



1st Coggeshall



Welcome and
Information Pack

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I'm delighted to be able to invite your child to join us at the 1st Coggeshall Beavers. Our aim is to make sure that they have lots of fun, challenges and adventures whilst they are with us and take happy memories from us when they eventually leave.

The Coggeshall Scout Group was established over 40 years ago and at Beavers we now fill the hall with around 24 boys and girls, with more waiting to join all the time!

This booklet is intended to give you an overview of how the Colony works, what we expect of our Beavers and how you can help your child during their time with us. It should also answer some of the general questions which you may have.

If there is anything else you wish to discuss, feel free to speak to any of the Leaders after the Colony meetings (although that can get a bit frantic and may not be suitable if you need a quiet word). You could also contact one of the Leaders by email or phone, details can be found at the end of this guide.

Paul Chapman
Beaver Scout Leader
1st Coggeshall



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When and where?

The 1ST Coggeshall Beaver Colony meets in term times on a Thursday evening from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. In addition to Colony nights, we also plan supplementary activities such as Sleepovers which your child will be invited to attend.

Meetings are usually held at the new Scout and Guide Hut beside Honywood School, but occasionally the time and/or location may change to accommodate an activity. When this happens, you will always be notified in advance of the revised arrangements.

We try to get outside as much as possible, especially during the Summer Term and make use of the Honywood School Fields, which is a secure environment for the Beavers to run wild in!

An introduction to Scouting

Scouting provides adventurous activities and personal development opportunities for 400,000 young people aged 6-25. Internationally, we have over 28 million young people enjoying the benefits of Scouting across 216 countries.

Personal development means promoting the physical, intellectual, social and spiritual well-being of the individual, helping them achieve their full potential. In Scouting, we believe that young people develop most when they are 'learning by doing,' when they are given responsibility, work in teams, take acceptable risks and think for themselves.

Scouting receives no government support and relies entirely upon its volunteers, subscriptions and fund raising to exist.



The first few weeks

The first few weeks will be spent getting to know the people and workings of the Colony before being invested and at the investiture they will be presented with membership, district and Colony name badges in addition to the Coggeshall scout necker (scarf).

As part of the investiture, the Beaver will be expected to be familiar with the Beaver Scout Promise, and the Scout motto. They will be asked to repeat the Beaver Scout Promise, line by line, after the Leader.

The Beaver Scout Promise

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

The Beaver Scout Motto

Be prepared

Uniforms

Scouting is a uniformed organisation. Beavers are expected to wear full uniform for Colony meetings, for parades and arriving and departing from events. Occasionally uniform may not be appropriate and if this is the case you will be informed in advance. As a minimum, a necker will be required at all times.

Beavers are expected to take pride in their uniform and do their best to look smart from head to toe. The uniform consists of the following compulsory components:

- turquoise Beaver Scout sweatshirt (this is what the badges are sewn to);
- turquoise polo shirt (for wearing under the sweatshirt or by itself with no sweatshirt when the weather heats up);
- green and yellow necker (please ensure that the necker is frequently washed and ironed) ; and
- a woggle (also provided by the Group, but regularly lost by Beavers. Replacements are available at a small cost.)

Normally, trainers will be the most appropriate form of footwear, but for Parades and other formal occasions, black school shoes should be worn.

ALL ITEMS OF UNIFORM, INCLUDING NECKERS, SHOULD BE CLEARLY MARKED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.

Any items left behind by a Beaver will be identified where possible and kept for a period of four weeks before being disposed of.

Scout Shops

Uniform and other items can be purchased from various places including 'Frank Smith and Sons', 59 – 61 High Street, Halstead C09 2JD



It is worth checking the opening times before visiting by calling them on 01787 472079 .

Also uniforms can be purchased at the Wickham Bishops, Prances shop adjacent to the Scout camp, the address is Prances Cottage, Great Totham Road, Wickham Bishops Essex CM8 3NP,

Again, it is worth calling them on 01621 892876 to check the opening times, or check their web site for up to date information on: <http://www.prances.org.uk/>



Badges

Beavers love earning badges and there is a huge range available to them, some of which they will work towards at Colony meetings and some they may choose to do separately of their own accord. Details of the full range of badges available to Beavers along with the requirements for each badge are available on the Beavers website at:

www.scouts.org.uk/beavers

Badges are paid for from Colony funds – all that we would ask is that they are sewn on promptly so that the Beaver can display them proudly and they do not get lost.

Badges fall into several broad categories as described below.

Activity Badges



There are currently 12 activity badges some of which cover traditional Scouting topics such as Navigator and Camper but the range is much broader and there is almost certain to be one or more which play to a direct interest of your Beaver.

