

# Notes for New Leaders in the Colony



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0845 300 1818

## Welcome to Beaver Scouting

Beaver Scouting provides the first opportunity for young people to join the exciting world of Scouting. All Members are enthusiastic, energetic and full of get up and go - that includes the Leaders!

As a new Leader, you will have lots of questions to ask so here are a few of the answers. Much more detail is found in the Section's key publication, *Colony essentials*.

## What is The Scout Association?

The Scout Association is a youth movement founded by Lord Baden-Powell in 1907 which now has over 400,000 Members in the United Kingdom. All Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Explorer Scouts, members of the Scout Network, Leaders and Commissioners who have made the Promise are Members of the Association. Further on you can read more about the Promise, Purpose and Method of the Association.

## Who are Beaver Scouts?

Beaver Scouts are young people between the ages of six and eight years who are Members of The Scout Association. Young people can join Beaver Scouts at 5¼. They meet together as a Colony and within that, work in a variety of small groups, usually called Lodges. Once they turn eight they are then able to move on to Cub Scouts where they can make new friends and try new and exciting activities. The current Children Act (1989) which applies to England and Wales only, states that young people under the age of eight years old may not be out of the care of their parents/guardians for more than two hours. In England and Wales The Scout Association must follow this ruling and therefore no children under the age of eight years old can attend Cub Scout meetings. For Scotland this Act does not apply. In Northern Ireland similar legislation applies to under eight year olds as in England and Wales.

## The Scout Information Centre

Gilwell Park Chingford London E4 7QW Tel + 44 (0)20 8433 7100 Fax + 44 (0)20 8433 7103 email [info.centre@scout.org.uk](mailto:info.centre@scout.org.uk) [www.scoutbase.org.uk](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk)

## Who belongs to your Colony?

Your Colony will normally comprise of about 24 Beaver Scouts and a team of adults who plan and run the meetings.

## The Beaver Scouts

You will soon discover that no two Beaver Scouts are the same. What they do have in common is their age and their ability to have fun at Colony meetings. Gradually, you will get to know their individual personalities, likes and dislikes, personal strengths and special needs.

## The leadership team

The team of adults helping with the Colony may be just yourself and one other Leader, or there may be a whole army of Leaders and Colony Assistants. Everybody will have something to offer the Colony. These adults may be:

- The Beaver Scout Leader – who is an uniformed warranted Leader who regularly attends Colony meetings.
- Assistant Beaver Scout Leaders – who are uniformed warranted Leaders. They regularly attend Colony meetings.
- Colony Assistants – who attend on a regular basis or parent helpers who help once or twice a term on a rota.
- Explorer Scout Young Leaders – who are working on a service project as part of their own training scheme.

Well organised team work will enable everybody to do their best for the Beaver Scouts.

## What are your responsibilities?

If you are the Beaver Scout Leader, you are responsible for the programme of your Beaver Scout Colony. The responsibilities of Assistant Leaders and Helpers are decided by the Beaver Scout Leader. However, an attitude of agreed and shared responsibility for aspects of the Colony, provides a quality leadership team.

Whatever your appointment, parents/carers entrust their children to you. You will need to be at the meeting place in good time and ensure that the safety of the young people is uppermost in your mind at all times.

### What are you taking on?

The Colony will usually meet once a week, for about an hour or an hour and a half. You and the other Colony Leaders will spend time planning the meetings. This may be to plan for a three to four month period in outline, followed by more detailed planning. Good planning will mean that everyone gets a chance to take part in the running of the meeting and responsibilities can be shared out. There will be opportunities to talk with Leaders of other Sections in your Group as well as the Group Scout Leader at regular Leaders meetings and Group events, and a chance to talk with other Beaver Scout Leaders in your District at District meetings and events. Leader Training provides a great opportunity to meet other Leaders, exchange ideas and develop your skills as Colony Leader.

### Beaver Scout Promise and Scout Motto

Their Promise, which is appropriate for the age range, is:

'I promise to do my best,  
to be kind and helpful  
and to love God'.

The Motto for the Section is the same as the other Sections: 'Be Prepared'

### What do Beaver Scouts do?

The Beaver Scout Programme supports and promotes the planning of a Balanced Programme in the Colony. It is by participating in a Balanced Programme that the Beaver Scout experiences Scouting.

