



INTRODUCTION TO THE SANDSTONE BEAVER SCOUTS

THE SCOUT MOVEMENT

The Scout Movement is the largest co-educational youth organisation in the world, with over 28 million members in 216 countries and territories, including 400,000 young people in the UK.

Its clear purpose is to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. Scouting aims to help young people to develop as active members of their community who are self reliant, caring, responsible and who show commitment.

It does this by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law, guided by adult leadership.

Scouting works well when young people enjoy learning by working in partnership with adults. They do this by taking part in a variety of activities and new experiences, exploring the outdoors, participating in teams and taking responsibility.

Scouting is open to all young people aged 6 to 25 of every faith, background and ability. There are also plenty of opportunities for adults to become involved as Leaders, Assistants or Administrators.

For more information on the Scout Movement visit: <http://www.scouts.org.uk>

BEAVER SCOUTS

Beaver Scouts belong to the first and youngest Section in the Scouting family. Young people can join Beaver Scouts at 5¾ and they move to the next Section, Cub Scouts, between 7¾ and 8¼.

Easily recognised by their distinctive turquoise sweatshirts, Beaver Scouts enjoy making new friends, playing games, going on visits and helping others. They usually meet together once a week in a Beaver Scout Colony.

BEAVER SCOUT PROMISE AND MOTTO

Unlike the Cubs and Scouts, the Beaver Scouts are not expected to follow (or understand) a Law. They are, however, required to understand and make a Promise and to understand and observe a Motto. The Beaver Scout Promise is: "I Promise to do my best, to be kind and helpful, and to love God" and the motto is "Be Prepared". *(Other forms of the Promise are available)*

1ST SANDSTONE SCOUT GROUP

The 1st Sandstone Scout Group is based at the Scout HQ on Goldford Lane, Bickerton and draws its members from Tattenhall, Bickerton and the surrounding areas.

It has Beaver (age 6 – 7), Cub (age 8 – 9), Scout (age 10 – 13) and Explorer (age 14 – 17) sections and young people normally join as Beaver Scouts and progress through the Sections.

1ST SANDSTONE BEAVER SCOUTS

Each Beaver Scout Section (or Colony) has a maximum of 24 members, including boys and girls. The members are organised into four Lodges.

Beaver Scouts do not take on permanent leadership roles but are expected to develop a pride in their own Lodge and to help newer or younger members.

The Beaver Colonies meet from 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm every Wednesday (Hillside Beavers) or Thursday (Woodland Beavers) evening during the school terms of Bickerton and Tattenhall Primary Schools. Trips and other events are organised in addition. Please note that Cubs meet on Mondays and Tuesdays from 6:00 pm – 7:15 pm, and Scouts meet on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm.

The Scout Hut is located in 4 acres of enclosed private grounds (mostly wooded) on Bickerton Hill. This gives us direct access to the whole of the public access land in addition, and we make every effort to be outdoors on the hill whenever daylight and the weather permit this.

JOINING THE 1ST SANDSTONE BEAVER SCOUTS

In May 2014 we formed a second Beaver Colony and we aim to be able to accept every child who wishes to join within 3 months of their 6th birthday. It may, however, be necessary to reintroduce a reserve list in the future if applications exceed the number of places available.

If you would like your child to join please complete the on line application form. You may do this at any time after your child's 3rd birthday.

When we receive the completed application form your child's name will be added to the waiting list for the appropriate 'cohort'. Cohorts comprise those children whose date of birth falls within the same 6 month period, either Jun-Nov or Dec-May.

If all the vacancies in your child's 'cohort' have already been taken your child will be added to the reserve list, and will be moved up to the waiting list if a vacancy subsequently becomes available.

