

Webelos Scout Outdoor Program

Learning Objectives	As a result of this training experience, participants should be able to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain how the outdoor program runs progressively through Scouting's age levels.• List the Webelos Scout advancement requirements related to the outdoor program.• Discuss the values of the outdoor program.
Trainer Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study the training outline.• Review the information on outdoor program in chapters 21, 32, and 33 of the <i>Cub Scout Leader Book</i>.• Practice and time your presentation in advance to help you stay within the time limit.
Materials	33221B, <i>Cub Scout Leader Book</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chapter 21: "The Webelos Scout Program"Chapter 32: "Outdoor Activities"Chapter 33: "Cub Scout Camping" 33452, <i>Webelos Handbook</i> 33853A, <i>Webelos Leader Guide: "Webelos Camping"</i>
Ideas for Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Posters of the levels of Scouting outdoor activities• Prepared flip chart as a visual aid• Display of photos of Webelos Scouts participating in outdoor and overnight activities
Time	20 minutes. Start on time. End on time.

BSA Progressive Outdoor Program

The outdoor program runs like a thread through Scouting's age levels.

We introduce Tiger Cubs and Cub Scouts to the outdoors through den and pack activities as well as requirements for advancement. The boys learn proper methods and safety procedures for hikes, cookouts, and conservation projects. They enjoy family camping, day camping, and pack overnights. Wolf and Bear Cub Scouts may attend resident camp.

Webelos Scouts take the next step in outdoor adventure by taking part in den overnight campouts with a parent or other adult. They develop some basic camping and outdoor skills that help prepare them for their later experience in a Boy Scout troop. Day camp, resident camp, family camping, and pack overnights are also part of their outdoor program. Webelos Scouts may visit camporees or other Boy Scout events but may not compete or stay overnight. If a den is invited, plan to visit for part of the day so the Webelos Scouts get a taste of the cool things in Boy Scouting.

Boy Scouts develop and polish their skills of long-term camping. They use the basics learned as Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts to add more complex skills, learn self-reliance, and develop a deeper sense of responsibility.

Varsity Scouts, Venturers, and older Boy Scouts have opportunities for high adventure, backpacking, canoe trips, etc., with more excitement and greater challenges. They use and expand on the skills they learned in Boy Scouting.

Explain to participants that each step in the outdoor program should be age-appropriate and a foundation for the next, higher step. We should guard against using outdoor activities that will take away from a boy's later experience in a troop. We want to whet his appetite for Boy Scouting, not give him the whole meal too early, before he is ready.

Advancement and the Outdoor Program

An important part of the Webelos program is the introduction of basic outdoor living skills as well as the fun and excitement of camping.

Four activity badges are directly related to the outdoor program. These are Naturalist, Forester, Geologist, and Outdoorsman. In addition, the Readyman activity badge helps to prepare a boy for the outdoor program.

Values of the Outdoor Program

Ask the training dens to spend about five minutes making a list of the values of the outdoor program. Then ask for reports, listing ideas on a flip-chart pad, whiteboard, or chalkboard. Make sure to cover the following points:

Natural Resources

The outdoor program uses the resources of natural surroundings to make a significant contribution to the growth of a boy.

Good Health

Outdoor activities contribute to good health through supervised activities, including physical activities, sufficient rest, good food, and wholesome companionship.

Spiritual Growth

The outdoor program aids in the spiritual growth of a boy by helping him recognize and appreciate the handiwork of nature.

Natural Curiosity

Spending time in the out-of-doors helps to satisfy a boy's natural curiosity about plants, animals, and the environment.

Social Development

The outdoor program contributes to social development by providing experiences in which Webelos Scouts learn to deal with situations that occur when living with other people.

Self-Reliance

The outdoor program helps boys develop self-reliance and resourcefulness and builds self-confidence in their abilities.

Citizenship

The outdoor program provides citizenship training through opportunities for democratic participation in outdoor games and other activities.

Summary

The type of outdoor program a boy receives as a Webelos Scout will determine, to a large degree, his interest in moving into a Boy Scout troop. It is our challenge to provide him with exciting and interesting outdoor activities that meet the purposes of Cub Scouting and the aims of the Boy Scouts of America.

Also reinforce that Webelos Scout-age boys should participate only in age-appropriate activities. Boys will have plenty of opportunities in Boy Scouting to experience advanced outdoor activities.