

# Webelos to Scout BSA Orientation Script

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National  
Capital  
Area  
Council



The following is a potential script that can be used with the Webelos to Scouts BSA Powerpoint presentation. It is provided to give an idea of what can be said about each screen presented. Speakers are encouraged to include their own insights and experiences.

The presentation is divided into four main sections:

- Troop Organization
- How to visit a troop
- Advancements
- Camping and Equipment

Within each section are a series of screens. While speaking the presenters can press the advance key (click) on the computer to make text and/or graphics appear on the screen or to advance to the next screen. The final (all text graphics visible) display for each screen is shown on the left side of the script. The appropriate places to press the advance key are shown as “**(click)**” in the right side of the script.

The following script is setup for three people, an adult leader and two Scouts. The leader does the introduction and the sections on how to visit and camping and equipment while the Scouts present the troop organization and advancement sections. The presentation, however, can be done by any combination of Scouts and/or leaders. Often two Scouts will work together to present a section.

Overall Presentation Time: 1 hr

Equipment: Computer with presentation loaded  
Projector  
Screen  
Power cords

Backpack  
Maglite  
Mess kit  
Scout Handbook

Handouts: All presentation handouts can be downloaded from the Webelo-o-ree registration site

# Webelos to Scout Orientation

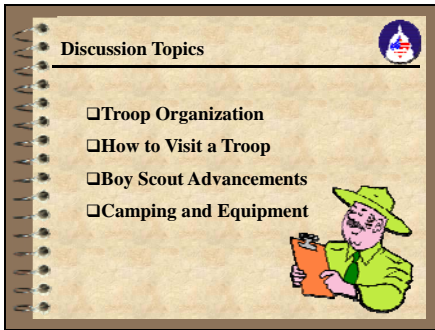
Slide 1



**(click)** Hello everyone, welcome to our Webelos to Scout orientation. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am (position). Helping me tonight in this presentation are (name and positions of Scouts assisting). What we will be talking about tonight what you are going to be going through the next few months as you start to look for a Scouts BSA troop to join. There are a lot of differences between the Cub Scout program and the Scouts BSA program and we thought that this orientation would help you learn about them before you are actually in a troop. I've often heard Scouts and parents say "I wish someone had told me that sooner." Well, this is it, sooner. This orientation will take about an hour and 15 minutes and if you have questions during it just raise your hand.

Now in order to save the parents from trying to write down all this information in the dark, we have put them all on the Webelos-o-ree registration site where they can be downloaded.

Slide 2



**(click)** We've broken down this orientation into four parts:

**(click)** We'll go over how a troop is set up and who the leaders are.

**(click)** We will go over how to contact a troop and what some of the things you might want to look for when visiting.

**(click)** We will go over how Scouts BSA does its advancement program and what you can expect to do the first year you are in a troop.

**(click)** and finally we will talk about what type of camping you can expect to do your first year and what type of camping gear you will need.

Slide 3



**(click)** Our first discussion topic is troop organization. At this point I'd like to ask one of my Scout assistants to come up here and take over.

**(Scout)** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a (rank) Scout of Troop (troop number). I've been asked to discuss how a Scouts BSA troop is set up and how it operates.

**(click)** Scouts BSA troops are organized according to the patrol method.

**(click)** Now what is a patrol?

**(click)** A patrol is a group of Scouts, usually 6 to 8 who do things together, very much like your Webelos den.

**(click)** One of the first things a patrol does is to determine who will be the patrol leader. The patrol leader is not appointed by an adult, instead the patrol leader is picked

## Webelos to Scout Orientation

by an election of the Scouts in the patrol. The patrol leader is not the boss of the patrol, but is responsible for seeing that the patrol works together and gets things done. The Patrol Leader can do this by assigning other Scouts to positions in the patrol and will get other Scouts to lead specific activities. The Patrol Leader is also the patrol's representative to the rest of the troop.

**(click)** Patrols then pick a name for the patrol such as the eagles, dragons, or antelopes and they all wear that patrol patch on their right sleeves. They also make a patrol flag that they bring with them to meetings and campouts.

**(click)** On campouts the patrol works together as a unit to set up their tents. They cook, eat, and do things together as a group. They hold separate meetings to prepare for campouts and other events.

**(click)** A number of troops have what are called "New Scout" patrols for Scouts who have just crossed over. These are special patrols consisting of all new Scouts with one older Scout as their guide. They take turns in the leadership positions of the patrol and after six months, when the scouts have learned the basic, they are reassigned to regular patrols.

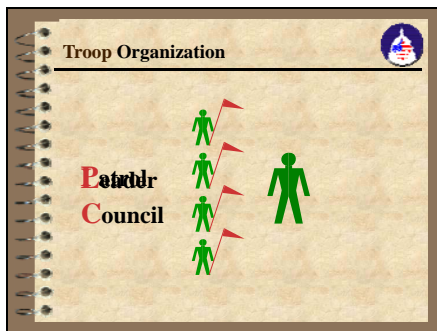
Slide 4



**(click)** A troop is a collection of patrols. What the patrols do every about every six months is to elect one Scout to be the leader of the entire troop.

