

# Planning Webelos Den Overnight Campouts

- Learning Objectives** As a result of this training experience, participants should be able to
- List the key factors in conducting successful Webelos den overnight campouts.
  - Identify the ways in which the troop can help with Webelos den overnight campouts.
  - Successfully plan and conduct a Webelos den overnight campout.

- Trainer Preparation**
- Study the training outline.
  - Review chapters 21 and 33 of the *Cub Scout Leader Book* for information regarding overnight camping.
  - Practice and time your presentation in advance to help you stay within the time limit.
  - For the leader of the Campout Preparation activity:
    - Prepare file cards and title boards for the Campout Preparation participation activity.
    - Prepare three large pin boards made from cardboard. Each board should have one of the following titles: “Leader Preparation,” “Boy Preparation,” and “Adult Preparation.”
    - Prepare 19 file cards with the following text.
      - For Webelos den leader preparation:**
        - o Select a date and camping location.
        - o Make reservations.
        - o Check fire regulations.
        - o Attend Webelos Leader Outdoor Training.
        - o Enlist the help of others.
      - For boy preparation:**
        - o Discuss the campout.
        - o Teach the rules about outdoor fire safety.
        - o Review the Outdoor Code.
        - o Teach the boys basic knots.
        - o Teach the boys basic first aid.
        - o Plan campfire program activities.
        - o Send home a Webelos Scout Overnight Checklist.
      - For adult preparation:**
        - o Date of campout
        - o Location
        - o Time and place to rendezvous

- o Schedule of events for the campout
- o Campout menu
- o Equipment list required for the campout
- o Health and safety

**Materials**

33221B, *Cub Scout Leader Book*  
 333853A, *Webelos Leader Guide*  
 34416D, *Guide to Safe Scouting*  
 33452, , *Webelos Handbook*, Outdoorsman activity badge section  
 33832A, *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book*  
 18-260, Age-Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting Activities  
 13-032A, Leave No Trace Frontcountry Guidelines

**Handouts**

Webelos Overnight Campout Worksheet (from appendix)  
 Preparing for the Webelos Den Overnight Campout (from appendix)  
 Sample worship service (see appendix)

**Suggested Techniques of Presentation**

- Talk, using prepared flip chart as a visual aid
- Talk, using flip chart, whiteboard, or chalkboard to record main points during presentation
- Activity, “Campout Preparation”

**Time**

40 minutes. Start on time. End on time.

**Introduction**

The Webelos den overnight campout is an important part of the Webelos camping program in preparing boys for Boy Scouting. These campouts usually last for one or two nights and may be repeated several times during a boy’s time as a Webelos Scout. It is here that bridges can be built to help span the gap between Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts.

Webelos den camping should give boys a taste of camping to whet their appetites for their future Boy Scout experience. It does not include the rugged type of camping done in the troop. Webelos den campouts do not include backpacking. The campouts should be held in areas readily accessible by auto, and are always parent- or guardian-and-son activities.

**Planning Steps**

Planning a Webelos den overnight campout is simply being able to “see” with your mind’s eye things that are going to happen. As you live the experience in your mind, you can write down the things that need to be done. A written plan is essential so that nothing important is overlooked and everyone knows his or her responsibilities.

**Who Attends?**

Be sure the participants understand that this is a parent-and-son event and every Webelos Scout must have a parent (or other adult) accompanying him on the overnight campout. Each parent has a share of responsibility in planning and carrying out the campout. If a parent or guardian is unable to attend, the family

should make arrangements with another adult family member or with the parent of another Webelos Scout (but not the Webelos den leader) to accompany the boy. At all times, a boy must be under the direct supervision of an adult.

### **Where Is It Held?**

Campsites might include local Scout camps or a nearby city, county, state, or federal facility (a state park or county forest preserve, for example). The campsite should be located near a parking area since Webelos den overnight camping cannot include backpacking. Ensure that the camp facility provides safe water, toilet facilities, garbage disposal, and fire sites.

It is a good idea to have a backup plan in case of bad weather.

