

# Ceremonies in the Beaver Scout Colony



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This is the second edition of this factsheet. Ceremonies can play an important part in the life of the Colony. Apart from the Beaver Scout Promise Ceremony there are no set methods for Beaver Scout ceremonies, they are not compulsory. It is for the Colony Leadership team to decide when ceremonies might be helpful and how often they are revised. However, ceremonies can be used to:

- mark significant moments in the life of the individual Beaver Scout or the Colony
- provide a familiar routine which can aid the maintenance of good order
- create a sense of belonging and pride in the Colony.

Ceremonies used in the Colony should be simple, sincere and short. However, they can also become dull and repetitive! For this reason, Colonies are encouraged to review and renew their ceremonies at regular intervals. In addition to the Beaver Scout Promise Ceremony, Colonies might devise ceremonies for specific purposes such as:

- to say welcome at the start of the meeting
- to say good-bye at the end of the meeting
- to present a Beaver Scout badge
- to welcome a visitor to the Colony
- to mark a special occasion, for example a birthday.
- when a Beaver Scout leaves the Colony to move away.

- when a Beaver Scout leaves the Colony to join Cub Scouts.

The ceremonies that follow are possibilities for you to consider and adapt as required. Your Assistant District Commissioner (Beaver Scouts) may have other suggestions to offer of ceremonies used in local Colonies. Whenever a ceremony is used for the first time, an informal rehearsal will lead to a more enjoyable, successful and appropriate ceremony.

Always ensure that all those involved know what is going to happen: Beaver Scouts; Leaders; Visitors. Try to help everyone know the purpose of the ceremony you are using.

## **The Beaver Scout Promise Ceremony**

The Promise ceremony can be used at any time in the life of the Colony, and must be used at the investiture of new Members. New Beaver Scouts make their Promise soon after they join the Colony and have completed the requirements of the Beaver Scout Membership Badge. The Colony and its Leaders stand in a circle. The Beaver Scout Leader stands next to the new Members and explains that they are going to become Beaver Scouts today. Everyone makes the Scout sign and says the Beaver Scout Promise together. Beaver Scouts should not be required to say the Promise alone in front of the Colony. Colonies may choose to have their Beaver Scout flag at the ceremony. Then the Beaver Scout Leader welcomes the new Beaver Scout(s) into the Colony and the worldwide Family of Scouts. The new Beaver Scout(s) receive their World Membership Badge, County/Area and

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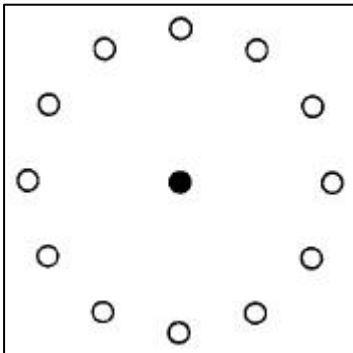
District Badges, Group Scarf, woggle and the Group name tape. If a welcoming handshake is offered, the Scout left handshake should be used. Colonies should consider inviting parents/carers to the investiture of their child as a Beaver Scout.

See Section 3.4 in Colony essentials for ideas for investiture ceremonies.

## Ceremonies to say 'Hello'

### 1 Gather Logs (i)

The Leader calls out 'gather logs'. The Beaver Scouts hold hands and form the largest possible circle around the Leader. This represents travelling out as far as possible to gather logs and sticks to build the Lodge. The Leader calls out 'build a dam'. The Beaver Scouts take five big steps into the middle and slowly raise their joined hands. As each step is taken a letter is shouted out to spell the greeting HELLO followed by shouting out the word hello, finishing up surrounding the Leader. The Leader replies 'hello Beaver Scouts'.

