

## VIRGINIA WEBELOS SCOUTS LEARN WHAT IT TAKES TO BE BOY SCOUTS, AND THEY HAVE A BLAST IN THE PROCESS

# Learning THE Rules

Almost there! Webelos Scout Jonathan Dobbins takes it one handhold at a time on the climbing wall. The goal is to reach the top and ring a bell.

shotgun shooting. Field archery. Canopy tours ... these are Boy Scout activities. But not for these guys, at least on this one day.

Last fall, Webelos Scouts from all over Virginia came to Camp Justis in Powhatan for the Webelos-to-Scout Transition Day, where they got to experience some traditional Webelos Scout activities, plus some stuff that only Boy Scouts can do.

The event became a tradition of the Huguenot Trail District several years ago when Scouts from Troop 800 in Midlothian, Va., came up with the idea to host an event to encourage Webelos Scouts to cross over into Boy Scouts.

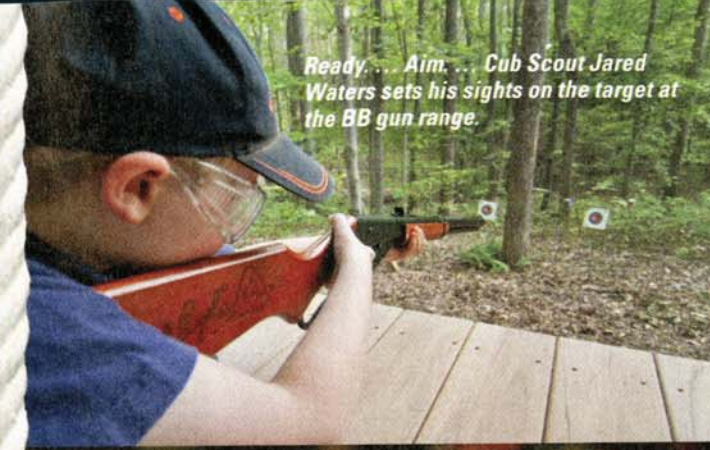
Boy Scouts and adults manned stations with many different activities for the guys to try. One station demonstrated knife safety. They used sandpaper to sharpen tongue depressors, which they used as whittling tools.

"I liked whittling," says 11-year-old George Welch III, who is now a Boy Scout in Troop 800. "We learned how to hand a knife to someone. Then, we whittled soap. That was really cool."

By Michele Wojciechowski  
Photographs by Walter P. Calahan



Cub Scout Noah Evans gets some archery tips from Boy Scout John Mathews at Camp Justis in Powhatan, Va.



Ready... Aim... Cub Scout Jared Waters sets his sights on the target at the BB gun range.

### PLAYING IT SAFE

Safety first is important, no matter how old you are. The Webelos Scouts watched shotgun and .22 rifle demonstrations, and they learned how to safely shoot BB guns at targets, clothespins and tin cans.

They learned to treat every gun as if it were loaded, even if you're sure it isn't.

An instructor taught the boys about archery and how to safely use bows and arrows.

At one station, the boys climbed up a tower, then crossed a bridge made of wooden planks suspended by ropes. The activity was similar to a Boy Scout canopy tour, which is sort of a bird's-eye view of treetops (or canopies).

At woodshop, the Webelos Scouts built birdhouses to take home. They learned how to make a fire using steel wool and a 9-volt battery. And with just cake mix, some fruit and a little soda, the Scouts made delicious desserts in a Dutch oven.

"We made a peach cobbler, and it was really tasty," George says.

### A WHOLE NEW LEVEL

By the time the event was over, the Webelos Scouts had discovered plenty of good reasons to stay in Scouts.

Thomas Luther, 11, was a Cub Scout that day, but he's now a Boy Scout in Troop 1829, Midlothian.

"In Cub Scouts, it's fun stuff, but Boy Scouts take it to the whole next level of fun and learning," Thomas says. "In Cub Scouts, we did some camping, but the car was right there. In Boy Scouts, you're going backpacking and setting up camp by yourself.

"That's pretty cool." ♣

## Sticking WITH THE Program

If you think the stuff you do in Cub Scouts is great, wait until you get to Boy Scouts. Here are just a few things to look forward to:

- ♣ .22 rifle shooting
- ♣ Shotgun shooting
- ♣ Rock climbing
- ♣ Canoeing, kayaking, rafting and sailing
- ♣ Scuba diving
- ♣ High-adventure outings



Boy Scout Paul Fulghum shows a group of Webelos Scouts how to start a fire with a 9-volt battery, steel wool and kindling.