



THE *Scout* ASSOCIATION  
OF MALTA

# Beaver Scout Leaders' Manual





# The Mission Statement

As a member of the World Scout Movement,  
The Scout Association of Malta adopts the following mission statement:

**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.**



**THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION  
OF MALTA**

# WELCOME!

**W**elcome to the magical world of Beaver Scouts.

This handbook is designed to help Leaders through the early stages of Leadership in a Beaver Colony. As you read through these pages, you will find answers to many of the questions most Beaver Leaders have, and references to other resources which can help broaden your knowledge and skills.

It also contains detailed information about subjects discussed in early chapters to give those with some experience as Beaver Leaders more specific information to increase their effectiveness.

Use this handbook as a guide. Refer to appropriate chapters as you build your programme and develop your Leadership skills. If you are an experienced Leader, compare and evaluate what you are doing at present with what this handbook states, you may discover new ideas, or come up with suggestions for a future revision of the handbook.

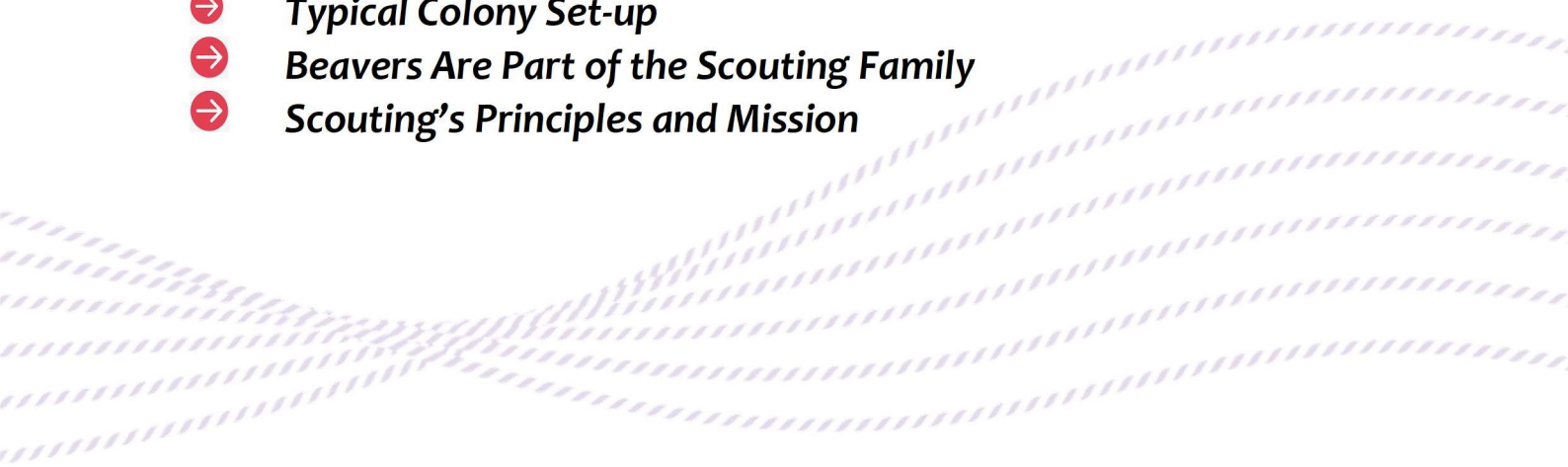
**Best of Luck with your Colony and  
Happy Beavering!**



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# Chapter 1

## WELCOME TO BEAVERS

- *And so the Journey Begins...*
  - *What are “Beavers”?*
  - *Typical Colony Set-up*
  - *Beavers Are Part of the Scouting Family*
  - *Scouting’s Principles and Mission*
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## And so the Journey Begins...

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!

As Adult Leaders, we are together because we enjoy working with others and believe that Scouting's mission, principles and programmes can help children between the ages of five to seven years get the most out of life, now and in the future. Sure, a Leadership role in the Colony will require that you contribute some of your free time, but we believe that as you give, you will also receive new skills and satisfaction from your participation.

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

### What are “BEAVERS”?

Beavers is the section set up for children aged five to seven. Fun and friendship are the cornerstones of the Beaver Programme. Through an adventurous programme of outdoor activities, creative play, music and cooperative games, Beavers enjoy time with their friends (and make new ones) whilst learning how to get along within a group and develop the confidence to be themselves.

Like all members of the Scout Movement, Beavers enjoy many outdoor adventures with their friends in the Colony. Short hikes, visiting the Pack at camp; gardening (planting different seeds) and tree plantings give Beavers a taste of outdoor fun. Through these activities, Beavers develop an appreciation and a sense of caring for the environment.

### Typical Colony Set-Up

<b>Unit Name:</b>	When a group of Beavers come together for a meeting/activity they are called a <b>Colony</b>
<b>Age of Beavers:</b>	5 to 7 years of age
<b>Meeting Duration:</b>	1 to 1½ hours
<b>Meeting Place:</b>	Group's Headquarters or outdoors
<b>Colony Leadership Team:</b>	A team of men and women who have completed or are following The Scout Association of Malta's Woodbadge Training Programme.
<b>Leader Beaver Ratio Indoors:</b>	1 leader with 6 Beavers
<b>Leader Beaver Ratio Outdoors:</b>	1 leader with 6 Beavers

**Maximum number of Beavers in a Colony:** 16 Beavers (\*\*)

**Activity Groups:** Mainly as a Colony. For short termed activities they can be divided into small working groups called **Lodges**.

**Major Focus:** Sharing, cooperation, non-competitiveness, teamwork.

**Activities:** Learning about nature, playing together, being creative through crafts, songs, stories, outdoor exploration, cooperative games and spiritual fellowship.

(\*\*) In the event that a Scout Group wishes to exceed the recommended number of 16 Beavers, provided that the Scout Group has the necessary manpower and resources, then the 2 (or more) Colonies principle can be adopted. This is also stated in Rule 4.1 of the Policy Organization and Rules manual published by The Scout Association of Malta. Said Rule is being reproduced below for ease of reference:

#### **Rule 4.1**

*The Beaver Scout Colony*

*Size of Colony*

- a. *The recommended maximum size for a Colony is 16 Beaver Scouts.*
  
- b. *The recommended number of Beaver Scouts may be exceeded following an agreement between the Group Scout Leader and the District Commissioner. When deciding on the size of the Colony, Leaders should take into account the leadership available, the capacity of the meeting place and whether it might be more effective to run more than one Colony.*

This must not be taken lightly. It is understandable that having the numbers is a great satisfaction however, maintaining them might prove to be quite a feat in the long run. Thus, it is advisable that proper discussions between the Colony leadership, Group Scout Leader, Chief Commissioner, Training Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner for Training and Programme – Beaver Scout Section are held.

## **Beavers are Part of the Scouting Family**

Beavers are the youngest members of the Scouting family. After completing the Beaver programme, they progress to the next scouting section which is Cub Scouts. Each Colony forms part of a Scout Group which also has other sections:

**Cub Scouts:** 7 to 10 ½ years-old

**Scouts:** 11 to 14 ½ years-old

**Venture Scouts:** 15 to 18 years-old

**Rover Scouts:** 18 to 26 years-old

## Scouting's Principles and Mission

Scouting's Principles and Mission are the foundation of all Scout programmes. The Mission outlines the primary focus of the organisation. The Principles state basic beliefs which we hold to be fundamental in Scouting.

### 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 meetings / activities.

### Mission

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

***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 the Beaver Scout 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 Beaver Scouts to establish a value system based upon spiritual, social, and personal principles, as expressed in the Promise and Law.