

# Links between the Beaver Scout Colony and the Cub Scout Pack



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Activities, which link Beaver Scouts and Cub Scouts, should be enjoyable and exciting occasions for everybody. They should create an atmosphere, which will make Beaver Scouts want to join the Cub Scout Pack at the appropriate time.

The outline of each Sectional Programme, as set out below, will help Leaders to understand more fully how Beaver Scouts and Cub Scouts can form links. It will also help Leaders to identify the similarities and differences that young people will see between the Colony and the Pack.

## The Beaver Scout Programme

Beaver Scouting is the youngest of the five training Sections and forms the basis of the 6-25 Balanced Programme.

Young people between six and eight years of age participate in the fun and challenge of a number of activities, introduced by a variety of methods and based on five Programme Zones. Experiences are encouraged to be different by approaching activities sometimes close to home, sometimes based in the local community and sometimes introducing issues in the wider world. Beaver Scouts work together in a variety of groupings, depending on the activity being undertaken.

Participation in a Balanced Programme is recognised by the gaining of a 'Joining in Award' Beaver Scouts can gain up to two of these Awards over a consecutive period of twelve months.

For more information on the Beaver Scout Programme see *Colony essentials*

## The Cub Scout Programme

Cub Scouting provides exciting and challenging activities for the eight to ten and a half year olds. The programme has a more structured framework than the Beaver Scout Section. However, it

develops some of the skills gained earlier and introduces new ones.

The ideas, views and choices of individual Cub Scouts are managed by the Leaders in consultation with the Pack Leadership Forum. This is where older Cub Scouts meet with the Leadership Team to review, plan and discuss programme activities etc.

Personal achievement is recognised by:

- Five Challenge Badges
- Three Group Awards
- 32 Activity badges to cater for specific personal interests and 4 Staged Activity Badges.
- The Chief Scout's Silver Award – The highest Award in the Cub Scout Section.
- Joining In Badges

Cub Scouts also have the opportunity to participate in Pack expeditions, camps and holidays.

## The Children Act (1989)

The current Children Act (1989) states that young people under the age of eight years may not be out of the care of their parents for more than two hours. Therefore The Scout Association must follow this ruling and advise Leaders that no children under the age of eight years can attend Cub Scout meetings.

This ruling needs to be considered when planning Linking Activities.

## Linking the Colony and the Pack

It is to be hoped that regular meetings of the adults working with all the Sections will be held, chaired by the Group Scout Leader. This will ensure that suitable joint activities and times for transfer of young people from one Section to another are discussed and planned.

## 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)

It is also about encouraging the adults to develop friendly relationships with each other so as to enhance the success of planned events for the young people in the Group.

Some suggestions for developing links between the Beaver Scout and Cub Scout Sections include:

- Inviting older Beaver Scouts and their parents/carers to attend Cub Scout Pack meetings and join in with the activities
- Inviting the Sixers to occasionally help at Beaver Scout Colony meetings
- Having the Cub Scout Leader visit the Colony to run a game or activity, thus getting to know the Beaver Scouts
- Participating in Group functions, such as spring fairs, family picnics, open evenings, activity days and Group Family camps
- Inviting the Cub Scouts to join the Beaver Scout Colony in a fun activity
- Planning and attending a joint outing
- Participating as part of a group for a Group Award.

These activities might involve all Beaver Scouts and Cub Scouts. They may also involve other Group Members such as Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Leaders. Local circumstances must be taken into consideration and activities must be planned with the ages of all Members in mind.

### **From the Colony to the Pack**

For most Beaver Scouts, the move to Cub Scouts is an important occasion. It is a sign of growing up and readiness to go onto different challenges. A Beaver Scout will gain a **Moving - On Award** to represent this important step.

In preparation for the transfer into the Pack, Beaver Scouts will need to meet and get to know the Cub Scout Leader and Cub Scouts; particularly their Sixer and the Members of the Six. Lots of questions will be asked by the young people and parents/carers alike as to what Cub Scouts do, how and where they do it, where to buy the Cub Scout uniform and so on.

To enable this to happen, a Beaver Scout should begin working for the Cub Scout Membership Award between four to six weeks before their

eighth birthday. (This may be extended to eight years 3 months while waiting for a suitable occasion to join the Pack). This is the joint responsibility of the Beaver Scout Leader and Cub Scout Leader. If strong links already exist then this period of preparation will be easier and more enjoyable for Beaver Scouts than if they are suddenly involved for the first time with the Cub Scout Pack.

The requirements for the Cub Scout Membership Award are set out in *Pack essentials* manual and *The Cub Scout Powerpack*. The Beaver Scout Leader will give this badge when the young person is invested as a Cub Scout.

There is no set method, ceremony or procedure to be carried out when Beaver Scouts transfer to the Cub Scout Pack. There is a Factsheet *Ceremonies in the Beaver Scout Colony* available from The Information Centre. This Factsheet outlines various ceremonies. However, Leaders are encouraged to devise their own to suit Group circumstances and the special needs of the young people involved. Whatever form the ceremony takes, it should be a happy occasion and not something which might overpower the less confident Beaver Scout. It is an exciting step and it is helped if the Beaver Scout and Cub Scout Leaders, together with the Group Scout Leader and parents/carers have prepared the way for it to be an enjoyable event.