

# Welcome to



On behalf of the Leaders and Helpers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Denmead Scout Group, we would like to welcome your child to beavers

On the first meeting please can you be prepared to stay for a while so we can complete any outstanding paperwork and settle them in. They need only wear normal activity clothes for their first few meetings.

Your child is now at the start of an exciting path that he or she can follow through to adulthood.



You may be asking yourself what it is that Beaver Scouts actually do. Simply answered - they have fun! They also:

play games, meet new friends, gain badges, go on outings and visits, go outside and learn about the outdoors, create things, meet new people, listen to stories and hopefully become Cubs Scouts. Beaver Scout activities are a combination of learning and having fun. They learn about themselves and how to look after themselves, they get to know people from their local community, they find out about life in other countries and explore through organised activities.

The Beaver Scout programme and activities are based on Five Programme Zones, these are: Adventure, the outdoors, Personal challenges, skills, the world around us and teamwork . This Balanced programme continues when they get to Cubs (though at a more intense level) and again at Scouts and again at Explorers.

For your part we need a little bit of your time and effort before your child starts.

You will have been sent a number of documents which you need to read. Included is a Behaviour agreement, which we would like you to read with your child and sign and return at the first meeting please.

The other documents are just for your information and worth reading as they will give you a greater understanding of what we do.

We use an online system called OSM for all our communications with you. You will be able to see the programme for the term, sign your child up for camps and other events, see what badges they have earned and pay for subscriptions, and events. You will receive a welcome email with a link to this, so you will be able to set yourself up with a password. If you have any problems or queries or do not receive it, please contact me.

Important - help needed

To run our meetings successfully we need the help and support of parents, for help with crafts or outings. You can sign up to the parent rota for a meeting on OSM. If every parent offered their help you only need do one week each year. So please sign up. It's fun!

I look forward to seeing you

Regards

*Angela Harwood* – Group Scout Leader

# More info

Each week when you arrive, you will be welcomed into a game until everyone arrives. We then call the beavers into their lodges (teams). There are four lodges called after different animals eg Badger. You will be put into a lodge on the first week.

Leaders also have special beaver names such as Blackberry and Otter.

The leaders will start the meeting by asking the Colony to build a dam, which means to form a circle. They will then take the register and perform the opening ceremony. We use a special hand signal in scouting. When a leader raises their hand, you must do the same, stand still and be quiet to listen for instructions. This stops the leaders getting a sore throat from having to shout!

We stop halfway through to have a drink and biscuit. At the end of the meeting we build the dam again for the closing ceremony.

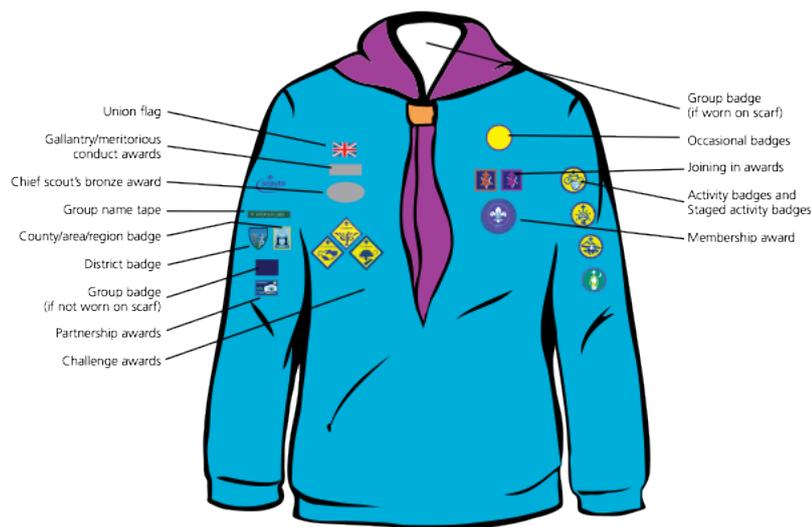
You will learn how all this works in your first weeks.

You will be invested around week 5. This is a special time for you and your beaver friends who will welcome you properly into the colony. The ceremony is short and simple and will be held at the end of the meeting so that your family can come along and watch. Your Lodge Leader will bring you to the leader who will ask you to make your Beaver Scout Promise and present you with your woggle and badges.

As a Beaver, you will wear navy blue combat trousers, a turquoise sweatshirt and a denmead scarf, which is gold and brown. You can buy these at the scout shop in our HQ

You can also buy a Denmead teeshirt for the summer – these are available from your leader.

## Beaver scout uniform



## The Beaver Scout Promise

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

## The Scout Motto

Be prepared

**We hope you have lots of FUN!**