



BEAVER PARENTS' GUIDE

FEBRUARY 2002



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Thanks for choosing the Scouts Canada Beaver Program for your child. We're sure that you and your child will have lots of fun and excitement participating in our program conducted by carefully selected and trained leaders.

This guide provides background information about Scouting in general and more detailed information about the adventurous world of Beavers that your child is about to enter. At the back of the guide, there are some important forms for you to complete.

- **Physical Fitness Certificate** - This is for you to fill out to ensure that the leaders are aware of the medical history, and any special requirements of your child.
- **Parent/ Guardian Consent Form** - You should receive one of these forms for every outing that your child will be involved in. This is to ensure that you are aware of what your child will be doing and to obtain your permission for him/her to participate.

ABOUT SCOUTING AND SCOUTS CANADA

Scouting, the largest youth organization in the world, has over 25 million members in some 200 countries.

Scouts Canada offers Scouting programs in Canada to over 150,000 young people, supported by 50,000 caring and dedicated volunteers. Scouts Canada offers five fun and adventurous programs to young people:

Beavers:	5-7 years old
Wolf Cubs:	8-10 years old
Scouts:	11-14 years old
Venturers:	14-17 years old
Rovers:	18-26 years old

Scouts Canada's **MISSION** applies to all of our programs: "To contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society."

Scouting is based on three broad **PRINCIPLES** which represent its fundamental beliefs:

Duty to God: This is defined as: "Adherence to spiritual principles, loyalty to the religion that expresses them and acceptance of the duties resulting therefrom."

Duty to Others: This is defined as: "loyalty to one's country in harmony with the promotion of local, national and international peace, understanding and cooperation", and, "participation in the development of society, with recognition and respect for the dignity of one's fellow-being and for the integrity of the natural world."

Duty to Self: This is defined as: "responsibility for the development of oneself." This is in harmony with the educational purpose of the Scout Movement whose aim is to assist young people in the full development of their potentials.

BACKGROUND OF BEAVERS

Beavers started in Winnipeg, Manitoba, as a three year experiment approved by the National Council in May, 1972. It became an overnight success prompting Scouts Canada to adopt it as an official program in 1974. Since that time, many other countries have modelled similar programs after our Beaver program. Thanks to Beavers and similar programs in other countries, youth throughout the world are able to join Scouting at a much earlier age.

The Beaver Program stems from the book **FRIENDS OF THE FOREST**, written specifically for Beavers. The book describes how the Jones family have “come to live in the clearing along the river bank” and how they quickly become aware of their new neighbours, a colony of beavers that also live along the river bank. The story illustrates how the beaver colony observes the Jones family, giving them names and then eventually how the beavers meet the members of the Jones family, mom, dad and their three children.

The story is the background resource which provides the terminology, setting, theme and program material for operating a Beaver Colony.

BECOMING A BEAVER

Beavers is a program for children ages 5-7. Seven-year-old Beavers receive an introduction to the Wolf Cub program where they can continue their Scouting adventure.

A new member begins as a “KIT” and works to become an “EAGER BEAVER” (see investiture ceremony).

Parents, you can help your children learn the Beaver Law, Promise and Motto, and even help them learn what to do at the opening and closing ceremonies. (Everything you need to help your young Beaver is included in this Parents’ Guide.)

Beaver Law: A Beaver has fun, works hard and helps his/her family and friends.

Beaver Promise: I promise to love God and to help take care of the world.

Beaver Motto: Sharing, Sharing, Sharing

PROGRAM

To meet the Mission and Principles of Scouts Canada in the Beaver program, the following **GOALS** guide activities that encourage Beavers to:

- find examples of God’s love for them and the world;
- experience and express love and joy;
- express themselves;
- be healthy and have good feelings about themselves;
- develop a sense of belonging and sharing in small group activities;
- develop a sense of co-operation through non-competitive activities;
- appreciate nature.

In Beavers, the Mission, Principles and Goals are achieved through a program of understanding, supportive fun. Activities are built around seven Program elements: Games, Crafts, Music, Storytelling, Playacting, Spiritual Fellowship and Outdoors. These elements are incorporated in six Activity Areas: Our World; Creativity; Fitness; Our Environment; Family and Friends; Outdoors.

