

# How to be a Great Webelos Scout Parent!

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## **Webelos Scout Parent Responsibilities and information:**

Please read this entire page even if you are already familiar with Cub Scouting!

### **1. Read the How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse pamphlet inside his Webelos Book.**

Share the appropriate information with your child. Reading and reviewing this pamphlet is required to earn the fitness activity badge required for the Webelos rank.

**2. Learn about the Cub Scout Program and the Pack.** The Cub Scout program is based upon the analogies found in Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book. The story is about the wolf Akela that adopts Mowgli into his Wolf Pack and raises him until he is old enough to need other teachers. The Cub Scout program is based upon Akela and his teachers, Baloo (the bear) and others. In the Webelos program the Webelos Den Leader is the primary Akela in your son's life.

**3. If your son is new to Cub Scouting, help your son learn the requirements for his Bobcat rank, the 1<sup>st</sup> rank every new Cub Scout will earn, regardless of which year they start scouting.** This should be a fairly easy process. Look at the back of the Webelos book for requirements to earn the Bobcat rank. Help them learn the information, recite the Cub Scout promise, and show the handshake and sign. Remember that learning the promise and law of the pack does not necessarily mean it must be perfectly recited. Quiz them but don't stress them out over it. Once rank is earned it will be presented at the next pack meeting.

**4. Learn about the Webelos Program.** The Webelos program begins when a Cub Scout is in 4th grade or bridges to Webelos upon completion of the Bear Cub Scout trail. It will be about a 1 3/4 year term to complete the Webelos program. There are 20 activities they can complete. Each activity is designed to introduce the boys to more detail on specific subjects related to scouting and their future as adults. The activities are introductions, however, and as such should be treated as introductions not college courses. They should be fun while instructive.

**5. Help your son to complete the minimum requirements to earn his Webelos Badge.** There are 8 requirements that must be completed for the rank of Webelos. Three (3) of these include the Fitness and Citizen and one other activity badges (from a different category). One (1) of the eight requirements involves your religious faith. Most dens like to have all the boys presented their rank award at the same time. Start working on these activities now.

**6. Make sure your son attends scheduled den meetings and other scheduled den events.** The den meetings and events are necessary so your son meets his Webelos requirements and/or makes Arrow of Light. By missing meetings or other scheduled den activities he will fall behind on his requirements and may not make rank. It is often disappointing for boys to see their peers receive awards while they do not. We want to see all our den's scouts make Arrow of Light and attendance is one of the only ways they can. Please make sure your son has his Webelos handbook with him at every meeting. They may need it as a reference for a scheduled activity and we will need it to sign off and record your son's completed activities.

**7. Please be prompt when getting your son to meetings and events.** The weekly den meetings only run about an hour to an hour and a half. If a large number of boys are late (arriving after 7:30 pm) we have to delay the start of the meeting and do not have enough time for our activities to be completed. If one or two boys are late they will miss out on activities that often are required for activity badges/rank. We have an extensive amount of work to complete and time is critical. If our meeting is at 7:30 pm your son should be arriving by 7:20 pm so he can be prepared for the meeting.

**8. What is the Compass Points Emblem?** This is awarded to the Webelos scout after he has earned his Webelos rank and earned a total of 7 Webelos activity badges (pins). These 7 activity badges do include those used to earn the Webelos rank. Once the boys earn their Compass Points Emblem, they then earn additional compass points (pins) for each additional 4 activity badges (pins) they earn. To complete the Compass Points Emblem, 19 activity badges (pins) must be earned.

**9. What is the Arrow of Light?** This is the highest rank a Cub Scout can earn. Webelos that complete their Webelos Rank and satisfy the additional requirements in preparation for their future in Boy Scouts are awarded this special award. It is one of two awards earned as a Cub Scout that can be worn on the Boy Scout uniform. The other includes the religious knot if earned as a Cub Scout. The Arrow of Light award is presented at a special ceremony. Note: It usually takes a scout the full 1 3/4 years to complete the Arrow of Light requirements. It is truly an achievement. The boys **do not** have to continue into Boy Scouts to earn this award if all of the other requirements are met. Scouts can still have a lot of fun in Webelos even if they do not complete the Arrow of Light.

**10. When do Webelos "graduate" from Cub Scouts?** Webelos dens/patrols are designated 1st Year Webelos (4th graders) and 2nd Year Webelos (5th graders). The 2nd Year Webelos are "graduated" from the pack by "bridging" at the end of the Blue and Gold banquet held usually in February. All 2nd Year Webelos are "graduated" from the pack, regardless of whether they are bridging into a Boy Scout troop. For the boys bridging into a Boy Scout Troop, it is customary for a troop representative from the troop receiving the Webelos to receive the boy on the opposite side of the bridge from his parents and Webelos Den/Patrol leader. For the boys not graduating into a Boy Scout Troop, it is customary for the parents to receive the boy on the opposite side of the bridge from his Webelos Den/Patrol leader. In this way, all the Webelos receive a special ceremony representing closure to their Cub Scout Years

**11. What is the Cub Scout Sports and Academic's program?** Often referred to as beltloops & pins the sports and academic program was developed in order to recognize the value of sportsman-ship and academic achievement in a boy's life. There are 2 awards that can be earned. The belt loop is awarded for learning the rules and participating in a sport, or learning the basics and completing a single academic activity within an academic category. The sports or academic pin is awarded for going beyond the basics for the belt loop by completing a minimum number of additional requirements as listed in the Sports and Academics Program Guidebook (most den leaders will have a copy). The letter C is not awarded but is an optional item that the parents might purchase for the scout to wear his pins on. It would be sewn onto the red brag vest.

There are many sports (non-contact sports only) and several academic categories. Multiple beltloops and pins can be awarded. The specific requirements for each sport or academic beltloop and pin are also available on our den's webpage at [www.pack320.com/webelos2.html](http://www.pack320.com/webelos2.html).

**12. What is the World Conservation Award?** This is a special award that is earned only once as a Cub Scout by completing the requirements listed in the back of his Webelos book. The award is the patch with the panda bear on it and is sewn on his right uniform pocket. This is just one of a number of awards the boys can work on within their Pack/Den or individually. See [www.pack320.com/awards.html](http://www.pack320.com/awards.html) for more details.

**13. What are the red vests?** These are worn to brag about all the additional activities that a Cub Scout has taken part in. They are where you will sew all the activity patches that he will get during his Cub Scout years. Examples are the Popcorn and our Pack activity patches, the Scouting for Food patch, Council Sports Event Patches (Tides, Admirals etc), Day Camp patches, etc. Information about brag vests is available on our website at: [www.pack320.com/leaderbragvest.html](http://www.pack320.com/leaderbragvest.html). Vests can be purchased at the scout shop or made by using our on-line pattern. Our Pack may be holding a vest workshop to make brag vests for the boys who don't have one.

**14. What are my responsibilities to my son's pack?** In addition to helping in your son's den as a co-leader or being in charge of specific den activities, we hope you will volunteer to hold a position, be on a committee or volunteer to assist in activities during the scout year. There are many, many areas to choose from.

**15. What are the monthly pack meetings?** Why wouldn't you want to attend this meeting to witness your son's special moment where he is in the spotlight receiving recognition for all the hard work he has done all month in his den meetings? Brothers and sisters are also invited and encouraged to attend these meetings. Some pack meetings may have special entertainment scheduled as well. Our Pack holds a raffle for the scouts at this meeting. All money made is used to purchase items for the next month's raffle.

This modified document originated from the [Arapahoe District RT](#). Thanks so much!