Webelos to Scout Transition:

A Guide for Webelos Parents and Den Leaders

There are two competing philosophies of how Webelos Scouts should best be transitioned into a Boy Scout troop. One philosophy states that it is best for a Webelos den to move as a group into a single Scout troop. This method often works very well for packs that are essentially "feeder" packs for a specific Boy Scout troop, both sponsored by the same Chartered Organization. The disadvantage of this method is that a single troop may not adequately meet the needs of every single Webelos Scout, resulting in some of the Webelos dropping out of scouting entirely. Plus, not all packs naturally feed into a particular troop, so for the Webelos in these packs, parents and den leaders need to do a little research and interview three or four different troops.

Boy Scouts is a whole lot different than Cub Scouts or Webelos Scouts. The idea of graduating from a Cub Scout pack to a Boy Scout troop may be intimidating for some Webelos Scouts and their parents. Some Webelos may not be sure they want to cross over into Boy Scouts because they believe it will just be more of the same thing that they did in Cub Scouts, which of course in not correct.

The best way to make your decisions, to choose the right troop, and to get your questions answered is to visit several troops that meet close to your home. This guide is designed to help the Webelos Scout, his parents, and his den leaders begin the Webelos-to-Scout transition.

My son wants to be a Boy Scout -- how does the transition begin?

During the fifth grade, a typical Webelos den continues to meet until February. During this time, the Webelos will earn additional activity badges and work to complete the Arrow of Light. A review of the requirements for the Arrow of Light will show that it is designed to prepare a Webelos Scout to join a Boy Scout troop. The requirements for the Arrow of Light include learning the basics about Boy Scout (Scout Oath, Scout Law, motto, slogan, handshake, salute, and uniform differences).

The requirements also call for the entire den to visit both a troop meeting and to participate in a troop outdoor activity. After all of the other requirements are complete, the last Arrow of Light requirement is for the Webelos Scout and his parents to visit a troop and meet with the Scoutmaster to complete the Boy Scout application. *Remember, the requirement is to complete the application. You don't have to join a troop at that point.*

How does a Webelos Scout select a troop to join?

Selecting a Boy Scout troop to join is an individual decision for each Webelos Scout and his parents. Every troop is different in the kinds of activities they schedule and in their personalities. Each family must choose the troop they feel will best meet their needs. In selecting a troop, you should consider the following factors. Are the troop

activities the kind that you would enjoy? How do the Scouts interact with each other? How do the older Scouts interact with the younger Scouts? Are there older Scouts active in the troop? (This indicates if the troop's program is exciting and interesting for a variety of ages.) Is the troop "boy led" or is it led by the adults? (The best answer is the troop is "boy led".) Are you comfortable with the adult leaders in the troop? Are the adult leaders trained, do they follow BSA policy, and do they welcome input and participation by all parents? In practice, the decision of which troop to join usually comes down to two factors: convenience of the weekly troop meetings (meeting night and location) and which troop a boy's best friends are in.

It is important to note that every Scout has the freedom to transfer to another troop if he changes his mind after joining a troop. When comparing troops it is not too important how large a troop is, or how many Eagle Scouts it has, or how many high-adventure trips they go on. The measure of a successful troop is how well it meets the three aims of Scouting: encouraging participatory citizenship, building strong moral character, and helping boys to grow physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. In other words, do boys leave the troop a better person than they were when they joined? There are many excellent troops in our area. Any one of them would be a good choice. For a complete list of troops, visit *www.thescoutzone.org*.

Below are some items to consider as you visit and evaluate the troops.

Troop Overview:

- Troop Focus: Many troops have established a focus or theme, like Indian folklore, backpacking, kayaking, etc. Each troop sets its own activity calendar and decides what to focus on.
- Troop Meetings: When and where the Troop meets must fit with the overall family calendar. Some troops meet weekly, some less often. Some events may be mandatory, so it is important that your son’s schedule allow him to participate. Most troops have optional meetings, which allow flexibility for homework, sports, etc. Most troops realize that your son is involved in other actitivies.
- Troop size: The number of active scouts in the troop has an impact on the number of activities that can be offered, the level of “intimacy” of the troop, and the potential demands on parents to lead trips.
- Rank advancements: Advancements are strongly emphasized in some troops. Other troops focus less on rank advancements, a good environment for boys less motivated by ranks and more interested in activities and doing.

Troop Leadership:

Troops can be led by the Scouts, by the Adult leaders or some combination thereof.