BEAVER TERMINOLOGY

When you visit your children's Beaver Colony or talk to them about Beavers, you'll need to understand the "Beaver lingo". To help you out, we've listed some of the names typically assigned to the leaders (taken from the characters in Friends of the Forest), and other terms used, along with an explanation of who or what is being referred to.

Friends of the Forest Names used by Beaver Leaders:

- Bubbles - the person having so much fun splashing her feet in the water
- Hawkeye - the tall person that first noticed the beavers in the pond
- Rainbow - the child who wore clothes of many colours
- Rusty - child whose hair was the colour of a red fox
- Sunshine - the person with sparkling eyes and whose smile made people feel warm and good inside
- Tic Tac - the squirrel

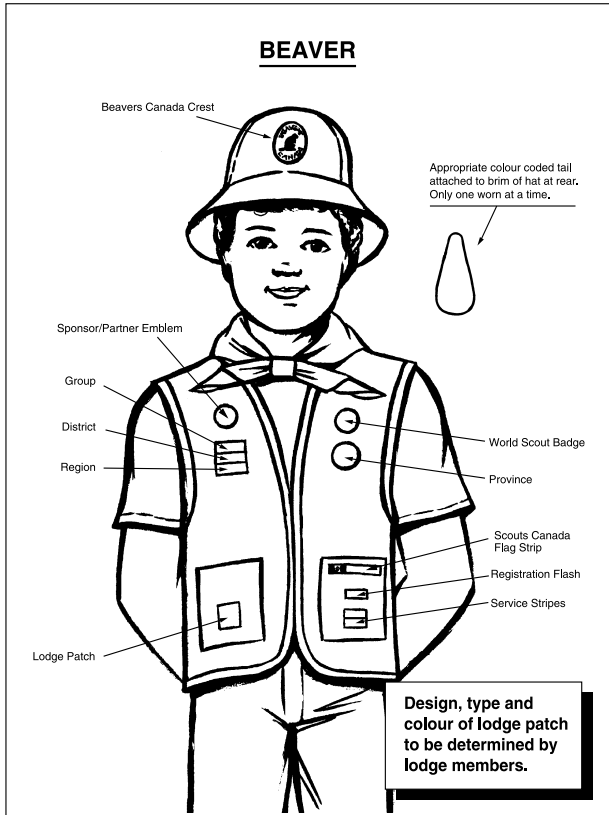
Other terms frequently used:

- Beaver Hand Signal - Leader's arm straight up with hand forming Beaver salute. This signals Beavers to stop everything they are doing and pay attention to the leader.
- Beaver Salute - Special sign of greeting, made with bent fingers. It represents the two front teeth of a beaver.
- Beaver Position - Seated cross-legged on the floor.
- Big Brown Beaver - A large toy Beaver mascot used in ceremonies.
- Busy Beavers - Seven year old Beavers who are getting ready to swim up to Wolf Cubs.
- Chopping Position - Squatting down with elbows on knees, and both hands making a Beaver salute. (Used in the opening and closing ceremonies)
- Colony - The entire group of Beavers and leaders.
- Dam Formation - Circle formation used for organizing Beavers.
- Eager Beaver - A Kit who has learned the Promise, Law and Salute and the opening, closing and investiture ceremonies.
- Feeding The Beaver - The act of collecting dues (money children contribute weekly for supplies or special activities).
- Grand Tail Slap - Sit cross-legged on the floor, raise the right hand above the head and bring it down to slap the floor in front of you.

