



2024 National Order of the Arrow Conference

Session: The Youth in Blue are Our Future

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Session Length: 45 minutes

Session Description

Cub Scouts are the future of our program. In this session, we will explore the OA's Service to Cub Scouting including many of the opportunities an Arrowman has to ensure our future by reaching out to the youngest members of the BSA.

Learning Outcomes

- OA Service to Cub Scouting
- Cub Scout Recruitment
- Arrow of Light to Scouts BSA Transition
- Retention of Cub Scouts through Outdoor Programs

Theme Connection: Seek New Heights

- 95% of all Scouts BSA members participated in Cub Scouting at some time.
- We have 73% less Cub Scouts at the end of 2023, than at the end of 2000.
- Less than 50% Cub Scouts crossover to Scouts BSA (2009 through 2023).
- As Arrowmen, we must be an integral part of our local Council to help with Cub Scout Recruitment, Retention, and Webelos to Scout Transition in order for the BSA and the OA to ***seek new heights.***

Facility and Material Needs

Facility Needs

Is this session remote delegate-compatible? [Maybe]
(ie. can the material be engagingly taught via

live stream)

Does this session need audio/video (AV) capabilities? [Yes, projector and screen for PPT; flipcharts]

Are there any other specific facility needs for this session? [Movable chairs preferred, but not required]

Material Needs

[Please put “NOAC Training Committee” under “Source” if you need a material and cannot source it yourself - we will try to source it for you. Please note that we would strongly prefer training materials to be in a digital format and would advise against flipcharts and other physical materials. If you need microphones, extension cords, etc., please also specify those needs here.]

Material	Quantity	Source
Projector and screen	1	NOAC Training Committee
Flip Charts	1	NOAC Training Committee

Session Preparation Steps

Trainers should be knowledgeable about the Cub Scout program and should be able to answer questions that arise or direct the questioner to someone who knows the correct answer. The trainer should be highly energetic and enthusiastic in order to inspire members of the audience to join the Cub Scouts.

Trainers should have information and/or printouts for the audience available, including contact information for the Council as well as applications for youth to join the Cub Scouts and for new Adult Unit Leaders. Trainers should also have the contact information for the Council and District's Membership Committees and their local representatives, in case anyone in the audience would like to learn more. These handouts should be distributed before the presentation begins.

Trainer Tip: Learn who is in your audience, by asking them their name, where they are from, what they hope to gain from your session and the one thing they think prevents youth from joining the Cub Scouts and adults from becoming unit leaders.

Additional Staff Members

[If you are having additional trainers assist you with your session, please fill out their contact information below. Please note that due to the conference sell-out, we are limited in our ability to register additional staff members on the training committee. We recommend that your additional trainers come from contingents or other staff members that can break from their duties to facilitate the session.]

Trainer Name	Email	Phone #
None at this time, but willing to collaborate. Maybe a youth or young adult?		

Lesson Plan

Cub Scout Crossovers:

20 minutes

One of the most crucial periods in a young Scout's life is the transition from Cub Scouts to Scouts BSA. It is important for Cub Scouts and their parents to know what to expect from the Scouts BSA program. In this session, we will discuss various parts of the transition process for these future Scouts. If at any time you have questions please feel free to ask.

As you are welcomed into the Scouts BSA program, you will immediately feel a heightened sense of independence. You will be able to develop your own activities and do what YOU want to do, in a safe scouting environment! This is an organization that is run by the youth, not the adults. There are endless possibilities. One of the favorites is camping. The camping program is essential to a Scouts development and as a new Scout; you will be able to participate in troop campouts throughout the year: Summer, Spring, Fall and even in the Winter!

After June 1st the following updates will be made to Webelos and Arrow of Light in Cub Scouting.