### **How Do We Get There?**

Review the safety rules in chapters 13 and 33 of the *Cub Scout Leader Book*.

Be sure there are enough cars to hold all of the boys and adults as well as the camping gear.

### **What Do We Need?**

- Tents. Some families will have tents or can borrow one from a neighbor or friend. Or tents for the den can be borrowed from a Boy Scout troop.
- Food, cooking equipment, utensils, and bags for disposing of trash and garbage. These can be brought from home by each boy-parent team or purchased for the whole den after a planning session with the parents.
- Program materials, depending on what activities are planned.
- Personal equipment for boys and adults. A “Webelos Scout Overnight Checklist” can be found in the *Cub Scout Leader Book*. Additional items may be added to the list, depending on your program, time of year, and expected weather.

### **Campout Preparation Activity**

Hand out the “Webelos Overnight Campout Worksheet.” Ask participants to use this to take notes during the session.

Explain that there are three major campout preparation steps. These are explained in the *Cub Scout Leader Book* in the section on Webelos Den Overnight Campouts in chapter 21. These preparation steps are

Prepare yourself. What do you, as a leader, need to know and do?

Prepare the boys. What do the boys need to know?

Prepare the adults. What do the parents (or guardians) need to know?

Explain that you are going to give participants a project to work on.

Divide the participants into three teams, one for each of the three preparation steps: “Leader Preparation,” “Boy Preparation,” and “Adult Preparation.” When the teams have assembled, shuffle the file cards and give each team six cards. Ask each team to associate the cards with one of the three categories by pinning the cards to the category board.

Because the cards are shuffled, the participants will have to work with other teams to sort out the cards. Additionally, you may wish to have extra (blank) cards available for teams that decide additional preparation steps are needed.

Give the teams five to 10 minutes to sort the cards.

When the project is completed, review each category and make any changes needed, or possibly show where duplicates could have been used.

## Campout Activities

Review the following list of possible campout activities.

1. **U.S. Flag.** Always fly the U.S. flag at camp. Have a ceremony as you raise and lower it.
2. **Activity Badge Work.** The campout is a good time for boys to complete requirements for activity badges in the outdoor group as well as requirements for the Webelos badge and the Arrow of Light Award.
3. **Campfire Program.** This is an exciting part of a campout. Plan it carefully so that it will be successful. Later today will be a special session on planning campfires. Remember that campfires should be positive experiences, and no put-downs or negative skits should be allowed.
4. **Outdoor Games.** Games are great fun on campouts. Take care to use games that boys and adults can play together. The *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book* has many games appropriate for a campout. The section on team-building games includes games that adults and boys can play together since the games don't depend on speed or size.
5. **Worship Service.** You may plan your campout so that campers are home in time for Sunday or Sabbath worship. If not, be sure to include an evening vesper or "Scouts' Own" service as part of the campout program. Because Scouting is nonsectarian, the worship service should be nondenominational and attendance optional but encouraged. Distribute the handout "Sample 'Scouts' Own' Worship Service" (from the appendix) as one suggested service.
6. **Fishing.** If there is a lake or stream nearby, fishing is a good campout activity. Be sure the adults have fishing gear and licenses. Stress conservation—keep only the fish you plan to eat and release all others.
7. **Swimming or Boating.** If facilities are available, these are good activities that everyone will enjoy. Remember to use Safe Swim Defense when swimming and Safety Afloat when boating.

## Summary

Answer any questions.

Point out that the Webelos den overnight campout will be a big event in the life of each boy. Be sure it is a good experience for him. A poorly planned, poorly run campout can discourage a boy from participating in future outdoor activities. Well-planned campouts will keep him interested and cause him to look forward to becoming a Boy Scout.

Also indicate that parents and guardians, too, must be happy on campouts. If they have a successful, pleasurable, and interesting campout experience, they are more likely to participate in, and bring their Webelos Scout to, the next campout.

Hand out "Preparing for the Webelos Den Overnight Campout" as an additional resource for the leaders to use in planning a campout.