

Beaver Meeting Schedule: Week Two

Theme: St. Patick's Day

Date: _____

<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Program Details</i>	<i>Leader Responsible</i>
10 mins.	Gathering Activity	Shamrock Label Pins (See Detail Planning Sheet)	
5 mins.	Opening Ceremony	<i>Details can be found in the Beaver Leader's Handbook</i>	
10 mins.	Game	Shamrock Hop (See Detail Planning Sheet)	
20 mins.	Theme Activity	Leprechaun Centrepiece (See Detail Planning Sheet)	
10 mins.	Story	Legend of the Leprechauns (See Detail Planning Sheet)	
10 mins.	Lodge Meeting	How would you catch a Leprechaun?	
5 mins.	Spiritual Fellowship	Recite Promise / Law Prayer / Talk	
5 mins.	Closing Ceremony	<i>Details can be found in the Beaver Leader's Handbook</i>	
15 mins.	Leader Discussion Time	Review meeting and discuss next week's plans	

Meeting
Notes:

Beaver Meeting - Detail Planning

Theme: St. Patrick's Day



Introduction

Each March 17th, people around the world celebrate the feast day of St. Patrick. But who was he? Was he just a myth dreamed up by revellers as an excuse to overindulge in food, drink, song and dance? Not at all.

Patrick was born into a Romanized family in early 5th Century Britain. Captured by pirates and sold as a slave when he was sixteen, Patrick ended up in Ireland working as a lowly herdsman. For six years his faith sustained him. When he escaped, he returned to Britain where he had a vision (recorded in his still-surviving autobiography called *Confessio*) which called him to return to Ireland and convert its people to Christianity.

Though deeply afraid of following his spiritual calling, Patrick studied in a European monastery then left for Ireland. Despite constant threats to his life, Patrick travelled widely telling people of God's love for them and sharing stories from Jesus' life. Setting such an outstanding example, the entire Irish population soon embraced Patrick's faith. Churches, schools and monasteries sprung up all over Ireland. People recognized Patrick for his humility and simplicity. For example, he used an Irish shamrock to explain the Trinity: God is one but appears in three persons — *Father, Son and Holy Spirit*.

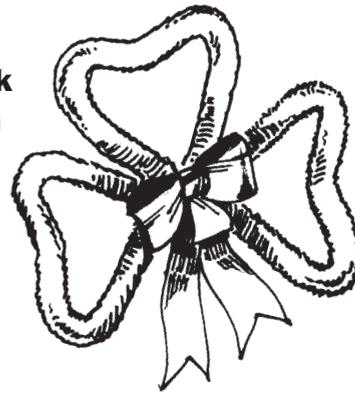
Today Patrick is the Patron Saint of Ireland.

Crafts

Shamrock Lapel Pins

Give each Beaver three green pipe cleaners and have them form each into a shamrock petal. Twist together the ends at the centre. Leaders can add small ribbon bows and safety pins. These shamrock pins can be worn during the meeting and taken home afterwards.

**Shamrock
Lapel Pin**

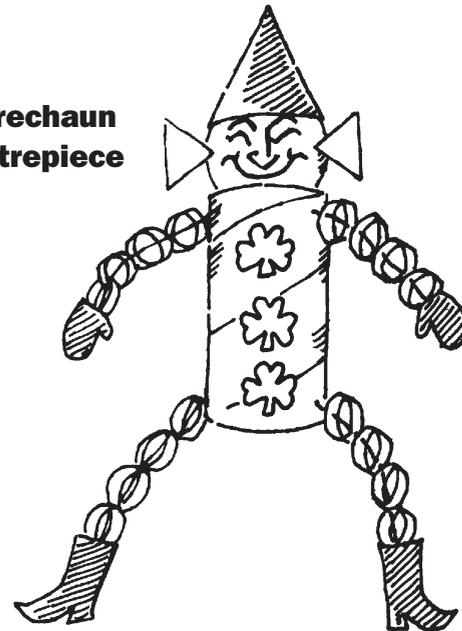


A Leprechaun Centrepiece

Beavers will enjoy making these leprechauns. You will need toilet paper or paper towel rolls, green and black construction paper, ping-pong balls, green wool or thread, scissors, glue and/or stapler, and markers.