- Troops that are led by Scouts develop strong leadership skills but can be somewhat chaotic at times while the boys are learning these skills.

- Adult-led troops are more structured and predictable but offer less opportunity for Scouts to learn by leading.
- Areas where the leadership ownership must be determined within a troop may include running the weekly meetings, establishing the annual calendar, organizing outings, and conducting the rank advancement classes.

Type and Breadth of Activities Offered:

Boy Scout troops typically offer a wide range of outings; however, each troop generally develops an activity profile that reflects the level and type of activities that the Scouts in the Troop prefer.

- High Adventure: These are trips that can be physically demanding and generally require substantial preparation. Examples include long (50 plus miles) backpacking trips and class 4 white water rafting.
- Outdoor Outings: Included here are such events as camping, shorter backpack trips, day hikes, caving and rappelling, submarine trips.
- Educational Activities: These tend to be activities that focus on the mental and skills development rather than on physical skills. Examples are CB Radioing, woodworking, tours of local businesses and museums.
- Service Projects: All Scout troops offer some level of service projects. They can range from Scouting for Food to Trail repair to visitations at senior centers.

Parental Participation

There are two elements to research here. Note that Scouting can provide one of the best ways that parents can stay involved with their son and his friends as the boys reach teenage years.

- What level of involvement is expected from each family? Troops can vary from expecting every family to be actively involved to desiring but not requiring involvement.
- What parent opportunities are available within the troop? Typically the opportunities are leadership/committee, activity support, or general support roles (merit badge counselor, Public Relations, quartermaster)

Social Element

- Are any of your son's friends or schoolmates involved in the Troop? It has been found that if your son has at least one friend in the Troop he is more likely to embrace Scouting and the Troop.
- Are there adults in the Troop that you know? This may or may not be important to you.

Troop Selection Checklist

Use the worksheet below to record information you gather on the Troops. Hopefully it will help you in evaluating the relative merits of each Troop as compared to your boy's and your family's interests. Additional spaces are provided for family specific requirements and comments.

Criteria to be Considered	Our Preference	Troop	Troop	Troop	Troop
Troop Overview					
Focus					
Meeting Time and Place					
Size (Small, Medium, Large)					
Rank Advancement Emphasis					
Troop Leadership					
Activities					
High Adventure					
Outdoor Activities					
Educational Activities					
Service Projects					
Parental Participation					
Level of Involvement					
Opportunities					
Social Makeup					
Friends of Your Scout?					
Adult Friends In Troop?					
Personality of Troop					

Your son’s Webelos den leader should make arrangements for his or her den to visit several troops in the area. BSA gives troops a lot of latitude in how they operate so you should notice a lot of variety among the troops. It's also a good idea to visit a few of the troops more than once to get a true impression of how they operate. Webelos den leaders may receive invitations from neighboring troops to visit on particular nights. However, it's not necessary to wait for an invitation because the troops may not have an accurate list of Webelos den leaders. The den leaders may also initiate the contact with any troop they wish to visit.

To fulfill the Arrow of Light requirements, the Webelos den leader should make arrangements for his or her den to attend an outdoor activity with one of the troops. Ideally this should be with a troop that the boys in the den have a lot of interest in. However, this can be done with any troop. Try to schedule your troop outing early because it's difficult for troops to take Webelos Scouts camping during the harsh winter weather.

When do Webelos Scouts cross over into a troop?

After the list of troops has been narrowed down a bit, it might be useful to invite the Scoutmasters of those troops to one of your Webelos den meetings to meet the parents and to answer questions. By the end of January, every Webelos Scout should have a good idea of what troop they want to join and they can begin attending weekly meetings with that troop at that time. Most Cub Scout packs have a crossover ceremony for the graduating Webelos during the Blue and Gold in February or during the pack meeting in March. It can be earlier if the Webelos Scouts have completed the requirements for the Arrow of Light. Representatives from the appropriate troops participate in the crossover ceremony to welcome the new members. Most troops present the new members with some welcoming gift.

What is the purpose of Boy Scouts?

The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated to provide a program for community organizations that offers effective character, citizenship, and personal fitness training for youth.

Specifically, the BSA endeavors to develop American citizens who are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit; have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness; have personal values based on religious concepts; have the desire and skills to help others; understand the principles of the American social, economic, and governmental systems; are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand our nation's role in the world; have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people; and are prepared to participate in and give leadership to American society.