**(click)** This Scout is called the Senior Patrol Leader, or SPL for short, and the SPL wears a special patch on the left sleeve. This is the Scout in charge of running the troop meetings and campouts. The SPL will also appoint one or two Scouts to be assistants and some others to fill special positions in the troop such as quartermaster, scribe, historian, and chaplain's aide.

Slide 5



**(click)** Together with the patrol leaders the SPL make up the Patrol Leader Council. This is the governing body of the troop. Together with the Scoutmaster they plan out the yearly calendar and submit it to the troop committee for approval, decide what they are going to do on camping trips and service projects, and determine what patrols will do what at troop meetings.

## Webelos to Scout Orientation

Slide 6



Troop Organization

### Meetings

- Troop Meetings
- Patrol Meetings
- Campouts
- Service Projects

The slide features a list of meeting types on the left and an illustration of three Scouts in uniform talking on the right. A small Scout logo is in the top right corner.

**(click)** There are several meetings that Scouts attend.

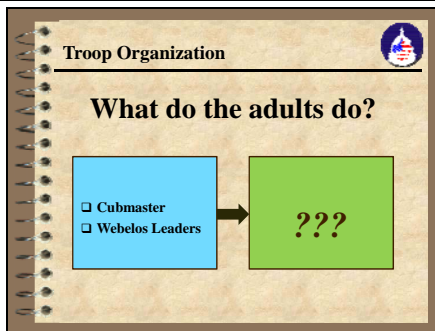
**(click)** First is the troop meeting. Now your Cub Scout pack meets once a month and probably doesn't hold meetings during the summer, correct? Well in Scouts BSA the troop meets once a week, all through the year. We may occasionally skip a week due to vacations or just coming back from camping together for a week at summer camp, but basically Scouting is a year round program. It is at the troop meetings that we plan for campouts and work on our advancements.

**(click)** We hold patrol meetings several times a month. Sometimes we do it during a troop meeting but we also meet outside to plan what we will do as a patrol on the next campout or what we are doing for a service project.

**(click)** Usually we do an outing, such as a campout, every month, but sometimes during the winter out outing for the month may be a ski trip.

**(click)** We also do several service projects during the year and in fact, service to the community is one of the advancement requirements when you get to be an older Scout.

Slide 7



Troop Organization

### What do the adults do?

- Cubmaster
- Webelos Leaders

???

The slide shows a blue box with 'Cubmaster' and 'Webelos Leaders' and an arrow pointing to a green box with '???'.

**(click)** I just want to summarize what we've just covered. First, the basic unit in Scouts BSA is the patrol and the Scouts elect their own leaders. Second, it is these leaders who plan out the meetings, camping trips, activities and run the troop. So that leaves us with the question...

**(click)** What do the adults do?

Slide 8



Troop Organization

### Scoutmaster

- Train the boy leaders
- Assistant Scoutmasters
- Signing Requirements
- Scoutmaster Conference

The slide features an illustration of a Scoutmaster and two Scouts on the left and a list of Scoutmaster duties on the right. A small Scout logo is in the top right corner.

**(click)** First each Scouts BSA troop has a Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster does not stand in front during the troop meeting and lead it. In fact the only time the Scoutmaster should get up in front of the troop is for the traditional "Scoutmaster minute," a type of inspirational message, that occurs just before the closing of the meeting. This doesn't mean that the Scoutmaster isn't very busy during the meetings though. The Scoutmaster is responsible for:

**(click)** Training the Senior Patrol Leader and patrol leaders on how to be good leaders. This means sitting down with them during the PLC to help plan out meetings, campouts, and the yearly calendar. It also means watching the leaders during meetings and campouts and reviewing with them things that worked out right and things that didn't go quite as smoothly as they expected and where they

## Webelos to Scout Orientation

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could improve on that.

**(click)** The Scoutmaster is in charge of the various assistant Scoutmasters. Assistant scoutmasters are the other adults who work directly with the Scouts and they generally have specific duties assigned by the Scoutmaster. These may be such things as working directly with a patrol, meeting visiting Webelos, or working with Scouts to plan high adventure activities. In effect they fill in for the things that Scoutmaster would like to do if he had more time.

**(click)** Signing off advancement requirements. All Scouts must demonstrate that they have learned or completed an advancement requirement by getting the Scoutmaster or one of his assistants to initial it in his book.

**(click)** Hold a Scoutmaster conference with each Scout for each rank when they have completed all the requirements for a rank. We'll cover more on signoffs and Scoutmaster conferences when we talk about advancements.

Slide 9



**(click)** The other place where adults have positions in the troop is as members of the troop committee. The committee is the troop governing body, which means that while Scouts may plan and run the meetings and campouts the committee has final say on what they will be allowed to do. Now packs also have committees but as Cub Scouts and Webelos you may not have had anything to do with them, it was strictly an adult thing. As Scouts you will each have multiple contacts with members of the committee. Here are some of the ways in which the Scouts and the committee interact:

**(click)** The PLC meets and with the Scoutmaster they work out the troop's calendar for the next year including campouts and monthly themes. They must now present that calendar to the committee for approval. The PLC may say they want a canoeing trip down the Rappahannock in June, the committee may say that's a great idea but we noticed you haven't done a float plan yet or scheduled in training for safety afloat or a time to get the swimming tests done. Oh, by the way, did you notice that you've picked the weekend before finals, you may want to change that.

