

Ontario Beaver Colony Report 2016-17

Ontario Beavers have gone from strength to strength over this last year. We have had 100% attendance from a majority of the group which indicates that the Beavers are enjoying all aspects of the group. They participate in a log chew every term in which we have received very positive feedback. The only negative has been that we do not run in the school break!

The Beavers consistently work very hard in all the sessions and we are very lucky to have such a supportive group of parents who step forward to offer their individual skills. We have had parents offering to organise and run sessions which have been very successful. Thank you to all the parents, without your support we would not be able to run the activities that all your children thoroughly enjoy. The Beavers have embraced the new Beaver challenge badge system with enthusiasm which has made the leadership team work extremely hard to provide a challenging programme.

I am very pleased to announce that over the year nine beavers have achieved their Chief Scout Bronze Awards and four more are nearly there. Congratulations to them all.

Activities

The Beavers have participated in a range of creative, practical and physical activities over the last year plus many visiting speakers and outings, the highlights of each term are listed below.

Autumn/winter term

Visit by the police who actually managed to get the police car into the Wick, every Beaver enjoyed trying on hats, various uniforms and sitting in the driver's seat with the lights flashing.

Cooking at North Star College with the support of the students. The Beavers were very excited to cook in a proper kitchen and enjoyed healthy wraps, finishing off with fresh fruit kebabs.

Attending the District Christmas service, making Christingles and learning the meaning of them.

We celebrated Christmas by joining Michigan Beavers at Jungle Mania for a party. All Beavers had a wonderful time mixing with new friends.

Bag packing and scout stamp selling is always an enjoyable activity for the Beavers. It has been very well supported this year, thanks again parents.

Beavers have also enjoyed participating in experiments; they always seem keen on anything that makes a mess. The edible fireworks went down extremely well.

Finally, while working on their international badge beavers were very keen to find out about Beavers from other parts of the world so we have worked on contacting with another Beaver colony in Australia. We have recently received an email from a group who would like to link with us. We are expecting their letters any time now.

Spring term

We have been working on our photography badge in which all Beavers made their own photograph book in which to display their photographs, not just from the session but highlights through-out the year.

We enjoyed a visit from an astronomer who helped the Beavers identify the planets and think about the constellations.

Thanks to the local lolly pop man who led a very enjoyable practical session on road safety which finished with a practice of the green cross code on the road outside the Wick.

We hiked to Homebase to buy bulbs to plant for Mother's Day and when we arrived we were pleasantly greeted by the manager who donated bulbs to the group. Thank you Homebase.

We had an interesting end to the term with a visit from Jonathan's jungle animals. The Beavers were a lot braver than the adults and handled a giant millipede and snake; no-one was bothered by the tarantula spider that made an appearance.

Summer term

We have had a busy term so far with a visit to Stanton Woods for a very enjoyable Easter egg hunt.

Making bug hotels while enjoying a walk in the woods.

We were very proud to walk with Cubs, Scouts and Explorers at the St Georges Day parade, a good turn out by Beavers who listened well in the service and enjoyed participating.

Beavers have enjoyed joining with both Michigan Beavers and Drake Cub pack at Woodhouse Park Camp. For many this was their first camp and they look forward to many more in the future. While at camp Beavers worked on their orienteering and pioneering skills, making a trebuchet and participating in all aspects of camp.

First aid was a hit with CPR dummies to practice on, a look around an ambulance where we even sat in the driver seat and sounded the siren, lots of bandaging where we discovered that you cannot put everything in a sling!

We look forward to more camping over the rest of this term, crayfishing with 2nd Cricklade Beavers, kayaking at Bowmoor, swimming and of course the Bowoor funday!

Awards

Each year we nominate a Beaver for a Beaver of the year award; it has been particularly hard to make that choice this year because all Beavers without exception have made giant steps and are all Beavers to be proud of. With consultation with the leadership team we are very proud to announce that two of our Beavers will receive this award, Freddie and Niko, who have both shown a positive and caring approach to their participation in Beavers. Freddie has grown in confidence and conquered his fears; he is always kind and caring which makes him a popular member of the group. Niko has also grown in confidence, she is always on hand to support, she helps young Beavers while allowing them to have a go, she is also kind and caring which makes her a popular member of the group. Well done to both of you and to all the other Beavers.

Leadership team

I would like to especially thank Alan Kelly for all the work he has done to produce such a dedicated and hardworking team. He has ensured that Beavers continue to thrive and are welcoming to change. He has made my transition from Section Assistant to Section Leader a smooth and supported one. I would also like to thank Terry, Gerry, Donna, Paul, our young leaders Nick and Maisey, not forgetting our most recent members to the leadership team David and Charlotte who all work really hard to keep the group running with exciting activities and providing support to all other aspects of Scouting. They have all given willingly a lot time and effort to ensure that all the Beavers get the best experience within their time in the colony.

Parents

I have to say that I have been overwhelmed by the support all parents have shown. The Beavers are always in their uniform, always on time and attendance is high. The parents have worked hard not only during meetings but getting the Beavers to various events. Parents have offered help without being asked and have support all the tasks to be completed at home. They have organised and run meetings and attendance at our recent camp was amazing. Thank you all for your dedication, enthusiasm and continued support.

THANK YOU ALL, I LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER BRILLIANT YEAR IN BEAVERS.

Jackie Stephens