After your child has joined the waiting list we will email you in June and December each year and ask you to confirm that you still wish your child to remain on the list. If we do not receive your reply by the 14th of the following month we will remove your child from the waiting list. **Please, therefore, ensure that you receive our email, and that we receive your reply by the deadline. You may need to ensure that our email addresses are not blocked by spam filters on your computer.**

FAITH & SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

The Scout Association is an open Association. Whilst requiring all Members to make a Promise the Scout Association does not identify itself with any one religion, nor does it require its members to belong to a faith. Appropriate forms of the Promise are available to those of any, or no, faith.

The Scout Association is not directly and immediately concerned with the religious education of its Members. That responsibility is with the families to which the Members belong. However, the Purpose of the Scout Association includes 'to promote the spiritual potential of young people'. This responsibility is a fundamental part of the Association.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The current subscription is £80 per year, payable by 31 July for the following year. Those who join at the February half term only pay a half subscription for that year.

All Leaders and other helpers give their time free of charge. The subscription pays for the costs of National Scout, County and District HQs (which provide support and facilities used by local Scout Groups including camp sites and insurance) and of the Sandstone Scout Group (maintenance of the Scout Hut and grounds, insurance, fuel & water, badges, equipment, etc)

To allow children to attend a few sessions before deciding whether they want to join the first subscription will be refunded if a child decides not to join before the day they are invested as Beaver Scouts (normally the 4th week after starting). It cannot be refunded after that day.

PROGRAMME

The programme is based on a 2 year cycle and is designed to give the opportunity to all Beaver Scouts to earn the Chief Scout's Bronze Award before they move up to Cubs. Along the way they will have the opportunity to earn Activity Badges and Challenge Awards.

The programme is based on a number of main topic areas and each of these has a Challenge Badge associated with it which Beaver Scouts receive when they have completed all the sections in that topic. A Beaver Scout who earns all the Challenge Badges receives the Chief Scout's Bronze Award.

A variety of activities are used in the programme and these are helping others, going on visits, playing games, making things, meeting new people, acting, singing and making music, listening to stories, prayer and worship, chatting, following themes and going outdoors

The overall aim of the programme is to ensure that all the Beaver Scouts make new friends, try new things, make progress, work together in groups, keep the Beaver Promise and, above all, have fun

ADULT LEADERS AND HELPERS

The Scout Movement is a voluntary organisation and all adults give their time free of charge. The whole Movement, including the Beaver Scouts, cannot operate without adults prepared to help.

Meetings in the Scout Hut can only be held if there is at least a qualified Leader and at least one other adult present, although in practice at least three other adults are necessary so that each Lodge of 6 Beavers can be supervised by an adult. Meetings outside the Scout Hut, including trips, require a qualified Leader and at least one adult for each 6 Beaver Scouts.

If you, or anyone you know, can help on either a regular or an occasional basis, please let us know on the Application Form and we will contact you with further details.

1. Leaders: the qualified uniformed leaders who are responsible for running the activities
2. Occasional Helpers: who are prepared to assist the Leaders
3. Committee Members: who look after the administration of the Group

Please note that by applying for your child to join the Group you will agree to help as an Occasional Helper (OH) in the Scout Hut at least once or twice per term on a rota basis.

TRIPS AND EVENTS

Trips and other events are arranged throughout the year. Some of these are arranged by the County or District Headquarters and others are arranged by the Sandstone Scout Group or the Beaver Section.

Some of these provide the opportunity for Beaver Scouts to qualify for badges which are difficult to arrange locally. Others may provide the opportunity to visit Scout and Cub camps so that Beaver Scouts can see the sort of activities which they will take part in when they move on to the Cubs and Scouts.

UNIFORM

The only essential items of uniform are a long sleeved turquoise sweatshirt and a polo neck shirt (available on-line or from the shop in the Chester District HQ) worn with any suitable dark coloured trousers.

The on-line shop is at: <http://www.scoutshops.com/> and uniform can also be purchased from the shop in the District HQ in Chester; the profits on sales from both of these outlets are retained within the Association. Please do not purchase uniform from any other source; these frequently stock out of date styles.