Scout Oath

"On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
And to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
Mentally awake, and morally straight."

Scout Law

A Scout is . . .
Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful,
Friendly, Courteous, Kind
Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty
Brave, Clean, Reverent

Boy Scouting, one of three membership divisions of the BSA (the others are Cub Scouting and Venturing), is available to boys who have earned the Arrow of Light Award or have completed the fifth grade, or who are 11 through 17 years old, and subscribe to the Scout Oath and Law. The program achieves the BSA's objectives of developing character, citizenship, and personal fitness qualities among youth by focusing on a vigorous program of outdoor activities.

What are the aims and methods of Boy Scouting?

The Scouting program has three specific objectives, commonly referred to as the "Aims of Scouting." They are character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. The methods by which the aims are achieved are listed below in random order to emphasize the equal importance of each.

Ideals

The ideals of Boy Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan. The Boy Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high, and, as he reaches for them, he has some control over what and who he becomes.

Patrols

The patrol method gives Boy Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to interact in small groups where they can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through their elected representatives.

Outdoor Programs

Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoor setting that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with one another. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose. Being close to nature helps Boy Scouts gain an appreciation for God's handiwork and humankind's place in it. The outdoors is the laboratory for Boy Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

Advancement

Boy Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method. The Boy Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he meets each challenge. The Boy Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a Boy Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others.

Personal Growth

As Boy Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Boy Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. Probably no device is so successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn. The religious emblems program also is a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent personal conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Boy Scout to determine his growth toward Scouting's aims.

Leadership Development

The Boy Scout program encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Boy Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership role of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

Adult Association

Boys learn from the example set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female, and association with adults of high character is encouraged at this stage of a young man's development.

Uniform

The uniform makes the Boy Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Boy Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Boy Scout identity in a world brotherhood

of youth who believe in the same ideals. The uniform is practical attire for Boy Scout activities and provides a way for Boy Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

What outdoor activities can my son participate in?

Camping

Summer camp represents the highlight of the year for most Scouts. Troops from our area attend a wide variety summer camps, not just Goshen. At summer camp, scouts learn teamwork within their patrol and troop and seize this opportunity to pass advancement requirements and earn merit badges. Summer camp blends fun programs and advancement, competitive and noncompetitive events, and individual, patrol, and troop activities. Camp gives leaders an opportunity to reinforce what their Scouts have learned throughout the year.

Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my best to
Be clean in my outdoor manners,
Be careful with fire,
Be considerate in the outdoors, and
Be conservation-minded.

Most troops also participates in various weekend camps, hikes and bike hikes throughout the year.

High Adventure

From time to time troops offer high-adventure programs that include backpacking, canoeing, mountain biking, horseback riding, whitewater rafting and kayaking, sailing, mountaineering, and much more.

As national high-adventure bases for older Scouts, the Florida National High Adventure Sea Base, Northern Tier National High Adventure Program (in northern Minnesota and Canada), and Philmont Scout Ranch (in northern New Mexico) present unique opportunities for many youths year after year. More on these later.

Conservation

Scouts have always taken pride in being good stewards of the outdoors. Leave No Trace guidelines allow them to camp, hike, and take part in outdoor-related activities that are environmentally sound, and teach them to be considerate of other users of the out-of-doors.

Jamborees

The BSA conducts a national Scout jamboree every four years and participates in world Scout jamborees (also held at four-year intervals). Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia, has been the site of the last several National Scout Jamborees.

What community service projects are required?

Members of the Boy Scouts of America have always provided service to others. It begins with the Scout slogan "Do a good turn daily" and continues through individual Eagle Scout leadership service projects.

Who sponsors Boy Scout Troops?

All troops are "owned" by a chartered organization, which has goals compatible with those of the Boy Scouts of America. Each chartered organization chooses a chartered organization representative and troop committee, and selects a Scoutmaster and assistant Scoutmasters. Together, they implement the methods of Scouting to achieve the aims of Scouting. Chartered organizations can include schools, places of worship, parent groups, PTO/PTA groups and businesses. Regardless of who the chartering organization is, membership is open to boys of all religions and ethnic backgrounds.

How does my son join?

First, of course, is your son's interest and desire to become a Boy Scout. Hopefully, he has visited several Troops in the area, is interested in Scouting, and has decided on the Troop that offers the program that he is most interested in.

The logistics are fairly easy. Get a New Scout Application Form from the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster, fill it out, and turn it in with the dues and other fees the Troop may require.