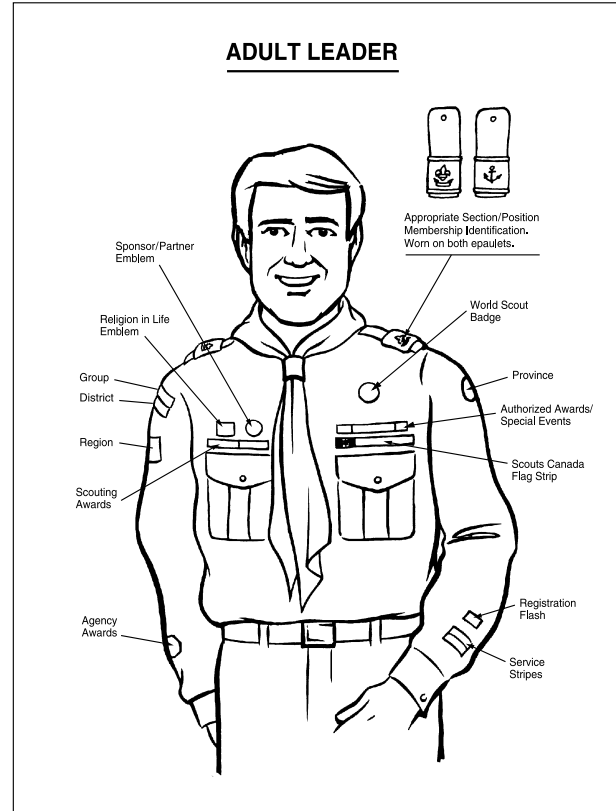


- Investiture** - The ceremony in which a KIT is invested (receives the Beaver neckerchief) and becomes an Eager Beaver.
- Keo** - Keo is a Wolf Cub who works in a Colony to serve as a link between the Beaver and Wolf Cub sections and to strengthen communications between Beavers and the adult leadership team. Keo is also a member of the Beaver colony leadership team.
- Kit** - In nature, a growing beaver. In the program, a Beaver who has not yet been invested.
- Lodge** - Lodges are smaller working groups of five or six Beavers and a leader. Lodges are useful for some activities like crafts and discussions, or, at times during the meeting when Beavers would benefit from more individual attention.
- Lodge Patch** - Beavers usually decide upon a name and symbol for their lodge and attach their symbol (lodge patch) to the right hand pocket of their uniform as a sign of identification and belonging.
- Lodging** - The name of the closing ceremony which occurs at the end of each meeting.
- Pond** - The place where a Beaver Colony meets: i.e. , a church, school, community club, auditorium, etc.
- River Banks** - A formation used to organize Beavers quietly. Beavers stand side by side in two wavy lines that are about three feet apart.
- Swimming-Up** - The ceremony in which the oldest Beavers are transferred to the Wolf Cub program. A Beaver goes to Cubs when he/she is between 7 1/2 and 8 years old.
- Tail Celebration** - The meeting, usually held in the Fall, at which the Colony recognizes that all Beavers have grown older. The children receive a new colour coded tail to symbolize their growth. The tail is then sewn onto the back of their Beaver hat for all to see.
- Tail Groups** - A very useful sub-grouping system which is used to create smaller working groups within the Colony. Tail groups are indicated by Beavers wearing different colours of tails on their hats. Typically, they are the same age: 5 year olds (Brown Tail), 6 year olds (Blue Tail) and 7 year olds (White Tail) form the three different tail groups. This type of grouping is very practical at different points in the program. It allows leaders to give older Beavers a different or more challenging activity than younger or newer Beavers.
- Tail - Magic Light Symbol** - The magic light symbol is a silver streak down the centre of the white tail. Seven year olds (Busy Beavers) may change from a White Tail to a "White Tail with a magic light symbol" a few months prior to swim-up to Wolf Cubs.
- Tail Slap** - The name of the opening ceremony which occurs at the beginning of each meeting. The action of clapping the hands behind the back.

UNIFORM



Beaver Uniform



Leader Uniform

The official uniform for Beavers is:

- coby hat in blue and brown with Beavers Canada crest;
- brown vest with blue pockets, Beavers Canada strip on the top edge of the left pocket and coloured lodge patch on the right;
- blue neckerchief, or group neckerchief worn cross-over style, see diagram;
- neckerchief slide;
- group, district, regional, provincial, world and sponsor/partner emblems and service stripes

The colours brown and blue symbolize nature; brown for the earth and the beaver's fur coat, and blue for the clear sky and fresh sparkling water. White is the colour of the moon and stars. They give us light to help us find our way through the darkness of the night and symbolize distant goals, seemingly far away but attainable.