**(click)** For each rank advancement a Scout must meet with a Board of Review which is made up of committee members. We'll talk more about this when we talk about advancements.

**(click)** Every Scout getting ready to start his Eagle project must first present it to the committee for approval.

## Webelos to Scout Orientation

**(click)** Within the committee there are also several positions that interact more frequently with Scouts. Some of these are:

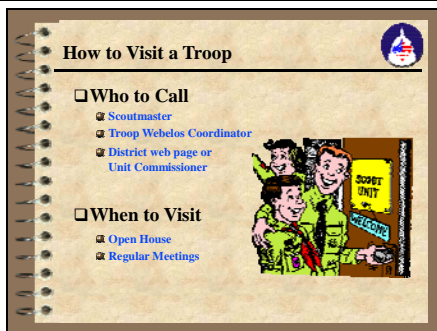
Advancement Chair – in Cub Scouts all of the advancement tracking was done by the adults. In Scouts BSA each Scout now works with the Advancement Chair to make sure that their signoffs are recorded and what service hours or leadership time they still need to advance.

Eagle Advisor – each troop usually has an adult serve as a Eagle advisor to help Scouts understand what they need to do including how to fill in the paperwork, determine a project, finish up merit badges, and all of the other things required to obtain the rank of Eagle.

Chaplin – works with the troop's Chaplin's Aide to plan out services for camping trips and other Scouts on earning the religious knot.

Equipment Chair – works with the troop and patrol quartermasters to assign and maintain the troop's camping equipment.

Slide 10



**(click)** And now to move along to our next topic, how to visit a troop. At this point I'd like to turn the orientation over to Mr. \_\_\_\_\_

**(click)** Thank you. While any troop would welcome you at any time, it is best to call ahead especially if more than one Webelos will be visiting. For any visit you need to know is who to call to arrange a visit. This can be the Scoutmaster or the troop's Webelos coordinator. Now as most of you don't know who the Scoutmasters in your area are you may need some help finding them.

**(click)** The best source of information is your unit commissioner. This is an adult leader from the district assigned to your pack to provide information. He should know, or know how to get, the information about the troops in your area.

**(click)** The next thing you need to know is when to visit a troop.

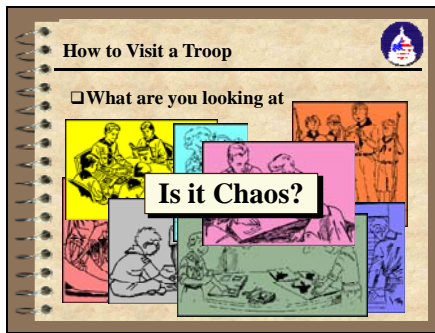
**(click)** Most troops hold a special meeting during the year called an "open house." This is a meeting specifically designed for visiting Webelos where the troop puts on displays of what they do and tell you a lot about

## Webelos to Scout Orientation

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themselves. These are great programs but they do have two shortcomings. First, they don't always show you what the troop is like during the other times of the year when they meet. Also, some troops don't hold their open houses until February and you really need to start visiting troops before then. You want to start visiting troops in the fall so that when you find some that look interesting you can come back and visit them a second or third time.

Slide 11



**(click)** Now when you visit a troop you have to remember that it is run very differently from a Cub Scout pack meeting. At a pack meeting you have an adult, the Cubmaster, who plans it and runs it. Troop meetings are planned and run by the Scouts, and to you adults, a young Scout's definition of "organized" is very different from an adults.

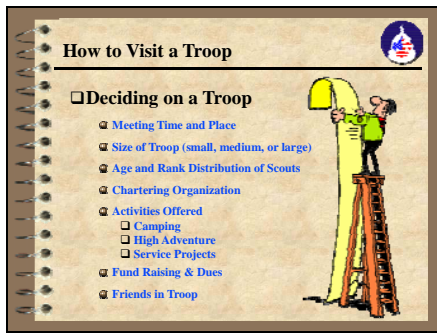
You also have to remember that the Scouts are still learning how to be leaders and plan things and sometimes they get it wrong. This is not necessarily a bad thing, a "bad" meeting can be a "good" learning experience providing the Scoutmaster is there to help the leaders review it with them afterwards.

**(click)** Also at troop meetings you usually won't see everyone together listening to someone talk up front, like you're doing now. You see lots of little groups doing things and moving about. You may see patrols having a meeting or planning for a campout, older Scouts working on merit badges, and new Scouts work on their advancement requirements. The Scoutmaster may be over in the corner doing a Scoutmaster conference.

**(click)** Overall, your first impression may be that the troop is totally disorganized. But is it? A Scouts BSA meeting runs by a process that we call "organized chaos," and you may have to visit several times before you can see the difference. But as you watch you may notice that everyone is doing something and nobody is idle, that the little groups seem to be accomplishing something, that everyone seems happy, and that suddenly everyone is together again for the closing of the meeting. That's when you're seeing what a troop meeting is all about.