My son has a disability. Will he be able to join?

Yes. The basic premise of Scouting for youth with special needs is that every boy wants to participate fully and be respected like every other member of the Troop. While there are, by necessity, troops composed exclusively of Scouts with disabilities, experience has shown that Scouting usually succeeds best when every boy is part of a patrol in a regular Troop.

Scouts with physical or mental disabilities may advance through Scouting’s ranks by meeting advancement guidelines or approved alternatives.

A council advancement committee may allow a Scout to complete alternative requirements tailored to his ability. Scouts with permanent mental disabilities may request extended membership beyond age 18.

How much are dues?

The dues amount will be determined annually by each troop’s Troop Committee. Dues cover the items listed:

- Yearly Registration
- Boy’s Life Magazine
- Troop Insurance
- Advancement patches and awards

In addition, dues and fundraisers defray other necessary Troop expenses such as:

- Camping Equipment
- Special Ceremonies
- Training Printing
- Postage
- Special Awards

How do Boy Scout meetings work?

Scouting is a boy-led activity. That is probably the biggest difference you will see between Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts.

Senior Scout leadership is composed of the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) plus at least one Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL). These Scouts are responsible for planning and running meetings.

Typically, the ASPLs are responsible for managing the meeting plan for a month, with the support of the SPL, the Scoutmaster, the Assistant Scoutmasters, and other supporting adults (by the way, troops would really like to get new Scout parents involved in this process - ask what you can do). The Scout leadership is also supported by the Patrol Leaders.

Parents are encouraged, but not required, to stay around for meetings. You should check with the troops you interview to find out what it's policies are.

During a typical meeting, the following activities will occur:

- Opening flag ceremony
- Meeting organizational announcements
- Merit badge and general advancement activities
- Campout planning (if necessary, it also may be held after the meeting).
- Recognition of advancement earned that evening
- General announcements
- Closing flag ceremony

What type of equipment should we get?

All of the Uniform and Book items are available at the Council Scout Shops. Some items will vary by troop – check with your troop before purchasing.

Uniform:

- Khaki Scout shirt (same as second-year Webelos) - comes with U.S. Flag sewn on. Buy it large enough to last at least a couple of years. If your son is a Webelos Scout, the khaki shirt he's wearing now can be used until he outgrows it.
- Troop numerals
- Council shoulder patch
- World Scout Crest (small purple circular patch)
- Red epaulets
- Some troops require a neckerchief
- Some troops require the boys to buy uniform shorts/pant
- You also should consider buying Scout socks, belt and hat

Books:

- A Boy Scout Handbook. It is a good idea to buy a cover, either plastic or cloth
- Boy Scout Requirement book (optional)

Camping Equipment (not needed immediately, but eventually. Check with your troop for details.):

- Pocket knife (must pass Totem Chip before using this knife at a Scout function)
- Sleeping bag
- Ground pad (foam, Thermorest-type, cot, etc.)
- Flashlight
- Water bottle or canteen
- Personal mess kit (although the Scout Shop has BSA mess kits, other types found at sporting goods stores are adequate)
- Compass (get the type with a clear, rectangular plastic base)
- Rain gear
- Troop t-shirts for day wear at camp (this is known as a Class B uniform shirt). Most troops sell these each year

How does the BSA prevent child abuse in Scouting?

The Boy Scouts of America has adopted a number of policies aimed at eliminating opportunities for abuse within the Scouting program. These policies focus on leadership selection and on placing barriers to abuse within the program

Leadership

The Boy Scouts of America takes great pride in the quality of our adult leadership. Being a leader in the BSA is a privilege, not a right. The quality of the program and the safety of our youth members call for high-quality adult leaders. We work closely with our chartered organizations to help recruit the best possible leaders for their units.

The adult application requests background information that should be checked by the unit committee or the chartered organization before accepting an applicant for unit leadership. While no current screening techniques exist that can identify every potential child molester, we can reduce the risk of accepting a child molester by learning all we can about an applicant for a leadership position--his or her experience with children, why he or she wants to be a Scout leader, and what discipline techniques he or she would use.

.very troop is required to have leaders who have been trained in youth protection. More information is available at *www.scouting.org.*

Barriers to Abuse Within Scouting

The BSA has adopted the following policies to provide additional security for our members. These policies are primarily for the protection of our youth members; however, they also serve to protect our adult leaders from false accusations of abuse.

