



# Beaver Scouts Meeting Schedule

## Theme: World Scout Environment Programme – Clean Air

*Objective: Introduce Beaver Scouts to the significance of air pollution and potential environmental implications. Using games and activities, Cubs will begin to understand some of the causes of air pollution and will learn some ways that they can help reduce air pollution.*

Time	Activity	Program Details	Leader Responsible
10 mins	Gathering Activity	Carbon Cycle Tag	
5 mins	Opening Ceremony		
10 mins	Story/Game	Climate Change Circle Story	
30 mins	Theme Activity	What is Air? Air Song	
10 mins	Theme Activity	What Belongs in the Air?	
10 mins	Lodge Meeting		
5 mins	Spiritual Fellowship		
5 mins	Closing Ceremony		
15 mins	Leader Discussion Time		

Meeting Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Beaver Meeting – Detail Planning

## Introduction

Air is one of our most important resources and is the most basic requirement for life. Plants and animals (including people!) could not survive without air. The number one air quality concern in Canada is particulates, which can cause serious health problems for seniors or young children. Particulates are small, fine particles in the air – most of them we cannot even see! Particulates are made up of many different kinds of materials, and come in a variety of sizes. Some of the sources for particulates include smoke, dirt, dust, mold, spores, pollen, heavy metals, and toxic organic materials.

Air pollution can produce acid rain and worsen respiratory diseases such as asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia, and emphysema. Acid rain is produced when sulfur or nitrogen oxides from smoke enter the air and mix with the moisture in the atmosphere. When it rains, these compounds fall on lakes, forests and urban areas, and cause damage to aquatic/terrestrial species and can even strip bark off of a tree or paint off of a building! Improving the quality of our air will help sustain the health of people, animals and plants and ensure that our earth stays green.

Some sources that contribute to air pollution include factories/industry, power plants burning fossil fuels like coal, exhaust from automobiles and airplanes, and open/backyard burning.

Air pollution contributes to climate change, which is a global concern with the potential to significantly affect the future of our world. There is strong evidence that human activities are impacting our climate now – resulting in a change in climate and weather patterns, a greater frequency and intensity of storms and droughts, and a higher incidence of forest fires.

# Gathering Activity

## Carbon Cycle Tag

### *Objective:*

Beaver Scouts will begin to understand the carbon cycle through this fun game.

### *Background Information:*

The carbon cycle is important to the survival of our planet. Trees and plants need carbon dioxide to survive, and animals need oxygen to survive. Trees and plants breathe in carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen, which animals (including people!) breathe in. Animals breathe out carbon dioxide, which the trees and plants use. This is an important part of the carbon cycle.

### *Equipment:*

- A large, defined playing area.

### *Instructions:*

One side of the playing area is the starting area and the other is the “safe area.” One to three Beaver Scouts will be in the centre playing area. They are “Trees.” The other Beaver Scouts are “Carbon Dioxide” molecules, and they will try to run from the starting area to the safe area, without getting tagged. If they are tagged, they are transformed into “Oxygen,” and join the “Trees” in the centre, because trees and plants produce oxygen. Once most of the Beaver Scouts are in the centre, it is time to play Round 2. Take the last three or so Beaver Scouts, and place them in the middle of the playing area – they are now “Animals.” The trees join the oxygen molecules at the starting point. As they run across, if they are tagged, they are transformed into Carbon Dioxide, and join the animals in the centre, because produce carbon dioxide.

# Story/Game

## Climate Change Circle Story

### *Objective:*

To introduce Beaver Scouts to the concepts surrounding air pollution and promote understanding while having fun.

### *Background Information:*

Climate change refers to a change in the weather (temperature, wind and precipitation) typically experienced in a region.

### *Equipment:*

- The Climate Change Story
- Keyword paper slips – photocopy the keywords template and cut so each Cub has one word. If planning to use this game more than once, it might be a good idea to laminate the key words or photocopy onto cardstock.

### *Instructions:*

The object of the game is for the Beaver Scouts to race around the circle back to their place before other Beaver Scouts get to their spots.

Beaver Scouts sit in a circle on the ground. Read the story to them once, asking them to listen for the key words such as climate, carbon, greenhouse, energy, and trees.

Hand out the paper slips with the keywords on them so that all the Beaver Scouts have a word (it is important to have at least two of each keyword. Space out the words evenly around the circle.