The Beaver Scout Programme is illustrated on the Programme Generating Wheel below. It is shown as three rings.

The Underlying Ways of Working are shown on the outer ring. These should be present in every programme. They describe what Beaver Scouting is all about and ensure that Colonies provide real Scouting for youngsters of Beaver Scout age.

The Methods, shown in the middle ring, describe how Beaver Scouts take part in the programme week by week.

The Programme Zones, shown in the centre of the diagram, describe what Beaver Scouts do in the programme week by week.

Beaver Scouts take part in activities from five Programme Zones. These are:

- Getting to Know Other People
- Learning About Yourself
- Exploring the World Around Us
- Discovering Creativity and Practical Skills
- Discovering Beliefs and Attitudes



**Beaver Scouts get to know other people** – they have an opportunity to discover more about themselves and others. They learn about different people, and cultures, and also find out more about themselves, their family and society. They also get to find out more about the family of Scouting.

**Beaver Scouts get to learn more about themselves** – the focus here is on their personal development, where they learn to look after themselves and discover how their body works by participating in various activities within the Colony.

**Beaver Scouts explore the world around them** – discovering the exciting world of science and technology, developing their awareness of both the natural and man-made world, and participating in their local community.

**Beaver Scouts discover creativity and practical skills** – young people have an opportunity to make things, develop their talents, skills and interests and express themselves and develop cooperative skills through creative play and activities.

**Beaver Scouts discover beliefs and attitudes** – they have opportunities to learn about different people, cultures and religions. They also have a chance to respond to the needs of others, to develop a sense of right and wrong and begin to

find their place in the world and increase their understanding of their faith.

To achieve a Balanced Programme, Colony Leaders are encouraged to plan at least one activity that fits into each Activity Area, at least once every three or four months. In addition, each of the methods should be used at least once during the same period.

Each Programme Zone can be experienced using any of the Methods. Similarly, any of the Methods can be used to introduce any Zone. Thus, the Beaver Scout Programme encourages Leaders to think of different ways to do things as well as different things to do.

### Visits

Outings and visits are an important part of the Beaver Scout Programme. For more information on planning a visit or outing with Beaver Scouts please see the factsheet *Planning an outing for Beaver Scouts* (FS155052).

Up to 5 visits of over 2 hours a year to unregistered venues are permitted under the Children Act (1989). Unregistered venues are likely to be campsites, school fields etc. Please note that there is no restriction on the number of visits to public places that are registered with OFSTED such as zoos, theme parks and museums.

### Recognition of Achievement

Beaver Scouts have many opportunities to try new activities and improve their skills and knowledge. In recognition of their achievements young people can earn awards and badges.

- **The Membership Award** – to be awarded at a Promise ceremony after four to six weeks in the Colony. Helps the young person understand the commitment they are making when they make the Promise and become a member of the Movement.
- **Joining In Award** – recognises a young person's participation in the Balanced Programme.
- **Challenges** – awards that challenge young people to use the skills that they have learnt through participation in the Balanced Programme. There are three awards: Outdoor, Discovery and Friendship. They are activities to be undertaken as a Colony and not individually.
- **Chief Scout's Bronze Award** – this is the top award that a Beaver Scout can achieve.
- **The Moving On Award** – helps ease the transfer of a Beaver Scout to the Cub Scout Pack.

- **Activity Badges** – Beaver Scouts have an opportunity to achieve four Activity Badges: Animal Friend; Creative; Experiment, Explore and Faith.
- **Group Awards** – awards which are tackled with other Sections in the Group and which promote activities within the Balanced Programme of each Section.
- **Staged Activity Badges** – four badges, which are staged across the first four Sections. A young person can gain whichever badge is appropriate to the level they have reached. The four badges are Swimming; Information Technology; Musician and Nights Away.

### A Leader in Scouting

Leaders are also encouraged to approach each Zone in a variety of ways, by including activities sometimes close to the Beaver Scouts' own experience, sometimes based in the local community and sometimes introducing them to issues in the wider world.

The Scout Association has Members belonging to many different faiths and religions. There are different forms of the Promise that can be made if the words are not consistent with your religious obligations. The essential spirit of the Promise remains the same. Ask your Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner if you are unsure about this.