Use toilet paper or paper towel rolls for the body. Get your Beavers to cover them with green paper (or paint them green at an earlier meeting). Make the leprechaun's head from a ping-pong ball, and top it with a hat of green or black construction paper. Legs and arms are easily made from green paper circles strung on green wool or thread. Hands, feet and ears can be made from double thicknesses of construction paper (you may need to design a pattern for these) and stapled or glued to arms, legs and head. Using felt-tipped pens, give the leprechaun a mischievous face.

**Leprechaun
Centrepiece**



Game

Shamrock Hop

Arrange your Beavers in pairs; give each pair two big green shamrocks cut from cardboard. One Beaver in each pair is the "hopper", while the other is the "helper" as they cross the pond from one side to the other.

The helper places the shamrock on the floor and, with both feet, the hopper hops onto it. The helper puts the other shamrock a little farther ahead and the hopper hops onto it. They continue until they reach the other side of the pond, where the hopper and helper change places for the return trip.

**Doing the
Shamrock Hop!**



Stories



The Legend of the Leprechauns

Leprechauns are fairies who live in Ireland. They are called “the Little People” because they are so tiny they can hardly be seen by you and me.

Leprechauns work very hard mending shoes for the other Irish fairies who, because they like dancing, wear out their shoes quickly. Being such hard workers, leprechauns are sometimes grumpy, but they are very rich.

Leprechauns dress in bright green suits and hats so they can hide in the meadows and forests of Ireland where they live. The people of Ireland say that if you catch a leprechaun, he’ll tell you where he has hidden his pot of gold as long as you promise to let him go.

But leprechauns are clever creatures and usually manage to get away, as you will see in this story.

Once upon a time, a long time ago in Ireland, a farmer named Sean Haggarty was walking through his fields on his way home. Sean was tired and hungry after a hard day tending his sheep; he was looking forward to his supper. As he crossed the field next to his house, he suddenly saw a movement in the tall grass.

He could hear the sound of an Irish jig coming from the spot and began to wonder if he had found a leprechaun.

“If it is a leprechaun,” thought Sean, “maybe I can sneak up on him and catch him. If I catch him, I’m sure I can get him to tell me where his pot of gold is.”

So Sean crept up on the spot and finally saw a leprechaun seated on a tiny bench hammering on a shoe! The leprechaun was about 75 mm tall and was singing and hammering so loudly that he didn’t hear Sean creep up. Sean reached out and grabbed him with both hands.

The singing and hammering stopped. A tiny voice said angrily, “Hey you! Put me down! What do you think you’re doing?”

Sean could feel tapping on his fingers and gingerly opened his hands to peek at the little person he had captured. The leprechaun, dressed completely in green, glared up at him.

“I said put me down!” he screamed.

“Not for a while yet,” grinned Sean, sitting down on a nearby log. “Not until you tell me where your pot of gold is.”

“Pot of gold?” said the leprechaun, looking crafty, “What pot of gold is that?”

Sean laughed, “Oh, you’re not going to fool Sean Haggarty, little leprechaun. Everyone in Ireland knows that if you capture a leprechaun, he’ll tell you where his pot of gold is — if you promise to let him go.”

The leprechaun looked even more angry.

“All right, all right, you win. If you promise to let me go, I’ll show you where my pot of gold is hidden,” he said.

“You will?” said Sean. “Then of course I promise to let you go. But you have to show me first.”

The leprechaun sighed and pointed, “It’s over there, buried under that buttercup.”

Sean was delighted and hurriedly dumped the leprechaun on the ground. He strode over to the buttercup and looked at it carefully.

“Good, good. I’ll tie my red neckerchief around the buttercup to mark the spot and go and get my shovel,” he said.

“Suit yourself,” replied the leprechaun, who had already started working on his shoe again.

Sean rushed home, picked up his shovel and in 10 minutes was back in the field.

“Now,” he said to himself, “Where’s that red neckerchief?” He looked around the field and saw an amazing thing. Every single buttercup had a red neckerchief tied around it!

“Oh no,” exclaimed Sean, “I’ll never find the pot of gold now.” And from somewhere in the distance came the sound of a leprechaun laughing.

Suggested Stories

- *St. Patrick’s Day in the Morning*. By E. Bunting
- *Jeremy Bean’s St. Patrick’s Day*. By A. Schertle