

Dear Parent or Guardian

General information about our Colony

Our Beaver Scout Colony is part of the	7th Braid Edinburgh (George Heriot's School) Scout Group
Meeting place:	George Heriot's School
Meeting day:	Friday
Start time:	6.00pm
Finish time:	7.00pm
Subscription:	£30.00 per term
Your Beaver Scout Leader is:	Hannah Drummond
Home Telephone No:	Mobile 07972 053 395
email:	heriotsbeavers@gmail.com
Website:	www.7braid.btck.co.uk
Twitter	@7braidscout

The Beaver Scout Colony

Your youngster is joining a Beaver Scout Colony. The Beaver Scout Leader (BSL) runs the Colony usually with a team of Assistants (ABSL) who all give their time freely and have had training to help them do an effective job.

These Leaders are responsible for planning and running the programme of games and activities for Colony meetings and special outing and events.

The Colony has simple ceremonies, one of which is the investiture to which you are invited, when your youngster will be asked to make a promise.

The Beaver Scout Promise is:

I promise to do my best

To be kind and helpful

And to love God.

There are variations of the Beaver Scout Promise for different faiths.

What do Beavers Scouts really do?

Beaver Scouts will enjoy a great deal of fun and adventure whilst in the Colony. They will have an opportunity to gain badges. These are given in recognition of the effort made by each youngster at his or her own level of development and understanding. The Beaver Scout Programme includes such activities as:

- Have fun
- Make friends
- Try new things
- Keep the Promise
- Make progress
- Share in groups

The Training Programme

The training programme is split into three main areas: Awards, Challenges and Activity Badges.

Awards:

- **The Beaver Scout Membership Award**
- **Joining in Awards** – given for each year of membership.
- **Chief Scout's Bronze Award** – a special award for the older Beaver Scout.
- **The Moving on Award** (Beaver Scout to Cub Scout)

Challenges:

- **My Adventure Challenge**
- **My Outdoors Challenge**
- **My Skills Challenge**
- **My World Challenge**
- **Personal Challenge**
- **Teamwork Challenge**

Activity badges:

There are **19 activity badges and 14 staged activity badges** that Beaver Scouts can achieve. They cover a wide variety of activities. Details of all these awards can be found in your youngsters **Beavers: Adventure All the Way!** book or at www.scouts.org.uk.

You may ask the question 'how do I find out about these activities and events'. The Beaver Scout Leader will inform you by letter, email, text message and through your youngster. If at any time you are not sure about the arrangements for a Colony activity, do have a chat with the Leaders after the Colony meeting or contact them at home.

The Beaver Scout colony meets regularly. The Colony is often taken out on visits in connection with the programme of activities. Sometimes the Beaver Scout Leader invites visitors to speak to the Colony, like a local Policeman or Fireman. You may find that Beaver Scout Colony has links with other Beaver Scout Colonies locally and throughout the Region. They may join together for special events such as District Activities.

What do Beaver Scouts wear?

Beaver Scouts have a smart, practical uniform comprising of a light blue Scout sweatshirt and a Scout Group scarf. There is also a maroon woggle to hold the scarf in place. For below the waist, they can also wear school uniform or Beaver Scout tracksuit bottoms.

The uniform is available from:

Guide Shop 16 Coates Crescent EDINBURGH (0131) 225 3483	Aitken & Niven 6 Falcon Road West Morningside EH10 4AQ (0131) 477 3922
Glasgow Scout Shop 21 Elmbank Street GLASGOW G2 4PB (0141) 248 5941	
or by web order at www.glasgowscoutshop.com www.scoutshops.com www.aitken-niven.co.uk	

You only need to buy the sweatshirt. The Colony will supply the scarf, woggle and badges.

The illustration shows you where the badges are sewn on the Beaver Scout uniform.

Colony Sleep overs and Nights Away

Ask any Beaver Scout what they like best about being a Beaver Scout and most of them will reply sleep overs or nights away. Most youngsters' love being out of doors and the sleep overs or nights away are very special – certainly very different from school trips! It is a chance to try some special activities that cannot be done at the regular Colony meeting.

Your youngster will have the opportunity to sleep indoors on a sleep over or nights away. The Beaver Scout Colony usually goes away for a night once a year.

