

The Difference Between Webelos and Boy Scouts

Differences between Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts

It is important to note that Boy Scouts is not a continuation of the Cub Scout program, but a program with a major shift in emphasis. Specifically, Cub Scouts is a parent-led program, and Boy Scouts is a boy-led program. The following table breaks down some of the specific differences:

Topic	Cub Scouts	Boy Scouts
Meetings	Two monthly Den meetings and one monthly Pack meeting	Weekly Troop meetings, one monthly campout/outing
Meetings Planned By	Adult leaders (Den Leader, Cubmaster, etc...)	Patrol Leader's Council (Senior Patrol Leader, Asst. Senior Patrol Leaders, Patrol Leaders, etc...)
Meeting Conducted By:	Cubmaster (Pack meetings) Den Leader (Den meetings)	Senior Patrol Leader
Organization	Boys broken up into Dens based on grade.	New Scouts are oriented as a group. After a few months, new scouts are integrated into the current patrols.
Scouts Led By:	Den Leader (adult)	Patrol Leader (boy)
Campouts/Outings	Planned and coordinated by adults. Adult partner required with each boy. Meals planned and prepared by adults.	Activities chosen by Patrol Leader's Council, logistics handled by Camping Chairman (adult). At least two adults required for each outing. Meals planned and prepared (including purchasing food) by each Patrol.

In Cub Scouts, the Cubmaster is like the “Master of Ceremonies” and is the focal point for Pack meetings. In Boy Scouts, the Scoutmaster is an “advisor” or “coach” who works with the junior leaders to help them plans and run the program. This is an important distinction to understand, since the boy-led Troop meeting sometimes looks unplanned and/or chaotic, but is really the result of the boys trying some new things, learning and making mistakes.

Understanding and making sense of Boy Scouting begins with knowing and understanding the aims and methods the program. The following information is taken from the BSA's web site at <http://www.scouting.org/>

The Difference Between Webelos and Boy Scouts

AIMS AND METHODS OF THE SCOUTING PROGRAM

The Scouting program has three specific objectives, commonly referred to as the "Aims of Scouting." They are character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. The methods by which the aims are achieved are listed below in random order to emphasize the equal importance of each.

Ideals. The ideals of Boy Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan. The Boy Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high, and, as he reaches for them, he has some control over what and who he becomes.

Patrols. The patrol method gives Boy Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to interact in small groups where they can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through their elected representatives.

Outdoor Programs. Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoor setting that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with one another. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose. Being close to nature helps Boy Scouts gain an appreciation for God's handiwork and humankind's place in it. The outdoors is the laboratory for Boy Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

Advancement. Boy Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method. The Boy Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he meets each challenge. The Boy Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a Boy Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others.

Personal Growth. As Boy Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Boy Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. Probably no device is so successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn. The religious emblems program also is a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent personal conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Boy Scout to determine his growth toward Scouting's aims.

Leadership Development. The Boy Scout program encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Boy Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership role of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

The Difference Between Webelos and Boy Scouts

Uniform. The uniform makes the Boy Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Boy Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Boy Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals. The uniform is practical attire for Boy Scout activities and provides a way for Boy Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

This includes the following:

1. **Ideals.** Each Troop meeting includes the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance, the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. The boys learn early on that it is important to not just recite the words in the Oath and Law, but to use them as guides in their daily lives. Each rank advancement level includes an item related to “Scout Spirit” which can include how the boy has applied the Oath and Law in their interactions with other Scouts, the adult leaders and others.
2. **Patrols.** When boys join a troop, they are placed in a Patrol with other boys their age. Boys crossing over from Webelos are placed in a new boy Patrol, and are assigned a Troop Guide who serves as their Patrol Leader for the first few months they are in the Troop. This helps the new boys learn about the program and to understand what a Patrol Leader does before having to take that role on themselves. Patrols work together to plan and cook meals at most campouts, compete together at some outings, and generally work together for service projects and fundraisers.