Webelos will only be for 4th grade Cub Scouts and Arrow of Light will no longer be associated with Webelos. The Webelos badge of rank is earned by completing the six required Adventures and any two elective Adventures, there are 20 elective Webelos Adventures. Webelos and Arrow of Light will no longer share elective Adventures. 4th grade Cub Scouts are referred to as Webelos and may NOT start working on Arrow of Light until they have completed the 4th grade. Webelos wear the blue Cub Scout uniform with the Webelos neckerchief, neckerchief slide, Webelos hat, blue Cub Scout bottoms, blue Cub Scout belt, and Cub Scout socks. They will have their own Webelos handbook. Webelos in 4th grade may go on Pack campouts or den campouts with a BALOO-trained leader.

Arrow of Light will only be for 5th grade Cub Scouts and is no longer associated with Webelos. The Arrow of Light badge of rank is earned by completing the six required Adventures and any two elective Adventures, there are 16 elective Arrow of Light Adventures. 5th grade Cub Scouts are referred to as Arrow of Light Scouts and are introduced to the patrol method. Arrow of Light Scouts wear the Scouts BSA uniform with blue shoulder loops on their epaulets. Arrow of Light Scouts have a requirement for the Bobcat Adventure to visit a Scouts BSA Troop making the timeline of a Troop visit in the early fall at the beginning of the Cub Scout program year. The Arrow of Light badge of rank and required

Adventures are designed to prepare Arrow of Light Scouts to join Scouts BSA between January and March. Arrow of Lights will have a separate handbook. Arrow of Light Scouts may go on pack campouts or den campouts with a BALOO-trained leader.

Finding a Troop:

The first step is finding a Troop, or rather finding the 'right' Troop for you. This is a very important decision and ultimately up to you, since you will be spending most of your Scouting experience with this group of youth and leaders. Remember this should be a personal decision based on where you and your parents feel most comfortable.

In order to earn your Arrow of Light in Cub Scouts, you had to visit a Troop and take part in one of their events. This is a great start, but should not be the end of your search for the right quality Troop for you.

One way to choose a troop is to attend various events with different Troops. This can be very helpful because every Troop has a different way of running their program. Seeing different styles in action can help when making a decision.

It is important to observe the interaction between the youth as well as the between the youth and the adults in the Troops you are visiting. These observations are important when trying to pick a Troop that is a comfortable atmosphere for you and your Parents.

You can also request to see a yearly schedule or program summary and take a look at the events open to you. Most Troops should have about nine to eleven campouts a year, in addition to Summer Camp.

When looking for a Troop there are a few more things to consider. Is the Troop the right size for me? Can I attend the weekly meeting day and time? Is the meeting place close enough to my home? Am I interested in participating in a Troop program like this one? Which Troop(s) are my Webelos friends joining? There are a lot of things to consider when choosing a Troop and these are just a few of the questions you should try to answer before joining one.

[Flip to Card 3]

Scouts BSA Advancement:

Every Troop has its own system when it comes to advancement. Some Troops are very focused on earning merit badges at meetings while others focus more on the activities they offer (with the understanding that advancement flows from these activities). Either way can be successful when trying to advance in rank, they are just different approaches.

Once you have settled into a Troop you will have the opportunity to advance in rank. The Scouts BSA program has seven major ranks. The first of which is Scout and the last of which is Eagle.

The ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class are all focused on basic scouting skills. Younger Scouts tend to complete all of these ranks by the end of their first year as a Scout. Most of these requirements are done individually. These skills form the foundation that Scouting is built on and they allow you to develop and grow with the new skills you have learned.

The last three ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle have more demanding requirements. These ranks focus on giving community service, providing leadership, and completing merit badges. As the ranks increase so does the difficulty of the requirements, but all of them are fair and attainable.

[Flip to Card 4]

Scouts BSA Summer Camp:

Earlier I mentioned the highlight of the Scouts BSA year is Summer Camp. You may be wondering what exactly is Summer Camp. Most Councils have their own Scout Camp that local troops may attend. Summer Camp is a place where youth get to have fun and enjoy the excitement of camping. In addition to this Scouts will be able to advance in rank and gain merit badges. Some Scouts even learn to cook their own food.

