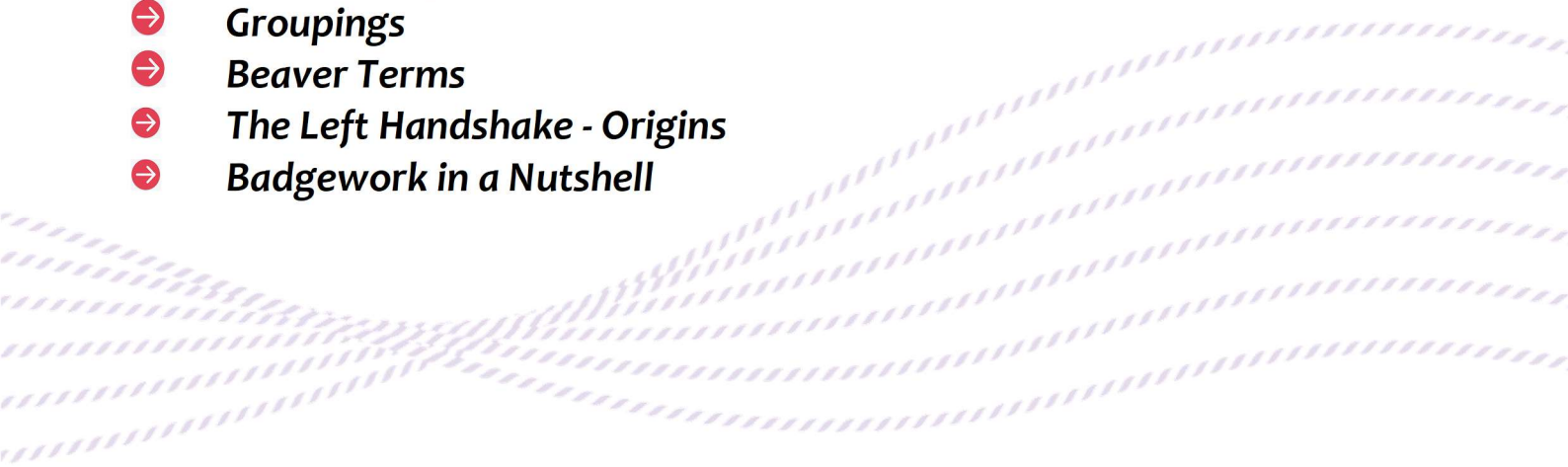

Chapter 2

ABOUT BEAVER SCOUTS

- **Beaver Promise and Motto**
 - **Beaver Section Goals**
 - **Seven Programme Elements**
 - **Beaver Programme Standards**
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Beaver Promise and Motto

For Beaver-aged children, Scouting's Principles and Mission are rather deep and difficult to grasp. They appear in a simplified and more age-appropriate form in the Beaver Promise and Motto.

Because the Promise and Motto are intended to be used regularly in the Colony (i.e. for opening and/or closing ceremonies), they are written to be appealing and have meaning to a Beaver Scout.

Beaver Promise

Inwieghed

Li Naghmel Hilti

Biex Inhobb lil-Alla

Nghin lil-Haddiehor

U Nghix il-Motto tal-Beavers

I promise

To do my Best

To love God

To help other people

And Live by The Beaver Motto

Beaver Motto

Naghmlu Hbieb

Making Friends

In Beaver Scouting, “sharing and making friends” is the major focus upon which all activities are based. We believe the best way to teach young children and give them a chance to begin growing towards fully responsible adulthood is to provide a programme in which they can try and experience encouragement and caring in an atmosphere of cooperation and non-competitiveness.

This type of programme builds self-confidence and feelings of self-worth. Through it, Beavers develop a sense of respect and caring for others.

Competition and advancement schemes are introduced in older Sections as children grow older and build a strong base of confidence, self-worth and experience.

For Beavers, it is more important to:

- ➔ Try than to achieve
- ➔ Experience than to win
- ➔ Share than to keep
- ➔ Learn to work and play with each other, rather than to compete against each other.

