

Parents Guide to Webelos to Scout Transition

The table below gives an overview and comparison between the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts programs

| Cub Scouts | Boy Scouts |
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| Packs are further divided into smaller groups of boys called Dens based upon the age of the youth members. | Troops are further divided into smaller groups of boys called Patrols. Patrols are lead by older experienced scouts. |
| Programs are planned and directed by adults. | Adult leaders advise but planning and directing comes from the youth leaders. |
| Learning is “failure proof” on accomplishments. | Learning takes place by demonstration and practicing certain skills with hands on experiences. Advancements are dependent upon demonstrating proficiency in a certain skill. Once learned, the scout can teach others the skill. |
| Parents and Den Leaders sign off on accomplishments. | Only the BSA trained Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, approved merit badge counselor or older experienced scout can sign off on accomplishments. |
| Adults plan and lead all outings and programs. | Adults advise and enable the older scouts to plan, organize, and develop their own programs according to their own interests. |
| Camping is a minor part of overall programming. | Camping is a major component of most Troop programming. |
| Cub Scouts offer summer day camp or week-long overnight summer camp. | Boy Scouts offer week-long overnight summer camp and extended stay high adventure camping at certain national locations. |
| Cub Scouts work as a Den on group projects which focus on certain skills. | Boy Scouts advance in rank by working on merit badges which are self selected according to the youth’s interest areas and scouts work individually at their own pace. |
| Youth typically follow the lead of the trained adult leader. | Youth members initially follow the lead of the older scouts but with time and experience will be expected to direct other youth in the program. Youth members vote their own youth leaders into important troop leadership positions. |
| Cub Scouts typically offset the cost of programs by participating in group fundraising. | Boy Scouts typically offset the cost of programs by individual/group fundraising to earn part of their own money needed to participate in outings. |
| Communication is directed from adult leader to parent or guardian | Communication is handled via general announcements at troop meetings. Youth are typically asked to be responsible for listening and writing down details about upcoming events. Some troops may circulate a monthly calendar and others may have a web site. |
| Parents may be called upon to help out at certain events and volunteers are recruited form the pool of parents to lead Dens. | Opportunities for parent involvement on the troop level abound. Ask the Scoutmaster what opportunities exist and what you might enjoy doing. |