## Webelos to Scout Orientation

Slide 12



**(click)** There are many points that you might want to consider when looking at a troop. The thing to remember is that each troop is different, that they have their own personality, and what might be a good troop for your friend or fellow den member may not be the troop for you. For example, there were six Webelos in this Webelos den. Two had decided on a particular troop to go to and the other four followed along. One year later they are all still in Scouts but the four that followed along were now in different troops. They had found that the troop that they had joined was not right for them, even though their friends had joined it. Some of the things you need to consider in choosing a troop are:

**(click)** Meeting Time and Place - When looking at troops don't limit yourself to those in the same town or closest. Cub Scout packs are often based around an elementary school, troops are usually not associated with a particular school and will have members that come from a very wide area. Though you may not want to pick a troop clear across the county (though some Scouts do), don't be afraid of an extra 15 or 20 minute drive if you find a troop that really meets your goals. The only real consideration for this factor is what day of the week the troop meets. If the troop meets on a day you know you will have conflicts with, look for another troop.

**(click)** Size of the Troop – With more Scouts and more adult support, large troops often have a varied list of activities. On the other hand, large troops often have more competition for leadership positions and new Scouts can sometimes feel overlooked or lost. Small troops will often have a closer bonding of Scouts but may sometimes have trouble getting some activities going because they have fewer adult leaders are there to provide assistance. Try to decide what size troop fits your needs best and when looking at troops find out what size they plan to grow to. It is not uncommon to decide that you want to be in a small troop, find one of about 20 Scouts that you like to join, and then discover that 30 other Webelos have decided to do the same.

**(click)** Age/Rank Distribution of Scouts – When visiting a troop look to see how many older Scouts are present. These older Scouts help to provide more experienced leadership to the troop. Try to find out what “challenges” the troop offers the older Scouts to keep them interested in Scouting. This is important because soon you're going to be one of those older Scouts and will want to do more than just your basic camping. See how many Eagle Scouts are in the troop and find out if they have an active merit badge



## Webelos to Scout Orientation

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program.

**(click)** Chartering Organization – The chartering organization is the group that “owns” the troop you are visiting. Try to find out what they do to support the troop (leadership, funding, events). Some chartering organizations may help by emphasizing certain programs, for example, a church may help its Scouts earn the Religious Emblem.

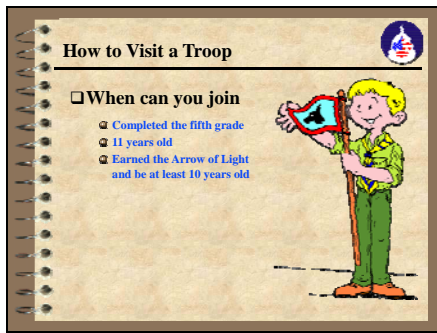
**(click)** Activities Offered – All troops camp. Try to find out how often they go out, whether they just camp locally or travel a bit, and what types of camping they do. Some may do special yearly events such as a beach campout or a canoeing expedition. If they do a lot of hiking you may want to plan on getting better boots than you normally would. Find out what the costs of a camping trip are and how do they work out the transportation issues. Ask about what summer camps they go to and when and where they are planning to go to this year. Also ask about high adventure camping that the older Scouts do and what types of service projects the troop does.

**(click)** Fund Raising and Dues – Camping can be expensive. Besides camping fees and food expenses for each campout there is equipment to buy such as sleeping bags, boots, and backpacks. When you start talking about high adventure then the cost can easily run into the hundreds of dollars and often more than a thousand. Now for those parents now feeling a bit faint and reviewing in their minds what’s in their bank accounts there is good news, most troops have an active fund raising program whose purpose is not to raise money for the troop but for the Scouts to earn money to pay for these costs. It is very easy to earn the money to cover a year’s camping expenses and a Scout who works at it can usually cover all or most of the cost of a high adventure camp, though it may take more than one year’s worth of effort. So when you visit a troop ask what types of fund raising they do and

**(click)** Friends in Troop – Having someone you know in the troop can also be a factor to consider. It helps to have a friend along on a camping trip while you are still getting to know everyone else. Also friends often have the same interests so if they like the troop you may find yourself liking it too.

## Webelos to Scout Orientation

Slide 13



**(click)** Now how many here know when you can actually join a troop?

*(check responses from audience)*

**(click)** Very good. You can officially join a troop when you've completed any one of these requirements: Be in the fifth grade, be 11 years old, or have earned the Arrow of Light in Cub Scouts and be at least 10 years old.

Slide 14



**(click)** Now you've gotten your Arrow of Light and have handed in your application to the troop you want to join. There is still the crossover ceremony.

**(click)** This is a ceremony where you are recognized as moving up to Scouts BSA from Cub Scouting. This ceremony can be done at a pack meeting, at a troop meeting, or at a special bridging ceremony.

**(click)** The main thing to know about the crossover is that it is a ceremony and not the official crossover to Scouts BSA. You officially became a member when you turned in your application to the troop. So don't wait for the ceremony to start attending troop meetings, if you do you may miss the next campout and most troops plan that one specifically for their new Scouts.