Colony Scouters are expected to model sharing through the idea of shared Leadership. Leaders share the responsibilities and accountability, and rotate duties among themselves.

We strive to **LEAD BY EXAMPLE.**

Beaver Section Goals

Each programme section (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Ventures, Rovers) emphasizes meeting the Principles and Mission at a level appropriate to the age range and capabilities of members in the section. In Beavers, the Programme Goals have been purposely selected to correspond with accepted early childhood education and development guidelines. Together, the programmes for all Sections lead towards the development of the whole person and an in-depth appreciation of and commitment to Scouting's Principles and Mission.

In the Beaver programme, we place emphasis on activities which encourage Beavers to:

- Explore, Discover and be Creative
- Find examples of God's love for them and the world
- Experience and express love and joy
- Express themselves
- Be healthy and have good feelings about themselves (Gain a positive self-image)
- Develop a sense of belonging and sharing in small group activities
- Develop a sense of cooperation through non-competitive activities
- Appreciate nature.

The Principles, Mission and Goals in the Beaver Programme are achieved through using a programme of understanding, supportive fun, and activities built around seven programme elements: games, crafts, music, storytelling, playacting, spirituality and outdoors.

Seven Programme Elements

Programme elements are useful guideposts for planning a well-rounded programme that satisfies the Beaver Programme goals. Each activity provided at Colony meetings should relate to one of the programme elements. Let us have a brief introduction of the programme elements.

Games

Play is a vital part of a child's growth and development as through it, Children learn and develop their physical, intellectual, social and emotional skills. Through play, children have the opportunity to rearrange their lives, rehearse the future, reflect on the past, be creative and imaginative and get their thoughts, feelings, relationships and physical bodies under their own control. Very young children move from a stage of playing alone, to playing near others and, finally (around 4 or 5 years of age), to playing with other children. To help make these early experiences in group play fun and non-threatening, the programme focuses on activities which emphasise feelings of belonging, sharing and cooperation. Competitive activities are more suitable for older children thus children should be provided opportunities for challenge and fun rather than defeating someone. Competition games are introduced in the Cub Scout Section and become a stronger focus in the Troop section and beyond.

The Beaver Programme uses a wide variety of both quiet and active cooperative games to provide fun and an outlet for pent-up energy. At the same time, these games help children learn the basic skills of getting along with others. Additionally, problem-solving should be part of the activities, so to create an atmosphere where children's reasoning is valued.

Crafts, Music, Storytelling, Playacting

One of the programme's primary goals involves encouraging self-expression.

The Colony provides a place for young children to learn more about themselves. Through dramatic activities such as puppetry, they can try on new roles and identities so important to their social development. Crafts enable them to express themselves through the use of a variety of materials. Through crafts, Beavers experience the pleasure of creating a piece of artwork, and the good feelings which result when others admire and encourage them for their creations.

Additionally, along the activities, adults should always support the children with positive praise. It is of utmost importance that adults should value the process rather than the end product.

This can be easily achieved through the Eager Beaver Awards – *I'm Unique and I'm an Achiever badges* - within the programme. (You will find more information at the end of this Chapter and in Chapter 16).

Few activities bring a group as close together as some verses of a favourite song or an exciting story told by a good storyteller. Stories should be stimulating- different types of books should be introduced such as pop-up books, flap-books, etc, to encourage children's attention, imagination and the love for reading.

Spiritual Fellowship

The Beaver Programme works toward the same ideals as the other four Sectional Scouting programmes. All seek to help young people become well rounded citizens. Scouting is a worldwide fellowship based on the belief in adherence to spiritual principles and human dignity.

What is the basis of spiritual fellowship in the Beaver Colony?

➔ It involves showing children how they can relate to their spiritual principles by the way they treat other people and nature.

