

Blue & Gold Planning Guide



February is an important month for Scouting.

1. February 8th is the anniversary of Scouting in the United States. The Blue & Gold dinner has become a tradition for Cub Scout packs to celebrate this (holding the celebration on Feb 8th is not overly important).
2. It is common to graduate (transition) the 5th grade Webelos into Boy Scouts in February, a tradition that Pack 204 has embraced. This is an important time to recognize and celebrate this important milestone in these boys' Scouting career. It is also a time to recognize the parents of those Webelos whose contributions have been important to the Pack.

Effort should be made to make this a special and festive pack meeting!

This is a guide to planning and organizing the Pack 204 Blue & Gold (B&G) dinner. It is presented in two formats; first by topic and then by responsibility (the same list, just organized differently). The responsibility assignments should be finalized at the December leaders' meeting and progress reviewed at January and February meetings.

The B&G is organized by the cooperative effort of the 5th Grade Webelos Den Leader (WDL), Cubmaster (CM), and Committee Chair (CC). The WDL often delegates duties to other 5th grade Webelos parents and coordinates their collective efforts.

By Topic

Food	WDL	Suggest a preferred menu.
	CC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place food orders in December Note: for 50 boys, we have had ordered 150 servings. It all depends on attendance. Ask caterers to provide the paper products. • At January Leaders' meeting and Newsletter, publish potluck assignments with each family bringing 8-12 servings. 2005 was as follows: Dens 1,3,4,6, and 7 – Salads Dens 2 and 5 – Desserts • However, if the tradition of having the Pack provide a sheet cake (or 2 half-sheet cakes) is continued (2004 and 2005), then it is recommended that families bring only salads. • Make a pricing decision. We have historically charged \$2/person for dinner with children 3 and under eating free. Trying to get an accurate head-count ahead of time has been less than successful. Boy Scouts and other distinguished guests also eat free.
	WDL or CC	Order sheet cake Purchase paper plates and forks for cake, cups for lemonade Bring cake service tools.
	Keeper of jugs	Bring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an already made jug of lemonade and a jug of water • mix for a second 5 gallon jug of lemonade • catch basins for each of the jugs. Also, a rag and bucket of soapy water are good.
	Anyone	Large ziplock bags for leftovers.
	CC or Treasurer	Have check(s) ready for the caterer(s).
Troop Arrangements	WDL	Work with boys to select troop(s). This should happen no later than the end of January. Provide these details and troop contacts to the CM.

	CM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact troop(s) to arrange their participation and invite them for dinner (no charge). Get a list of names of the Boy Scouts and adult leaders planning to attend to be included in the program. Arrange for Boy Scout red shoulder loops, books and scarfs to be presented to the boys as part of the ceremony (if the troop will provide them, great) Provide the troops(s) advance copies of the ceremony(s) of which they will be a part.
Guest Invitations	CM or CC	Invite our Unit Commissioner, District Commissioner, Assistant District Commissioner and District Executive.
Program	WDL (or parent volunteer) working with CM	<p>Develop an evening program containing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the evening's agenda (ceremonies and recognitions) recognizing the Troop guests recognizing the District guests, and recognizing the graduating Webelos <p>Have sufficient copies printed (we have been using 2/family estimate). If color programs are desired, we have recruited a parent that has the ability to print them at work (otherwise, it is more of an expense than the Pack has budgeted for).</p>
Theme & Decorations	WDL & Parents	<p>Consider things like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centerpieces (possibly use candles). Some years we have had each den create one or two. Balloons Blue and yellow disposable table coverings Colored cups & Napkins Posters and table displays of den pictures and projects to highlight the Cub careers of the graduating boys. More....
Ceremonies	CM & WDL	<p>The traditional ceremonies for the Blue & Gold are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening Flags Forged Arrow – Career arrows for all boys Building the Bridge – Explaining the Scout Law and assembling the bridge. Crossing the Bridge – Leaving Cub Scouts for Boy Scouts Closing Flags <p>Considering additions to the opening flag ceremony. The past two years, drum-roll entrance and taps closing have been used. We have also included the Boy Scout Troops and the troop flags as part of our flag ceremonies. The 2004 version of the Building the Bridge ceremony also included lighting a candle for each of the 12 points of the Scout Law. We have historically borrowed the birch log tripod/candle holder from Kay Stewart in Troop 205. Candles and a lighter will then be required.</p> <p>The WDL has the option of creating his/her own ceremony to say farewell to the graduating boys.</p>
	CM	Plan ceremonies for the other awards and recognitions that are to be given out.
	CC and CM	Arrange recognitions for those parent leaders/volunteers that will be leaving the Pack as their boys' graduate this evening.
Other Planning and Setup Logistics	Treasurer	<p>Obtain approximately \$50 in small bills for a change fund and something to use as a cash box.</p> <p>Staff a table at the entrance to collect the dinner fee.</p>
	WDL and CM	Agree on room setup and publish a layout to the volunteers that will be setting-up and decorating the room
	CC or Treasurer	Try to manage the costs so that we stay within budget.