Slide 15



**(click)** Our next discussion topic is advancements. At this point I'd like to ask another one of the Scouts to come up here and take over.

**(Scout)** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a (rank) Scout of Troop (troop number). I've been asked to go over what you're first year in scouting will be like for advancements

**(click)** The first rank that all Scouts earn is the Scout rank, also called the Joining Requirement. Now does everyone remember the first rank you earned in Cub Scouts? *(wait for response saying "Bobcat")*. That's right, the Bobcat Badge. Well the Scouts BSA have a similar rank that has to be earned and you'll find that many of the things that you learned in getting your Arrow of Light are the same requirements as getting your Scout badge. These are:

**(click)** Repeat the Pledge of Allegiance.

**(click)** Demonstrate the Scout sign, salute and handshake.

**(click)** Demonstrate tying a square knot.

**(click)** Understand and agree to live by the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan and the Outdoor Code.

## Webelos to Scout Orientation

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**(click)** Describe the Scout Badge.

Now most of what I said so far should sound familiar to you. Except for now needing to know the Outdoor Code these are the same requirements you need for the Arrow of Light.

**(click)** Two additional requirements are to do the pamphlet exercises at the front of the Scout Handbook with your parent or guardian, and

**(click)** Participate in a Scoutmaster's conference. Now the Scoutmaster conference is something special in Scouts BSA that you haven't had as a Cub Scout and I'll talk more about it in a few minutes.

Slide 16



**(click)** The first year Scout program, with the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class is designed to teach new scouts the skills you need in order to go camping safely.

**(click)** Though it is called the first year program it is not a requirement that a Scout must complete all of these in the first year, there is no time limit on when the advancements must be completed. Some Scouts can do all of the requirements in less than a year, some will take longer.

In Cub Scouts everyone works on the badge set for their age group. If you joined in third grade you didn't have to do the Tiger or Wolf badges, you worked on the Bear badge. In Scouts BSA there are no age determined advancements. All Scouts go through the same advancement program no matter how old they are or when they join. So even if you joined when you are 14 years old you still go through the Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks.

**(click)** As you complete a requirement, you ask your Scoutmaster or someone designated by your Scoutmaster to initial his or her approval on your requirements page. Here is another big difference between the Cub Scout and Scouts BSA advancement programs. In Cub Scouts your advancements were recorded and managed by your den or Webelos leader. In Scouts BSA you are the one responsible for doing that and in a moment we'll talk about where you do that.

**(click)** Another difference is that you may pass any of the requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class at any time, regardless of what rank you currently have. For example, if you are a Tenderfoot and pass a First Class requirement you may get that requirement signed off. You may not receive a rank, however, until you have received the one before it. So a Tenderfoot, who has completed all the requirements for First Class must still complete the

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## Webelos to Scout Orientation

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requirements for Second Class before he can advance.

**(click)** As you pass each rank you will receive a card. It is very important that you put this card in a safe place. When you go for your eagle rank you will need to prove to the examining board that you have passed each rank and this card is the proof.

Slide 17



The most important piece of equipment you will have in Scouting is your Scout Handbook. Everything you need to know to pass all of the requirements up through First Class are found here.

**(click)** Inside the book is divided into several sections including those for

Scoutcraft – how to be a good leader and citizen, first aid, and aquatic skills

Woodcraft – learning about the environment and Leave No Trace camping, and

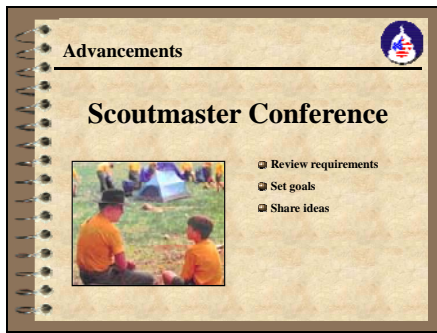
Campcraft – hiking, camping, and using wood tools such as knives, saws, and axes.

**(click)** Also in the book are signoff sheets for all of the ranks and it is where your Scoutmaster will be signing off the requirements. Remember what we said about you being in charge of your advancement, if you do a requirement it is your responsibility to get the Scoutmaster to sign it, not his to remind you about it. You also need to show your book to the advancement chair every now and then so that he can record your signoffs into the troop database. If you forget to do this and lose your book, guess what, you just lost all of your signoffs and will have to do them again.

During your first year in Scouting you should have this book with you at all times, even on campouts. Definitely make sure that your name is in it and I also suggest that you put your name along the side of the book so that you can spot yours in a pile of books.

## Webelos to Scout Orientation

Slide 18



**(click)** We had mentioned earlier that one of the things different in Scouts BSA requirements that you didn't have in Cub Scouting is the Scoutmaster Conference. A Scoutmaster conference is required for every rank and is the next to last thing you need to do for a rank advancement. There are three things that should happen during a Scoutmaster Conference.