This concept is fundamental to the Beaver Promise and Motto. Helping others by doing something useful for them is easy for young Beavers to understand. Beaver Leaders try to encourage thoughtfulness towards other members of the Lodge and Colony, members in the Group, brothers and sisters, parents and friends, and people at school or in the community.

The Beaver motto, "Naghmel Hbieb / Making Friends" encourages Beavers to share a part

of themselves such as their abilities, their experiences (despite being so young), their efforts and their joy with others. When Leaders set a personal example of honesty, fairness, trust and supportiveness, it provides active examples of how we can all try to live up to our own spiritual principles of caring for others.

Outdoors

To be able to help “take care of the world” a Beaver Scout must be exposed to, and learn more about, the natural wonders which separate many children from nature’s mysteries. Leaders can stimulate their young interest and appreciation for our natural environment with hands-on experience. Beavers can come to know and appreciate the beauty and fragile nature of open spaces and wildlife ecosystems in our world.

Leaders can involve more the Beavers by introducing them to the facts about nature by telling stories and legends or showing wildlife films. But the impact on children is far greater when Leaders give them opportunities and guidance to experience outdoor activities, such as short hikes, visits to conservation areas and age appropriate outdoor activities.

All seasons provide a wide variety of opportunities for outdoor experiences. Although an outdoor activity requires extra planning and care, the benefits are immeasurable in terms of helping children perceive the world they live in.

Tips...

Limit colouring-in and crayons (most of the time at school and at home children are provided with crayons as they are mess-free and the easy resource to give). Provide different writing materials such as charcoal, chalk (give them the opportunity to draw outside), whiteboard markers and whiteboard, glitter pens, etc. Do not restrict the children’s imagination, let it flourish –

For example:

If they are creating a tree, do not provide only the green colour but provide other colours found in nature.

Also, when possible, create 3D objects, talking about a train, create a train using carton boxes, give children the opportunity for hands on experience. If you are discussing about a garden, turn the room into a garden or a garden shop.

Beaver Programme Standards

The Beaver Programme Standards (listed here) tie in with the programme goals and elements listed in the previous page. The development of these Programme Standards helps to ensure a measure of consistency when delivering programmes.

Programme Planning

The Colony has a:

- Short-range (three month)
- Medium-range (six months), and
- Long-range (one year) programme plan which reflects the programme goals
- Weekly programmes are typically conducted as described in this handbook and incorporate appropriate safety precautions.

Outdoors

Opportunities are provided for Beavers to participate in outdoor activities as often as possible. Beaver minimum standards require:

- Minimum of three regular meetings per month; where possible even outdoors
- One outing every two months

Youth Input

- Use the Log Chew regularly - Beavers are regularly consulted, when and where appropriate, in programme planning and delivery.
- Small groups (Lodges) are used to deliver activities which reflects different tasks but that ultimately will complete a common goal.
- Youths are actively engaged in the creation of their section's Code of Conduct.

Environmental Awareness

- Opportunities are provided (as often as possible) for Beavers to participate in activities which increase their understanding and awareness of their role in preserving the environment, with the minimum standard being one project/activity annually.
- All activities are conducted in a manner which reflects appropriate environmental awareness and practices and safety at all times.

Spiritual Emphasis

Spiritual emphasis is regularly incorporated throughout the programme. Examples may include, but are not limited to:

- Opening and Closing Prayers
- Use of Promise and Motto
- Scouts Own

Community Service

Opportunities are provided for Beavers to participate in community service projects/events as often as possible.

Minimum standard: one annually.

For Example: Prepare a small gift to take with you to give out whilst at an elderly home's visit.

Membership/Retention

- It is important to keep contact with members, their parents/guardians.
- It is a good approach that Beavers who stop their membership with the Colony, Leaders contact their parents/guardians to determine the reasons why.
- To ensure a regular intake of children, a waiting list can be introduced.

Linking

Opportunities are provided (as often as possible) for Beavers to interact with Cub Scouts, with at least one joint activity or a visit to a Cub Camp annually.