From time to time, our work as a Colony qualifies those who have attended the relevant meetings to receive one of these badges, but Beavers may also do many of the badges as individuals at home, with Colony support if required. If you

are unsure, please just speak to one of the Leaders.

Staged Activity Badges



There are 6 staged activity badges. These are earned in stages as the name suggests and looks at the activity of the child over their entire Scouting history. So, for example, the Hikes Away badge is awarded when a Cub or Beaver has completed an organised hike. A replacement badge is available once they have completed 5, then 10, 20, 35, 50 and 100 hikes.

When the Scout moves sections, their staged activity badges move with them. So a Beaver with a 5 Hikes Away badge would transfer it to their Cub jumper when they joined and continue to accumulate hikes to their total.

Other badges are available for progressive achievement in Nights Away, Swimmer, Emergency Aid, Musician and Information Technology. You may well find that if your child plays an instrument or swims regularly then they qualify for one of the stages of these badges already – just let us know.

Full details of the requirements of the staged badges can be found at:

www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/badges/cub-index.htm

Challenge Badges



The Challenge badges cover the core skills of the Beaver Scout. The badges are Outdoor, Fitness, Promise, Friendship, Creative and Global and are more involved than the activity badges. The six are pictured above.

Chief Scout's Bronze Award

This is the highest badge that a Beaver Scout can earn. It is awarded on completion of the 6 Challenge badges



We structure our programme to try to cover all of these badges in the Colony nights over the two-and-a-bit years that the Beaver is usually with us. Our aim is to send our Beavers on to Cubs with their Chief Scout's Bronze Award proudly displayed!

There may be times when some work towards these badges needs to be completed at home. If this is the case, please encourage your child to complete the work – but don't do it

for them. The emphasis is very much on each Beaver taking part to the best of their ability – there are few absolute standards that have to be reached.

It is worth pointing out, that a Beaver will not be able to gain the Outdoor Challenge badge (and therefore the Chief Scout's Bronze Award too) unless they have spent at least one night sleeping out with the Colony.

Joining in Awards



Members of the Scouting movement are awarded Joining In Awards (later called Participation Awards) which show how many years they have spent in Scouting. Each year, a new Award is presented which can be added to the previous years' awards on the Beaver jumper. The number on each award represents the number of years served.

On moving from Beavers to Cubs, the most up to date award is carried forward to the new jumper.

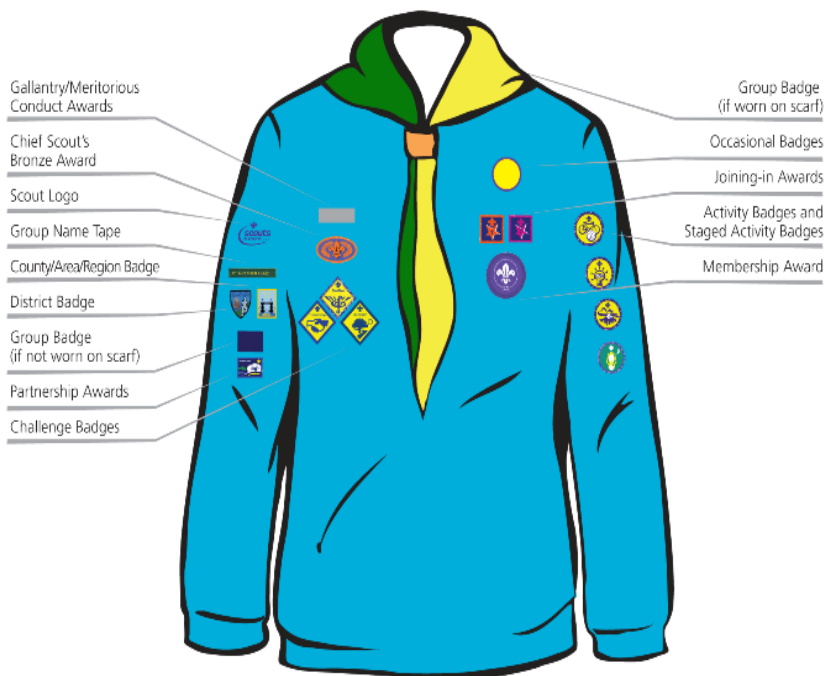
More information on badges

A full list of badges available and the requirements for each badge are listed on the Scouting website.

www.scouts.org.uk/beavers

Badges: where do they all go?

One of the questions we are most often asked is 'where does this badge go on my Beaver jumper?' The following diagram shows the location of all key badges.



