



SO YOU'RE A NEW WEBELOS DEN LEADER

I SIGNED UP... WHAT'S NEXT??

Now that you have registered as a Webelos den leader, you will receive *Scouting* magazine, which contains helpful information to assist you as a leader. You should do these steps:

1. Complete Fast Start training for Webelos den leaders. Your pack leadership will facilitate this video/CD-ROM based training, or you can complete the training via the Internet (www.shac.org, follow the "Training" links).
2. Obtain (or borrow temporarily) the *Cub Scout Leader Book* and begin reading it. This book describes your role as a Webelos den leader and will give more information on the following steps.
3. Get acquainted with your Cubmaster and pack trainer who will see that you have the information and material you need to get started off on the right foot.
4. Obtain (or borrow temporarily) the *Webelos Leader Guide* and begin reading it. This book describes projects that may be used to complete requirements for Webelos activity badges.
5. With the help of the Cubmaster, assistant Webelos den leader, den chief (older Boy Scout or Venturing helper), and the *Webelos Leader Guide*, plan your first month's den meetings. The key to success is "KISMIF" (keep it simple, make it fun).
6. Get acquainted with the families of the boys in your den. Hold a family orientation meeting. A recommended agenda can be found in the *Cub Scout Leader Book*. You will be needing the families' help, so get to know them early.
7. Get acquainted with the boys in your den. Establish a den code of conduct so they will know what you expect of them.
8. Ask your Cubmaster to help secure a Webelos den chief, and give him meaningful responsibilities.
9. Obtain and begin wearing the Cub Scout leader uniform as soon as possible. It is attractive, comfortable, and suitable for all Cub Scout meetings and activities. Wearing the uniform properly is important in setting a good example for the boys. Your Cubmaster or pack trainer can tell you where to obtain the uniform and insignia.
10. Attend the monthly planning meetings held by your pack. This meeting is led by the pack committee chairman and Cubmaster, and it is where pack plans are made.
11. Attend the monthly district Cub Scout leaders' roundtable. You will receive many good program ideas and get acquainted with Webelos den leaders from other packs who will share ideas and experiences with you. Your Cubmaster or pack trainer can tell you when and where the roundtable meets.
12. Attend Cub Scout leader basic training as soon as possible. There are two components to this training – New Leader Essentials, which is attended by leaders in all program areas, and Webelos Den Leader Specific Training, a specialized session to help you successfully plan a fun and exciting den program. These will give you the foundation you need to become a successful leader. Every boy deserves trained and qualified leaders. Your Cubmaster or pack trainer can give you information about upcoming training sessions.
13. Don't hesitate to ask for help. There are many people who want to help you provide the finest possible Cub Scout experience for the boys in your den.

By the time you have completed these steps, you will be well on your way to becoming a successful Webelos den leader.

YOU, THE WEBELOS DEN LEADER

You were selected as a Webelos den leader and approved by the pack committee because of your interest in boys. By making the commitment to serve as a Webelos den leader, you have accepted the following responsibilities:

- Plan and carry out a year-round program of activities for the Webelos den to achieve the purposes of the Cub Scout program.
- Lead the Webelos den in its participation at the monthly pack meetings.
- Cooperate with the other pack leaders.
- Have a plan for recruiting new boys.
- Orient the Webelos den chief and guide him in working with the Webelos Scouts.
- Use *Boys' Life*, *Scouting* magazine, and the *Webelos Leader Guide* as sources of ideas and information.
- Collect dues and turn them in to the pack secretary/treasurer.
- Encourage boys to advance. Maintain accurate records, and see that Webelos Scouts are appropriately recognized for their achievement (see *Webelos Handbook*).
- Instill Scouting's spirit and moral values through personal example, ceremonies, and meaningful activities such as goodwill and conservation projects.

- Work with the pack committee to establish a good relationship with neighborhood Boy Scout troops. Try to graduate every Webelos Scout into a troop.
- Ask qualified persons, including adult family members of Webelos Scouts, to serve as activity badge counselors.
- Encourage adult family members to help plan and carry out Webelos den overnight campouts and other outdoor activities.
- Help the den earn the National Den Award.
- Follow the policies of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Participate in the annual planning conference and the monthly pack leaders' meetings.

Your Cubmaster or pack trainer will be glad to explain any of these responsibilities that you do not understand.

All leaders bring to Cub Scouting their own talents and skills, their own backgrounds and interests. Your key to becoming an effective leader is to use your own abilities and interests, along with what you learn about Cub Scouting to plan and conduct the best possible program for the boys. What happens in the life of each boy during his formative years will determine to a great extent the kind of man he will become. What a tremendous opportunity and challenge for you, the Webelos den leader!

THE WEBELOS DEN MEETING

Webelos den meetings are usually held in the evening or on weekends, once each week, in a home, church, or school. The meeting day and time is set by the Webelos den leader. It should be at the same time and place each week to prevent confusion. Den meetings last approximately one hour. Leadership responsibilities are shared by the Webelos den leader, assistant Webelos den leader, Webelos den chief, and denner (a selected member of your den).

The Webelos den meeting program includes the following:

1. **Gathering.** An activity to keep those who arrive early busy until time for opening.
2. **Opening.** Simple opening ceremony, den business such as attendance, dues, den plans, and uniform inspection.
3. **Activity Badge Fun.** Instruction, practice, games, and contests related to the Webelos Scout skills.
4. **Preparation.** Making equipment and props for the den's part in pack meeting; getting ready for outdoor, goodwill, or other special activities.
5. **Closing.** Announcements, simple closing ceremony, and den meeting place cleanup.

WEBELOS OUTDOOR PROGRAM

Webelos dens, with the participation of adult family members, are encouraged to have overnight camping experiences. This is an important part of the transition from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts.

WHAT DO YOU INVEST IN CUB SCOUTING?

- One evening or Saturday each week for den meeting.
- One evening each month for pack meeting.
- One evening each month for Cub Scout leaders' roundtable.
- One evening each month for pack leaders' planning meeting.
- Time spent in planning and organizing the den program activities.
- Cub Scout leader basic training.
- Cost of the Webelos den leader uniform.
- The registration fee.

This is a small investment compared to the dividends you will receive. And of course, the more you invest, the more you can expect to receive in return.

WHAT DO YOU RECEIVE IN RETURN?

- One lively, never dull evening each week when you have the good fortune to view the world through the eyes of boys.
- One evening each month of fun and fellowship with other pack families, and a sense of pride as you watch Webelos Scouts receive recognition for their accomplishments.
- The privilege of helping to enrich and strengthen families.
- The privilege of getting to know boys in your neighborhood a little better and watching them all grow strong in mind and body.
- The opportunity to help boys learn good citizenship and help shape them into men with strength of character who are sensitive to the needs of others.
- A growing admiration for boys, and their growing respect for you as their leader and friend.
- A code to live by which will set a worthwhile example for both boys and adults.
- The satisfaction of being a member of a worldwide movement, and pride in being publicly identified as a part of this organization by wearing the uniform which is a visible means of showing you believe in and stand up for its ideals and objectives.
- And many other dividends that will enrich your life as you dedicate your time, talent, and enthusiasm to Cub Scouting.