



# 18<sup>th</sup> Ayrshire Beaver Scout Colony



## Welcome Pack for Parents

## **Introduction**

Welcome to the 18<sup>th</sup> Ayrshire Beaver Scout Colony. We are one section within the 18<sup>th</sup> Ayrshire Scout Group. Our Group has three sections: Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and provide weekly scouting activities for over 60 members from 6 – 14yrs old.

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 1987, 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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”

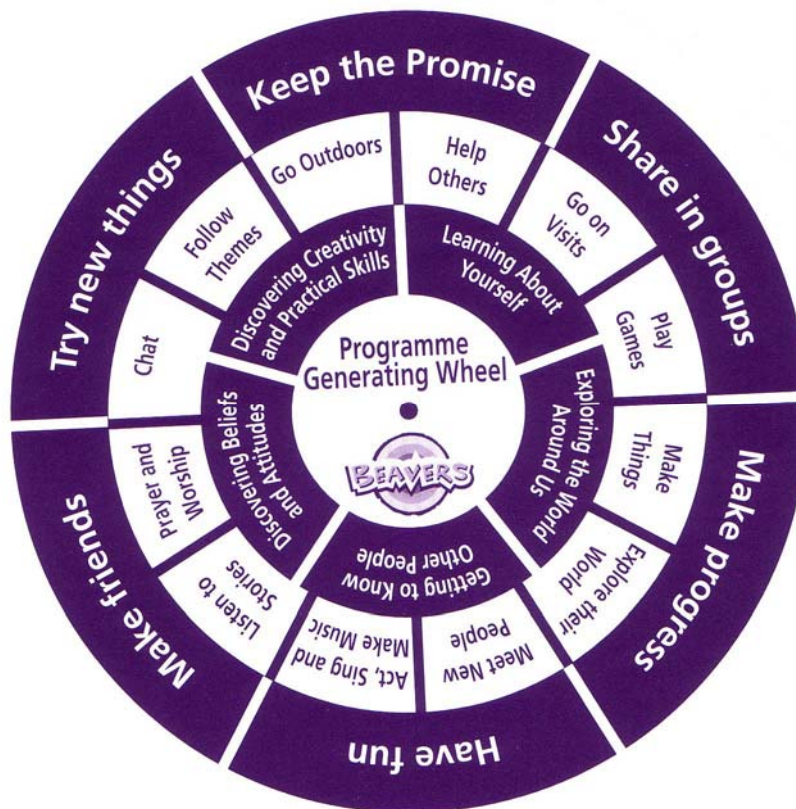
Our promise is: “I promise to do my best, to be kind and helpful and to Love God”

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.

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.



### **Chief Scout Challenge Award**

This is our Sections top award and is gained by having completed 2 Challenge Badges and a Personal Challenge, to be agreed between the Beaver Scout Leaders, the individual member and you as parents.



### **Moving on Award**

This badge is presented when the Beaver Scout moves onto Cub Scouts. It allows the Beaver Scout to be invested into the Cub's immediately, recognising that they are already members of the Scout Movement.

Please note we may not be able to offer all the Badges displayed here. Most of the Badges are optional, and it is entirely up to the Leadership Team to decide which Badges to offer.

Many of the Badges do require work to be done outside the Colony, at home. We ask that Parents support their boys badge work and contact a leader if you require any further information. We will however, as part of our yearly programme cover part or all of the requirements of certain badges, so please check with a Leader before starting any badge work.

To find out information about the Activity Badges available – please speak to a Leader.

## **Uniform**

The Beaver Scout Uniform is:

- Turquoise Sweatshirt

There are additional items that you can purchase but as long as you get a sweatshirt, this is the main item of uniform.

The Additional items you can purchase are:

- Activity Trousers (optional)
- Turquoise Polo Shirt
- Activity Shorts
- Baseball Cap
- Fleece Jacket
- Waterproof Jacket

All other items i.e. Neckie, Badges etc will be provided by the Colony.

For details of where you can purchase the Uniform locally, please speak to a Leader.