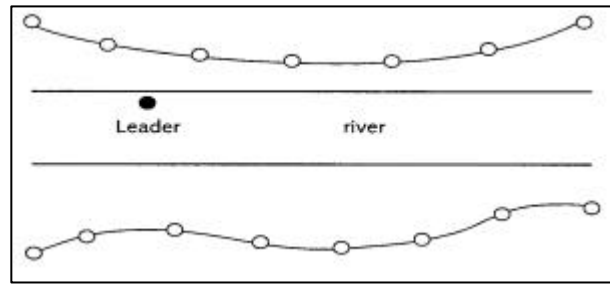


### 2 Gather Logs (ii)

The spelt greeting of HELLO is replaced by the word BEAVERS followed by hello being shouted out.

### 3 River Banks

The Leader calls out 'river banks'. The Beaver Scouts join hands in two-way lines facing each other to represent two banks.



When the Leader calls 'build a dam' they run **to the centre of the room around the Leader**. The **Leader** then calls out '1,2,3 who are we?' The Beaver Scouts reply 'We are Beavers **Scouts** can't you see?' and together everyone spells out 'BEAVERS' on the final 'S' everyone jumps up in the air and shouts 'HELLO'

**These can be adapted to welcome visitors to the colony.**

## Ceremonies to say good-bye at the end of a meeting

### 1 Goodnight Beaver Scouts

Leader calls out 'build a dam'. The Beaver Scouts join together to form a circle with a Leader in the centre. The Leader gives out final notices. Any letters, handicrafts or anything to be taken home should be distributed. A Beaver Scout or Leader says a special prayer or thought to suit the evening. The Leader says 'good-bye Beaver Scouts'. The Beaver Scouts hold hands and take seven steps backwards on each step shouting one letter of GOOD-BYE.

### 2 Goodnight Beaver Scouts

Use the tune 'Merrily we roll along' to devise a Colony song for the end of your meeting.  
'Goodnight Beaver Scouts, Goodnight Beaver Scouts, Goodnight Beavers, See you all next week'

The Beavers then shake hands or say goodbye to the person either side to them.

## **Ceremonies to present badges**

### **1 Gather Logs**

The Leader calls out 'gather logs'. The Beaver Scouts hold hands and form the largest possible circle around the Leader. The Beaver Scouts drop their hands. The Beaver Scout joins the Leader in the centre of the circle and the Leader explains what the badge means and congratulates the Beaver Scout. The Leader shows the Beaver Scout where the badge is worn and says 'well done'. The Beaver Scouts then make tail-slapping sounds clapping hands behind their backs. The Leader calls out 'Build a Dam'. The Beaver Scouts take five big steps into the middle and slowly raise their joined hands, and shout 'Well done'

## **Ceremonies to mark a special occasion**

The Leader calls out 'build a dam' to ensure a circle is formed around the Leader and the Beaver Scout whose birthday it might be. The Beaver Scouts sing 'Happy Birthday'. This is followed by an appropriate celebration of blowing out the candles and eating the cake

## **Ceremonies to use when a Beaver Scout leaves the Colony to move away**

This is a sad occasion for everyone but one that should be made special for each Beaver Scout who is leaving as well as their friends, Beaver Scouts and Leaders alike.

The Leader calls out 'build a dam'. The Beaver Scouts form a circle around the Leader and the Beaver Scout who is leaving. The Leader recalls how well the Beaver Scout has done in the Colony. The Leader presents the Beaver Scout with an appropriate letter, card or certificate, which wishes them well. The Leader calls out 'Good-bye'. The Beaver Scouts spell out the word 'GOOD-BYE' as they step backwards and follow

the last letter by shouting out the name of the Beaver Scout.

## **Ceremonies for when a Beaver Scout leaves the Colony to join Cub Scouts**

These ceremonies which link the Beaver Scout Colony and the Cub Scout Pack are a joint venture arranged between the Colony and Pack Leadership teams. Colonies should consider inviting parents/carers to attend this important step in their child's life. This ceremony is also the time when the Moving On Award is presented and the Scout Promise is reaffirmed.

