

Cub Scout Roundtable Breakout Discussion



Arrow of Light Scouts to Scouts BSA

The Arrow of Light rank prepares youth to successfully join a Scouts BSA troop.

Here's a brief reminder of some of the 2024 program updates:

- Webelos is now for 4th graders
- Webelos no longer prepares Scouts to join Scouts BSA
- Arrow of Light rank is now for 5th graders and is designed to prepare Cub Scouts to join Scouts BSA

Having two clear and distinct ranks makes both of them easier to understand and to deliver the program. How do Arrow of Light adventures help AOL Scouts be prepared to join Scouts BSA? There are six required Adventures. Each Adventure is designed to help Arrow of Light Scouts learn skills that will help them be successful once they join a Scouts BSA troop.

Here are the six Adventures, and how they help AOL Scouts to be prepared for a Scouts BSA troop.

1. Bobcat is designed to be the first adventure completed for the rank. It reinforces Scouting values, character and methods of leadership. It introduces the patrol method, Scouts BSA sign, salute and handshake and helps them begin their journey from den to patrol. Remember! Arrow of Light Scouts in a den do not function as a Scouts BSA patrol. Scouts can visit a troop as a den or with their family. Having parents/guardians join Scouts when visiting a troop is a great way for them to get to know the adult leaders in the troop.
2. Outdoor Adventurer - In this Adventure, Scouts can camp with their den, pack, or a Scouts BSA troop. They can attend district or council

camopree's overnight. The purpose is to have a den start working as a team and start practicing the patrol method.

3. Personal Fitness - This Adventure introduces tracking something over time. This is common in merit badges and rank advancements.
4. Citizenship - There are only two requirements for this Adventure. They focus on how to plan and participate in a service project using the S.A.F.E. guidelines and checklist.
5. First Aid - Helps prepare AOL Scouts with the first aid skills they need to be prepared upon joining a troop.
6. Duty to God - This Adventure helps Scouts prepare youth to verbalize what duty to God means to them.

The Arrow of Light rank prepares them for Scouts BSA and a key element is coordination with a troop early to create a seamless transition to the troop. This QR code will take you to the Arrow of Light - to - Scouts Transition page.



Crossing Over is where an Arrow of Light Scout joins a Scouts BSA troop. This should be a special ceremony that involves a local Scouts BSA troop.

Here are 4 things to keep in mind:

- Youth should choose a troop that fits them
- Be flexible with the timing of the Cross Over ceremony
- Remember to transition parents and leaders too
- Learn the Scouts BSA troop's summer camp plans and how it's financed. Summer camp is a great way to keep youth in Scouting!

Great troops should conduct a new parent orientation. This creates an open line of communication.

1. When do you get a local Scouts BSA troop involved in the planning process for transition?
2. How is your relationship with a local Scouts BSA troop or troops that your Scouts could join?
3. Did you learn something new in this roundtable? If so, what was it and what did others learn?