**(click)** This is your personnel time with the Scoutmaster to talk to him about the troop. You can tell him what things you like and what things that you would like to see change. The Scoutmaster may discuss how well you are advancing in rank and what your plans are for getting your next rank advancement

Slide 19



**(click)** The last thing you do for any rank advancement (except the Scout Badge) is that you go before a Board of Review. This board is made up of members of the troop committee and does not include the Scoutmaster or any of his assistants.

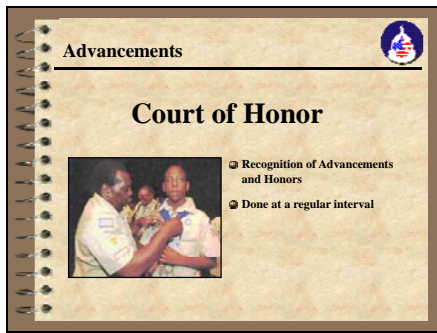
**(click)** The purpose of the Board of Review is not really to go over the requirements again (though they may ask you about them) but to check on the quality of your troop experience and to see how well the Scout leaders are teaching you and on how Scoutmaster is guiding the troop.

**(click)** The Board will also be checking on your Scout spirit. This can include such things as how well you present yourselves to them and how you are living the idea of Scouting.

Once you have passed the Board of Review you have earned the rank you were working on.

## Webelos to Scout Orientation

Slide 20



**(click)** But like all things in Scouting we like to do everything with the appropriate ceremony and in Scouts BSA that ceremony is the Court of Honor.

**(click)** The Court of Honor is a meeting where parents, friends, and guests are invited and the troop formally recognizes the advancements that each Scout has done and what special honors he may have earned.

**(click)** Troops usually hold about four Courts of Honor a year, one for each season. In addition they hold special Eagle Court of Honors for those Scouts reaching the rank of Eagle.

Slide 21



**(click)** Once you have earned the rank of First Class you are ready for the path to Eagle, which consists of the ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle. Up to now the requirements for advancement have been learning the basic skill of scouting. Now you will be learning some of the tougher skills and you will also have a chance to explore some of the subjects that interest you. There are four basic requirements for advancement at this level. They are:

**(click)** Merit badges. Each rank requires a certain number of merit badges to be earned.

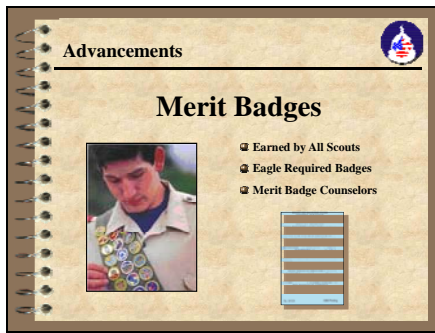
**(click)** Leadership. Now that you are an experienced Scout you need to start demonstrating leadership in the troop by holding certain positions.

**(click)** Service projects. The requirements for Star and Life call for you to give at least six hours of service to others. For Eagle you must actual plan, develop, and provide leadership in a service project of your own.

**(click)** And finally Scout spirit. This is done by showing that the Scout Oath and the twelve points of the Scout Law are the guidelines by which you direct your actions in your family, community, church, school, and nation.

## Webelos to Scout Orientation

Slide 22



**(click)** And now just a quick word about merit badges. There are more than 100 merit badges to choose from. Some encourage you to increase your skill in subjects you already like while others challenge you to learn about new areas.

**(click)** Though merit badges are part of the requirements for advancement in the ranks above First Class they can be earned by any Scout in any rank. You will probably earn two or three at your first summer camp before you even make Tenderfoot.

**(click)** There are certain merit badges that are marked as "Eagle Required," such as camping, personal fitness, and first aid to name a few. For each of the ranks above First Class you must earn a certain number of these and for Eagle you must earn eleven of the required ones. Eagle required merit badges have a silver border around them.

**(click)** Merit badges are earned from merit badge counselors who are adults with special knowledge about the subject. They may, or may not be, a member of your troop.

**(click)** When you are ready to earn a merit badge you first go to your Scoutmaster for permission. He will give you a Blue Card which is your merit badge application. Then you and a buddy, who can be another Scout, a friend, or another adult, visit the merit badge counselor who goes over the requirements with you and how to do them. As you pass the requirements the merit badge counselor will sign them off on the Blue Card. When you are done the merit badge counselor signs the Blue Card and you turn it back in to the Scoutmaster. When you receive the merit badge you will get the badge, the merit badge card, and the Blue Card back. Of the three the Blue Card is the most important. This is the proof that you will need to show that you earned the badge when you up facing your Eagle Board of Review.

## Webelos to Scout Orientation

Slide 23



**(click)** Finally I'd like to mention two other awards that seem to be especially important to new Scouts.

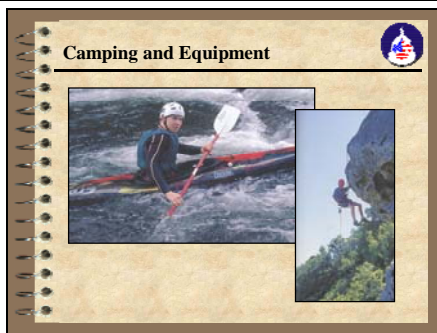
**(click)** The first is the Totin' Chip. This is earned when you show you know how to properly use, handle, and care for wood tools such as a knife, ax, and saw. Until you have earned this you may not carry a pocketknife. For those who think that can already do that because they earned the Whittling Chip in Cub Scouts the answer is no, the Whittling Chip does not give you the right to carry a pocketknife. It only gives you the right to use one under adult supervision.

