

15th Chelt (SHURDINGTON) Beaver Scout Colony



Welcome Pack for Parents

Introduction

Welcome to the Shurdington Beaver Scout Colony. We are one section within the 15th Cheltenham Scout Group. Our Group has three sections: Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and provide weekly scouting activities for over 70 members from 6 – 14yrs old. We also have Explorer Scouts aged between 14 to 18 years. Many people are already aware of the Scout Association, its aims and programmes, but, not perhaps, the Beaver Scout section. The next few paragraphs will give you an idea of the history of Beaver Scouts, our Promise and Motto.

Beaver Scouting

There was great pressure, even in the early days of “Cub Scouts” for the Cubs younger brothers to take part in the fun of Scouting. This brought about the Beaver Section, which actually started in Ireland in 1963. It wasn’t until 1982 that it really started in the UK.

In 1982 the Section was introduced throughout the UK, with its own uniform. In 1986, the Beaver Scouts became an official section of the Scout Association, with the creation of a simple Promise, and programme. In 1991, our own Colony started and has been running ever since.

The Section has seen some minor changes over the years, and in 1995 a major review introduced a different badge scheme and programme. Our Programme has again undergone a big change and in May 2002, a new programme for the Section was launched. More details of this programme are available in further areas of this pack. In 2006 the Beavers celebrated their 20th Birthday.

Today there are over 95,000 Beaver Scouts in the UK, making it one of the most popular sections of the Movement.

Promise and Motto

After attending Beavers for a few weeks, your child will receive his Membership Badges, Neckie and Woggle.

Before getting these, he / she has to know the Promise and Motto of our Section.

Our Motto is: “Be Prepared”

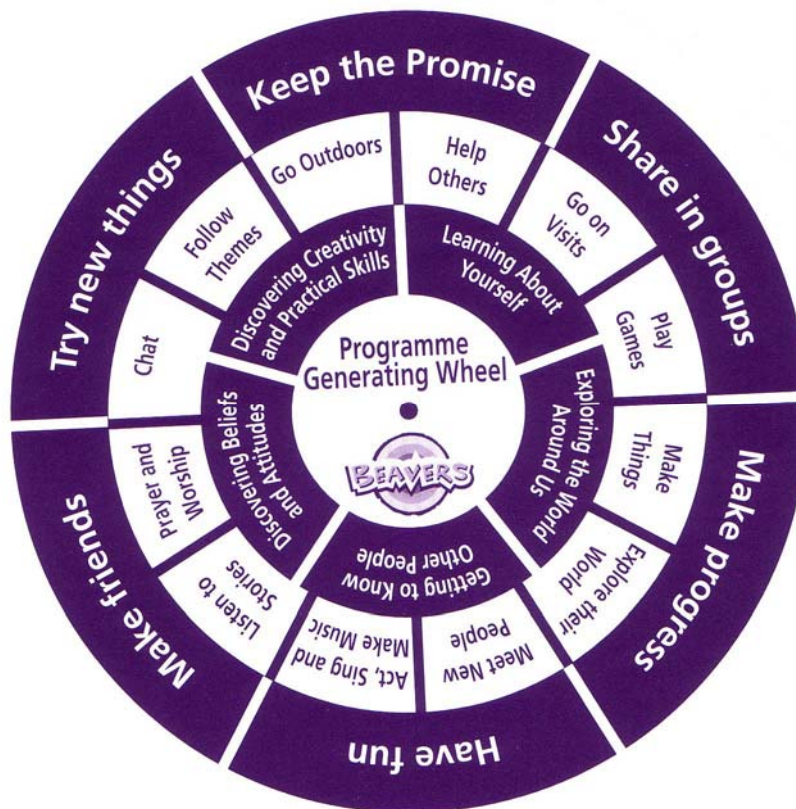
Our promise is: “I promise to do my best, to be kind and helpful and to Love God”

Our Own Colony Motto is: “Fun & Friends”

New members will not have to say the promise individually.

What Happens at Colony Meetings

The Beaver Scouts activities can be seen below on our programme wheel, which summarise what we do at Beavers.



The middle circle shows the different activities that we do at Beavers. Over the Session a mix of activities will be planned covering these topics, therefore delivering a balanced programme.

Our Motto really sums up what Beaver Scouting is about, it is about making friends and having FUN!

Badges and Awards

Throughout their time at Beavers, members will receive standard badges and have the opportunity to earn activity badges, before moving on to Cubs.

The Badge Programme is highlighted on the next few pages.

Badge Programme



Membership Badge

Over the first few weeks, new members will learn about Beaver Scouting and will complete this badge.



Joining in / Participation Awards

The Joining In Award is designed to show how many years a member has been in the Scout Movement. At the Beaver Section, our members would normally get Badge 1 a year after they join and Badge 2 after a further year of membership at the Colony.



Challenge Awards

There are three challenge awards that our members can work towards. They are the Outdoor, Discovery & Friendship Challenge. Challenge Badges are not undertaken individually, as many of the requirements will be included in the normal Beaver Scout Programme.



Activity Badges

There are 12 Activity badges that Beaver Scouts can earn. They are Animal Friend, Creative, Experiment, Explore, Faith, followed in October 2006 with the introduction of the Adventure, Air Activities, Healthy Eating, Health & Fitness, Hobbies, Imagination and Safety Badges. New badges appear often.

These badges are optional, and reward members who have taken part in an activity over a period of time. A lot of the work for these badges will be done outside the Colony, although support will be provided for boys who work towards any badge at Beavers.



Staged Activity Badges

Any Beaver, Cub or Scout can earn these 6 staged activity badges. There are different stages for each badge and depending on how much an individual member achieves within the activities, a badge can be awarded to the appropriate level they have reached. E.g. if a Beaver is an excellent swimmer he can get a higher level badge than a Beaver who is just starting to learn. The badges available are I.T, Musician, Nights Away, Swimmer, Emergency Aid and Hikes Away.

Parental Help

At least one parent of each member of the Colony has to agree to help on a parental rota system. This is a condition of membership. You will be given a Disclosure Scotland pack to complete at some point, which we require to be returned as soon as possible after distribution. We may at times have sufficient numbers of Leaders to enable us to suspend the rota system and you may not be required to help, however it still remains a condition of membership that you are required to join. If you would like to take a more active role in the Colony and help on a more regular basis, our you would be interested in helping the Colony and / or Scout Group in another way, please speak to a Leader.

Forms

The Colony has tried to be as cost effective and environmentally friendly as possible and therefore has produced a CD with all our documents and forms on it. This saves us printing large numbers of forms and documents and you can access all the information whenever you need it, cutting down on both costs and waste. Our Website also has a wealth of information on it and you can download documents from it as well. You can access this at:
www.18thayrshire.org.uk

We hope that Beaver Scouting will be fun most of all for our young members but you as well! If you have any queries regarding anything within this pack, please don't hesitate to speak to a Leader.