- **Two-deep leadership.** Two registered adult leaders or one registered leader and a parent of a participant, one of whom must be 21 years of age or older, are required on all trips and outings. The chartered organization is responsible for ensuring that sufficient leadership is provided for all activities.
- **No one-on-one contact.** One-on-one contact between adults and youth members is not permitted. In situations that require personal conferences, such as a

Scoutmaster's conference, the meeting is to be conducted in view of other adults and youths.

- **Respect of privacy.** Adult leaders must respect the privacy of youth members in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers at camp, and intrude only to the extent that health and safety require. Adults must protect their own privacy in similar situations.
- **Separate accommodations.** When camping, no youth is permitted to sleep in the tent of an adult other than his own parent or guardian. Councils are strongly encouraged to have separate shower and latrine facilities for females. When separate facilities are not available, separate times for male and female use should be scheduled and posted for showers.
- **Proper preparation for high-adventure activities**. Activities with elements of risk should never be undertaken without proper preparation, equipment, clothing, supervision, and safety measures.
- **No secret organizations.** The Boy Scouts of America does not recognize any secret organizations as part of its program. All aspects of the Scouting program are open to observation by parents and leaders.
- **Appropriate attire.** Proper clothing for activities is required. For example, skinny-dipping is not appropriate as part of Scouting.
- **Constructive discipline.** Discipline used in Scouting should be constructive and reflect Scouting's values. Corporal punishment is never permitted.
- **Hazing prohibited**. Physical hazing and initiations are prohibited and may not be included as part of any Scouting activity.
- **Junior leader training and supervision.** Adult leaders must monitor and guide the leadership techniques used by junior leaders and ensure that BSA policies are followed.

How can parents help protect their children?

Parents participate in the protection of their children in a variety of ways. We have already mentioned the need for open lines of communication so that children are encouraged to bring any troubles to their parents for advice and counsel. In addition, parents need to be involved in their sons' Scouting activities. All parents receive important information concerning the Scouting program as part of their sons' membership applications. This information is provided so that parents can detect any deviations from the BSA's approved program. If any deviations are noted, parents should call these to the attention of the chartered organization or the unit committee. If the problems persist, parents should contact the local council for assistance.

Parents also need to review the booklet, *How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse: A Parent's Guide*, inserted in every Boy Scout and Cub Scout handbook. The information in this booklet should be the subject of discussions between Scouts and their parents prior to joining a troop or receiving the Bobcat badge.

How does my son advance in rank?

Rank requirements for Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class are signed off in the Scout Handbook. Most of the information needed to pass these rank requirements can be found in the handbook. Taking the time to read and study a subject thoroughly is important and expected. When a Scout satisfactorily demonstrates that he has a complete knowledge of a skill or requirement, the requirement may to be signed off in the handbook by a troop leader.

A Scout is expected to perform service work for advancement as well.

Scouts must appear before a Board of Review as a final step for rank advancement. Rank advancement is recognized at a formal ceremony called a Court of Honor. It is meant to be a solemn occasion focusing on each Scout's growth and achievements. All Scouts are expected to wear their full Class A uniforms, including merit badge sashes. Parents/guardians are expected to attend each Court of Honor and will be asked to join their son in front of the Troop when he receives his patch and recognition for rank advancement.

How does my son earn merit badges?

Merit badges are required for rank advancement from First Class to Eagle. There are more than 100 merit badges in the Scouting program and they offer Scouts an opportunity to explore areas in which they may not have engaged otherwise. A list of merit badges can be found in the Scout Handbook. There are merit badges for many areas of interest, such as sports, hobbies, careers and Scouting skills. Through merit badges a Scout learns to manage himself, his home, his health and others.

(This Guide was created by the Potawatomi Area Council (Wisconsin) and is used by permission. It was edited for the Longs Peak Council (northeastern Colorado, southeastern Wyoming and western Nebraska). Further editing done by Evan Farr, Sully District Webelos-to-Scout Transition Chair, National Capital Area Council)

Glossary of some common Scout terms

As in any organization, acronyms and unfamiliar terms are often used that can be confusing. Does your son return from a scouting activity and seem to be speaking a foreign language? Do you note some strange words on a flyer or calendar? This glossary is an effort to help define some of the more frequently used terms. If someone uses a term you are not familiar with simply ask them to explain it (we too all had to learn it some where), or sneak a glance at this glossary if your bashful about asking.

