

Section Reports: Michigan Beaver Colony 2017/18



Michigan Colony has now been running for 3 years and this year has really gained momentum, providing a great foundation for young people in their first steps into the world of scouting. We have seen a significant number of our older Beavers this year gain their Chief Scouts Bronze

and move to Cubs. A very successful year for the colony which continues to grow from strength to strength.

Summer Term 2017 – Team Programme

This term focussed on “team activity” getting Beavers to work together to achieve common goals.

We ran sports events / team games prior to our main event camping at Woodhouse – this camp was a first experience for many of the Beavers and they worked together on the many activities set up during this two day event.

After a busy camp we led a number of other team sports activities and some “indoor” board games to encourage the children to work together. We learnt about international scouting and the “scout promise”.

In addition to a visit Thames Water who outlined their Million Hands project and how water is moved from one place to another in country where there is little or no infrastructure, we rounded the term off with a hike around our favourite water habitat – the Lake at Bowmoor where we studied the environment, made Bug hotels and discovered the different animals that live around the lake.

Bowmoor provided the location for the fun day where we additionally got Beavers out on the water to enjoy the Kayaks and try their hand at sailing.

Spring Term 2017 – Outdoor Programme

This was a busy term with Beavers learning a diverse range of activities over the term.

We kicked the term off with map reading – with Beavers learning about how to read maps and learn about the location we live in. We learnt about some of the animals that live in our vicinity and how we look after them and our environment.

We moved onto a few more practical skills with Beavers learning about how to deal in an emergency situation and the actions they have to take. We also had some practical demonstrations with activities such as crossing the road and learning the green cross code.

As the colder nights drew in we moved indoors and ran a series of fun Chemistry experiments, we told the group about the things we collected as a hobby and the animals we cared for.

Finally, and before getting into the Christmas spirit, we worked on the core elements of communication and the use of computers.

Spring Term 2018 – Skills

Another busy term with so much to learn – our Skills challenge certainly gave us an opportunity to learn many new things - from problem solving to inventing machines – the term kicked off with some great fun. We created salt dough models as well as learning about healthy living, healthy foods and exercise.

After our skills night (where we learnt everything from lighting a candle to tying a shoelace) we had a visit from Thameswood Vets who taught us about animal care. We also visit the office of the local MP, Justin Tomlinson to understand how government works.

The term ended after we all gained our space badge learning about different missions, and the constellations – the term ended with the creation of our own super heroes!

Summer Term – 2018 - Challenge

The fun continues in our summer term where we continue to make every aspect of being a Beaver fun - this is always a great term assuming we can get outside and enjoy it!

We learnt about different animals and their habitats and created a bird feeder, we have visited a fire station and had the opportunity to play fireman for the evening, we have been fencing and we have been on a giant swing.

We spent a week learning the key elements of first aid and recently embarked on the Woodhouse Camp. For those Beavers who attended it was a fun packed couple of days where we climbed walls, cooked, made puppets, made fires, pitched tents, went on a muddy adventure, sung songs around the camp fire, became archers and then tackled the low ropes – a real adventure for all those participated and a very full weekend.

The term is not over yet and there is still much to do including our fun day at Bowmoor so there is still plenty more challenge out there!

Leaders and assistants

Throughout the year, the team has worked hard to deliver this programme – Claire & Nick Brewster have contributed significant time and effort following in addition to young leaders Emily Cripps, Luke Cripps, John Smith and Samuel Edwards.

Parents

Also thanks too from the leadership team to the parents who have assisted with some of our sessions - this makes a huge difference to us – we really could not make this happen without your help and support – we look forward to you supporting our sessions moving forward and encourage you to join the team!

THANK YOU

Mark Edwards
Beaver Leader