

***WELCOME TO 1ST LEXINGTON
BEAVERS***



**BEAVER PARENTS'
GUIDE**

SEPTEMBER 2013

BEAVER PARENTS' GUIDE

Thank you for choosing the Scouts Canada's Beaver Program for your child. We are 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.

ABOUT SCOUTING AND SCOUTS CANADA

Scouting, the largest youth organization in the world, was founded in 1907 by Lord Robert Baden-Powell in England. One of his messages to the youth was; "Try to leave this world a little better than you found it".

Today Scouting has over 25 million members in some 216 countries.

Scouts Canada offers Scouting programs in Canada to over 94,000 young people, supported by 28,000 caring and dedicated volunteers. Scouts Canada offers seven fun and adventurous programs to young people, which include:

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

SCOUTSabout: 5-10 years old

Extreme Adventure: 14-18 years old

Scouts Canada's **MISSION** applies to all of our programs:

“The mission of Scouting is 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's Mission is achieved by:

- involving youth throughout their formative years in a non-formal educational process.

- using a specific method that makes each individual the principal agent in his or her development as a self-reliant, supportive, responsible and committed person.
- assisting youth to establish a value system based upon spiritual, social and personal principles as expressed in the Promise and Law.

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

Duty to God: This is defined as: " The responsibility to adhere to spiritual principles, and thus to the religion that expresses them, and to accept the duties therefrom."

Duty to Others: This is defined as: " The responsibility to one's local, national and global community members to promote peace, understanding and cooperation, through participation in the development of society, respect for the dignity of one's fellow-beings, and protection of the integrity of the natural world."

Duty to Self: This is defined as: "The responsibility for the development of oneself to one's full potential physically, intellectually, spiritually and socially." 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.

HOW SCOUTS CANADA SELECTS LEADERS

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

- an interview
- personal reference checks Completed Prior to working with Youth
- a Police Record Check

mandatory Scouts Canada training sessions

- coaching and mentoring
- ongoing evaluation

REGISTRATION FEE

The fee that you have paid for your child to join is distributed between the various 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.

BACKGROUND OF BEAVERS

Beavers started in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and the program was approved by the National Council as a three year experiment 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.

UNIFORM

This year Scouts Canada has introduced a new uniform for all levels, their plan is to phase the new uniform in over the next three years. Your child can either stay with the current uniform, or opt for the new one. There is no obligation for you to buy a new uniform at this time.

The current 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;
- bgrou neckerchief worn cross-over style;
- 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.

The New Uniform Is:

- A Brown Bucket hat
- A brown zip vest
- A Necker (Provided By 1st Lexington)
- A blue beaver Woggle (Provided by 1st Lexington)



SCOUT SHOP

These items, along with other related books and accessories are available at your local Scout Shop.

844 Frederick Street, Kitchener.

Tel. 519 742 8325

Hours: Thurs - 12.00-8.00pm; Fri - 12.00-8.00pm; Sat - 9.00-1.00pm

(Please note that the shop is run mainly by volunteers, so calling ahead first is advised)

They are also closed over the summer – so beware of closure

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 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 how to adhere to the Promise and Law;
- 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 the use of a program of understanding, supportive fun. Activities are built around seven Program elements: Games, Crafts, Music, Storytelling, Playacting, Spiritual Fellowship and Outdoors.

BEAVER TERMINOLOGY

When you visit your children's Beaver Colony or talk to them about Beavers, you will 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.

Keeo - Keeo 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. Keeo 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 The magic light symbol is a silver streak down the centre of the white tail.

Light Symbol - 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.

CEREMONIES

OPENING CEREMONY (TAIL SLAP)

The opening Tail Slap is conducted by a leader at the beginning of every meeting. All other leaders and Keo 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.

A Leader will call for Riverbanks, the signal to form 2 wavy lines facing each other. The Leader will ask the Beavers to Build The Dam, the signal to join hands to form one circle.

Once in a circle the Leader will call for Chopping Positions - all squat down with elbows on knees and with both hands make the Beaver Salute.

The Leader will ask " Who are you and what do you do?". The Beavers reply "Beavers, Beavers, Beavers; Sharing, Sharing, Sharing."

This is followed by all rising saying "Woouooooop" (starting quietly and increasing in volume) putting both hands behind their backs to give a resounding 'tail slap'.

FEEDING THE BEAVER AND DUES

This ceremony accomplishes the collection of the Beavers’ “dues” done at the beginning of each meeting. Beavers bring \$1.00 every week and place it in the tin next to the sign in sheet. In exchange they receive a wood chip, “food for the Beaver” (a large stuffed toy Beaver). During the ceremony the Beavers place the wood chip into the dam to feed Big Brown Beaver, by putting the “food” into a dish in front of him.

This money is used to provide craft materials/supplies for the children. From time to time, we will go on various outings and visits, and these may also require additional fees. We will advise parents of these opportunities well in advance.

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.

A Leader will call for Riverbanks and to Build The Dam as in the opening. The Leader then calls out Lodge, the signal for all to slowly sink to Beaver sitting position (cross-legged), and as they go down all say the sleepy sound "shh, shh, shh," until all are seated. The leader claps hands once and all sounds stop. Softly Beavers say "sleeping, sleeping, sleeping."

The Leader raises one arm and all copy. All make one resounding slap on the floor in front of them. The Leader will say "Good night Beavers and busy building tomorrow." The Beavers reply; "Good night ... (Leader's name)"

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.

BEAVER MEETINGS

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.

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). An indoor change of shoes is required when it is raining or snowing.

PICK UP /DROP OFF TIMES

Please drop your Beaver off at the meeting hall no earlier than 5.55pm , and pick him or her up at 7pm . 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 and sign him or her in 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 that you can sign your child out and then leaders are able to release your child to you. Please inform us if someone different is picking your child up.

CALENDARS

These will be sent to all parents by e-mail. There will be a month at a glance sent monthly, and then each week an e-mail will show the meeting location, time and any additional information. In the event of a last minute change parents will receive a telephone call. It is important therefore to keep us informed of any contact changes.

FUNDRAISERS

Apple Day

Apple Day is the evening of Friday and all day Saturday for a weekend in October. We would ask each Beaver to sign up for a min. one hour time slot on either day. At the end of their shift each Beaver will receive an Apple Day Badge. Sign up sheets will be available at the third meeting.

Scout Popcorn Fundraiser

Each year all sections of 1st Lexington participate in the Scout Popcorn Fundraiser. Details about the fundraiser will be available soon.

1ST LEXINGTON WEBSITE

For more information on our program and to see pictures from various activities please visit our website: www.firstlexington.org.

OTHER SCOUTING WEBSITES

North Waterloo Area Website: nw.scouters.ca

Central Escarpment Council Website: www.cec.scouts.ca

Scouts Canada Website: www.scouts.ca

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