

# Beaver Scouts



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In October 1982, The Scout Association introduced 'Beavers' for 6 and 7 year old boys. It met a growing demand within the Movement and was an optional activity, available at the discretion of Scout Groups.

Provision had started in Northern Ireland some 15 years earlier. Beaver Scouts were present in the Republic of Ireland, Australia, Canada, New Zealand as well as some European countries. Informal projects also developed in Scotland and England.

Beavers were not full Members of the Movement until April 1986 when they became a recognised Section and took the title of Beaver Scouts. In 1991, girls were admitted to Beaver Scouts for the first time. The Beaver Scout Programme was extensively overhauled in 1995 and again in 2002 when a new Programme was introduced for all Sections.

In the UK, Beaver Scouts wear a turquoise sweatshirt, their Group's scarf and a woggle to hold the scarf in place. They also have an option of wearing navy blue activity trousers and a turquoise polo shirt.

The Beaver Scout promise is: I promise to do my best to be kind and helpful and to love God. The motto is 'Be Prepared' in common with all the other sections.

Beaver Scouts meet in Colonies usually once a week. They have the opportunity to work in a variety of groupings, sometimes called Lodges. The Colony normally has a maximum membership of 24, although this may be increased to meet local circumstances with the agreement of the Group Executive Committee and the District Commissioner.

The current Programme was launched in Spring 2002. It is a balanced Programme, with activities divided into five zones. These are:

- **Getting to know other people**

This helps Beaver Scouts widen their horizons, gives them an understanding of different people and cultures. Beaver Scouts will also learn more about the Scouting family.

- **Exploring the world around us**

This encourages Beaver Scouts to explore their local surroundings and the wider world. Beaver Scouts will

also explore science and nature and get involved with their local community.

- **Discovering creativity and practical skills**

This helps Beaver Scouts to develop their creative and practical skills using different methods.

- **Discovering beliefs and attitudes**

Covering this zone Beaver Scouts will develop an understanding and acceptance of others as well as develop an understanding of right and wrong.

- **Learning about yourself**

This covers many areas including health, cleanliness, personal abilities and friendship. It helps promote Beaver Scout development and aids them to find out how to look after themselves and discover how their body works.

These zones are supported by 12 methods, including: help others, meet other people, explore their world. The methods enable Leaders to deliver a varied and wide ranging Programme. As well as methods there are six ways of working which underpin the Programme. These include have fun, make friends and try new things.

Activity badges were also introduced for the first time in 2002, including Staged Activity Badges and Challenge Badges and they proved very popular. The Challenge Badges introduced were Outdoor, Friendship and Discovery. They lead to the top award for the Section, namely the Chief Scout's Bronze Award.

Beaver Scout Leaders are appointed under the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Association. The age range for Leaders, Assistant Leaders and Sectional Assistants is 18 and upwards; there is no upper age limit. Parents are a valuable asset to the running of a successful Beaver Scout Colony.

In April 1986, there were already over 60,000 Beavers Scouts in the UK, today there are over 95,000 young people enjoying Beaver Scouting.

For more detailed information about Beaver Scouts please go to:  
<http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/6to25/beaver/index.htm>

## The Scout Information Centre

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