

STARTING 1ST BOURN BEAVERS

What happens?

When a child is nearly old enough to join Beavers, they will be invited to visit a Beavers meeting.

At Beavers, they will be placed in a lodge, which comprises five or six Beavers. One of the older Beavers in the lodge will be asked to guide the new Beaver. Beavers are assigned to lodges so that each lodge is balanced in terms of age range, etc. Over the course of the first few weeks, they will learn the Beaver Scout Promise and Motto.

The Beaver Scout Promise

I promise to do my best
To be kind and helpful
And to love God.

The Scout Association has recently introduced an alternative version of the Promise for young people who are Muslim, Hindu, humanist or with no affirmed faith who wish to join Scouting, in which “to love God” is replaced with “to love Allah,” “to love my Dharma,” or “to love our world”. If your child would prefer to make the alternative promise, please let us know.

The Beaver Scout Motto

Be Prepared.

What next?

After about 3-5 weeks, your child will be asked if they would like to make their Beaver Scout promise and be invested as a Beaver. They will need to have the Beaver uniform of sweatshirt and polo shirt point. We will provide a necker scarf and a woggle. Parents will be invited into the hall at the end of a meeting to watch the investiture during which the new Beaver will make the Scout sign and make their Promise, led by the Beaver Scout Leader.

Once invested, some badges will be provided for the Beaver sweatshirt:

- The membership badge (purple arrow head).
- The County and District badges.
- The 1st Bourn tag.

The position of the badges on the sweatshirt is shown in [this diagram](#). Uniform can be purchased from various scout shops online (e.g. shop.scouts.org.uk) or from John Lewis.



LIFE CHANGING ADVENTURE

What do the Leaders Expect from Beavers?

Beavers are expected to:

- Arrive on time.
- Attend regularly (it is of course OK to miss an occasional meeting, but we usually have a waiting list, so it is not fair to take up a place and not make full use of it).
- Wear their uniform - with neck scarves and badges sewn on in the right places.
- Know and abide by the Beaver Scout Promise.
- Be able to keep still and/or quiet when asked to.
- Not bring sweets, etc. to meetings.

What happens in a meeting?

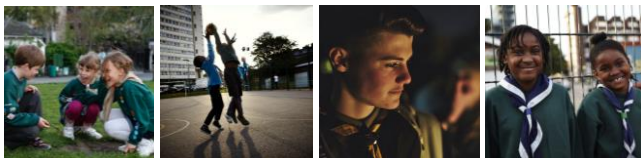
The colony is brought to order by a Leader calling out, "Beavers, make a dam!". The Beavers arrange themselves in a circle and the plans for the evening are outlined.

We usually start off with a game, and then move onto the main activities, for which the colony may be split into groups. This may be badgework, making something, sports, a visitor, or learning traditional scouting skills such as cooking and tying knots. We aim to work on three Challenge badges each year (roughly one per term), so that over the course of their time in the colony, Beavers have the opportunity to gain the Chief Scout's Bronze Award (the highest badge that a Beaver can earn). We also do activity badges, such as the Creative, Cook, Experiment, Explore, Health and Fitness, International and Safety Badges. While most badgework is done during the weekly meeting, some badges do require attendance at special events such as St George's Day, Remembrance Sunday or sleepover and occasionally there may be things to be done at home as well.

A final game will be played if there is time, the colony returns to order, badges are awarded and Beavers are dismissed.

How do we keep in contact?

Most communication is by email. We also need a mobile phone number, so that we can contact you in case of emergency. This is based on the information you provided on your registration form, but if your details have changed or you're not getting email messages (e.g. the termly programme) please let us know (secretary@bournscouts.org.uk).



LIFE CHANGING ADVENTURE

We also use My.SCOUT, which is a website that allows parents to:

- Sign their child up for events.
- See and edit their personal details.
- View the term's programme.
- See their child's badge progress.

You will receive a separate email inviting you into My Scout in due course.

Medical and other information

On your registration form, you were asked whether your child has any dietary needs, allergies, health concerns, etc. Please let me know as soon as possible if anything has changed, or if there is any other information about your child that you feel we should know.

Photography

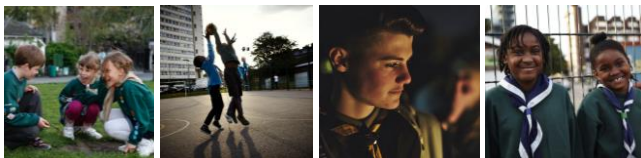
1st Bourn scout group takes photographs during meetings, activities and events for use in the group's Annual Report and closed Facebook page (which is only open to parents, leaders and executive committee members).

Other organisations (such as activity providers) occasionally ask to use photos in their publicity, website, etc. In such cases, we will seek separate permission from parents for particular photos. Although these photographs are only used internally, as with standard practice at schools, we never name the children in the photographs to maintain privacy.

If you do not want photographs of your children used for these purposes please let the Membership Secretary and Leader know.

Costs

Subscriptions are £35 per term and should be paid directly into our bank account. You will receive a reminder at the start of each term. There are separate fees for sleepovers and occasional other activities (e.g., activity days). The cost of an activity is **never** a bar to participation for **any** Beaver. If necessary, please feel free to speak to one of the Leaders about any difficulties, which will be treated confidentially.



LIFE CHANGING ADVENTURE