

The Boys in Blue

are our FUTURE

 Future!

2015 National Order of the Arrow Conference

Session Length: 75 Minutes

Through this session, you will learn:

* OA Service to Cub Scouting - Covers many of the opportunities an Arrowman has to ensure our future by reaching out to the youngest members of the BSA.
* Cub Scout Camp Promotion
* Cub Scout Recruitment
* Webelos to Boy Scout Transition.

This session will help the \*\*Lodge/Chapter/Section\*\* with the Journey to Excellence Requirements 13, 14 and 15 (Council support).

The theme of NOAC 2015 is “It Starts With Us”. This session will relay this theme in the following ways:

* 95% of all Boy Scouts participated in Cub Scouting at some time.
* We have 33% less Cub Scouts at the end of 2014 than at the end of 2000.
* Less than 50% Webelos cross over to Boy Scouts (2009 through 2014).
* As Arrowmen, we must be an integral part of our local Council to help with Cub Scout Outdoor Programming and Webelos to Scout Transition.

Cub Scout Camping promotion

Session Length: 25 Minutes

Learning objectives:

* Why is camping an important part of the Cub Scout program?
* How will camping benefit the Pack/Den?
* What is Cub Scout camping like?

Required Materials:

* ***Guide to Safe Scouting*** (Current Edition)
* NER Cub Scout Involvement Video
* NE OA Service to Cub Scouting

Trainer preparation

Trainers should be knowledgeable about the Cub Scout program and should be able to answer questions that arise or direct the questioner to someone who knows the correct answer. The trainer should be familiar with the ***Guide to Safe Scouting*** (Section III. on Camping and the Age Appropriate Guidelines Chart). The trainer should be highly energetic and enthusiastic about Cub Scouts having an active outdoor program. Trainers should also have contact information for the Council‘s Camping Programs, District Roundtable Staff and Family Camp Administrators and their local representatives, in case anyone in the audience would like to learn more.

Trainers should have information and/or printouts for the audience promoting their local Council outdoor programs and summer camping options.

Trainer Tip: Learn who is in your audience, by asking them their name, where they are from, what they hope to gain from your session and the one thing they think prevents people going camping with Cub Scouts.

Session narrative

Introduction: 4 Minutes

Planned, organized, and well programmed outdoor Pack events fulfill the promise of “Fun” in the Cub Scout program. Young boys have a great desire for outdoor fun, excitement, and adventure. Remember, “Scouting is three fourths *outing!”* These outdoor experiences encourage young boys to spend quality time with their family and friends while doing so in a supervised, safe and age appropriate setting. Most boys join Cub Scouts because of the promise of outdoor activities. Boys in this age group have a natural curiosity about their surroundings, especially the world out-of-doors. Introducing these boys to the fun and adventure of Scouting in the outdoors will benefit them as they mature through the program. Remember, “It’s more fun outdoors.”

When a boy and his family join Cub Scouts, they join an organization that values the fun and excitement of experiencing the outdoors in a safe and age appropriate environment. Many boys experience their first organized outdoor adventure as a Cub Scout.

Cub Scout Day Camp is an organized, multi-day, theme-oriented program for Tiger Cubs and their adult partners, Cub Scouts, and Webelos Scouts. Themes change yearly to offer new programs and to avoid repetition. Day Camp typically runs during the daytime or early evening hours, but do not include any overnight activities. The day camp program is age-appropriate and theme-based. Whether it’s digging for buried treasure as a pirate or clowning around at the circus, Day Camp provides an excellent outdoor event for all ages.

Council-Organized Family Camps are overnight events involving more than one Pack. Family Camp allows a great bonding experience between Parent/Guardian and Child. These camps are appropriate for Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts and Webelos since Parents/Guardians are responsible for the supervision of their children. Family Camps may also be known as ‘Lad, Dad, Mom and Me’, ‘Parent Pal’ or ‘Adventure Weekend’ events in many Councils.