Other items worn on the uniform are the registration flash, positioned below the Beavers Canada strip on the vest, and the Beaver tail, attached to the back of the hat.

Teach your Beaver to respect his/her uniform and wear it proudly. After your child is invested, encourage him/her to wear the full uniform.

These items, along with other related books and accessories, are featured in the Scouts Canada catalogue and are available at your local Scout Shop. Check your yellow pages for the Scout Shop nearest you.

CEREMONIES

OPENING CEREMONY (TAIL SLAP)

The opening Tail Slap is conducted by a leader at the beginning of every meeting. All other leaders and Keos join the Beavers in the ceremony.

The Tail Slap gives Beavers an opportunity to let off steam in a controlled manner. They take it most seriously and enter into it with their whole heart and lungs. It's a way for them to express their joy in being alive and their enjoyment of being Beavers. It is also a tangible start to the meeting's activities.

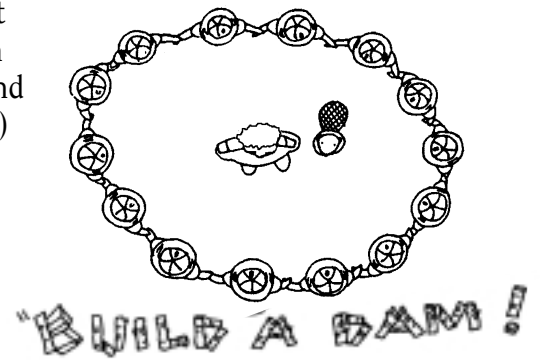
All Kits and Eager Beavers take part in the opening ceremony. To start the ceremony, a leader stands in the middle of the pond next to Big Brown Beaver and calls, "River Banks." At this command, the Beavers form two wavy lines (river formation), one line on each side of the hall, and face inward, holding hands.

The leader then calls out, "Build the Dam." At this command, the Beavers go into dam formation by closing the ends of each bank to make a dam across the river which encloses Big Brown Beaver and the leader in the middle.

The leader stretches out his/her arms sideways and then lowers them. At this signal, Beavers take the chopping position: feet on floor and body in crouching position, with elbows touching knees, forearms straight up and both hands in Beaver Salute (position representing paws on tree trunks.)

When the Beavers are in the chopping position, the leader asks, "Who are you and what do you do?" As loudly as they can, the Beavers reply:

*"Beavers, Beavers, Beavers,
Sharing, Sharing, Sharing,"*



Immediately after saying this in unison, the Beavers call, "Ooo-oo-OO!", starting quietly and building ever louder. At maximum volume, Beavers leap up to do a Tail Slap (clap hands behind back). They are imitating the swishing sound of the water as the beavers swim from the bottom of the pond to break the surface.

FEEDING THE BEAVER

This ceremony accomplishes the collection of the Beavers' "dues" done the beginning of each meeting. Beavers bring "food for the Beaver" (their dues) into the dam to feed Big Brown Beaver, by putting the "food" either into a slot in Big Brown Beaver or into a dish in front of him.

CLOSING CEREMONY (LODGING)

A leader conducts this ceremony and all other leaders join the Beavers during the ceremony.

The ceremony marks the conclusion of every meeting and all Kits and Eager Beavers take part.

As in the opening ceremony, the closing ceremony begins with the leader standing in the centre of the hall next to Big Brown Beaver and calling out, "River Banks", followed by "Build the Dam", so that the Beavers end in dam formation.

The leader then calls out, "Lodge" and at this command, all slowly sink to the floor into the Beaver position (seated cross-legged). As the Beavers go down, they say the sleepy sound, "Sh, sh, sh, sh, sh, sh", until all

Beavers are sitting cross-legged on the floor. The leader then claps his/her hands once and all “sh-ing” ceases. Softly, Beavers call out, “Sleeping, Sleeping, Sleeping.”

The leader raises an arm above the head, and Beavers follow the action. With the palms of their hands, both leader and the Beavers make one resounding slap on the floor in front of themselves.

The leader calls out, “Good night and busy building tomorrow.”

The Beavers reply, “Good night, (name of the leader who is conducting the ceremony).”

