

Troop 391

Chartered by Catholic Families for Scouting
Our Lady of the Presentation
Lee's Summit, MO

Webelos to Scout Transition

A handbook for Webelos and Parents

The goal of this handout is to provide information about Boy Scouts, our Troop, and some considerations to take into account when selecting a Boy Scout Troop in which to continue your trail to Eagle. **Our primary goal is that the Webelos Scout joins a Troop and continues participation in the Scouting program.** We believe Boy Scouts offers a unique opportunity for boys to learn leadership skills, outdoor skills, and teamwork skills, in an environment that fosters personal growth and moral development. The combination of boy leadership, camping, and team participation within the “Patrol Method”, is not offered in sports, school, or other activities that boys age 11 to 18 participate in. Scouting is built on a set of values (the Scout Oath and the Scout Law) that have once again become identified as core American values. In the words of a popular Scout bumper sticker: “America has returned to the values that Scouting never left”. Last but not least, Boy Scouts is a unique program of FUN activities!

Our second goal is that the Webelos Scout and his family will consider joining our Troop. We believe we offer a Quality Scouting experience that is fun for the boys and supports the goals and values of Scouting. This handout provides information about our Troop activities, camping, expectations, and opportunities for the boy and his family. There is also a page of questions to ask any Troop you are considering joining. These questions were compiled from several national Webelos to Scout Transition websites and modified to fit our Council and District. We encourage you to use these questions when visiting other Troops.

If you have any additional questions regarding our Troop or the Scouting program you may contact any of the people below:

Scoutmaster – Steve Preston
Troop Committee Chairman - Tina Young
1st Year Patrol Advisor – Randy Rotert

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If I join, what happens next?

Every Scout Troop has their own way of doing things, so we are going to give you some information about what to expect if you join our Troop.

Who will I be with?

Upon receiving your application to join our Troop, you will be assigned to a "Patrol". Our first year Scouts are assigned to their own patrol (or 1 of 2 patrols if there are a lot of new boys), and at least two "Troop Guides" are also assigned to the first year patrol. A patrol is ~ group of usually 8 to 12 boys. They elect their leader, assistant leader, scribe (record keeper), and quartermaster. They decide on a patrol name, patrol yell, and a patrol flag. In meetings, they will occasionally be responsible for the program. On campouts, they tent together, cook together, clean together, etc. On many campouts they select their own menu, shop for their groceries (reimbursed by Troop), and are responsible for their patrol success or failure. The leadership positions in the first year patrol are held by first year boys. The Troop Guides are there to teach and advise, and to help the new Scouts advance through First Class rank. They are not the leaders of the new boys. The patrol method (a small group designed to be a self-sufficient unit) is the basis for teamwork and leadership development in Scouting.

What will I need?

When the boys cross over into the Scout Troop they must be ready to camp! The basic equipment required is: a Class "A" uniform (shirt w/insignia, neckerchief, socks, and belt), Class "B" uniform (same as "A" except a "Scout" t-shirt), Boy Scout Handbook, sleeping bag (at least 0 degree, better with -15 degree), pack or duffle bag, flashlight with batteries, and water bottle or canteen. For Scout Camp they will need a "Camp Box" available at Raven Outdoor Military Surplus, 3501 S. Sterling, Independence. 816-836-0300. Call ahead for info. The standard size, not large size, About \$65. You may also use a plastic lockable tote from Walmart, etc. Other things to consider would be hiking boots, foam or inflatable sleeping pad, and a pocket knife (must earn totin' chip card to carry). Also a **Class 1** (simple) and a **Class 3** (with up to date physical) health form will be required for camping.

Upcoming "Big Event"!

We will be going to summer camp at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation in June 8-17th, 2011. Cost per boy will be \$270.00 per Scout and \$270.00 per full-time adult leader. Part-time adults cost \$31.00 per day. We may have fundraising to help offset the cost prior to leaving for camp.

What else should I know?

Our Troop number is 391, we are in the Thunderbird District district of the "Heart of America" council. We have earned a "Quality Unit" designation for all of the past years. We camp out every month. We have a very active adult volunteer group at both the Troop and district/council level. If you would like to join our Troop, contact any of the leaders listed on

(Visit us on the Web! www.Troop391.net)

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the first page of this handout.

How do I know what Troop to join?

We certainly hope you will consider joining our Troop. To help you select a Troop we have provided a list of questions on the next page every Webelos Scout and Parent should ask a Troop in order to determine if the Troop is a good fit for you. Please use this when visiting other Troops as well. Our answers to these questions follow the questionnaire.

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Important Questions for Webelos Families to Ask when visiting Scout Troops

Webelos should ask:

1. Is the Troop active? Do they do things I would enjoy?
2. What size is the Troop? What size of Troop would I like?
3. Are there other boys my age in the Troop?
4. Are any of my friends in or joining the Troop?
5. Does the Troop go to a summer camp? Which one(s)? Is it important to me where they go?
6. Should I / could I go to summer camp?
7. Does the Troop participate in any Honor Camper programs (i.e. Order of the Arrow, Tribe of Mic-O-Say)? Do they matter?
8. How often does this Troop do outdoor activities (i.e. camping)?
9. Will I have a say in decision making?
10. Does the Troop have advanced programs for older Scouts?
11. How often does the Troop meet?
12. Do I have a good chance of advancing to Eagle with this Troop?
13. Will I have fun?

Parents should ask:

1. What values/skills will my son learn?
2. What are the other adult leaders like?
3. Can I participate in leadership if I desire?
4. Is this a “boy run” Troop? Is that important?
5. Where, when, and how often does the Troop meet? Is it convenient for transporting my son?
6. What is the age ratio of the boys? Do the older Scouts help the younger Scouts?
7. How much will it cost? Camping? Summer camp? Fundraisers?
8. How often does the Troop camp? Do I have to camp with them?
9. Does the Troop go to a summer camp? Which one(s)? Is it important to me where they go?
10. Does the Troop participate in any Honor Camper programs (i.e. Order of the Arrow, Tribe of Mic-O-Say)? Do they matter?
11. Is the Troop active? Do they do activities my son would enjoy?
12. Will my son be encouraged/able to advance to Eagle in this Troop?
13. Can moms participate? Go camping? Go to summer camp?
14. Can this Troop provide a quality Scouting experience for my son and his friends?
15. What is expected of the parents and family by the Troop?
16. Will we have fun?