The Leaders in the Colony are specially trained before they are allowed to take youngsters away on a sleep over or nights away. They take on the responsibility to look after the Beaver Scouts with same level of care as if they were their own large family of youngsters.

The Leaders will often need to take along extra adult help to help assist with the catering arrangements or equipment. This extra help may include Scouts, Explorer Scouts, Scout Network members, Instructors (for special activities) or parents/guardians to help with general supervision. Outing away from the hall, including sleep overs and Colony Holidays require a ratio of 1 adult to 6 Beaver Scouts plus an extra adult.

What is Scouting trying to do?

The Aim of The Scout Association is to encourage the physical, mental and spiritual development of young people so that they may take a more constructive place in society.

Scouting tries to achieve the Aim of the Movement by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based upon a Scout Promise and Law. Adult Leadership guides the activities and training offered by Scouting.

All sections in The Scout Association are open to both males and females. Our group is termed as a closed group. This means our membership is restricted to pupils or former pupils of George Heriot's School, which is this Scout Group's sponsoring authority.

The Scout Association in the United Kingdom is a multi-cultural, multi-faith organisation consisting of 5 sections:

The Beaver Scout Section

Beavers Scouts are youngsters aged between 6 and 8 years old. They can join Beavers from when they are 5¾ years old.

The Cub Scout Section

Cub Scouts are youngsters aged between 8 and 10½ years old. They can join Cubs from when they are 7½ years old and stay in Cubs until their eleventh birthday.

The Scout Section

Scouts are youngsters aged between 10½ and 14 years old.

Locally you will generally find one of more of the sections above forming a Scout Group.

Currently, our Scout Group comprises of a Beaver Scout Colony and a Cub Scout Pack

The Explorer Scout Section

Explorer Scouts are aged between 14 and 18

years old.

The Scout Network

Scout Network are young adults aged between 18 and 24 years old.

The Scout Group is like a family and is looked after by a Group Scout Leader (GSL). He or she supports all Leaders and makes sure that your youngsters enjoys quality Scouting through exciting, challenging and interesting activities. The other key task of the Group Scout Leader is to ensure that the activities of the whole Scout Group are co-ordinated.

How can you help?

Your youngster may come home and ask you for something he needs for Beavers. Your youngster expects you to be interested and will get much more out of Scouting if you are prepared to offer your support. There are lots of ways in which you can help, for example:

Offering a skill or hobby to train or test the Beaver Scouts for Activity badges.

Helping to prepare refreshments for a Group or Colony event.

Helping transport Beaver Scouts to events and outings by driving a minibus.

Supporting the Scout Group's fund raising events, social events, Annual General Meeting and Open evenings.

Joining the Scout Group Executive Committee to help them plan fund raising, buy equipment and manage the Scout Group.

The Group Council

Once your youngster is invested into the Scout Group, you automatically become a member of the Group Council. All parents, Leaders and Patrol Leaders in the Group are Members of this Council and it meets once a year, usually in June at its Annual General Meeting.

The Group Executive Committee

Each year, the Scout Group elects an Executive Committee consisting of a number of parents and various Leaders in the Group to carry out the day-to-day tasks of running the Scout Group. They are responsible for purchasing of equipment and maintaining group property. The function of the Group Executive Committee is also to support and help the Group Scout Leader carry out their role in maintaining an effective and successful Scout Group. The Group Executive is also the trustee of the charity.

What do you gain from helping?

You will have the opportunity to meet a variety of new people and make a real contribution to help your local community. Please do not be too shy to offer your help and if you feel you have any skills to offer to the Beaver Scout Colony, please contact the Beaver Scout Leader.

By playing your part and supporting your child you will share the enjoyment, friendship and fun of the family of Scouting.

GIFT AID

The Group is a registered charity, number SC036159. An important part of our fundraising is the Gift Aid scheme, where we claim back the tax on your subscription payments. Each payment of £30 is worth £37.50 to the Group.

By ticking the box on the admission form, you agree to treat payments as gift aid donations and that:

- You pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax we reclaim on the payments (currently 25p for every £1 you give).
- You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the Scout Group.
- Please notify the Scout Group if you change your name or address.