Adult Patrol : When the troop goes camping, all of the adults form their own patrol for meal planning, shopping, cooking, eating, and sleeping. The adults try and set a good example of how a patrol should operate.

Annual Planning Meeting : The PLC (see below) meets to plan the next years activities with the guidance of the Scoutmaster. This plan is then present to the Troop Committee (see below) for approval to make sure the plan meets BSA guidelines and that necessary resources can be provided. This normally occurs in the spring to plan the next school years activities.

APL - Asst. Patrol Leader : See Patrol Leader below.

ASM - Asst. Scoutmaster : See Scoutmaster below.

ASPL - Asst. Senior Patrol Leader : See Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). Troops often have more than one ASPL

Baden-Powell: Lord Baden-Powell was the founder of the scouting movement.

Be Prepared: The motto of Boy Scouting.

Blue Card: In order to work with a Merit Badge Counselor the scout must first obtain a Blue Card from the Scoutmaster. Blue Cards are the record of Merit Badge progress and are turned in to receive the Merit Badge after all the requirements have been met and the counselor has signed off the card. The scout should keep his copy of the blue card until after he has reached the Rank of Eagle. The plastic baseball trading card holders work well for storing completed Blue Cards.

Board of Review - BOR : As a requirement for each rank advancement a scout must appear individually before a group of three to six adults (members of Troop Committee) to ensure that the scout has met the requirements for that rank. By policy the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters cannot sit on a BOR. A Board of Review takes place after a Scoutmaster Conference (see below) for Rank Advancement, or when a Scout requests it or if the Troop Committee feels the Scout needs it. Eagle boards are conducted at the district level.

Boy Scout Ranks (in order of increasing rank)

Tenderfoot
Second Class
First Class
Star
Life
Eagle
Eagle Palms: Bronze, Gold, Silver

Bridging: A ceremony where Webelos Cub Scouts cross a ceremonial bridge to signify their transition from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. This is normally done at a Cub Scout Pack Meeting with Boy Scouts from the Webelos' new troop participating. This is NOT a graduation ceremony from Cub Scouts, it is rather an induction ceremony into Boy Scouts.

BSA Lifeguard: A 3-year certification awarded to scouts or scouters who meet prescribed requirements in aquatic skills.

Buddy System: When ever a scout needs to go somewhere at camp, hiking, Merit Badge Class, etc. it is always done in groups of at least two. A scout always takes a "buddy" scout with him. Also used as part of the "Safe Swim Defense" program.

Camporee: Campout attended by several troops within the district.. Usually there are various competitions between the patrols attending.

Chaplain: Adult member of the Troop Committee who provides guidance to scouts related to observance of the 12th point of the Scout Law - A Scout is Reverent. This adult works with the Chaplain Aide, a youth leader.

Charter Organization: The organization that is officially chartered by the Boy Scouts of America to carry out the scouting program. The main liaison between the charter organization and the troop is the Chartered Organization Representative (COR). Your COR could be a church, school, PTA/PTO, civic club or a business.

Class A or B Uniform: Different types of activities require different uniforms. Class A is a complete uniform, Class B is a scout polo shirt or T-shirt often worn for camp or for other activities.

Commissioner: Adult volunteers working at the district or council level. Unit commissioners are assigned to units and should be a friendly resource to the unit leaders.

Committee Chairperson: A registered adult appointed by the Chartered Organization to chair the Troop Committee. This person presides at Troop Committee meetings and works closely with the Chartered Organization Representative (COR) and Scoutmaster (SM) to ensure the scouting program meets BSA guidelines.

COPE: Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience. (Boy Scout activity involving heights, trust and team building).

COR: Chartered Organization Representative - A person assigned by the chartering organization to be the liaison between the troop and the charter organization.

Council: A group of Districts make up a Council.

Court of Honor – COH: An awards ceremony, usually held quarterly, at which scouts are recognized for their rank advancements, merit badges earned, and other awards.

Cracker Barrel: A scout term for a social gathering with refreshments after a meeting or activity. Often an evening activity at camp before taps.

Den Chief : A Boy Scout who helps a Den Leader direct the activities of a Cub Scout den.

District: A subdivision of a council. The Longs Peak Council has six districts: Arapahoe, Centennial, Cheyenne, Great Plains, Snowy Range, and Thompson-Poudre.

Dutch Oven: A large cast iron covered pot used to bake and cook in over a wood or charcoal fire.

