

Webelos to Scout Transition

Carroll District

Delivering the Promise...

Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow...

Current Overall Retention
Rate of Carroll District: 77%

Goal for 2007 – 2008

85%

What we really want:

100%

Keys to Retention

- A scout needs his buddy or buddies
- Talk up educational aspects with parents
- Interest parents & scouts in religious emblems
- Have a good program
 - Ask for help from fellow Scouters & share ideas
 - Idea books
 - Utilize talents of your parents (parent survey)
 - Internet resources
 - Roundtable
 - Outdoor Leader Training / Wood Badge
 - Pow-Wow (1st Saturday in November)
- Include a DEN CHIEF!

A Survey of Dropped Scouts

What Dropped Scouts Liked

- Field trips
- Woodworking
- Day Camp
- Games
- New Skills
- Pinewood Derby
- Nature hikes
- Flag ceremonies

Why They Quit

- Too many family activities – 36%
- **Meetings boring – 27%**
- **Friends not in the program – 26%**
- Poor leadership – 20%
- Least favorite activity
 - Pack meeting – 60%

No Show Scouts

- Call them ASAP!
 - Don't wonder where they are
 - Den leader, another parent, or Cubmaster call
- If dropping, suggest another Pack
- Refer to District membership team to call ASAP if dropping or sounding doubtful – ***Don't wait till recharting time!!!***
- Sports – we're compatible – recruit more scouts there!

Packs & Troops

- Many Troops have a companion Pack
 - Pack 321 / Troop 321
 - Pack 460 / Troop 460
- Troops are chasing fewer Cub Scouts
- Troops should “court” Webelos
 - Be visible at Pack meetings
 - Interact and invite Webelos dens to their meeting / outings
 - Develop an on-going relationship with Pack leadership and youth

Keeping Webelos Interested

- Fun & interesting den / patrol meetings
- Conduct meaningful ceremonies
 - You want them looking forward to these events
 - Get OA members to do your Arrow of Light
 - Inspired crossover or bridging ceremony
- Start and maintain traditions
- Have troops help with your program and advancement
 - Plan joint activities

Webelos Leader Role

- Most influential in boys' preparation
- Possess outdoor skills and enjoy outdoors
- Webelos function as a patrol
- Develop & verify necessary Scout Skills
- Get to know Scoutmasters
- Recruit a Den Chief
- Plan graduation / bridging ceremony
- Verify transfer of boys' records

Den Chief Role

- A resource for Scout Skills and meeting Arrow of Light requirements
- Helps form the patrol, instill the patrol method, and develop patrol spirit
- Assists with Arrow of Light and Crossover ceremonies
- Leadership for his rank advancement
- The Troop's **AMBASSADOUR!**

Cubmaster's Role

- Begin NOW – make contact with troop leadership
 - Where are the joint opportunities for Troop / Pack / Webelos
- 4th quarter of year invite Scoutmaster(s) and youth leadership to Blue & Gold
- February to April: Bridging ceremony

Scoutmaster's Role

- Invite Webelos & parents to attend troop meetings
 - Have a Troop Open House in November
- Assist in providing Den Chiefs
- Include Webelos in summer camp reservations
- Discuss camp & troop costs with Webelos parents
- Invite Webelos leader to become part of troop
- Ensure all forms are complete for transfer

Assistant Scoutmaster's Role

- Helps new scouts in their patrol
- Makes Webelos feel welcome
- Works with Troop Guide and Patrol Advisor on Scout Skills acquisition
- Guide new Scouts towards their Trail to First Class
- Encourages Scouts and parents on summer camp – essential to success

Troop Selection Criteria

- Check troop calendar for two years
 - Does your son like these activities?
- How do the youth interact?
- How do they handle 1st year scouts?
 - What is their retention one year later?
- Big troops – will you son get lost?
- Smaller troops
 - More leadership opportunities
 - More attention from leaders
- Will your son have personal & school friends in the troop?

Action Items

- Retain all Cubs, especially Webelos I & II
- Start contacting Troops
- Attend training – Pow-Wow, Outdoor Leader Training, New Leader Essentials
- Participate in Klondike, Webelos Woods, Camp Oest, District Day Camp
- Can't coax a scout back – refer to Membership committee for contact

District Membership Committee

- Doug Hirth, Scout Night Chair – 410-795-3744
(jd.cm.hirth@verizon.net)
- Dean Carroll, Webelos to Scout Transition Chair – 410-781-0181 (dtcarroll@verizon.net)
- Fred Vigevino, Special Needs – 410-875-2471
(scouter1778@comast.net)
- Theresa Swain, Tiger membership – 410-795-7687
(yngpatriot@adelphia.net)
- Marcie Forster, Vice Chair for Membership – 410-549-1736
(meforster@verizon.net)
- Scott Jenkins, District Executive – 443-573-2531
(sjenkins@baltimorebsa.org)