INVESTITURE CEREMONY

When a child joins Beavers, he/she is a Kit, the term used to describe a young Beaver. Kits are placed in a lodge when they attend their first Beaver meeting. They may wear the Beaver hat and vest right away, but not the neckerchief as it will be presented to them when they are invested.

To become an Eager Beaver, a Kit must know the Beaver Promise, Law, and Salute, and the opening, closing and investiture ceremonies.

Parents/Guardians are invited to participate in the investiture ceremony. They are asked to stand behind their child when the Beavers receive their neckerchief. This is an important event in the life of a Beaver — it’s even more special if the Beaver’s parents/guardians are present and included in the ceremony. If, for some reason, a parent/guardian or other member of the family is unable to attend, a leader will act as a fill-in.

HOW SCOUTS CANADA “SELECTS” LEADERS

Scouts Canada knows the importance of selecting the right volunteer to lead activities for your children. That’s why leaders undergo a detailed selection and training process. This process includes:

- an interview
- personal reference checks
- a Police Record Check
- an orientation and probation period
- initial training and mentoring
- ongoing training and evaluation



SAMPLE MEETING OUTLINE

A Beaver meeting is planned to include a variety of games, crafts, ceremonies, songs, stories, and fellowship all wrapped up in FUN. Sometimes Leaders will pick a theme and design the meeting around it. Here is a sample Beaver meeting outline, with a Beach theme.

Beaver Meeting Schedule: One Week Theme: Beach Party



Date: _____

Time Leader Responsible	Activity	Program Details	
10 mins.	Gathering Activity	Beach Blanket Toss (See detail planning sheet)	
5 mins.	Opening Ceremony	(Details can be found in the Beaver Leader's Handbook)	
10 mins.	Game	Beach Ball Cooperative Game (See detail planning sheet)	
20 mins.	Theme Activity	Sun Hats and Headbands (See detail planning sheet)	
10 mins.	Song/Story	The Swimming Hole song (See detail planning sheet)	
10 mins.	Lodge Meeting	Discuss what Beavers need to bring to the beach, and the need for sun screen and hats	
5 mins.	Spiritual Fellowship	- Recite law - Prayer/talk	
5 mins.	Closing Ceremony	(Details can be found in the Beaver Leader's Handbook)	
15 mins.	Leader Discussion Time	Review meeting & discuss next week's plans	
Meeting Notes:			

WE HOPE YOU AND YOUR CHILD ENJOY THE ADVENTUROUS
WORLD OF BEAVERS!

GROUP INFORMATION FORM

Fill in this form with your colony's local information, and keep it for reference.

Welcome to _____ Group. Our Beaver Colony meets every _____ night at _____.

We'll notify parents of any changes in this schedule in our monthly calendars and/or notices.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT - Parents are always welcome and encouraged to participate with their child in the program. There are a number of ways for parents to help out: as a leader or assistant, on the group committee, providing transportation, cooking, phone committee, organizing outings, etc. Parents interested in helping out are always welcome and must complete Scouts Canada's New Leader screening process.

Parents can also help by ensuring that their child arrives properly prepared for the program and activities scheduled for the evening or outing.

CLOTHING FOR MEETINGS - Beavers should arrive at the meeting facility wearing their uniform and suitable footwear for running and playing (sneakers). We'll advise parents in advance of any special events or outings requiring special clothing and/or equipment/ materials.

PICK UP DROP OFF TIMES - Please drop your Beaver off at the meeting hall no earlier than _____, and pick him/her up at _____. Parents' cooperation with these rules is greatly appreciated. These rules will apply unless parents have been advised otherwise. Please bring your child right inside the meeting space to ensure that leaders are present before dropping your child off. When picking your child up, once again please come inside the meeting space so the leaders are able to release your child to you.

The **LEADERS** in this group are:

Name	Beaver Program Name	Address	Phone #
1)			
2)			
3)			
4)			
5)			
6)			
7)			
8)			

While you can contact any of the leaders with questions or requests for further information, your initial call should be to _____ .

This group is **SPONSORED BY** _____ and managed on their behalf by a **GROUP COMMITTEE**, made up of parents, a representative of the sponsoring body, and other interested adults from the community.