	CM	Plan activities for the early arriving youth. Also, a post-dinner activity is helpful because the youth generally finish before the adults. These can include action songs, games, or other things that burn-off a little energy.
Facilities	CC	Make sure that Community Ed is aware that we are holding a banquet as part of the facilities reservation. Confirm with the building monitor that we can have access to the kitchen for water to mix up a second jug of lemonade. Offer dinner (free) to the facilities monitor and janitorial staff. Work with building people for trash barrels at setup time.
	CM	Normal setup of the “stage” including flags, bridge and PA.

By Responsibility

Anyone	Food	Large ziplock bags for leftovers.
CC	Facilities	Make sure that Community Ed is aware that we are holding a banquet as part of the facilities reservation. Confirm with the building monitor that we can have access to the kitchen for water to mix up a second jug of lemonade. Offer dinner (free) to the facilities monitor and janitorial staff. Work with building people for trash barrels at setup time.
	Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place food orders in December Note: for 50 boys, we have had ordered 150 servings. It all depends on attendance. Ask caterers to provide the paper products. • At January Leaders’ meeting and Newsletter, publish potluck assignments with each family bringing 8-12 servings. 2005 was as follows: Dens 1,3,4,6, and 7 – Salads Dens 2 and 5 – Desserts • However, if the tradition of having the Pack provide a sheet cake (or 2 half-sheet cakes) is continued (2004 and 2005), then it is recommended that families bring only salads. • Make a pricing decision. We have historically charged \$2/person for dinner with children 3 and under eating free. Trying to get an accurate head-count ahead of time has been less than successful. Boy Scouts and other distinguished guests also eat free.
CC and CM	Ceremonies	Arrange recognitions for those parent leaders/volunteers that will be leaving the Pack as their boys’ graduate this evening.
CC or Treasurer	Food	Have check(s) ready for the caterer(s).
	Other Planning and Setup Logistics	Try to manage the costs so that we stay within budget.
CC or CM	Guest Invitations	Invite our Unit Commissioner, District Commissioner, Assistant District Commissioner and District Executive.
CM	Ceremonies	Plan ceremonies for the other awards and recognitions that are to be given out.
	Facilities	Normal setup of the “stage” including flags, bridge and PA.
	Other Planning and Setup Logistics	Plan activities for the early arriving youth. Also, a post-dinner activity is helpful because the youth generally finish before the adults. These can include action songs, games, or other things that burn-off a little energy.

	Troop Arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact troop(s) to arrange their participation and invite them for dinner (no charge). Get a list of names of the Boy Scouts and adult leaders planning to attend to be included in the program. • Arrange for Boy Scout red shoulder loops, books and scarfs to be presented to the boys as part of the ceremony (if the troop will provide them, great) • Provide the troops(s) advance copies of the ceremony(s) of which they will be a part.
CM & WDL	Ceremonies	<p>The traditional ceremonies for the Blue & Gold are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Flags • Forged Arrow – Career arrows for all boys • Building the Bridge – Explaining the Scout Law and assembling the bridge. • Crossing the Bridge – Leaving Cub Scouts for Boy Scouts • Closing Flags <p>Considering additions to the opening flag ceremony. The past two years, drum-roll entrance and taps closing have been used. We have also included the Boy Scout Troops and the troop flags as part of our flag ceremonies. The 2004 version of the Building the Bridge ceremony also included lighting a candle for each of the 12 points of the Scout Law. We have historically borrowed the birch log tripod/candle holder from Kay Stewart in Troop 205. Candles and a lighter will then be required.</p> <p>The WDL has the option of creating his/her own ceremony to say farewell to the graduating boys.</p>
	Program	<p>Develop an evening program containing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the evening’s agenda (ceremonies and recognitions) • recognizing the Troop guests • recognizing the District guests, and • recognizing the graduating Webelos <p>Have sufficient copies printed (we have been using 2/family estimate). If color programs are desired, we have recruited a parent that has the ability to print them at work (otherwise, it is more of an expense than the Pack has budgeted for).</p>
	Other Planning and Setup Logistics	<p>Agree on room setup and publish a layout to the volunteers that will be setting-up and decorating the room</p>
Keeper of jugs	Food	<p>Bring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an already made jug of lemonade and a jug of water • mix for a second 5 gallon jug of lemonade • catch basins for each of the jugs. Also, a rag and bucket of soapy water are good.
Treasurer	Other Planning and Setup Logistics	<p>Obtain approximately \$50 in small bills for a change fund and something to use as a cash box.</p> <p>Staff a table at the entrance to collect the dinner fee.</p>
WDL	Food	Suggest a preferred menu.
	Troop Arrangements	Work with boys to select troop(s). This should happen no later than the end of January. Provide these details and troop contacts to the CM.