**(click)** Along with the badge comes the card and you are expected to carry this around with you to show that you have earned the right to use wood tools.

**(click)** The second award is the Fireman's Chit. This is earned when you show you know how to properly build, control, and put out a camp fire. Until you have earned this you may not carry matches.

**(click)** At this time I'd like to return the program to Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ who will end the orientation by talking about camping and equipment.

Slide 24

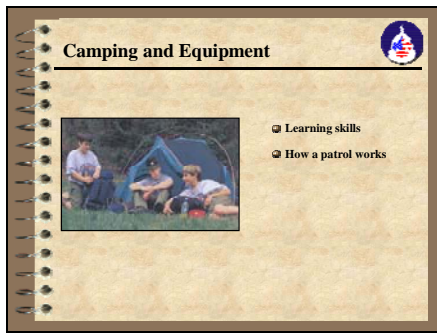


Now how many Scouts here expect to be doing things like kayaking or rock climbing as soon as you join Scouts BSA. *(wait for show of hands)*. Well I'm sorry to disappoint you but the Scouts you see here have already learned the basic skills that you will be learning your first year and have already learned other important skills and have probably earned their swimming, first aid, and safety merit badges.



## Webelos to Scout Orientation

Slide 25



**(click)** Your first year camping experience is going to be a bit more tame. Often it will be a matter of the cars pulling into a parking lot, having the gear unloaded, and the campsite set up right there. At this time you are going to be learning two important sets of skills.

**(click)** First you are going to learn your camping skills, how to properly pack, set up a tent, cook a meal, and even more importantly, how to clean up.

**(click)** Second, and just as important, you are going to learn how to be a member of a patrol. You are no longer out there by yourself, you are part of a patrol. You will be learning what the different jobs in the patrol are, how to work together as a group, how to learn from the patrol leader, and how to be a leader yourself.

Slide 26



**(click)** Now has anyone wondered why we try to get Webelos to change over to Scouts BSA around March and April?

*[Note: the first graphic in this set is a winter scene. When the Scouts call your attention to it you can say that the computer is starting to freeze up. Tapping the computer [pressing the click] will change the scene to the canoe picture – the purpose for this change is that the audience has been sitting for almost an hour at this point and this little sight gag helps to focus them back in]*

One of the reasons we do crossover at that time is summer camp. By joining a troop then you can find out where they are going, earn the money, and by the time it comes around you will have been camping with them several times and feel more comfortable with them. You will also have picked up some of the basic skills needed for a long campout.

**(click)** Summer camp is usually a week long campout at a special Scout camp such as Goshen.

**(click)** Most of your time at camp will be on earning merit badges and for first year Scouts, learning some more of the skills you need. In fact Goshen and most other Scout camps have a special program for first year Scouts that focus specifically on the requirements for up to First Class.

## Webelos to Scout Orientation

Slide 27



**(click)** So let's take a look at some of the equipment that you'll need to go camping. There is quite a bit of it but that does not mean that you have to go out and immediately buy a lot of expensive gear. When looking for camping equipment keep in mind two things: First, new Scouts start off small and grow rapidly (a sleeping bag that fits today will be too small tomorrow) and second, new Scouts usually do not do major hiking or extreme weather camping their first year.

**(click)** Most troops have their own tents, tarps, axes, saws, and cooking gear that are supplied to the patrols. Patrols will supplement this with purchases of their own for such things as pot holders, paper towels, etc. Parents, however, usually have to supply their own tent if they join the troop on a campout.

**(click)** Backpacks are usually not an item that you have to buy immediately when you join a troop. Since the distance most first year Scouts have to travel is from the back of the car to the tent, a duffel bag is often sufficient. Also, since you should only pack about 25% of your body weight in a pack, a pack that is all right for an adult or older Scout is usually a bit big for a new Scout.

*[Ask one of the smaller scouts in the audience to come up and try on a pack]*

As you can see this pack is not the right size for this Scout, but it will fit him in about two more years. If possible try to borrow a backpack for the first year or two until the you get a bit bigger. Also, for new Scouts an external frame pack is probably better than an internal one. For those who don't know what these are an external frame pack has the metal frame on the outside and visible. The Scout sitting on the wall has an external frame pack. Internal frame packs have the frames inside the pack giving it their shape. The Scout on the right has a red internal frame pack. External frame packs are a little bit less expensive and allow Scouts to attach more things to the outside. Also until you learn to properly pack the frame helps keep sharp objects from digging into your back.

**(click)** A sleeping bag is a definite must for camping. You don't, however, have to go out and buy something that's good for 40° below. A 25° sleeping bag is more than adequate for the type of camping a new Scout will do in the first two years (including winter camping), especially since this will probably also be the bag you bring to summer camp. Even when the temperature goes down to zero you will be sleeping inside tents with other Scouts, dressed, and

## Webelos to Scout Orientation

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with a bag liner or blanket inside the bag.