## **The 18<sup>th</sup> Ayrshire Beaver Scout Colony**

Now that all the general information has been covered, time to focus on our Colony!

The following pages will give details on:

Colony Membership  
Lodge System  
Colony Awards  
Colony Rules  
Leadership Team  
Times of Meetings  
Parental Help  
Forms  
Position of Badges on Uniform

### **Colony Membership**

Membership of the Colony is open to Boys and Girls aged 6 – 8, and, although most members join when they are 6, some members, depending on their place on the waiting list can join when they are older. The Scout Association sets the maximum number of members allowed in each Section. The Beaver Section is limited to 24 members and our Colony runs at the maximum number, all the time.

### **Lodge System**

The Beavers are put into small Groups called Lodges when they join. Each Lodge has a name, Fir, Oak, Elm, Ash and has a different coloured woggle to distinguish between the lodges. We try and make sure members are in a Lodge, where he knows at least one other person, we will however, change the lodges around from time to time to allow the members to make new friends and participate in different lodge activities.

Each Lodge has a Leader, who is normally one of the older members.

### **Colony Awards**

As well as the standard badges and awards, the Colony has two other awards: “Beaver of the Week” & “Lodge of the Month”

#### *Beaver of the Week*

This is awarded most weeks to one or two Beavers who have particularly done well that particular evening.

### *Lodge of the Month*

This is awarded to Lodges based on a points system. Points are calculated each week on items such as: behaviour, Team (Lodge) achievements, etc.

We also issue Certificates etc to members for recognition of special work that they have undertaken when required.

It is important that our members' achievements are recognised in some way, so every member will eventually receive some Colony award throughout their time at Beavers.

### **Colony Rules**

#### *Payment of Subscriptions*

In order to pay for materials, equipment etc, the colony has a subscription charge of £20. Payable 3 times a year (Sept, Jan, and April)

You have 3 weeks from the issuing of the "Subscription's due" letter to pay. In the event of non - payment by the 3 week deadline, unless a Leader has been contacted to explain why, your Son will lose his place at the Colony.

#### *Non – Attendance*

If any member has not attended Beavers for three consecutive weeks (holidays excluded), and a Leader has not been contacted beforehand or during the 3 week gap to explain why, your child will lose this place at the Colony.

These two conditions have been put in place to ensure that the Colony run's well, can afford to fund the activities and events we participate in, and to ensure a fair system for all members and those waiting for a place at the Colony.

#### *Dropping off and uplifting Members*

As you can appreciate, we have to put our members safety first at all times, and therefore no member will be allowed to leave the hall at the end of the Colony meeting until an adult collects them.

We meet in a busy Church where different meetings and activities take place all the time. Please don't assume just because the Church is open that any Leaders are there. Although a Leader is generally in the hall at least 15 minutes before the start of the meeting, please make sure a Leader is present before leaving your Child at the Church.

If you have any questions or queries regarding these points, please don't hesitate to speak to a Leader.

## **Leadership Team**

As you will find out, everyone associated with Scouting will have some form of job title.

At the Colony, we have to have someone who has overall responsibility for the management and running of the Colony.

At the 18<sup>th</sup>, this is really just an academic exercise as we run the Colony as a team. Each of us has an equal role in sharing the responsibility, work and decisions, associated with the running the Colony.

If you have any queries or questions a list of the Leaders contact details are as follows:

### **Group Scout Leader**

Colin Hope  
Tel: (01292) 260113

### **Beaver Scout Leadership Team (Main Contacts):**

Carron Knox  
Tel: (01290) 551689

Greg Murdoch  
Tel: (01292) 445644

E-Mail the Colony: [Beavers@18thayrshire.org.uk](mailto:Beavers@18thayrshire.org.uk)

Group Website: [www.18thayrshire.org.uk](http://www.18thayrshire.org.uk)

### **Meeting Place / Times**

The Colony meets at:      St Columba Church  
   Midton Road  
   Ayr

Every Friday from:        5.30pm – 6.45pm

## **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 tired 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](http://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.