Akela and/or all the Cub Leaders together to visit periodically during a meeting. Beavers will get used to the new leaders, ensuring that when they move-on they already have a point of reference. This will ensure a smooth transition between the Colony and the Pack as well help with Scouts' retention.

Family/Parental Involvement

Parental involvement is encouraged. Opportunities are provided for family/parent involvement as often as possible. We suggest that at least two annual events are organised

For Example: a small hike, a games evening or a pizza making session.

- Regular communication occurs to inform parents of programme plans and changes through meetings, phone calls, shared calendars and monthly newsletters, etc.
- Online pages, Chats, Blogs – to encourage communication, upload photos to see what is happening, links related to what is being done so they can follow up at home (continuation is really important), email etc.
- Create a database with the parents' abilities as they might be an important resource.

Training/Leadership

- The Scout Association of Malta expects all Leaders to undertake the Leadership Training provided by the Association itself. Otherwise they cannot be considered Leaders.
- The Beaver Scout Leader i.e. the Section Leader - must be a Woodbadge holder.
- All members of the Leadership team should hold current and recognised first aid and food handling qualifications.

Administration

The following are performed to administer the Colony:

- Maintain appropriate financial records and submit proper financial statements to the Group Scout Leader (GSL) and Group Treasurer at the end of every year or when asked to do so.
- Provide an annual inventory of all equipment and property to the Group Scout Leader (GSL).
- Ensure that the Section Leadership team attends to the Group's Scouters' Meetings.
- Ensure that a representative from the Section Leadership Team attends to the Monthly Group Council Meetings.

Groupings

Beavers have a special place where they meet each week. It is a place which is commonly referred to as Head Quarters. Here Beaver Scout-life revolves around special people, ceremonies, a motto, uniforms, and many Beaver terms. These elements all enhance the experience of belonging to a Beaver Colony.

You will soon be introduced to a varied terminology but, to set the scene, we will first describe the three main structural groupings in the Beaver Programme.

The Colony

A Colony includes the entire group of Beavers and Leaders. Experience shows that the ideal number of Beavers in a Colony is 16. Because of the need for quality and personal interaction between Beavers and Leaders, the Scout Association of Malta established a policy requiring the Leaders to Beaver ratio be no greater than one to six. In other words, a Colony of 16 should have a minimum of three adults assisting. Through experience, we have learned that having more Beavers and fewer Leaders leads to a frustrating and depersonalized experience for everyone.

The Lodge

When a Colony is divided into small groups, these are called **Lodges**. Lodges are working groups of five or six Beavers and a Leader. Beavers usually decide upon a name and symbol for their Lodge. It represents a sign of identification and belonging.

Lodges are useful for some activities like crafts and discussions. For example: if you are building a big project out of recycled materials, you can divide the Colony into Lodges and each lodge will have a specific task assigned to them: Builders, painters, joiners, etc etc.



The Lodge mentioned above takes its name after the Beaver's dwelling.

A dam built by Beavers in a lake next to a mountain range.



Beaver Terms

To set the scene and to feed growing imaginations, Beavers have a special language they use at their meetings. Here are some words to get you thinking in Beaver terms.

Beaver Position

Is sitting cross-legged on the floor.

Beaver Sign

A Beaver sign is a special sign of greeting. This is the Scout Sign.

Dam Formation

This is a circle formation used for organising Beavers.

Investiture Ceremony

This is the ceremony in which a Beaver Scout is invested and becomes an official Member of Scout Group, Scout Association of Malta and the world wide brotherhood of Scouts. During this ceremony, the Beaver receives the Group Scarf and Beaver Woggle as a sign of welcome from the Group Scout Leader. The Beaver also receives a certificate and the Membership Award badges from the Beaver Scout Leader. The Certificate is a reminder of the day the Beaver got invested and the Membership Award badges will be sewn onto the Beaver's uniform to show that he has completed this very important milestone in his Scouting Journey.

