



Beaver Meeting Schedule – Week ____

Theme: Beaver Lodges

| Time | Activity | Program Details | Leader Responsible |
|---------|----------------------|---|--------------------|
| 5 mins | Gathering Activity | Greet the Beavers | |
| 5 mins | Game | Big Beaver says (Simon Says) | |
| 10 mins | Theme activity | Have Beavers form a circle and explain the concept of a Beaver dam. Teach the formations of River Banks and Building a dam. Introduce the idea of "Kits". | |
| 5 mins | Game | Beaver Pond | |
| 15 mins | Theme activity/Story | Tell or read Chapter 1 of <i>Friends of the Forest</i> . Name Leaders. | |
| 10 mins | Activity | Explain: Motto, Promise and Law | |
| 15 mins | Activity | Assign: Beavers to lodge leaders. Form into lodges and help Beavers choose lodge patches. Explain lodges. | |
| 5 mins | Song | "Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes". | |
| 5 mins | Closing Ceremony | River Banks and Dam Formation. | |
| 5 mins | Goodnight | Say: "Goodnight and busy building tomorrow." | |

Meeting Notes: _____

Beaver Meeting – Detail Planning

Games

Big Beaver Says

This game is a variation of the old favourite “Simon Says”. One person leads the action, while the others follow only when the leader starts the command with “Big Beaver Says”. Beavers take turns being leader; those who make mistakes remain in the game. This game is not a contest.

Beaver Pond 2

Beavers sit in the middle of the room and imagine that they’re in a big lodge. The leader yells out, “There’s a leak in the front of the lodge!”; Beavers then race to the front of the room to fix the leak by pretending to hammer something over it. The leader then may yell, “There’s leak in the back of the lodge!” and the action continues with the location of the leak changing each time. This is a good game if your Beavers need to run off some energy.

Activity

Motto, Promise and Law

Beaver Law – A Beaver has fun, works hard and helps family and friends.

Beaver Promise – I promise to love God and to help take care of the world.

Beaver Motto – Sharing, Sharing, Sharing.

Lodges

Benefits of Lodges

Just as there are developmental benefits when children play with Beavers of a similar age, there are other benefits when children play with Beavers who are younger or older. Scouting seeks to help develop the whole child. A Beaver between playing in tails and mixed-age lodges provides the most complete growing experience.

Because of their small size, lodges offer Beavers a feeling of safety; lodges also give leaders a way to maintain control and fun in the colony. There's one caution: when you work with lodges, you may find you tend to do things at a White Tail's ability level, which leaves Blue and, especially Brown Tails, feeling as though they've been cast adrift. If you're aware of this tendency, avoid it. Your lodge activities will provide Beavers with some extremely positive benefits.

Belonging

Perhaps the most important function of lodges is that they provide a feeling of belonging. The lodge is a "family", complete with a name and older and younger friends. A healthy feeling of belonging can help Beavers develop empathy and capacity to understand other Beavers' points of view.

Studies have shown that physical appearance (such as size and attractiveness) can influence peer acceptance. Studies have shown that children as young as four years old can discriminate on the basis of race. Through lodges, Beavers learn to see people's differences as something positive; they begin to understand that everyone brings special skills and abilities to the lodge.

Activities that strengthen lodge identity and promote social interaction and sharing help build a sense of belonging in Beavers.

Trust

When Beavers feel as though they belong to a lodge and to the overall Colony, it enhances their sense of trust. Trust is very important in developing friendships, listening to leaders, and accepting new or changing experiences.

Beavers are more likely to approach new situations eagerly in a lodge environment that gives them a sense of safety and security. You can build trust by encouraging Beavers to help one another, share and play together cooperatively in lodge activities.

Initiative

Finally, when the lodge provides a sense of belonging and trust, it gives Beavers the support base that enables them to risk striking out on their own. You see this when Beavers begin to talk more, and share their ideas. Enhance the feeling by being an active and interested listener. It shows you consider each Beaver a unique and special person.

Cheer on Beavers as they make new attempts and try new things; it helps them to cope with guilty feelings that may come from fear and fumbling. A pat on the back and praise after a good try are great initiative builders.

Tail groupings provide beavers with a healthy sense of competence in their abilities. Lodge activities provide opportunities to promote feelings of belonging, trust and initiative. Use both kinds of groups. Together, tails and lodges provide a well-rounded growing experience for children.

Song

Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes

Head and shoulders, knees and toes,
Knees and toes, knees and toes.
Head and shoulders, knees and toes,
Eyes, ears, mouth and nose.

(As they sing, Beavers touch the part of the body mentioned. With each round, drop one word, but continue the action until, finally, everyone is doing the actions without the words. Repeat three times, getting faster each time.)