Unlike Cub Scouts, there is no adult leader assigned directly to each Patrol, but the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters work closely with them.

3. **Advancement.** This is a key part of the Boy Scout program. Troops provide regular opportunities for the boys to work on their rank advancement, both by participating in meetings and through attendance at the monthly outings and summer camp. Unlike Cub Scouts, the boys are responsible for working on their own advancements. Scouts must confer with one of the Troop leaders to be tested for requirements achievement, and have requirements signed off in their Boy Scout Handbooks.

The Boy Scout Advancement program is broken down into six different ranks:

- Tenderfoot
- Second Class
- First Class
- Star
- Life
- Eagle

The first three ranks (Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class) are largely based on the learning and application of basic Scout skills (e.g. knots, lashings, first aid, camping) while the “upper” ranks (Star, Life and Eagle) are based on leadership, service and merit badges.

The Difference Between Webelos and Boy Scouts

Requirements for the first three ranks can be worked on simultaneously, but the ranks must be earned in sequence.

The final two requirements for all ranks are a Scoutmaster Conference and a Board of Review. The Scoutmaster Conference is a meeting between the boy and Scoutmaster to discuss the requirements, goals for further advancement, and areas for growth or improvement. The Board of Review is an interview of the Scout by at least three members of the Troop Committee to see how the Scout is doing. Awards are presented at Courts of Honor, typically two a year, attended by parents and relatives of the Scouts.

Not all boys get to be Eagle Scouts (only 3-4% nation wide make it), but all have the opportunity to make it. The real key to advancement in the Boy Scout program is active participation at both meetings and outings.

Eagle Scout Courts of Honor are truly special occasions. The Eagle Scout(s) are honored with tributes from national, state, and local civic leaders. Family and friends are formally invited, and the Troop celebrates with a formal induction ceremony and social gathering.

4. **Personal Growth.** Is emphasized through community service and service projects in advancement through the ranks. A key part of becoming an Eagle Scout is the planning and implementation of a community service project. These efforts help reinforce the ideals of Scouting, and provide opportunities for the boys to grow. They also learn about the importance of setting goals and establishing plans to meet them.
- 5.
6. **Leadership Development.** Perhaps one of the most important aspects of the Boy Scout program is the ability for the boys to develop and try out leadership skills. Many opportunities exist for the boys, from being Patrol Leader and working with a group of 6-8 boys, to becoming Senior Patrol Leader where they are responsible for planning and running the entire Troop program. Leadership of peers is a difficult thing, and we provide training to help the boys learn their responsibilities and apply what they've learned. There are also week-long training programs available that provide the boys with excellent leadership development ideas and skills.
7. **Uniform.** As mentioned above, the uniform is an important part of the program, and we encourage the boys to take pride in their uniforms. The "basic" uniform consists of the official Boy Scout shirt and Boy Scout pants. Boy Scout pants are preferred, but other olive green pants or blue jeans are okay.

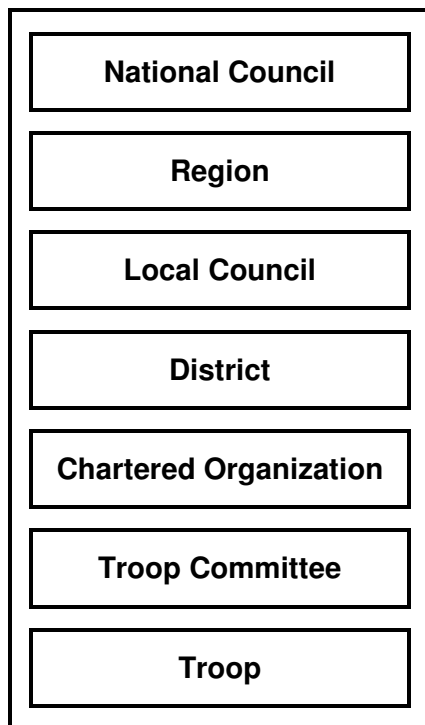
Summer camp is the one time when we require a full "Field" uniform, consisting of the official Scout shirt, Scout shorts, Scout socks, Scout belt and/or Troop neckerchief. In warmer weather, boys are instructed to switch to an "Activity" uniform.