Looking after your children

Most adults in Scouting, including all the leaders at the 1st Coggeshall Group, are volunteers. The Scout Association has a thorough training programme that all leaders have to participate in. They must also undergo a full Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check, supply personal references and be approved by the Adult Appointments Committee before their first appointment.

All appointments are then subject to regular review and renewal.

Leaders also have regular First Aid training and, of course, we do our best to ensure that no Beaver is injured. However, with up to 24 young, energetic, enthusiastic and active children in a confined space, parents should be aware that there is always the possibility of an accident.

In addition to the adult leaders, we have invaluable assistance from Young Leaders. Young Leaders are Explorer Scouts from one of the more senior sections who also volunteer to help out.

Clearly the safety of everyone involved in Scouting is our primary concern at all times and we have strict guidelines for the ratio of adults to Beavers. There may be times when we need parental help to make sure that we meet these supervision requirements, such as if an existing leader is unable to attend a meeting, or if the nature of the activity is such that more adult supervision is required to ensure the Beavers' safety.

At 1st Coggeshall Beavers we operate a rota for parent help as some other units do. It is not fair for this burden to fall on

just a few and everyone is encouraged to find time to volunteer at some point if possible.

We really appreciate any help that parents are able to give us. If you want to help out, please feel free to talk to us, even if you are not able to make a regular commitment.

Anyone wishing to help out on full day or overnight activities has to be CRB checked. This just involves filling out a very simple form, but it can take a few weeks to go through the approval process so please give us plenty of notice.

Attendance

Due to the shortage of places available and the number of children waiting to join Beavers, we ask that Beavers attend meetings regularly.

We do understand that there may be valid reasons for non-attendance, but in the absence of an adequate explanation, Beavers not attending for three weeks in a row, or for more than half of any term will trigger a review of their on-going membership which may result in their place being taken away. We will always give parents an opportunity to explain the reason for non-attendance prior to arriving at this conclusion.



Photography

From time to time, we may take photographs of the Beavers during Colony meetings or camps. If you have any objections to your child being included in these photographs, please inform a Leader in writing in advance so that we can ensure we comply with your wishes.

Beavers Behaviour and Conduct

All Beavers are expected to be polite, considerate and respectful to others, take turns, share, play fairly, be quiet when others are speaking and take care of equipment.

Fighting, kicking, shouting, teasing, bad language, hitting, pushing and bullying are not acceptable and this sort of behaviour will not be tolerated. We encourage all Beavers to report this behaviour when it occurs.

Minor incidents will be discussed with the Beaver directly and may result in a 'time out' during a game or activity if appropriate. More serious or repeated incidents will result in the Beaver's parents being contacted and you could be asked to collect your child from the meeting or camp. We want all of our Beavers to enjoy their time with us to the full – but not at the expense of others in the Colony.

The support of parents is very much appreciated in enabling us to correct unacceptable behaviour, but we do ultimately reserve the right to suspend or remove the Beaver from the Colony if opportunities to improve are not taken or the incident is serious enough.

Subs

As a parent / guardian of a child in the Group, we ask you to pay a Membership Subscription each term. This is currently £25 for Beaver Scouts (and £30 for Cub Scouts and Scouts): this money goes toward providing resources for use week in week out, including: badges, insurance, rent for our meeting hall, membership of the UK Scout Association, sports equipment, camping equipment, and part of the cost of our camps.

As previously mentioned all of our leaders and committee members are 100% volunteers and receive no payment. We are a registered charity.

Gift aid: If you are a UK taxpayer and you earn more than the amount of your donation, we can claim back money from the government on your donation, so please complete and tick the 'gift aid' box.

Contact Details

Beaver Scout Leader

Paul Chapman (Chil) – post@dreamoccasions-hire.co.uk

Tel: 01376 564883

Assistant Beaver Scout Leader

Peter Awad (Br'er Rabbit) Tel : 01376 563193

Assistant Beaver Scout Leader

Theresa Boland (Br'er Badger) Tel: 01376 564805

Assistant Beaver Scout Leader

Andy Hasler (Br'er Wolf) Tel: 01376 561686

Assistant Beaver Scout Leader

Bernadette Chapman (Br'er Beaver) Tel : 01376 564883

Young Leaders

Jamie Hughes (Explorer Scout)

George Styles (Explorer Scout)

Useful websites

Scouts website with details of badges you can earn and lots more.

www.scouts.org.uk/beavers

The Coggeshall Scout website – information about Scouting resources in Coggeshall.

<http://www.1stcoggeshall.org.uk/>