

Cub Scout Ranks

Cub Scout Packs are organized into three basic groups: Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts (Wolf and Bear ranks), and Webelos Scouts.

The Tiger Cub program is significantly different from the rest of the Cub Scout program in terms of activities, recognition, and level of parent participation. It serves as a good introduction to Scouting for both the boy and their parents.

The Cub Scout and Webelos Scout programs are similar in many respects. The Webelos program places more emphasis on outdoor activities. The focus of the Webelos program is to prepare the boys to enter a Boy Scout Troop.

Tiger, Wolf, and Bear are one-year programs. The Webelos program runs for up to 2 years.

All new Scouts must first earn the Bobcat badge. After earning the Bobcat badge, Scouts work towards the rank of Tiger, Wolf, Bear, or Webelos, depending upon their age. Each of these ranks has its own unique handbook from which the boys work on their advancement. *The pack provides a handbook for each boy to keep track of his progress.*



Bobcat

The Bobcat badge is the first badge that is earned by all Tiger, Cub, and Webelos Scouts. This badge is required for all boys because it involves learning the Boy Scout Law, Oath, Cub scout sign, handshake and other fundamental aspects of Cub Scouting.

Completion of this badge gives the Scout the right to wear the Bobcat patch on his uniform (in the twelve o'clock position of the front left shirt pocket) and the right to proceed to his next rank (which will vary based upon age.)



Tigers (1st Graders)

In the Tiger Cub program, an Adult Partner (a parent, grandparent, or other guardian) always accompanies each boy. The Tiger Cub and Adult Partner form a team. The first few Tiger Cub meetings are organized and run by the Tiger Cub Den Leader in order to introduce the Tigers and Adult Partners to Scouting.

The Tiger Cub earns Adventure loops towards his Tiger Cub badge. Completion of this badge earns the right for the Scout to wear the Tiger patch on his uniform (in the six o'clock position of the front left shirt pocket, directly beneath the Bobcat patch).

At the end of the Scout year (schoolyear), Tigers graduate into a Wolf den.



Wolves (2nd Graders)

In the Wolf program, completion of achievements in the Wolf handbook leads to earning the Wolf badge and Adventure Loops. Adventures loops will be worked on during the entire year. The Wolf handbook includes many activities that are family oriented. Your son will need your assistance to earn this rank.

Completion of this badge earns the right for the Scout to wear the Wolf patch on his uniform (in the nine o'clock position of the front left shirt pocket).

At the end of the Scout year (schoolyear), Wolves graduate into a Bear den.



Bears (3rd Graders)

In the Bear program, completion of achievements in the Bear handbook leads to earning the Bear badge Adventure Loops can be worked on during the entire year, and will be awarded at the next pack meeting. The Bear handbook includes many activities that are family oriented. Your son will need your assistance to earn this rank.

Completion of this badge earns the right for the Scout to wear the Bear patch on his uniform (in the three o'clock position of the front left shirt pocket).

At the end of the Scout year (schoolyear), Bears graduate into a Webelos den.



Webelos (4th Graders)

The Webelos program (and there is always an S at the end of Webelos) is designed to transition the boys from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. In the Webelos program, boys earn activity pins in areas such as geology, scholarship, fitness, and outdoorsmanship that count towards the Webelos rank.

As such it's really broken into two phases, based upon the rank badge being earned.

In the First-Year Webelos program, the boys work on their Webelos badge. Additional achievements beyond the Webelos badge earn the Compass Emblem and "Compass Points". The focus of the Webelos den is to work together as a team, much like a Boy Scout Patrol. This includes Webelos den camping.

The Webelos program prepares the boys to enter the Boy Scout program. (Webelos is an acronym for "We'll Be Loyal Scouts").

Arrow of Light (5th Graders)

The Second-Year Webelos work on the Arrow of Light award. You may find some literature that refers to the Second-Year Webelos as an Arrow of Light den.



The Arrow of Light is the highest award that a Cub Scout can earn and one of the few Cub Scout emblems that may be worn on the Boy Scout uniform.

Your Den Leader will try to let you know what the Den will be doing each week in advance. If you are unable to attend a Den meeting, consider doing the same activity with your son on some other night so that he will not feel as though he is dropping behind the other Scouts in his Den.

In many packs, the 2nd year Webelos scouts are awarded the Arrow of Light at the Blue and Gold banquet, just moments before ending their Cub Scout career.

In our pack, we aim to have the boys complete this award by end of the fall of their Webelos 2 year, thus allowing them time to proudly wear the award as a Cub Scout.

Bridging to Boy Scouts

As previously stated, the goal of the Webelos program is to prepare boys to succeed as Boy Scouts. As such, and in line with the standard Boy Scout troop program, our pack "bridges" the boys to their new troop as part of the annual Blue and Gold banquet in late February / early March. This is the appropriate time to bring the new boys into the troop, as the troop program at that time expects incoming scouts, and can integrate them into the troop with their peers in time to get them ready for summer camp.