Read the story to the Beaver Scouts again. When a Beaver hears their word, they must get up and try to run around the circle back to their seat first. After each key word, wait for all of the Beaver Scouts to get back to their places before resuming the story.

Ask Beaver Scouts questions about each of the words after the game to ensure that they have understood the message.

## Climate Change Story

*The atmosphere is a layer of gases around the EARTH.*

*These gases help keep some of the sun's heat in, kind of a window in a GREENHOUSE. We need them because otherwise the planet would be too cold to live on.*

*But, if there are too many of these gases, too much of the heat gets trapped in the atmosphere and that will cause CLIMATE change. Human actions are putting more and more of these GREENHOUSE gases into the atmosphere.*

*One of the most common of these gases is called CARBON dioxide. This is a molecule that occurs naturally; for example, we breathe it out with every breath and it is necessary for the survival of TREES. However, we also create this molecule when we burn fossil fuels like oil and gas to make ENERGY and drive our cars. And too much of it is not good for the EARTH.*

*However, there are many ways to help reduce CLIMATE change. We can plant TREES. They help reduce global warming by absorbing CARBON dioxide. We can also help by turning off lights, recycling our garbage, using our cars less, so that we need less ENERGY.*

*I hope this little lesson helped you understand the relationship of the EARTH, CLIMATE change, GREENHOUSE gases, CARBON dioxide, ENERGY, and TREES!*

### Key Word Cards

*(This activity is from the Climate Change Challenge. Check out [www.scouts.ca](http://www.scouts.ca) for additional resources. )*

CARBON	EARTH
CLIMATE	ENERGY
GREENHOUSE	TREES

## Theme Activity

### What is Air?

*Objective:*

To demonstrate the properties of air, to promote understanding of the atmosphere, air pollution, and climate change.

*Background information:*

Air is everywhere, and it is important to our lives. All living things need air to live and grow. We cannot see or feel air, but we use air each time we breathe in and out. We need to know when air is safe to breathe and how to avoid pollution, pollen, molds, and dust in the air.

*Equipment:*

- Large, deep glass bowl
- Two small glasses
- A piece of paper
- Water
- For each Beaver Scout:
  - a facial tissue
  - paper bags
  - plastic bag and a twist tie

*Instructions:*

1. Fill the bowl  $\frac{3}{4}$  full of water. Ball up a dry piece of paper and push it into the bottom of a glass.

Hold the glass upside down (make sure that the piece of paper will not fall out). Push it straight down to the bottom of the bowl of water. What happens?

Tilt the glass slightly and watch some of the air escape from the glass in the form of bubbles.

Now lift the glass straight out of the water and remove the paper. Is it still dry? Why?

2. Pass out a paper bag to each Beaver Scout. Have the children open the bags and look inside. Ask: What do you see? What do you feel? Are the bags full?

Have the Beaver Scouts to close the bags, leaving a small opening at the top.

Ask: What happens if you push on the outside of the bag? Do you feel anything? Does it feel different if you push faster or slower?

3. Now, we will try to “capture” air in a bag – just like your lungs do when you inhale!

Give each Beaver Scout a plastic bag. Have the children try to “capture” and close the bag with a twist tie.

Ask: Is there something in the bag? What do you see? What do you feel?

## SONG

### ***Air Song***

*(to the tune of Frère Jacques)*

*Lyrics:*

You can't see it, you can't see it,  
But it's there, everywhere.  
It fills up balloons,  
It takes up space,  
It is air, it is air.

You can't see it, you can't see it,  
But it's there, everywhere.  
It makes things move,  
When it blows,  
It is air, it is air.

## Theme Activity

### ***What Belongs in the Air?*** **Colouring Sheet**

*Objective:*

The Beaver Scouts now know that air is everywhere, that all living things need air, and that there are certain human activities (such as energy use, driving cars) that contribute to air pollution and climate change.

*Equipment:*

*What Belongs in the Air?* colouring sheet  
(on following page)

*Instructions:*

Give each Beaver a colouring sheet. The colouring sheet has four panes in the window. Have the Beaver Scouts draw and colour pictures of things that belong in the air (balloons, birds, kites, etc.) one side, and on the other, draw and colour pictures of things that do NOT belong in the air? (pollution, etc).

# ***What Belongs in the Air?***

## **Colouring Sheet**

