

Webelos Experience & Webelos Woods

This memorandum first serves to highlight the differences between Webelos Experience and Webelos Woods. Its second purpose is to hopefully bolster support for both events.

Webelos Experience

This is a Northern Star Council sponsored event. It is scheduled every two years, currently falling on odd years. Webelos Experience takes place during the Fall season. Using a Camporall format, its sole purpose is to expose all Webelos youth, and their adult partners, to the full spectrum of activities within the Boy Scouting universe. It is intended to “WOW” Webelos families and serve as an eye opener to all Boy Scouts has to offer. This program is conducted once every two years to insure that each Webelos-Adult pairing gets the opportunity to attend one such event. Consider it a Scout Expo that specifically targets those Scouts about to make the decision whether to continue on in the Scouting program. In that sense, Webelos Experience is a marketing tool for selling the Boy Scout and Venturing programs to the attending Webelos Scouts and their families.

Webelos Woods

This is an annual District level event held across Northern Star Council and is held each Spring. It is a Camporee style event that focuses on bringing individual Webelos, and their adult partners, together with a specific Boy Scout troop. Its primary goal is to expose young Scout families to the Boy Scout Troop they are most likely to be transitioning in to the following year. The intent is for the Webelos Scout and the family to get a better understanding of troop programs, and have a chance to start building a relationship with the Scouts and leaders they will be joining within the next year. The troop and packs will camp together, and the Webelos are fully integrated in to the activities and events. The Northern Star Council Webelos Woods plan differs greatly from some district events where Webelos attend with Boy Scouts (most often at a camporee), but the two groups are separated through the day or weekend. It takes place in the spring, and has a heavy emphasis on 4th grade Webelos attending. This having been said, it is clearly the intent of Webelos Woods to be a recruiting and transition tool where Troops can “sell” their program to prospective first year Scouting families. Webelos Woods should be a key part in every Pack-Troop Webelos transition plan.

Bottom Line

It should be clear that these two events are complimentary and not in competition with each other. They both have a unique scope and purpose. They are not interchangeable events but rather stand on their own merits. These two events, when married together, form a unified approach that supports marketing, transition, recruitment and ultimately retention. It is prudent for both Packs and Troops to support both programs equally well. The benefit from doing so is the successful transition of motivated and enthusiastic Webelos families into the realm of Boy Scouting.