The Difference Between Webelos and Boy Scouts

8.

The boys should assume that they are to wear their uniform for all Troop functions unless they are specifically told to not wear them.

How Boy Scouting is Organized



The following chart shows the various levels of the Scouting organization:

National Council develops program; sets and maintains quality standards in training, leadership selection, uniforming, registration records, literature development, and advancement requirements; and publishes Boys' Life and Scouting magazines. The National Council maintains high-adventure bases for use by Scouts in Minnesota, Florida and New Mexico. It also organizes a national Scout Jamboree every four years.

Local Council. There are currently over 300 local Councils in the United States, broken up by geographic area. Dover Rockport district is part of the Greater Cleveland Council. Volunteers lead the local Council, with administration performed by a staff of professional Scouters. The council president is the top volunteer; the Scout executive is the top professional. The local Council's responsibilities include granting charters to community organizations; promoting the Scouting program; registration of units and council personnel; providing facilities and leadership for a year-round program; offering training in a timely manner.

District. Each Council is broken up into Districts, which are set by community. The Dover Rockport district includes the western Cleveland suburbs of Lakewood, Rocky River, Fairview Park, Westlake and Bay Village. The District is run by a committee of volunteers, and is responsible for membership, finance, activities and advancement. The Council provides a Scouting professional (the District Executive or Director) to provide support for the District Committee.

Chartered Organization. The chartered organization is the community group that "owns" the Troop since they hold the national charter to use the scouting program as part of their youth activities. All scouting units do not receive any financial support from their sponsoring organization. However, they are generally provided with a meeting space and storage space for their equipment.

The Difference Between Webelos and Boy Scouts



Troop Committee. The next level in the Scouting organization is the Troop Committee. The following are the responsibilities of the committee:

- Ensures that quality adult leadership is recruited and trained. In case the Scoutmaster is absent, a qualified Assistant Scoutmaster is assigned. If the Scoutmaster is unable to serve, a replacement is recruited.
- Provides adequate meeting facilities.
- Advises the Scoutmaster on policies relating to Boy Scouting and the chartered organization.
- Supports leaders in carrying out the program.
- Is responsible for finances, adequate funds, and disbursements in line with approved budget plan.
- Obtains, maintains, and properly cares for Troop property.
- Ensures that the Troop has an outdoor program (minimum 10 days and nights per year).
- Serves on boards of review and courts of honor.
- Supports the Scoutmaster in working with individual boys and problems that may affect the overall troop program.
- Provides for the special needs and assistance some boys may require.
- Helps with the Friends of Scouting campaign.
- Assists the Scoutmaster with handling boy behavioral problems.

The Troop Committee must be made up of at least three members. The following are the responsibilities of each of the committee members, from the BSA Troop Committee Guidebook.

Committee Chairman

- Organize the committee to see that all functions are delegated, coordinated and completed.
- Maintain a close relationship with the Chartered Organization Representative and the Scoutmaster.
- Interpret national and local policies to the Troop.
- Prepare Troop Committee meeting agendas.
- Call, preside over, and promote attendance at monthly Troop Committee meetings and any special meetings that may be called.
- Ensure Troop representation at monthly roundtables.

The Difference Between Webelos and Boy Scouts

- Secure top-notch, trained individuals for camp leadership.
- Arrange for charter review and recharter annually.
- Plan the charter presentation.