Every adult Member of The Scout Association who takes a warrant to be a Leader must also accept the **Purpose, the Promise and the Principles enshrined in the Scout Promise.**

The **Purpose** of The Scout Association is to help young people achieve their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities. The Method of achieving the Purpose is by providing an enjoyable and attractive programme, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership.

As a Leader you will, from time to time need to salute, perhaps when accepting an award or warrant. Whenever you make the Promise you will need to make the Scout Sign. All Members of the Association shake hands with their left hand. This is a sign of friendship and trust amongst Scouts, originating from Baden-Powell's meeting with a Zulu Chief. The Chief took his shield from his left hand to shake hands with Baden-Powell. This was obviously a great sign of trust and friendship.

To become a warranted Leader and become a Member of The Scout Association you make a Scout Promise:

'On my honour, I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to God and to the Queen, to help other people and to keep the Scout Law'.

### **The Scout Law**

- A Scout is to be trusted;
- A Scout is loyal;
- A Scout is friendly and considerate;
- A Scout belongs to the world-wide family of Scouts;
- A Scout has courage in all difficulties;
- A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property;
- A Scout has self-respect and respect for others;

### **Support, advice, ideas, friends.**

As a Leader in Scouting you will receive a lot of friendship and support. The other Leaders in your Colony will soon become firm friends and it goes much wider than that. The most effective way for experienced Leaders to share their ideas and experiences is through training opportunities, either formal or informal.

This way you will gain information and practical skills as well as passing on your own abilities and knowledge. Your Group Scout Leader, Assistant District Commissioner for Beaver Scouts and the Local Training Manager will be able to give you specific details of courses and events in your local area. The Programme and Development Department at Gilwell Park also offers some training opportunities for Section Leaders.

You will have a Training Adviser, who will be your friend and support and help you. This may be another Leader, the Group Scout Leader or somebody with a District appointment. Make sure you have a say in the choice of your Training Adviser. He or she will help you to decide specifically where you think you need to know more and will support you when you do courses and projects.

### **What resources are there to help you?**

#### **People**

Group Scout Leader - co-ordinates the Group's activities and will be able to advise you on general Scouting matters as well as helping you to find extra help and resources. The Group Scout Leader (GSL) has an overview of all Sections, so

will know what is going on in the Colony, Cub Scout Pack and the Scout Troop.

Assistant District Commissioner for Beaver Scouts – will arrange meetings in the District of Leaders working with the Beaver Scout Section to provide support and ensure events are held to meet local needs.

Other Leaders - always one of the best sources for information and ideas, based on hands-on experience.

Parents - often willing to help out once a month or so, especially with special events such as visits and days out.

Teachers - will be able to tell you what the children do at school so that you don't repeat it with the same method as used in the classroom. Local teachers will know your Beaver Scouts personally!

### **Books and publications**

*Colony essentials* is an essential guide to Beaver Scouting. It is packed with useful information to help you run a successful Beaver Scout Colony.

*Colony programmes* - a collection of fun and educational programmes based on the five Programme Zones.

*Scouting essentials* – the essential file for all adults in Scouting.

*Nights Away* – a guide for Leaders taking young people on nights away. Beaver Scouts can go away on Sleepovers which are for one night. For more information on Sleepovers please see *Guidelines for Beaver Scout Sleepovers* FS155053.

*The Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association (POR)* is the rule book for Scouting and is a valuable aid for you.

*The Information Centre* has a wide range of factsheets and books available by mail order. Their catalogue is available free of charge.

*Scouting* is the bi-monthly magazine of The Scout Association. It is sent to you as part of your membership of The Scout Association. It is packed with information on all aspects of Scouting. There are pages each month for each Section containing information and programme ideas for Leaders.

There are many other books and publications packed with ideas for handicrafts, songs, stories and other activities for this age range. A browse through your local children's bookshop or library would probably be the best guide to what is available.

If you keep a record of what you do with your Colony you will soon have your own book full of tried and tested ideas which you can share with other Leaders.

### **Other Sources of Information**

*Library* and children's librarian.

*Tourist office* for local events and places to visit.

*Museums* often hold exhibitions aimed at young people as well as provide literature and resource material.

*Zoos* for information about animals and their habits

*Police station* for campaigns such as Road Safety and Don't Talk To Strangers

*Health Centre* for leaflets on care of teeth for children and other simple health care issues.