Fast Start Training: This online training is a quick orientation for new leaders. See *www.scouting.org/boyscouts/faststart/*

Firem'n Chit: A certification given to Scouts who know and understand fire safety rules.

Friends of Scouting (FOS) : Friends of Scouting - annual fund raiser for the council. The council does not get any share of your registration fee and is grateful for your donation.

Good Turn: "Do a Good Turn Daily" is the scout slogan. A good turn is something you do without being asked or expected to do it and for which you expect no reward.

Guide to Safe Scouting: This booklet is the Bible when it comes to safety related issues in scouting. Those items in **BOLD** print are rules that MUST be followed. Everything else in the booklet are recommendations that should be followed. Troop leaders frequently consult this to see if planned activities are being done safely and within prescribed BSA policy.

Jamboree: Scout meeting or camp out on a grand scale. There are district, regional, national and international jamborees.

Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) : Scouting and ham radio join forces to make many international contacts through the "air" waves. Traditionally the 3rd weekend in October.

JASM - Junior Asst. Scoutmaster: A youth between 16 and 18 who has already held major leadership positions within the troop. Appointed by the Scoutmaster to help in guiding the troop and youth leaders.

Junior Leader Training (JLT): A training class taught by the senior youth leaders for newly elected and appointed youth leaders generally in the fall.

Klondike Derby: A winter/snow oriented camporee. Overnight camping experience in the snow with team building games and activities.

Leadership: To advance in the more senior ranks a scout must hold a leadership position for a set period of time. The rank requirements in the Boy Scout Handbook (as revised) lists the leadership positions that qualify.

Leave No Trace (LNT) : A set of guidelines that set standards for outdoor activities that are environmentally sound and considerate to others using the same area.

Merit Badge Sash: As scouts earn Merit Badges they are sewn on a Merit Badge Sash (available at the Scout Shop). The Merit Badge Sash is normally worn only for formal occasions such as a Court-of-Honor.

NESA: National Eagle Scout Association. Open to membership to any youth or adult who attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

New Leader Essentials (NLE: An introductory training session that highlights the values, aims, history, funding, and methods of Scouting.

Northern Tier High Adventure Base: Northern Tier is a Boy Scout High Adventure Base which is focused on canoeing in the Boundary Waters area of Minnesota and Canada.

Order of the Arrow (OA): A national brotherhood of scout honor campers of the Boy Scouts of America. Members are elected by their peers after meeting basic requirements of camping knowledge and experience. Boys and adults leaders can be elected to the OA. The OA motto of "Cheerful Service" indicates their purpose. They are often found improving scout camps, running council events, and providing service to the scouting community.

OA Ordeal: The initiation ceremony experience for new OA members generally involving personal introspection, service to improve camp or trail and ceremonies based on Indian legend or lore.

Palms, Eagle: After a scout reaches the rank of Eagle, they can earn a Palm for every 5 additional Merit Badges they complete. You may wear only the proper combination of Palms for the number of merit badges you earned beyond the 21 required for the rank of Eagle. The Bronze Palm represents five merit badges, the Gold Palm 10, and the Silver Palm 15. For example a scout with 20 additional Merit Badges would wear a Silver and a Bronze Palm.

Patrol: The Patrol is the basic unit within a troop. Made up of 6-10 scouts who camp, cook and eat together. They work as a team at various activities and events. They elect their own leader.

Patrol Equipment: The Patrol Equipment consists of tents, stoves, lanterns, and cooking equipment. The Patrol is responsible for the storage and upkeep of this equipment. This equipment is stored and transported in Patrol Boxes which need to be cleaned after each outing.

Patrol Leader (PL) : The elected leader for the patrol. An Assistant Patrol Leader can be elected or appointed by the PL to help in running the patrol.

Patrol Leaders Council (PLC): Made up of the youth leadership of the troop. They meet once a month to plan the following month's activities and annually to plan the upcoming year.

Permission Slip: In order to go on any outing the scout must have a Permission Slip signed by his parent. The Permission Slip also provides details about uniform, departure time, food, etc. Many troops post Permission Slips on their web sites. It is the Scout's responsibility to make sure they have the appropriate Permission Slip signed and turned in by the due date noted on the Permission Slip.

PFD: Personal Floatation Device (PFD) otherwise known as a life vest. Those used in scouting must be U.S. Coast Guard approved.

Philmont: A high adventure Boy Scout camp located in the northeast corner of New Mexico.

