

Scout Leader's Best Practices for Inter-Program Retention

by Wood Badge NE II – 160

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Tiger to Cub Scout Retention Best Practices

- Scouts deserve trained leaders; Tiger Cub Leader, Den Leader, Cubmaster and Committee Chair must be trained
- Cubmasters and Pack Leaders should attend Roundtable and Pow Wow meetings
- "Parents dropout, not boys;" Cubmaster must engage parents; ask Parents to complete a resource form; if the Parents don't volunteer, simply assign them
- Tigers should be encouraged to attend Family Pack Campout & District Scout Day

NNJ Council Inter-Program Churn

Inter-program churn is a well recognized throughout the scouting program, however when searching for actual statistics of inter-program churn, no explicit data and associated performance is available.

Webelos to Boy Scout Retention Best Practices

- Cubmaster need to build alliances with more than one Troops; give parents and Webelos a choice; Webelos need to participate in Troop camping events
- Cubmaster can expand the Webelos leadership role at Cub Family Campout - planning & entertainment
- Encourage Webelos to attend Weborees and Iditarod; however be prepared!
- Graduate second year Webelos Scouts into the Troop in February; keep Webelos den as a Patrol through June with an older scout assigned as Troop guide
- Troop's SPL should invite first year Webelos to visit Troop at summer camp one evening

Tiger Scout
Parent

Cub Scout
Parent

Webelo Scout
Parent

Boy Scout
Parent

Cub to Boy Scout Retention Best Practices

- Cubmaster need to designate a Pack Den Leader Trainer
- Recognize Parents may have other non-scouting priorities when planning scouting activities
- Establish one or more Den Chiefs with one or more Troops; assisting in leadership roles by attending all Pack meetings, outings and camping events
- Reach out to Troops for adult leadership and Troop Guides; have occasional scouting demos while keeping demos brief to accommodate the younger scout attention span

Varsity/Venture Retention Best Practices

- Crews need to build alliances with packs, and one or more Troops
- Attend Pack and Troop activities
- Become a Consultant and Instructor for Pack and Troop training
- Teach nearly everything they learn in order to earn their recognition, and Tiger, Cub and Webelos Scouts can be a wonderful audience for them

Parental Best-Practices

For all parents, create general awareness of forthcoming programs, with simple message and program names.

For parents of graduating scouts, early in their scouting year:

- Provide targeted and detailed knowledge forthcoming programs including getting parents directly introduced to prospective programs and their leadership.
- Objectively solicit feedback to assess parents "likeness" of prospective programs.
- Upon parents that may not prefer prospective programs to other competing programs (i.e., non-scouting), than promote scouting's quality, "life" value and performance of respective program.
- If parent has developed a preference however does not have a conviction to commit than determine what specific barriers may exist (i.e., cost, transportation, etc.) and develop a plan with the prospective program leadership to eliminate these said barriers.
- Last, with the prospective program leadership, create an immediate call of action of the parent to register and commit a start date of prospective program

Boy Scout to Venture/Varsity Retention Best Practices

- Scoutmasters need to build an Alliance with multiple Packs; Scouts learn and then teach; encourage participation with Pack's and Den's through Den Chiefs and Troop Guides
- Scoutmasters need to build Alliances with one or more Venture Crews and Varsity Units; provide scouts a choice
- Scouts run the Troop with adult guidance; senior Scouts teach and lead younger Scouts
- Give back to the Community with Service Projects; Troop builds unity and a sense of purpose
- Invest in and encourage Senior Scouts to attend advance leadership development training

Varsity/Venture
Scout