River Banks

This is a formation used to organize Beavers quietly. Beavers stand side-by-side in two wavy lines about one metre apart.

Tail Slap

It is the action of clapping hands behind the back. Since the Beaver (the animal) communicates with other Beavers by slapping its tail in the water, the same term is used within the Colony.



The Left Handshake - The Origins

Scouts have a special handshake, for they use the left hand instead of the right. Scouts across the world all greet each other with a left-handed handshake. It is a sign of trust and friendship.

But why and how did Baden Powell come to decide to use it when he formed the Scout Movement?

There is a story that when Baden Powell entered Kumasi, the capital city of the Ashanti he was met by one of the Great Chiefs of the Ashanti, he saluted them and then offered his right hand out as a sign of friendship, but the Chief transferred his shield which he held in his left hand to his right which contained his spear and offered his left hand as a sign of friendship.

When asked why, Baden Powell was told that by offering his left hand which traditionally was used to hold a shield for protection, he was showing his trust to his enemy or friend, for without the shield for protection, he was open to attack.

At the beginning of Scouting, Lord Robert Baden-Powell (B.-P.), suggested the left handshake (the left hand is also closer to the heart) as a sign of trust and brotherhood.

Today, in cultures where it is acceptable, Scouts around the world shake hands with the left hand. It is a sign that they are all members of the worldwide Scouting family.





Badgework is spread over a period of 2 years. From the age of 5 years up to 7 years.

Membership Award

Timeframe - 3 months

Requirements:

- My Colony
- My Leaders
- The Beaver
- The Founder
- The Promise
- The Motto

Upon Completion - Beaver is invested in the Scout Group

Badges Attained upon completion:



Beaver Challenges

Timeframe - 4 months for each challenge

Upon Completion - Beaver is awarded the Challenge badge

Requirements of the Outdoor Challenge:

- **Outdoor Challenge:**
- Day by the Seaside
- Day in the Countryside
- Visit Pack at Camp
- Plant a flower or a tree

Requirements of the Friendship Challenge:

- Attend a Joint Activity
- Help a Friend
- Prepare a gift for Friend or a new Friend
- God is your Friend

Requirements of the Discovery Challenge:

- Learn how things work
- Learn about other countries
- Learn about Animals
- Creativity

Requirements of the Personal Challenge:

- Personal Hygiene
- Learn How to Fold your Scarf
- Prepare a prayer for the Colony Meeting
- Participate in a Log Chew

Badges Attained upon completion:



Eager Beaver Awards

I'm Unique (1)

Timeframe - 1st year in the Group

Requirement:

- ➔ To find a good trait / skill / attitude of the Beaver and reward him for it

Badge attained upon completion:



I'm an Achiever (2)

Timeframe - 2nd year in the Group

Requirement:

- ➔ To find a good trait / skill / attitude of the Beaver and reward him for it.

Badge attained upon completion:



Beaver Scout Award

Timeframe - 1 year and a half

Upon Completion - Beaver is awarded the Beaver Scout Award. The highest Award that a Beaver can get

Requirements - Obtain 3 challenge badges and it will be awarded automatically.

- Outdoor Challenge
- Personal Challenges
- Choice between Friendship Challenge and Discovery Challenges

Badge attained upon completion:



Moving-On Award (Link Badge)

Timeframe - 3 to 6 months. Right after their 7th birthday Beavers start their Moving on Award.

Upon Completion - Beaver is awarded the badge which also covers the Cubs' Tenderpaw

Requirements:

- Attend to Pack meetings for 3 months
- Know the Cubs' Promise, Law and Motto
- Learn about the Scout Salute
- Learn about your Country
- Attend an outdoor activity with the Pack

Badges attained upon completion:



These 2 badges are the only 2 badges that do not need to be removed from the uniform once the Beaver moves to Cubs. With every section that the child goes through, a new link badge will be added.

Chapter 16 of this Beaver Scout Leader's Manual provides a more in depth analysis of each and every badge.