For those geared up for an adventure, Wolf/Bear Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts can take advantage of resident overnight camping. Resident camping is a safe, council-organized, theme-oriented, overnight camping program operated under BSA National Camping School trained leadership and managed by the Council. Resident camps generally operate for at least two nights, providing plenty of time for outdoor program areas such as Showmanship, Sportsmanship, Craftsmanship, Waterfront, Fitness, Camp craft, and Nature, to name a few. Remember to bring your outfits because the overall theme offers quite the experience. Examples of themes include Sea Adventure, Space Exploration, Knights, Circus Big Top, Dinosaurs, Wild West and Olympics.

Want to make it a weekend and really have some fun? Pack overnighters are just the type of event. Pack overnighters are pack-organized overnight camping activities involving more than one family from a single Pack, focused on age-appropriate Cub Scout activities and conducted at Council-approved locations. Whether it’s catching the big fish down on the lake or hiking to the top, Cub Scouts and Parents/Guardians can have a blast with fellow Pack members.

Lastly, if you’re a Webelos and the parent/guardian of a Webelos, then gear up for a Webelos Den Overnight Camping trip. Learn the basics of Boy Scout camping while Webelos get ready for Boy Scouting! If you are a Webelos den leader, be sure to participate in a joint den-troop campout to ease the Webelos to Scout transition and strengthen the ties between the Pack and Troop. Have fun outdoors with your Webelos den as you learn the skills it takes to be a Boy Scout.

NOTE: According to the ***Guide for Safe Scouting***, “[o]vernight camping by Tiger, Wolf and Bear Cub Scout dens as dens is not approved”.

Now, we are going to watch a short video highlighting just a few activities that Cub Scouts can participate in, whether it’s Day Camp, Resident Overnight Camping, Family Camp, Pack Overnighters, or Webelos Den overnight camping.

Show the Video: 6 Minutes

Trainer Tip: At this point, presenters should play the DVD.

Conclusion: 2 Minutes

The Cub Scout outdoor program’s chief purposes are youth development and FUN in a safe, age appropriate setting. There is no better way to achieve those purposes than to “get into the great outdoors”. As you saw through this video, there are a ton of activities that any Cub Scout can do.

What are some activities you feel your Pack can become involved with?

When is your next outdoor event?

Appendix: Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: Who can I contact regarding more information on this topic?

A1: Consult the ***Guide to Safe Scouting***. You may also want to contact your Council‘s Camping Programs, District Roundtable and Family Camp Administrators and their local representatives.

Q2: How do I find out more about how the Order of the Arrow can work with Cub Scouts?

A2: Contact your Local Order of the Arrow Lodge. You may also consult the NER OA Lodge Cub Scout Service Guide. For further information about initiatives of the Northeast Region Order of the Arrow Cub Scout Taskforce you can send an e-mail to cubscouting@northeast.oa-bsa.org.

Cub scout Recruitment

Session Length: 25 Minutes

Learning objectives:

* Understand the purposes of the Cub Scout program
* Understand the basics about the Cub Scouts
* Create enthusiasm in the audience

Required Materials:

* NER Cub Scout Involvement Video
* Cub Scout Membership Applications (Youth and Adult)
* NER OA Lodge Cub Scout Service Guide

Trainer preparation

Trainers should be knowledgeable about the Cub Scout program and should be able to answer questions that arise or direct the questioner to someone who knows the correct answer. The trainer should be highly energetic and enthusiastic in order to inspire members of the audience to join the Cub Scouts.

Trainers should have information and/or printouts for the audience available, including contact information for the Council as well as applications for youth to join the Cub Scouts and for new Adult Unit Leaders. Trainers should also have the contact information for the Council and District’s Membership Committees and their local representatives, in case anyone in the audience would like to learn more. These handouts should be distributed before the presentation begins.

Trainer Tip: Learn who is in your audience, by asking them their name, where they are from, what they hope to gain from your session and the one thing they think prevents youth from joining the Cub Scouts and adults from becoming unit leaders.

Session narrative

Introduction:

 5 Minutes

Trainer Tip: A fun activity to start this session would include having participants list on a flip chart what they might expect to get out of the Cub Scouts. After the group has finished brainstorming, flip over the chart to reveal how their expectations match with the Cub Scout program’s goals.

