



The Dulaney District Cub Advancement Committee News

7 February 2019

Most of the following items are excerpted from the Nov-Dec. 2018 & Jan-Feb 2019 National Advancement News:

1. Webelos to Scout Transition Starts Now:

Until 1989, a large percentage of boys earning Arrow of Light failed to become Boy Scout. To reverse this, Scouting introduced the 18-month Webelos program, with graduations in February and immediate “bridging” or “crossovers” into troops. As a result, the retention rate flipped to 80% of February graduates becoming Boy Scouts, with most remaining with their patrols and troops to their 18th birthdays.

Per the *Den Leaders Guide*, “Every boy graduating from a Cub Scout pack deserves the opportunity to continue his Scouting experience... The purpose of the Webelos-to-Scout transition plan is to give every boy a sampling of the troop program, leadership, advancement opportunities, and the excitement of Boy Scouting. A key factor in this transition is the establishment of a working partnership between the Webelos den and the troop... every Webelos den should be linked to a troop.” In addition, every parent needs to be oriented toward this transition:

WEBELOS Den ⇨	ARROW OF LIGHT Den ⇨	Boy Scout PATROL
4 th Grade	5 th Grade	5 th Grade and Beyond
1 st 12 Months	Next 6 Months	To June, Summer Camp, and Beyond
September-June	September-February	February and Beyond

The *Webelos Handbook* reinforces this. For parents, it advises, “Your son sees Webelos Scouting as... a step on the way to outdoor adventures in Boy Scouting... Help him move toward the Boy Scouting adventures.”

The new Webelos and Arrow of Light requirements are designed specifically to prepare these boys for Boy Scouting and their first step in their troop: Scout rank.

Ideally, the entire Webelos den will move as one into a troop, where they will become a new-Scout patrol with the guidance of an experienced Scout (the troop guide) who will help them adjust to the new adventures Boy Scouting offers. Their troop will likely also provide an assistant Scoutmaster, who will oversee (but not “lead” the way their den leader did) their further bonding and overall success. This can lead to life-long friendships because these new Scouts will likely remain an intact patrol for the next seven years.

The Webelos den leaders’ most important responsibility is to encourage their Webelos Scouts to move on to Boy Scouting. Correspondingly, parents can reinforce this by helping their sons select the troop they’d most like to join, and then guiding this transition.

2. Lions Officially Part of Cub Scouting

Now that Lions are officially part of Cub Scouting what should I know?

Lions is the new program in Cub Scouting for boys and girls in Kindergarten, the year prior to 1st grade. There are some states that do not require children to attend Kindergarten which explains the need to clarify that it is for youth prior to their 1st grade year.

Lions, like Tigers, are required to have an adult partner with them at all events and activities. Adult partner is not a registered leadership position, so adult partners do not count towards meeting required leadership for youth protection. In the pilot program Lion dens had a Lion Coach, to keep things simple when the program was fully adopted that term was dropped and Lions, like all other dens have a den leader.

Lions do not earn the Bobcat badge. The Lion program is designed to be simple and to welcome new families into Cub Scouting without overwhelming them. Lions have five required adventures;

- **Lion's Honor**
- **Animal Kingdom**
- **Fun on the Run!**
- **King of the Jungle**
- **Mountain Lion**

In addition to the five required adventures, Lions complete the *Protecting Your Child from Child Abuse; A Parent's guide* with their parent or legal guardian in order to earn their Lion badge of rank.

There are seven elective adventures, however Lions are not required to earn any elective adventures to earn the Lion badge of rank.

The Lion badge of rank is a rectangular badge, similar to the size and shape of the Arrow of Light. The design was chosen to keep the look and feel of the Cub Scout badges of rank on a blue uniform. With the move to all Webelos wearing a tan shirt the need for a diamond shaped Webelos badge of rank was eliminated. A child who is in Cub Scouting from Lion through Bear will have their left shirt pocket full and ready to move up to a tan shirt.

3. Lions Are Up and Running:

Last week, the father of a Lion mentioned that when he and his son, Charlie, attended their first pack meeting, his eyes grew wide as the flag ceremony began. Charlie was in awe, and when talking with his father on the way home that night, asked him if someday he would be able to carry the flag.

Lions, our kindergarten-age Cub Scouts, are now full members of the Cub Scout program! Until this program year, they were part of a pilot program being sampled by some of our packs. We hope that every Cub Scout pack now has an active Lion den of boys and a Lion den of girls.

In feedback received from the volunteers, parents, and councils that participated in the Lion pilot program, we learned that Lions and their families want to feel welcomed as full members of the pack. Be sure to invite them to your pack meetings and pack activities. Parents can decide what the right level of activity is for their own child, so we recognize that although Lions are invited to these activities, they may not attend each one.

Plan to make the Blue and Gold Banquet a special opportunity for the Lions and their families. Imagine how exciting it will be for our youngest members to see their entire pack celebrating together!

Yours in Scouting;
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