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SO YOU’VE VOLUNTEERED TO JOIN SCOUTING

Hats off to you for your willingness to share some of your valuable time to enrich your community! Welcome to the *World Brotherhood of Scouting*.

More than 28 million people, in 155 countries and territories, are Scouting members. As adult leaders, we are together because we enjoy working with others and believe that Scouting’s mission, principles and programs can help Beavers get the most out of life, now and in the future. Sure, a leadership job in Beavering will take some of your time, but we believe that as you give, you will also get a lot of enjoyment, new skills and sheer joy from your participation.

If you feel a bit unsure or overwhelmed at the beginning, that’s normal. We all did. The rest of this chapter is designed to help you get over the awkward feeling of being a new leader.

WHAT IS BEAVERS?

Beavers are children aged five to seven-years-old. Fun and friendship are the cornerstones of the Beaver program. Through an adventurous program of outdoor activities, creative play, music and cooperative games, Beavers enjoy time with their friends (and meet new ones), learn how to get along within a group, and develop the confidence to be themselves.

Like all Scouting members, Beavers enjoy many outdoor adventures with their friends in the colony. Nature walks, short hikes, tree plantings and family sleepovers give Beavers a taste of outdoor fun. Through these activities, Beavers develop an appreciation and a sense of caring for the environment.

Beavers are a vital part of the community, country and world in which they live. Visits to parks, power plants, fire and police stations thrill young Beavers, and illustrate the many important facets of their community.

TYPICAL COLONY SET-UP

| Unit Name: When a group of Beavers come together for a meeting they are called a colony. |
| Typical Ages of Beavers: five to seven years of age. |
| Typical Meeting: 1 to 1½ hours. After school, evening or on weekends. |
| Typical Meeting Place: Partner/sponsor facility or outdoors. |
| Leadership Team: A team of men and women, Keeo (a Cub), activity leaders and Scouters-In-Training (S.I.T.). Beavers have some chance to offer program ideas. |
| Activity Groups: As a colony, small mixed groups (lodges), and by ages (tails). |
| Major Focus: Sharing, cooperation, non-competitiveness, teamwork. |
| Activities: Learn about nature, playing together, being creative through crafts, songs, stories, outdoor exploration, cooperative games and spiritual fellowship. |
| Partner/Sponsor: Typically a church, school, community centre or some other community group that wishes to provide a program for youth. |
| Section/Group Committee: A committee to oversee the program on behalf of the sponsor/partner. Typically the committee includes a representative from the sponsor/partner, parents, leaders, etc. |
BEAVERS ARE PART OF THE SCOUTING FAMILY

Beavers are the youngest members of the Scouting family. After completing the Beaver program, they can move into other Scouting sections.

- **Wolf Cubs:** 8 to 10 years-old
- **Scouts:** 11 to 14 years-old
- **Venturers:** 14 to 17 years-old
- **Rovers:** 18 to 26 years-old
- **SCOUTSabout:** 5-10 years-old
- **Extreme Adventure:** 14-18 years-old

SCOUTING’S PRINCIPLES AND MISSION

Scouting’s Principles and Mission are the foundation of all programs. The Mission outlines the primary focus of the organization; the Principles state some basic beliefs which we hold to be fundamental.

Principles

Scouting is based on three broad principles which represent its fundamental beliefs.

- **Duty to God:** This is defined as “adherence to spiritual principles, loyalty to the religion that expresses them and acceptance of the duties resulting therefrom.”

- **Duty to Others:** This is defined as “loyalty to one’s country in harmony with the promotion of local, national and international peace, understanding and cooperation,” and “participation in the development of society, with recognition and respect for the dignity of one’s fellow-being and for the integrity of the natural world.”

- **Duty to Self:** This is defined as “responsibility for the development of oneself”. This is in harmony with the educational purpose of the Scout Movement whose aim is to assist young people in the full development of their potentials.

Scouting’s core philosophy and values are expressed by the Principles. These form a “code of ethics” for how Scouting expects all members to conduct themselves while participating in activities.
Mission

Scouting’s Principles are put into action and focus through our Mission Statement, which follows:

The mission of Scouting is to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society.

Scouting achieves its Mission by:

- Involving Beavers throughout their formative years in a non-formal educational process.
- Using a specific method that makes each individual the principal agent in his or her development as a self-reliant, supportive, responsible and committed person.
- Helping them to establish a value system based upon spiritual, social and personal principles, as expressed in the Promise and Law.

The following text provides a short explanation of some of the key words used in the first paragraph of the Mission Statement. These explanations constitute the framework for Scouting’s specific educational approach described in the three bullet points of the Mission Statement.

- Not just academic; a life-long process
- Open to all = boys and girls
- Expressing the values on which Scouting is based
- Better people = a better world
- A social dimension: active and supportive
- What we are trying to do
- We are not the only influence on young people
- The Mission of Scouting is to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals, and play a constructive role in society.
- What we believe and stand for
- Together with others
- Local, national and international
- A personal dimension: having achieved one’s full potential
- What we are trying to do
- We are not the only influence on young people

The Mission of Scouting is to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals, and play a constructive role in society.