The Cub Scouts is a year-round family program designed for boys in the first through fifth grades (or 7, 8, 9, and 10 years of age). Cub Scouts, Parents, Unit leaders, and organizations all work together to achieve the goals of the Cub Scout program.

***GOALS:***

These goals include:

1. Character Development
2. Spiritual Growth
3. Good Citizenship
4. Sportsmanship and Fitness
5. Family Understanding
6. Respectful Relationships
7. Personal Achievement
8. Friendly Service
9. Fun and Adventure
10. Preparation for the Boy Scouts

The most important goal is FUN! Cub Scouts offers countless opportunities for FUN through its programs, ranks and age-appropriate outdoor activities.

In order to explain more about FUN in the Cub Scouts, you need to know the basics about the program.

***BASICS:***

The Cub Scout program is broken up into different age groups. These groups are called “Dens.” It is important to understand that a boy is never alone at any level of the Cub Scout program. His parents and unit leaders are there to help him through each area of the program.

The Tiger Cub program is for boys in the first-grade (or age 7). There are five achievement areas for Tiger Cubs. The Tiger Cub, working with his adult partner, completes 15 requirements within these areas to earn the Tiger Cub badge. These requirements consist of an exciting series of indoor and outdoor activities just right for a boy in the first grade.

The Bobcat rank is for all boys who join Cub Scouting. They earn this badge as an official start to the program.

The Wolf rank is for boys who have completed first grade (or are age 8). To earn the Wolf badge, a boy must pass 12 achievements involving simple physical and educational skills.

The Bear rank is for boys who have completed second grade (or are age 9). There are 24 Bear achievements in four categories. The Cub Scout must complete 12 of these to earn the Bear badge. These requirements are somewhat more difficult and challenging than those for Wolf rank.

Webelos is a program for boys who have completed third grade (or are age 10). A boy may begin working on the Webelos badge as soon as he joins a Webelos den. This is the first step in his transition from Webelos to Boy Scouts. As he completes the requirements found in the *Webelos Handbook*, he will work on activity badges, attend meetings led by adults, and become familiar with the Boy Scout requirements—all leading to the Arrow of Light Award, the highest award a boy can earn in Cub Scouts.

A Cub “Pack” is made up of all the dens within the same general neighborhood. Each Den typically has a meeting once a week where the boys work on requirements for their different badges. In addition, each Pack has a meeting once a month which includes a special program or activity run by the Cub Leaders and the Pack Committee.

As previously mentioned, a key element in the Cub Scouts is FUN. Some activities that Cub Scouts can participate include Pinewood Derby, Blue & Gold Banquet, and age-appropriate outdoor activities (like Pack Overnighters, Cub Scout Day Camp, and Council-Organized Family Camps just to name a few).

***VIDEO:***

At this time, a short video will be shown, some the kinds of activities boys have the opportunity to participate in when they join the Cub Scout program.

Show the Video: 6 Minutes

Trainer Tip: At this point, presenters should play the NER Cub Scout Involvement Video. During the video, presenters may want to explain some of the clips.

Conclusion: 1 Minute

The Cub Scout program’s chief purposes are youth development and FUN in a safe, age appropriate setting. As you saw through this video, there are a ton of activities that any Cub Scout can do. If you would like more information or have questions feel free to ask. Once again thank you for your time.

Appendix: Frequently Asked Questions

Some questions may be asked that cannot be answered by either the trainer or the handouts. In this case, have the Council contact information on hand.

Q1: Who can I contact regarding more information on this topic?

A1: You may want to contact your District’s or Council‘s Membership Committees and their local representatives.

Q2: How do I find out more about how the Order of the Arrow can work with Cub Scouts?

