

Roundtable Hot Topic

Cub Scout to Scouts BSA Cross Over



In Scouting, we always want to Be Prepared. The Cub Scout program aims to prepare Cub Scouts to become members of a Scouts BSA troop. The Arrow of Light-to Scouts BSA transition is an exciting time for both packs and troops!

While there is no requirement for when this transition takes place, it is important that both the pack and the troop work together to help ensure the process is seamless and fun for both the youth and their families. Ideally, the move from a pack to a troop should take place in time for the new Scouts to become familiar with their new patrol members, troop guide, and troop leaders, and for them to begin working on requirements to prepare for attending their first Scouts BSA summer camp.

Pack and troop leaders should be in constant communication with one another. There are many things throughout the program year that leaders can do to show Cub Scouts what Scouts BSA has to offer:

- Organizing visits for Cub Scouts to see how troop meetings are run
- Planning outings so that Webelos can experience camping using the patrol method
- Assigning den chiefs so that parents can see examples of Scouts in action, and so that Cub Scouts have some familiarity with members of the troop they plan to join
- Plan and conduct a Cross Over ceremony to welcome Cub Scouts to the Troop

The Cross Over ceremony should clearly signify the transition to a new level of Scouting. Completing the Cub Scout program and beginning the Scouts BSA program is a big accomplishment for a youth (whether or not Arrow of Light is earned). Cross Over ceremonies are an important recruiting tool, not only for those participating but also for those younger dens who can see what is coming next for them in Scouting.

There are many ways to conduct the Cross Over ceremony. Some units provide new Scouts with their handbook, others with a troop neckerchief, slide and shoulder epaulets. Some units choose to have their Order of the Arrow members perform the ceremony. Whichever method units choose, the ceremony should be meaningful and impactful for all in attendance.

Here are some resources to help leaders facilitate this important time in a Scout's journey:

- <https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/troop-resources/recruitment-marketing/webelos-to-scouts-transition/>
- <https://oa-bsa.org/uploads/inductions/OA-Cub-Crossover-Arrow-of-Light-Ceremony-2021.pdf>

Other great ways to find tips and tricks for ensuring a smooth Webelos-to-Scouts transition:

- Monthly roundtables
- Your commissioner service team
- Supplemental training events like Cub Scout trainings and University of Scouting