

Bridge to Scouting

This impressive ceremony for Webelos Scouts can be used indoors or outdoors. Advancement recognition ceremonies for the lower ranks may precede it.

Personnel: Webelos den leader (Akela), Scoutmaster, den chief as torchbearer, Scouts from troop, graduating Webelos Scout and his parents, senior patrol leader

Equipment: A rustic bridge with a railing made of dead tree branches and floored with scrap lumber; two campfires (artificial ones for indoors); camp candle lantern; troop neckerchief

Arrangement: The bridge is set up on an auditorium stage or on the ground. If indoors, the room should be darkened. The graduating Webelos Scout is with his parents at one end of the bridge; the Boy Scouts and Scoutmaster are at the opposite end. Both groups are seated around their respective campfires.

The Webelos den leader asks the Webelos to stand and recite the Cub Scout Promise.

Webelos den leader (calls across the bridge): Hello, Scouts of Troop 670.

Scoutmaster (answers): Hello, Webelos Scouts of Akela, what do you desire?

Webelos den leader: We have a Webelos Scout of Akela's council ring who has prepared himself for entrance into the council ring of Troop 670.

Scoutmaster: Bring him forward to the bridge that joins our two council rings. (The Webelos den leader leads the graduating Webelos Scout and his parents to the bridge.)

Webelos den leader: (*Name*), you have contributed much to your den and pack, and we shall miss you and your parents. Now you are leaving us to enter the Scout troop of your choice. There, we are sure, you will continue to grow in Scouting skills and friendships. An important part of your Webelos Scout uniform is your neckerchief. Now that you are leaving our pack and Cub Scouting, will you remove your neckerchief and give it to me? Soon, your new Scoutmaster will place around your neck the neckerchief of the troop you are to join. (The Webelos Scout removes his neckerchief and gives it to the Webelos den leader. The Scoutmaster now beckons the graduate cross the bridge.)

Scoutmaster: As Scoutmaster of Troop 670, I welcome you and your parents. There are many traditions in Troop 670 —so many that I would not attempt to relate them all to you now. We have had over 60 scouts reach the rank of Eagle Scout, an honor only 4% of scouts achieve. I hope your path continues from the pack through the ranks of scouting to the rank of Eagle. It is now my pleasure to present you with the neckerchief of our troop. (Boy Scouts place the neckerchief around the neck of the incoming Scout.) Wear it with pride as many have done before you. Welcome to Troop 670.