WDL & Parents	Theme & Decorations	Consider things like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centerpieces (possibly use candles). Some years we have had each den create one or two. • Balloons • Blue and yellow disposable table coverings • Colored cups & Napkins • Posters and table displays of den pictures and projects to highlight the Cub careers of the graduating boys. • More....
WDL or CC	Food	Order sheet cake Purchase paper plates and forks for cake, cups for lemonade Bring cake service tools.

Ceremonies

The following ceremonies have something of a tradition in Pack 204. However, they are not set in stone. Each generation of Pack leadership is welcome to personalize or change these as desired. Sample scripts for these ceremonies follow later.

Forged Arrow

The basic purpose of this ceremony is to recognize the accomplishments of each graduating Webelos throughout their entire Cub Scout career. This ceremony is created and presented by the Webelos Den Leader. Colored stripes are added to a wooden arrow to represent the following major accomplishments:

- Orange with a yellow stripe- Tiger
- White - Bobcat
- Red - Wolf
- Yellow - Gold Arrow Points - Wolf
- Silver/Grey - Silver Arrow Points – Wolf
- Green - Bear
- Yellow - Gold Arrow Points - Bear
- Silver/Grey - Silver Arrow Points - Bear
- Blue - Webelos
- Blue with a yellow stripe - Arrow of Light
- Purple - Religious Knot
- Green with a brown stripe - World Conservation Award
- White with the number 20 - Webelos Super Achiever Award

The colored stripes can be added to the arrow by a couple different methods:

1. Enamel model paint
2. Colored electricians tape
3. Needlepoint thread wound over a base of glue

Each of these has trade-offs based upon ease of obtaining materials and working with the materials to produce professional looking results. The Webelos Leader should select the materials that they are most comfortable with.

In selecting the arrows, standard wood-shaft broadheads have been used some years. In other years, hand-made Native American arrows with flint tips have been chosen. Some internet sites for consideration are:

- <http://members.aol.com/Cubitems/index.html>
- <http://www.acornawards.com/>
- <http://www.3riversarchery.com/>
- <http://www.scoutarrows.com/>
- <http://www.crazycrow.com/>

For the ceremony, each boy has his accomplishments recited and his arrow presented to him.

Building the Bridge

The purpose of this ceremony is to have the graduating Webelos illustrate the 12 points of the Boy Scout Law. This ceremony is traditionally lead by the Cubmaster with the Webelos presenting the 12 points and building the bridge. This ceremony is also sometimes included the lighting of a candle for each of the 12 points.

The Webelos Den Leader should schedule time with his Den to practice this ceremony ahead of time.

Bridging

This is the official graduating of the 2nd Year Webelos into Boy Scouts and the culmination of the evenings ceremonies. It has traditionally been led by the Cubmaster. The bridge has been built. It is now time to send the boys, one at a time, over from the Pack to the Troop. The ceremony includes a final goodbye to the Pack and the removing of the uniform signs of Cub Scouts by the WDL and/or parents, the crossing of the bridge, the welcome by the Troop and the investiture of the Boy Scout uniform identification.

Be sure to leave plenty of time for pictures as each boy crosses and a final set of group pictures once the graduation has been completed.

Arrow of Light – A Footnote.

There was a time in the Pack 204 past where the Arrow of Light awards were presented to the Webelos during the Blue and Gold. However, this was discontinued for a couple of good reasons:

1. (most important) The Arrow of Light should be presented to the boys as soon as it is earned (at the next Pack meeting). This has been occurring in January.
2. Length of ceremonies – having one more ceremony as part of the night made things far too long for the audience.

If there is a boy that was not ready for his AoL in January but has earned it by the B&G, then he should receive this ceremony prior to the above three ceremonies.

Food Sources

The following options have been used or considered:

- DeLaria's KFC Chicken – Phone (952) 475-3700 – Blue & Gold special (2 pieces of chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy & a roll)
- Burnsville Davanni's – Phone (952) 431-1500 – Lasagna and garlic toast
- Rascall's Apple Valley