One troop may gear its program toward hiking and backpacking, while another may be highly involved in water activities, such as kayaking or canoeing. Visiting several troops will give a picture of what activities each troop enjoys above others. What a troop enjoys doing will also create a focus for certain troop-led advancement opportunities related to merit badges and achievements.
- Once boys have joined a troop, the Scoutmaster and troop youth leaders should plan activities for these new Scouts that will get them involved quickly. This should include a transition conference that touches on the meaning of the Scout Oath and Scout Law, the advancement program, troop camping, the patrol method, summer camp, personal equipment, and the annual troop calendar. The troop needs to work closely with new Scouts and parents to ensure their needs are met and that their move has been natural and fun. A goal should be to attain the Scout badge as quickly as possible, and then immediately begin work on the next ranks. Every effort should also be made to ensure that all new Scouts attend summer camp. (One hint to Scoutmasters: invite the new Scouts' former Cubmasters to visit the troop at summer camp.)

3. Program Updates –2014 and Beyond:

Stay on top of the latest changes to Cub Scouting by visiting:

www.scouting.org/scoutsource/programupdates.aspx

- Cub Scout youth handbook sampler
- Den leader meeting plans for youth handbook sampler adventures

Plus meet Ethan, the new Cub Scout guide.



4. January 17 Webcasts on New Cub Scouting Program:

A new Cub Scouting program is launching June 1, 2015. To ensure you are ready for the transition, a number of webcasts will be held on January 17. To participate, navigate to:

<http://www.livestream.com/bsanationalcouncil>

For Cubmasters

Sat., Jan. 17, 8 a.m. CST – or – Sat., Jan. 17, at 3 p.m. CST

Den Leader Webcasts

Sat., Jan. 17, at 9:30 a.m. CST – or – Sat., Jan. 17, at 4:30 p.m. CST

LDS-Specific Considerations (*View one of the above webcasts before viewing this one.*)

Sat., Jan. 17, at 11 a.m. CST – or – Sat., Jan. 17, at 6 p.m. CST

5. What Is “Do Your Best”? (From the March 2012 Advancement News):

Do Your Best. Not only is it the Cub Scout motto, but it is the standard for Cub Scout advancement performance. Even though Cub Scout-age youth can have very different developmental timetables, we know they can succeed if we teach them to always do their best.

Thus, Do Your Best means to do one’s own *personal* best. It is not a competitive standard. For example, D.J.’s personal best may be quantitatively better than his fellow Cub Scout Brian’s best, but as long as D.J. and Brian each does his own personal best, both have met the standard. Do Your Best does not mean do it perfectly. When a boy has done his very best, accomplishment is noted, and the requirement is met. See the *Guide to Advancement*, topic 4.1.0.4.

As a boy begins in Cub Scouting, his parent or adult partner should sign off in his handbook for the Bobcat trail and Tiger Cub achievements. The den leader then approves, and progress is recorded in the den’s advancement record. For Wolf, Bear, Webelos, and Arrow of Light, den leaders and their assistants take the lead in approving requirements. Additionally, parents or guardians who help at meetings may be asked to assist.

Generally, between the parent or guardian, den leader, and assistants, they will know if effort put forth is truly a Cub Scout’s best or if he should be reminded to give the requirement another try with his own personal best. When Do Your Best is the evaluation and parents or guardians get involved, Cub Scout advancement achieves success.

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