

A FAMILY OF BEAVERS

by Julian Celms

An idea for leaders: e-mail the link for this article to your Beaver parents, inviting their whole family to “be a Beaver for a day”. This is a great way for your Beavers to be reminded of our program over the summer. You can find it on our web site at www.scouts.ca under Beavers/Activities.

Dear Parents,

We hope you are enjoying your summer! As this is a great time to be out and about with your child, we thought we might offer some ideas on spending some quality time with them - “Beaver-style”!

As you know, in Beavers we focus on developing your child through fun programs based on sharing and the Beaver promise: “I promise to love God and help take care of the world”.

Here are some ideas on how you can do this as a family this summer.

Have a picnic and explore!

Pack a simple picnic dinner, or go to a campground that allows you to barbecue. Have some hot dogs and simple finger food (carrots, celery with peanut butter, cucumber slices). Go explore around the campsite: are there any natural features to learn about? Is there a bog or beaver pond to explore? What are the animals doing in preparation for nightfall? Some parks offer nature interpretive programs that the whole family can participate in. Maybe play a game like “I spy” on the hike to point out interesting features that you may come across.

Check out the stars!

Have a special night and stay up later after the sun has gone down and the stars come up. Look up and enjoy the majesty of the stars. If you can, try to get away from big city lights so you can see more. Need some help in what those stars are? You can find out more information at this web site: <http://www.dustbunny.com/afk/index.html>.

Take a good look around!

Can you help take care of the world – in your own neighborhood? Take some time one afternoon to walk through your neighborhood and pick up any loose litter. Remember to reinforce that it’s everyone’s responsibility to make the earth a livable place.

Go Fly a Kite

This diamond kite is fairly basic, and should be perfect for young Beavers. To make one, you’ll need a sheet of brightly coloured typing paper (8 1/2" x 11"), one 8" barbecue skewer stick, 6' of plastic surveyor’s flag tape, masking tape, a 16' to 18' of kite string, cardboard strips for wind-up cards, scissors, and a hole punch.

Directions

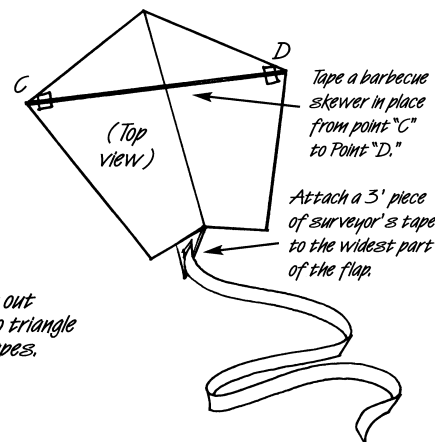
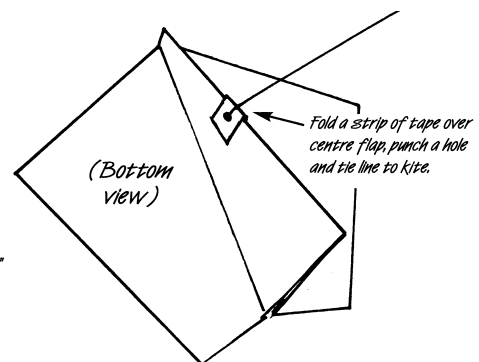
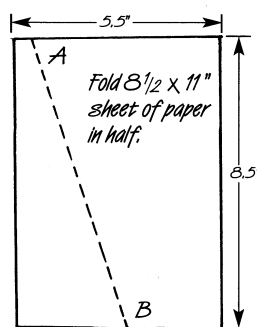
1. Fold the sheet of 8 1/2" x 11" paper in half so it becomes 8 1/2" x 5 1/2".
2. Measure 1/2" from the fold at the top, and mark this as point “A.”
3. Measure 3" from the fold at bottom, and mark this as point “B.”
4. Draw a line from point “A” to point “B,” and fold along the line.

5. Fold one side back, then tape along the fold (see diagram). This will make the kite shape.
6. Mark the tips of the wings with “C” and “D,” then tape a barbecue skewer in place from point “C” to point “D” (see diagram).
7. Lay the kite flat on its back to show the flap underneath. Fold this flap until it is pointing straight up.
8. Tape a 3 foot long piece of surveyor’s tape (the tail), to the bottom of the widest part of the flap.
9. Measure down the centre flap 3", and mark this point. Fold a strip of tape over this point, then punch a hole through the tape.
10. Tie one end of your line onto the kite and the other end onto your line card (see template) and you’re ready to test the new kite.

Wishing you a fun and safe summer and looking forward to seeing you in September! ^

Your leaders and Scouts Canada
– Julian Celms is spending his summer preparing great new activities for Beavers, Cubs and the Outdoors!

Diamond Kite Construction



Line Card Template Reference