The **Group Committee** is responsible for:

- selecting appropriate leaders to work with your child,
- approving the program planned by the leaders
- ensuring that the necessary resources are available for the leaders to conduct the program (materials, training, transportation and money).

The **Group Committee** chairperson for our group is: _____ and he/she may be reached at: _____ should you be interested in helping out or have any questions about the program.

The **REGISTRATION FEE** that you have paid for your child to join is distributed between the group, and local, Provincial and National Councils of Scouts Canada. This fee enables the various levels to develop program resources, provide training and support for the leaders, and provide insurance coverage for all registered members.

In addition, each week we collect _____ in “**DUES**” from each child. This money is used to provide craft materials/supplies and snacks for the children. From time to time, we will go on various outings and visits (at least once per month), and these may also require additional fees. We’ll advise parents of these opportunities well in advance through notices and/or monthly calendars.





Scouts Canada

Physical Fitness Certificate

NOTE: This form is to be filled out by the parent/guardian at the beginning of each Scouting year and kept by the leader. It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to update the leader of any changes in the medical condition of their child/ward throughout the Scouting year.
This form should be filled out for adults as well.

Surname: _____ Given Name: _____ Initial: __ Date of Birth: _____ Age: ____ Male Female
Address: _____ City: _____
Province: _____ Postal Code: _____ Home Phone: _____
Physicians Name: _____ Scout Group Name: _____
*Provincial Medical Plan Number: _____ Insurance Coverage Held: _____

Emergency Medical Information:

Does the applicant have any allergies? Yes No If yes, please indicate below:

- Medicine Insect Bites Toxins Food Smoke
 Plants Animals Other

Details: _____

Has had, please check (x)

- Appendicitis Mumps Chicken Pox Measles Kidney Disease
 Scarlet Fever Rheumatic Fever Heart Condition Other _____

If subject to any of the following, check (x) and give details:

- Asthma Contact Lenses Headaches Fainting Spells Bleeding Disorders
 HIV Ear Problems Diabetes Hernia Back Problems
 Motion Sickness Cramps Convulsions Sleepwalking Nightmares
 Bed Wetting Pregnant Other _____

Details: _____

Has participant menstruated? Yes No If no, has she had menstruation explained to her? Yes No

Does the participant require special care, medication or diet?

Details: _____

Date of most recent physical examination (Month and Year): _____

Date of last tetanus shot (Month and Year): _____

Swimming abilities: Non Swimmer Swimmer (Highest Level Achieved):

Has it ever been necessary to restrict the applicant's activities for medical reasons? Yes No

Details: _____

Signed, Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Updated, Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Updated, Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

*Voluntary in some Provinces



Parent/Guardian Consent Form

Note: If applicant is under 18 parent or guardian must sign.

Youth's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Residents of all Provinces/Territories except Quebec:

Experience has shown that in connection with Scouting activities there are times when illness or accident may occur and immediate surgical or medical attention is necessary. This is my permission for the leader in charge, or designate, to make arrangements for qualified surgical or medical attention for my child/ward in the event of an emergency without necessity of my prior approval. I understand that I will be notified by the quickest means possible if this authority is exercised.

Residents of Quebec:

Experience has shown that in connection with Scouting activities there are times when illness or accident may occur and immediate surgical or medical attention is necessary. In the event of an emergency in which my child's life is in danger or his/her integrity is threatened, and I cannot be reached to provide consent, I agree that care may be provided to my child without my consent, as contemplated in paragraph 1 of article 13 of the *Civil Code of Quebec*. I understand that I will be notified by the quickest means possible if this authority is exercised.

IF YOU WILL BE ABSENT FROM YOUR NORMAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE DURING THE PERIOD WHEN THE EVENT IS BEING HELD, PLEASE INDICATE WHERE YOU CAN BE CONTACTED:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Permission to participate:

I the undersigned, after having read, understood and completed the above, hereby give my permission for my child/ward to attend and participate in:

the following event/activity: _____

at the following location: _____

on the following date: _____

I have reviewed the information on my child's/ward's physical fitness form and confirm that the information is up to date.

Signed, Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____