Sleeping bags filled with down are to be avoided. Though they are the “warmest and lightest” they lose almost all of their insulating ability when they get wet (a common occurrence for new Scouts) and cannot be dried out on a camping trip. The new synthetics are almost as good as down, retain most of their insulating capability even when wet, and can be dried on a camping trip. Mummy bags are good because they heat up faster, are lighter and easier, and usually come with a hood to keep the head warm. They can sometimes be uncomfortably for new Scouts, however, because they feel constrictive.

**(click)** Boots are an essential for camping. Sneakers do not provide any ankle support and quickly get wet with a little rain. Boots should go above the ankle and should have a gusseted tongue (the tongue has extra material to the sides that attach to the boot) so that water and dirt are kept out. They also need to be waterproofed. Again remember that when buying boots that you’ll probably outgrow them in six months and need another pair so it doesn’t pay to buy really expensive ones.

**(click)** Probably the preferred flashlight for a Scout is the MagLite, with a belt holder. They are small, easily carried, always with you, and even have a spare bulb inside. You can also buy a headband for them so that you can use them hand free. Headbands with attached lights are also good. The rule here is that if it takes a D cell, it’s too big. Also remember that having spare batteries is often as important as having the flashlight.

**(click)** Most people when they think of mess kits think of the metal army mess kits where everything fits inside another. Don’t buy them, they are made of metal which easily lets hot food get cold and are easily bent out of shape. What you want is a good sturdy plastic plate and bowl that will not break when dropped or stuffed into a pack on the way home. Utensils can be any old mismatched set of knife, fork, and spoon that you won’t worry about if it doesn’t come home. For drinks use a good plastic mug. Don’t buy collapsible cups, they hold about as much water as the Dixie cups you use when brushing your teeth and are no good for hot drinks.

**(click)** Raingear is another must on all camping trips, even if the weather forecast is for clear blue skies. First year Scouts usually wear a poncho. It’s easy to pack and quick to put on. It’s not the best in weather protection, however, especially in severe weather and many Scouts eventually switch over to a rainsuit. While this offers more protection

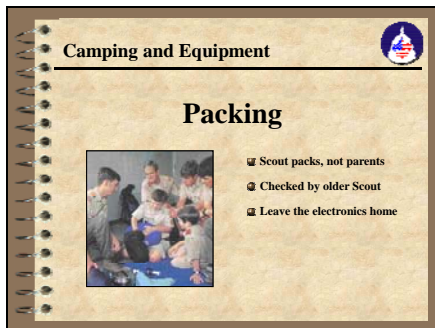
## Webelos to Scout Orientation

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those that buy plastic or rubberized rainsuits eventually realize that they are sweating inside as much as it is raining outside. If you do go the rainsuit route buy a nylon or Gore-tex rainsuit that lets the body breath. A good rain jacket can also serves as a regular jacket when it is cooler meaning one less thing to pack.

**(click)** Water bottles are an essential. Whether you get a canteen or a plastic water bottle make sure that it either has a strap or a holder so that you can carry it around.

Slide 28



**(click)** Now just a few final comments about packing.

**(click)** The first rule about packing is to never let someone else pack for you, even your parents. They may assist you but you are the person who needs to put everything in the pack. This is because you are the one going camping and in the middle of the night when your flashlight dies and you need your spare batteries, you are the one who needs to know in what pocket of the backpack they are in. It's not fun rummaging around your pack, in a dark tent, trying to find something that you "think" Mom or Dad put in the pack.

**(click)** On your first campout your pack should be checked by one of the older scouts to make sure that you have everything and it's in a "good" place. You don't want your poncho at the bottom of your pack when you run into a sudden rainstorm. In fact, the we think that getting your pack inspected is so important that we've even made it requirement number 1 for Tenderfoot.

**(click)** Finally, no electronic games, music players, or radios on camping trips. If it takes a battery and it is not your flashlight, leave it home. We'll have more than enough to keep you busy on a campout and a ready source of reading material (*hold up Scout Handbook*).

## Webelos to Scout Orientation

Slide 29



**(click)** Okay, you've learned how to pack, cook, and work with your patrol. What next? Lots of things.

**(click)** Many camps, in addition to their basic program, have some type of high adventure camping. These can be special hiking adventures or boat and canoe trips. Also once you've earned your Swimming merit badge then you can start working on other aquatic fun things like kayaking, snorkeling, or scuba diving. But the real fun begins when you get a little older and can start going to some of the National high adventure camps.

**(click)** There's Philmont Scout Ranch where you hike in the mountains of New Mexico and go from one station to another for a day of horseback riding, black powder shooting, and lots of other fun things. There's Florida Sea Base where you and your patrol live out in a boat to do snorkeling in the Florida Keys or the Bahamas and there's Northern Tier which is the wilderness canoe base in northern Minnesota and Canada. There your patrol goes out in canoes with all your gear and food into the lake region where you see bald eagles, loons, and moose and may not see another group for days.

Slide 30



**(click)** This brings us to the end of our orientation. At this point I'd like to invite any troop that would like to do a short presentation about their program to come forward.