

Dear Webelos Parent,

We are sending you this mailing today because soon it will be time to help your family decide to graduate into Boy Scouting. Your son's name comes up on our Council list of current Webelos Cub Scout members. We hope you and your son have enjoyed the program as much as we did with our sons.

In the next few months, Webelos Den members will get the opportunity to move to the most exciting step on the Scouting Trail and join the Three Million youth in the Boy Scout Program.

Here are a few reasons your son should consider the next step in Scouting. Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting are age specific and geared to your son's personal development.

- ◆ Cub Dens are adult led.
- ◆ Boy Scout Patrols are boy led adding to his leadership development.
- ◆ Boy Scouting helps your son continue his development in character, physical fitness, interests and citizenship.
- ◆ Boy Scout Troops are made up of patrols based on age and meet weekly.
- ◆ Boy Scout Troops have an outdoor experience of some form once per month
- ◆ Boy Scout Troops have age appropriate "high adventure" activities for the older boys and "medium adventures" for the younger ones.
- ◆ Boy Scouting is "boy led" with adults in a mentoring role such as a Scoutmaster.

Now if we have your attention, here are some more reasons to help you decide to graduate into Boy Scouting. Ranks and badges are more challenging and fun in Boy Scouting and this will be the first time he will have the opportunity to earn merit badges.

- ◆ Merit badges are designed for Scouts to develop new skills and interests.
- ◆ Currently there are 120 different merit badges which will challenge your son's interests.
- ◆ To name a few there are Swimming, Rifle and Shotgun Shooting, Snow Sports like Skiing and Snowboarding, Small boat handling, Canoeing and Communications.
- ◆ New additions to the long list include Scuba, Robotics, and Search and Rescue.

Lots of outdoor related badges can be earned at one of our Summer Camps. Both Camp Tomahawk in Wisconsin and Many Point in N.W. Minnesota offer week long camp programs complete with paid staff and full meal plans for your son. We are very proud of these outstanding camp facilities and excited to share information about them with you and your son. We invite you to check out our camps at the following links:

Many Point: <http://www.manypoint.org/> Tomahawk: <http://www.camptomahawk.org/>

Earning merit badges and learning leadership skills at camp will help your son earn his badges of rank, the highest award being Eagle Scout. This takes, among other things, earning 21 merit badges. As the son of an Eagle Scout, the father of an Eagle Scout and an Eagle Scout myself, I can attest to the fact that being an Eagle Scout stays with you for the rest of your life. We often hear of Eagles who have received college scholarships, military academy admittance and major job offers in their field of endeavor just because of their lifetime achievement as an Eagle. Attaining the Eagle rank is a major door opener and the value is real.

We also know that time and money are a bigger concern than ever before for families. We hope that your son, with your support, considers continuing in Scouting for "the best is yet to come." There are benefits for the parents as well, as youth and parents in scouting seem to become close friends helping each other as their boys mature. Scouting has also developed many ways for the scouts to help fund their scouting programs. Many boys also become very involved in sports at this age and we understand that they may not be able to regularly attend Scout meetings during the season, but there is an opportunity to do both. Many merit badges such as Sports, Personal Fitness, and Athletics can be earned while playing sports. There will also be times when school homework will be heavy, but some of his classes will also help in earning a number of merit badges. He has until age 18 to earn his Eagle rank so there is plenty of time. The bottom line is, your son can be very academically and athletically active and still participate in Scouting.

Attached is a PDF file of a more complete description of what Boy Scouting can be for your son. If you have further questions, concerns or would like information about a Boy Scout troop in your area, don't hesitate to contact us. We stand ready to help.

Sincerely yours,

Duncan Steinman, Vice President of Operations, west team
Eric Sit, Assistant Council Commissioner, west team