A2: Contact your Local Order of the Arrow Lodge. You may also consult the NER OA Lodge Cub Scout Service Guide. For further information about initiatives of the Northeast Region Order of the Arrow Cub Scout Taskforce you can send an e-mail to cubscouting@northeast.oa-bsa.org

Appendix: Source materials and resouces

Cub Scouting

http://www.scouting.org

Cub Scouting Fact Sheet

<http://www.scouting.org/factsheets/02-502.html>

WebElos To scout transition

Session Length: 25 Minutes

Learning objectives:

* Educate Webelos and their Parents about the Boy Scouts
* Instruct Webelos how to join the ‘right’ Boy Scout Troop.
* Inform Webelos of some activities done by Boy Scouts.

Required Materials:

* NER Cub Scout Involvement Video
* Boy Scout Membership Applications (Youth and Adult)
* NER OA Lodge Cub Scout Service Guide

Trainer preparation

Trainers should be energetic and enthusiastic. You are recruiting ten and eleven year olds, be sure be their level and be excited. After hearing this presentation, Webelos and their Parents should want to join a Boy Scout Troop, know how to join the ‘right’ Boy Scout Troop, and know what to look forward to in the Boy Scout program. Be sure to have Boy Scout Membership Applications (Youth and Adult), which can be obtained through your local Council Service Center.

Trainer Tip: Learn who is in your audience, by asking them their name, where they are from, what they hope to gain from your session and the one thing they think prevents people from joining Boy Scouts.

Session narrative

Introduction: 3 Minutes

One of the most crucial periods in a young Scout’s life is the transition from Webelos to Boy Scouts. It is important for Webelos and their parents to know what to expect from the Boy Scout program. In this session, we will discuss various parts of the transition process for these future Boy Scouts. If at any time you have questions please feel free to ask.

As you are welcomed into the Boy Scout program, you will immediately feel a heightened sense of independence. You will be able to develop your own activities and do what YOU want to do, in a safe scouting environment! This is an organization that is run by the boys, not the adults. There are endless possibilities. One of the favorites is camping. The camping program is essential to a Scouts development and as a new Scout; you will be able to participate in troop campouts throughout the year: Summer, Spring, Fall and even in the Winter!

[Flip to Card 2]

**Finding a Troop:**

The first step is finding a Troop, or rather finding the ‘right’ Troop for you. This is a very important decision and ultimately up to you, since you will be spending most of your Scouting experience with this group of boys and leaders. Remember this should be a personal decision based on where you and your parents feel most comfortable.

In order to earn your Arrow of Light in Cub Scouts, you had to visit a Troop and take part in one of their events. This is a great start, but should not be the end of your search for the right quality Troop for you.

One way to choose a troop is to attend various events with different Troops. This can be very helpful because every Troop has a different way of running their program. Seeing different styles in action can help when making a decision.

It is important to observe the interaction between the boys as well as the between the boys and the adults in the Troops you are visiting. These observations are important when trying to pick a Troop that is a comfortable atmosphere for you and your Parents.

You can also request to see a yearly schedule or program summary and take a look at the events open to you. Most Troops should have about nine to eleven campouts a year, in addition to Summer Camp.

When looking for a Troop there are a few more things to consider. Is the Troop the right size for me? Can I attend the weekly meeting day and time? Is the meeting place close enough to my home? Am I interested in participating in a Troop program like this one? Which Troop(s) are my Webelos friends joining? There are a lot of things to consider when choosing a Troop and these are just a few of the questions you should try to answer before joining one.

[Flip to Card 3]

**Boy Scout Advancement:**

Every Troop has its own system when it comes to advancement. Some Troops are very focused on earning merit badges at meetings while others focus more on the activities they offer (with the understanding that advancement flows from these activities). Either way can be successful when trying to advance in rank, they are just different approaches.

Once you have settled into a Troop you will have the opportunity to advance in rank. The Boy Scout program has seven major ranks. The first of which is Scout and the last of which is Eagle.

The ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class are all focused on basic scouting skills. Younger Scouts tend to complete all of these ranks by the end of their first year as a Boy Scout. Most of these requirements are done individually. These skills form the foundation that Scouting is built on and they allow you to develop and grow with the new skills you have learned.

