

## **Michigan Beaver Colony Report**

Michigan Colony was formed in April 2015 with 4, new to scouting, assistant leaders and has increased from an initial 12, to 16 children over the last year.

### **Activities**

The Beavers have spent time on attaining a number of activity badges including Fitness & Healthy Eating, Safety, Space, Experiment, Communicator and Creative.

The programme of activities have based on attaining their staged and challenge badges within each term.

### **Summer Term 2015**

In the summer term, the Beavers spent some time getting to know each other while doing some tile painting for their creative badge.

We started working towards their Outdoor Challenge badge, and this included a visit Stanton Park with Ontario to take part in some nature activities including building a bug hotel and spotting wildlife.

And finally before finishing for the summer break, the Michigan Beavers were invited to the Ontario summer disco where they enjoyed a few games and having a dance.

### **Autumn Term 2015 - Outdoors Challenge Badge**

Michigan Beavers took part in the annual Bowmoor fun day, where on the Friday night they camped out, and on the Saturday, they had the chance to take have a go in kayaks and sailing and really enjoyed themselves.

For the safety badge the Colony were visited by the Fire Brigade who arrived (sirens blazing) to talk to them about fire safety. The beavers got to sit in the fire engine and were even allowed to engage in some water hose target practice!

Also during this term the Beavers earned their Space activity badge learning about the constellations and using a clever phone app to identify them in the night sky. They also interactively learned about how planetary orbits are linked to the length of years and days.

As part of the communication badge activity, the beavers learned how to use symbols instead of letters to code and decode messages that they sent each other.

Finally at the end of the year, the Beavers enjoyed the visit from St Andrew's Church to take us through a Christingle service including some carol singing.

### **Spring Term 2016 - Skills challenge badge**

In the winter term, the Beavers were put through their paces to gain their Fitness challenge badge and for this, the Beavers took part in some exercise routines, learned about healthy food and how to look after their teeth.

The beavers used their problem solving skills to protect an egg from a 6 foot drop using nothing but their wits and some everyday household materials.

They also completed their Machine badge by designing and then building something to automate a process. Some interesting prototypes were created.

The Beavers also brought in and talked about their collections and started work on the animal friend badge where one of our young leaders brought in some lizard-like creatures.

Lastly the spring term finished off with a trip to PGL, an activity centre at Liddington where the beavers worked as a team as they tackled some underground caving through pitch-black, dark, wet tunnels and then went on to scale the 30ft climbing wall...

### **Summer Term 2016 - Adventure badge**

Summer term has so far seen the colony get outside as much as possible with the beavers learning some fire building skills and playing some team games. Plans for more outside camp craft and adventurous activities are planned to prepare us for the summer camping trip to Woodhouse Park.

### **Leaders and assistants**

Throughout the year, the section has been well supported. Andi Hayman, Nick Brewster, Claire Brewster and Andy Gibling as well as our two young Leaders (Dan and Josh) have contributed lots of time and effort in setting up the colony.

The team would also like to thank Bryan McGraw, who has helped our novice management team find our feet and the other leaders who have helped us out and offered guidance along the way.

### **Parents**

Also a thanks too from the leadership team to the parents who have assisted with some of our sessions and supported the children in completing some elements of their badges at home.

THANK YOU

Michigan leadership team