It is worth noting that a Beaver Scout may already have been presented with the Group scarf by the Group Scout Leader whilst in the Colony. In this instance it should not be re-presented at the Cub Scout investiture ceremony. A Beaver Scout may wear the Chief Scouts Bronze Award on the Cub Scout uniform until the Chief Scouts Silver Award is gained at which time the Bronze Award should be removed

### **1. Swimming up the river**

This ceremony begins with the Beaver Scouts in the river bank formation and the Cub Scouts in the Pack circle. An opening is left in the Pack circle facing the Colony. Once in position the Beaver Scout Leader calls out the names of those Beaver Scouts who are to join the Cub Scout Pack. The Beaver Scouts 'swimming up' join the Leader in the river. The Beaver Scout Leader says "We are pleased and proud that you are now moving from Beaver Scouts to Cub Scouts," or "we wish you a happy and exciting time as you do your best in the Cub Scout Pack", or similar words suitable to the occasion. Escorted by the Leader, the Beaver Scouts walk up the river between the banks to stand in a straight line facing the Cub Scout Leader and the Cub Scouts. If it is impractical to have the whole Pack present, then Sixers and Seconds only or a group of Cub Scouts could be involved. The Cub Scout Leader then uses the left-handshake and welcomes them into the Pack.

The Cub Scout Leader introduces the new Members to their Sixer whom they should already have met, and then to other Members of the Six. A simple prayer may conclude the ceremony. See diagram at the end of the factsheet.

## **2. Swimming across the river**

The Colony and Pack form two horseshoes facing each other. The Sixers come forward and shake hands using the left handshake with the Beaver Scouts who are swimming across. The Beaver Scouts use the left handshake with the Colony Leaders and say 'Good-bye'. The Beaver Scouts and Sixers wade, swim or jump the river. Akela greets the new Members using the left handshake and introduces them to the Pack. There is then a grand howl of welcome by the pack to greet the new Members who remain standing throughout the Cub Scout welcome. A simple prayer may conclude this ceremony. The Beaver Scouts who are swimming across will have attended several Pack meetings prior to the actual ceremony. This enables the Beaver Scouts to be introduced to the Cub Scout Pack and to attend both the Colony meetings and the Pack meetings until they are ready for investiture. Sometimes it is possible to present the Six woggle on the occasions outlined above to indicate belonging to a Six prior to the investiture. See the diagram at the end of the factsheet

## **3. Pull me across the river**

The Beaver Scout Colony and Cub Scout Pack form two horseshoes facing each other with a rope across the river.

The Beaver Scouts wave good-bye to the Colony.

The Beaver Scouts who are joining the Cub Scout Pack hold onto the rope and read from a card:

so look out Cub Scouts here I come.  
Across the river now I swim,  
held by a rope to pull me in.  
So help me Cub Scouts help me do,  
pull me across to be with you.

The Cub Scout Sixer greets the new Member and introduces the Second, the Six, and Akela.

A grand howl of welcome by the Pack follows.

A simple prayer may conclude the ceremony. See the diagram at the end of the factsheet.

## **4. Swimming under the river**

The Beaver Scout Colony and Cub Scout Pack form two horseshoes facing each other with a large blanket placed on the floor between them. Four children hold down the corners of the blanket. The Beaver Scouts who are transferring ensure that their new Cub Scout sweatshirts are under the blanket. The Beaver Scouts say 'Good-bye' to the Colony. One by one the Beaver Scouts remove their scarves and woggles and swim into the river under the blanket.

While under the river the Beaver Scouts remove their Beaver Scout sweatshirt and put on the new Cub Scout sweatshirt and scarf. The Beaver Scouts emerge from the river dressed in their Cub Scout sweatshirt and are greeted by a Cub Scout Sixer and Akela. A Grand Howl of welcome by the Pack follows. A simple prayer may conclude the ceremony.

For more information on Beaver Scout ceremonies refer to Section 3.4 in Colony essentials.

As a Beaver Scout my work is done,

Diagrams for Beaver Scouts moving on