The last three ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle have more demanding requirements. These ranks focus on giving community service, providing leadership, and completing merit badges. As the ranks increase so does the difficulty of the requirements, but all of them are fair and attainable.

[Flip to Card 4]

**Boy Scout Summer Camp:**

Earlier I mentioned the highlight of the Boy Scout year is Summer Camp. You may be wondering what exactly is Summer Camp. Most Councils have their own Scout Camp that local troops may attend. Summer Camp is a place where boys get to have fun and enjoy the excitement of camping. In addition to this Scouts will be able to advance in rank and gain merit badges. Some Scouts even learn to cook their own food.

A stay at Sumer Camp will vary from Troop to Troop. While some troops may stay for a week others may stay for more. During these weeks you are able to camp with all your friends and have tons of fun. The best part is that you can advance in rank while having all this fun!

[Flip to Card 5]

**Other Opportunities:**

Although joining a Troop is the beginning of your scouting experience, you will find that there are many other opportunities open for you in scouting as you grow older and more experienced in Boy Scouts.

The Order of the Arrow, also known as the OA, is often referred to as Scouting’s National Honor Society. This organization bases its inductions on Native American culture and its members can be recognized by a red and white sash that they wear. Candidates for the OA are elected by their peers regardless of whether they are members of the OA themselves. The goal of the OA is to provide service to both Scouting as well as the general community.

Another opportunity is to join a Venture Crew. This is a unit similar to a Troop with only a few differences. You must be at least fourteen and under twenty-one to be a Venture scout. Crews can be co-ed (boys and girls).

These are just some of the things you can look forward to as a Boy Scout, but they are certainly not all Scouting has to offer.

Show the Video: 6 Minutes

Trainer Tip: At this point, presenters should play the DVD.

[Flip to Card 6]

**Conclusion:**

As a Webelos Scout you are faced with a decision on which Boy Scout Troop to join. Scouting has incredible amount to offer young men such as you. By joining the Boy Scout program you are entering into both a world of fun as well as a pathway to your future. You will be amazed how much one can gain by this experience.

Some of our country’s greatest men were Eagle Scouts including James Lovell (Astronaut) and Dr. Robert M. Gates (*Nominee for* U.S. Secretary of Defense). Men such as President Gerald Ford, President John F. Kennedy, Bill Gates, and Stephen Spielberg were all Boy Scouts.

Boy Scouts is a legacy that has been handed down for years. The time has come for you to join this legacy.

Does anyone have any questions?

[Answer Questions]

Appendix: Frequently Asked Questions

Some questions may be asked that cannot be answered by either the trainer or the handouts. In this case, have the Council contact information on hand.

Q1: Who can I contact regarding more information on this topic?

A1: You may want to contact your local Boy Scout Troop(s) or your local District/Council Membership representatives.

Q2: How do I find out more about how the Order of the Arrow can work with Cub Scouts?

A2: Contact your Local Order of the Arrow Lodge. You may also consult the NER OA Lodge Cub Scout Service Guide. For further information about initiatives of the Northeast Region Order of the Arrow Cub Scout Taskforce you can send an e-mail to cubscouting@northeast.oa-bsa.org

Appendix: Recommended flipcharts/Slides

The following is a recommended list of flip chart pages that can be used for visual presentation.

**Finding a Troop**

Is the troop the right size for me?

Can I attend the weekly meeting day and time?

And is the meeting place close enough to my home?

Am I interested in participating in a troop program like this one?

**Advancement**

Scout

Tenderfoot

Second Class

First Class

Star

Life

Eagle

Page

**3**

Page

**2**

Page

**1**

**Summer Camp**

It is all about having fun! And we get Merit Badges too?!

**Other Opportunities**

Order of the Arrow

Venture Crew

Make the Scouting legacy your legacy!

Page

**6**

Page

**5**

Page

**4**

**Webelos to Boy Scout Transition**

*Your Name*

Appendix: Source materials and resouces

Boy Scouts

http://www.scouting.org

Boy Scouts Fact Sheet

http://www.scouting.org/factsheets/02-503.html