Treasurer (Finance/Records)

- Handle all Troop funds. Pay bills on recommendation of the Scoutmaster and authorization of the Troop Committee.
- Maintain checking and savings accounts.
- Train and supervise the Troop Scribe in record keeping.
- Keep adequate records in the Troop/Team Record Book.
- Supervise the camp savings plan.
- Lead in the preparation of the annual Troop budget.
- Lead the Friends of Scouting campaign.
- Report to the Troop Committee at each meeting

Advancement Coordinator

- Encourage Scouts to advance in rank.
- Work with the Troop Scribe to maintain all Scout advancement records.
- Arrange regular boards of review and quarterly courts of honor.
- Develop and maintain a merit badge counselor list.
- Make a prompt report on the correct form to the Council service center when a Troop board of review is held. Secure badges and certificates.
- Work with the Troop Librarian to build and maintain a Troop library of merit badge pamphlets and other advancement literature.
- Report to Troop Committee at each meeting.

Secretary

- Keep minutes of meetings and send out Committee meeting notices.
- Handle publicity.
- Prepare a family newsletter of Troop events and activities.
- Conduct the Troop resource survey.
- Plan for family night programs and family activities.
- At each Committee meeting, report the minutes of the previous meeting.

Outdoor/Activities Coordinator

- Help in securing permission to use camping sites.
- Serve as transportation coordinator.
- Ensure a monthly outdoor program.
- Promote the National Camping Award.
- Promote, through family meetings, attendance at Troop campouts, camporees, and summer camp to reach the goal of one outing per month.
- Secure tour permits for all Troop activities.
- Report to the Troop Committee at each meeting.

Training Coordinator

The Difference Between Webelos and Boy Scouts

- Ensure Troop leaders and committee members have opportunities for training.
- Maintain an inventory of up-to-date training materials, videotapes, and other training resources.
- Work with the District training team in scheduling Fast Start training for all new leaders.
- Be responsible for BSA Youth Protection training within the Troop.
- Encourage periodic junior leader training within the Troop and at the Council and National levels.
- Report to the Troop committee at each meeting.

Equipment Coordinator

- Supervise and help the Troop procure camping equipment.
- Work with the Boy Scout Quartermaster on inventory and proper storage and maintenance of all Troop equipment.
- Make periodic safety checks on all Troop camping gear, and encourage Troop in the safe use of all outdoor equipment.
- Report to the Troop Committee at each meeting.

Chaplain

- Provide a spiritual tone for troop meetings and activities.
- Give guidance to the Chaplain Aide.
- Promote regular participation of members in the religious organization of their choice.
- Visit homes of Scouts in times of sickness or need.
- Give spiritual counseling service when needed or requested.
- Encourage Boy Scouts to earn their appropriate religious emblems.
- Report to the Troop Committee at each meeting.

As you can see from the above descriptions, the Committee provides the “behind the scenes” support to keep the program moving. The Troop Committee provides the Scoutmaster with the support he needs to focus his attention on the Scouts, to deliver the promise of Scouting.

Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster is the person who is responsible for working directly with the boys to plan and implement the Scouting program. He helps the Scouts run a good troop, so they get an exciting outdoor program. Beyond this boy-level point of view, the Scoutmaster works to fulfill the three Aims of Scouting: character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. His quality of guidance will affect every youth and adult involved in the troop.

The Scoutmaster’s duties include:

- Train and guide boy leaders
- Work with other responsible adults to bring Scouting to boys
- Use the methods of Scouting to achieve the aims of Scouting
- Meet regularly with the patrol leaders’ council (PLC) for training and coordination in planning troop meetings and activities
- Attend all Troop meetings
- Attend Troop Committee meetings

The Difference Between Webelos and Boy Scouts

- Conduct periodic parents' meetings to share the program and encourage parent participation and cooperation
- Conduct Scoutmaster conferences for all rank advancements
- Recruit new members
- Delegate responsibility to other adults and groups so they have a real part in Troop operations

The Scoutmaster also has several Assistant Scoutmasters who help him meet boy-level needs and achieve the Aims of Scouting. They have specific focus areas in the Troop program. Typical BSA focus areas include new Scouts, High Adventure, older Scouts, and specialized skills.