A stay at Summer Camp will vary from Troop to Troop. While some troops may stay for a week others may stay for more. During these weeks you are able to camp with all your friends and have tons of fun. The best part is that you can advance in rank while having all this fun!

[Flip to Card 5]

Other Opportunities:

Although joining a Troop is the beginning of your scouting experience, you will find that there are many other opportunities open for you in scouting as you grow older and more experienced in Scouts BSA.

The Order of the Arrow, also known as the OA, is often referred to as Scouting's National Honor Society. This organization bases its inductions on Native American culture and its members can be recognized by a red and white sash that they wear. Candidates for the OA are elected by their peers regardless of whether they are members of the OA themselves. The goal of the OA is to provide service to both Scouting as well as the general community.

Another opportunity is to join a Venture Crew. This is a unit similar to a Troop with only a few differences. You must be at least fourteen and under twenty-one to be a Venture scout. Crews can be co-ed (boys and girls).

These are just some of the things you can look forward to in Scouts BSA, but they are certainly not all Scouting has to offer.

[Flip to Card 6]

Conclusion:

As an Arrow of Light Scout you are faced with a decision on which Scout Troop to join. Scouting has incredible amount to offer young men such as you. By joining the Scouts BSA program you are entering into both a world of fun as well as a pathway to your future. You will be amazed how much one can gain by this experience.

Some of our country's greatest men were Eagle Scouts including James Lovell (Astronaut) and Dr. Robert M. Gates (*Nominee for* U.S. Secretary of Defense). Men such as President Gerald Ford, President John F. Kennedy, Bill Gates, and Stephen Spielberg were all Scouts.

Scouts BSA is a legacy that has been handed down for years. The time has come for you to join this legacy.

Does anyone have any questions?

[Answer Questions]

Helpful Templates:

Activity

Copy and paste this box wherever you have an activity in this session!

Materials Needed: Flip Charts
Length of Activity: 15 min
Activity Description: Brainstorming how OA can help Cub Scouts

Trainer Action

If at any point the trainer needs to complete an action (play a video clip, prompt questions, etc.) copy paste this box and edit this text to specify what!

Break Out Groups

15 minutes

- **Let's break up into small groups and brainstorm how you think the OA can help Cub Scouts:**
- With Year Round Outdoor Programs?
- With Summer Programs?
- With Recognition?
- With Arrow of Light cross-over preparation and ceremonies?

Additional Topics as Needed

5 minutes

- **"Before They Wore the Sash . . . They Wore the Blue" - Marketing**

Conclusion & Takeaway Challenge

5 minutes

Please take out your notebook and pen. For the final three minutes, think about your current and future roles in the OA, in Scouting, and in life. Write down three key takeaways from this session that will enable you to Seek New Heights in those current and/or future roles. For example, how can you help Cub Scouts. Later today, feel free to share these key ideas with others in your chapter or lodge.

Appendix: Resources and Source Material

Appendix: Frequently Asked Questions

Some questions may be asked that cannot be answered by either the trainer or the handouts. In this case, have the Council contact information on hand.

Q1: Who can I contact regarding more information on this topic?

A1: You may want to contact your local Scouts BSA Troop(s) or your local District/Council Membership representatives.

Q2: How do I find out more about how the Order of the Arrow can work with Cub Scouts?

A2: Contact your Local Council and Order of the Arrow Lodge.

Appendix: Resources

Resource	Link
Order of the Arrow, Mission & Purpose	Available online at: https://oa-bsa.org/about/mission-purpose
Official Order of the Arrow Webelos to Scouts BSA and Arrow of Light Ceremonies	https://oa-bsa.org/resources/inductions/cub-scout-ceremony-resources
Webelos and Arrow of Light At A Glance	https://www.scouting.org/program-updates/webelos-and-arrow-of-light-at-a-glance/
Cub Scout Program Updates	https://www.scouting.org/program-updates/cub-scout-program-updates-faq-1-3-24/