Pow Wow: Pow Wow is a one-day training program for Cub Scout leaders held each November. Pow Wow provides training beyond basics with a wide variety of topics including ceremonies, games, songs, crafts, advancement ideas, Scout skills and much more.

Re-charter: Annual process of re-registering the troop, scouts and scouters. Each unit designates leaders to collect the information and present updated paperwork to the council.

Roundtable: Monthly meeting for leaders to exchange ideas, fellowship, and, a few announcements that is run by the district.

Safe Swim Defense: A eight-step plan for conducting swimming activities in a safe manner.

Safety Afloat: Guidelines for safe troop activities utilizing water craft.

Safety Circle: A safety zone around someone using a pocket knife, hatchet, ax, or other sharp tool. Basically it is an arms length plus the length of the tool in all directions. No one should be in another person's Safety Circle when a sharp tool is in use. Be sure to check the Safety Circle when your knife is closed.

Scouter: Any registered adult leader.

Scoutmaster (SM): Adult leader who trains and guides the youth leaders in carrying out the scouting program. One or more Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM) help the Scoutmaster and are often assigned specific roles and duties.

Scoutmaster Conference: A formal meeting that takes place at a Troop meeting or activity between a Scout and the Scoutmaster, or a person he designates, to review a scout's progress. A Scoutmaster Conference takes place at advancement time prior to a Board of Review, when a Scout requests it or if the Scoutmaster feels the Scout needs it.

Scoutmaster-Specific Training : The basic Adult Leader Training. Although this is sometimes called Scoutmaster Fundamentals, this is an excellent training program for any adult wanting to become more involved in the Boy Scout program, or who just wants to learn more about how the program works.

Scouting for Food: National Good Turn: Every year, Scouts collect food for the fight against hunger. The food is turned over to local food banks for distribution to needy families. Scouting for Food is a national "Good Turn" of the Boy Scouts of America.

Scout-O-Rama: Large scouting event. Cub Scout Packs and Boy Scout Troops display some of their favorite activities. The scouts help out their units and also get time to visit other units displays.

Scouts Own: Non-denominational religious observance of reflection usually conducted on camp outs. Allows each Scout the opportunity to obey the twelfth point of the Scout Law in his own way Let your troop leaders know if you do not want your son to participate in this activity, as we wish to respect every family's religious beliefs.

Scout Spirit: The way a scout tries to live up to the Scout Oath, Law, Slogan, and motto in his everyday life.

Seabase: A high adventure Scout camp located in the Florida Keys.

Service Star: A pin worn over the left shirt pocket of the uniform to denote the number of years of service.

Silver Beaver: A recognition given by the National Court of Honor for distinguished service to youth within the council.

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) : The senior most elected youth leader of the troop. The SPL is in charge of the troop at all functions and activities. He appoints one or more assistants (ASPL) to help him in running the troop.

Totin' Chip: A certification that enables the bearer to use knives, axes, and saws. It must be earned by the Scout through educational and hands-on safety sessions led by an adult leader or older scout appointed by the scoutmaster. Any time a Scout is observed doing something unsafe with a sharp tool, a corner is cut off his Totin' Chip card. When all four corners are gone, the card is taken away and must be re-earned.

Tour Permit: A document that must be filed with the council office before any official scouting activity can take place. Special permits are required for travel out-of-state, over 500 miles, or for flying activities.

Troop Committee: Adult committee of registered adults that provide oversight, assistance, and guidance to the Scoutmaster in carrying out the scouting program within the troop. The Troop Committee is responsible to provide the necessary resources requested by the PLC and Scoutmaster that are required to carry out the scouting program. All registered adults are part of the Troop Committee, key members include the Committee Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Outdoor/Activities Coordinator, Advancement Coordinator, Membership Coordinator, Equipment Coordinator, and Fund Raising Coordinator.

Two Deep: Two Deep Leadership is a Boy Scout Policy. A minimum of two adults must always be present with any youth. One of these adults must be 21 years old. This is part of the BSA Youth Protection Guidelines.

Woodbadge: Advanced Training for Boy Scout adult leaders. Any adult who has taken Basic Leader Training can attend this advanced training course to expand their knowledge of the scouting program and be of more help to the troop.

Youth Protection Training: A 30-minute interactive video presentation and training program that is offered several times a year. Each unit should encourage all leaders to attend one of these sessions that provide valuable information on how to recognize child abuse, how to set up safe guards, and how to report suspected abuse. The training can also be done online through the link on this page: *www.longspeabsa.org/training*