

How can your Colony have successful Lodges?

The Beaver Scout Lodge is where the small group system starts in Scouting. It is the place where youth take on leadership roles. In the Lodge, Beavers have the opportunity to get to know each other and to have their first "learning by doing" experience as a team.

How can you make Lodges a successful part of your Colony's program?

A Beaver Scout Lodge is made up of six to eight Beaver Scouts. This is the perfect size for a Lodge. Should it be any larger it will be too big to allow everyone to have a voice and to participate to the fullest. If it is any smaller, then should one or two Beavers be absent from a meeting there will not be enough youth to have a proper Adventure.

A Lodge is made up of a mixture of Brown Tails, Blue Tails and White Tails—the first-, second- and third-year Beavers. The Canadian Path program is a logical progression from one Section to the next, with each providing more opportunities for youth leadership than the Section before. In this spirit, the Beaver program provides an introductory experience to youth leadership. Scouters can make up the Lodges with a mind to friendships, family relationships and overall chemistry. In older Sections, youth will select their own small groups.

Introduce White Tails to their role as Lodge leaders early in your Colony's season, in the autumn months. They can keep attendance, collect dues and plan games for the Lodge to play. They can also collect ideas for the Colony's Adventures from the Lodge to bring to the White Tails' Council. There are many leadership opportunities for White Tails. During the winter

months, after the Colony has been meeting for some time, the White Tails can begin to hand out responsibilities to the Blue Tails in their Lodge, training and encouraging them so they will be ready to become White Tails the next autumn.

Most Lodges will have a mixture of White Tails, Blue Tails and Brown Tails. Have the White Tails set up a rotation of duties. One can be responsible for taking attendance, one can collect dues and one can bring a game. Each White Tail can mentor one of the Blue Tails.

Each Lodge needs one or two Scouters to work consistently with that Lodge. These Scouters need to get to know the Beavers in that Lodge. In order to encourage all of the Beavers in their personal progression, the Lodge Scouters need to be aware of the strengths and challenges of each Beaver—the areas where each shines and the areas where each can be encouraged to grow.

