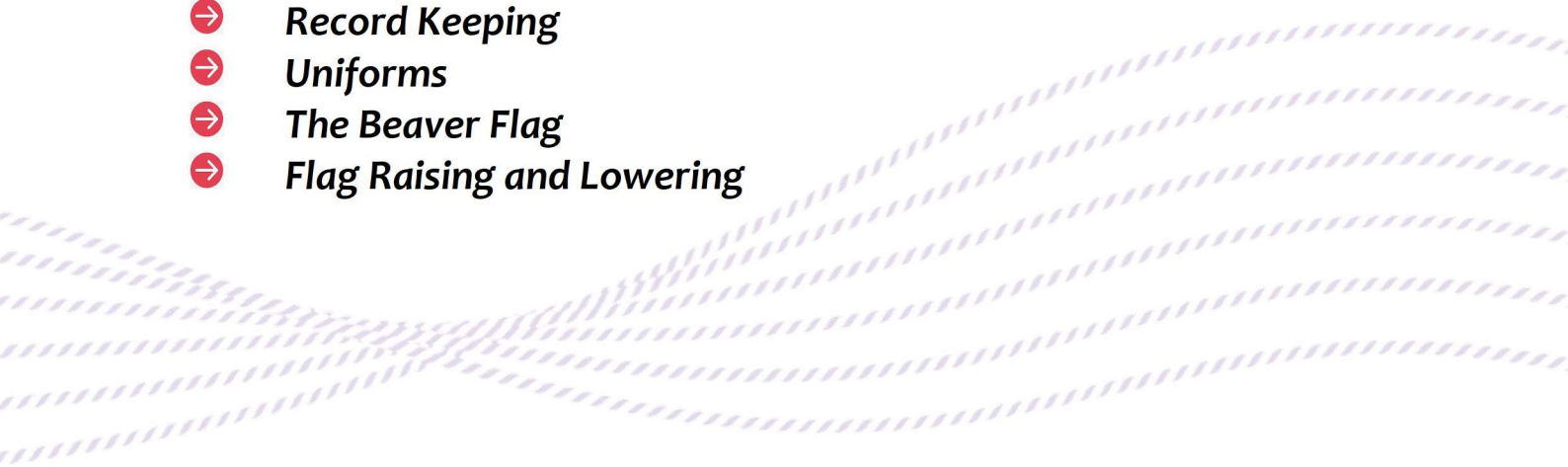


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# Chapter 3

## STARTING OUT

- **Beaver Starting a New Colony**
  - **Reviving a Lapsed Colony**
  - **Taking Over an Existing Colony**
  - **What Should the Beavers Call you?**
  - **The Meeting Place**
  - **Colony Equipment**
  - **Record Keeping**
  - **Uniforms**
  - **The Beaver Flag**
  - **Flag Raising and Lowering**
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## Starting a New Colony

Before you start a new Colony, the Group Scout Leader will introduce you to the Training and Programme Team of the Scout Association of Malta. This is a Team of leaders dedicated towards the training of Leaders such as yourself and will also assist you in this new venture.

The Training Team can make arrangements for you to visit other Colonies in action, explain various procedures, inform you of development opportunities and explain how the Beaver Programme works.

For more information on the subject you may contact the following persons:

- Chief Commissioner - [ch.comm@scout.org.mt](mailto:ch.comm@scout.org.mt)
- Commissioner for Training and Programme – [tc@scout.org.mt](mailto:tc@scout.org.mt)
- Assistant Commissioner for Training and Programme – Beaver Scout Section – [beavers@scout.org.mt](mailto:beavers@scout.org.mt)

## Reviving a Lapsed Colony

With your Chief Commissioner, Commissioner for Beaver Scouts and Group Scout Leader, review the Colony records and accounts. Recruit and screen new Leaders. Arrange for the purchase or replacement of equipment, books, etc., and decide on a day to hold the Colony meetings. Ask the group scout leader or section's leaders to phone or send a notice to former Beavers and parents, inviting them to attend an Informative meeting. Introduce the new Leaders and outline your plans for the future of the Colony.

## Taking over an Existing Colony

It would be better if you can visit and understand the Colony while the Scouter you will replace are still running it. These Scouters can introduce you to the Beavers and, perhaps, you can join the evening's fun.

During the visit, you will have the opportunity to see the Colony in action. Take special note of routines like opening and closing of the meeting, flag break and flag down, prayers, etc.

Whilst being an observer, jot down all your queries that pop into your head and make sure you get them all answered.

For example:

- How are crafts organized?*
- What about games, songs, stories?*
- Can the Leaders provide you with a list of the Colony's past activities?*
- Where are daily records kept? How are they kept?*
- What equipment is available? Where is it kept?*
- Are there any supplies ready at hand?*
- Are there special arrangements regarding access to the meeting room?*

## *How will I collect monthly subscriptions?*

If you make good use of your visit with the former Leaders, you will save a lot of time. If possible, make arrangements to work with the existing Leaders for a few weeks so they can coach you. Keep the parents in mind. The new Leaders can be introduced to them at a parent's meeting. Carefully plan the initial programme.

Plan an active and diversified programme to develop the Beavers, and build their interest and enthusiasm, but keep it simple and flexible. Be prepared to change items or discard them if you sense they are not appealing to the Beavers. Ask for the Beaver's opinions, and welcome their ideas, seek their interests and build on what the children already know to extend their learning process.

## **What should the Beavers call you?**

The Beaver Scout Leader (BSL) or Section Leader is called Keoo which means Beaver in the Native American language. All assistants may choose any name from the list below. All names relate to the Beaver's (the animal) Environment.

### **→ Colours**

Grey Beaver, Black Beaver, Brown Beaver, Silver Beaver, Gold Beaver, White Beaver.

### **→ Animals [that live in the beaver's environment]**

Otter, badger, mole, toad, rat, fox, bear.

### **→ Insects [that live in the beaver's environment]**

Beetle, caterpillar, dragonfly, bumble bee, butterfly, ladybird, blue jay.

### **→ Weather**

Sunny, Misty, Snowy, Frosty, Sunshine, Windy, Rainbow

### **→ Trees**

Cherry, Holly, Silver Birch, Fir, Oak, Ash, Elm.

### **→ Variations of the Word Beaver in different languages**

Amik or Ahmeek (from Hiawatha), Castor (Latin name), Boomer (large beaver found in North America), Mr. Beaver, Mrs. Beaver, Big Beaver, Busy Beaver, Eager Beaver, Happy Beaver, Billy Beaver, Bertie Beaver, Keema, Tictac, Topsy.

## The Meeting Place

→ **Size:** A room of decent size where Beavers have room to wander.

Other factors to consider include:

- access to bathrooms,
- a source of water for clean-up,
- accessibility for all Beaver Scouts,
- possible use of kitchen facilities,
- a handy first aid kit.

→ **Time:** A Colony meeting should be **not less than 1 hour and not more than 1 ½ hours.**

Be consistent about time and place. It is essential with children of this age, and only fair to parents. Set expectations that parents will drop-off and pick-up Beavers promptly or make you aware of other arrangements.

## Colony Equipment

You need equipment to run the Colony to its best potential. If you do not already have it, make it a priority to gather a list what is best suited to your needs and the activities your Beavers enjoy.

Here is a basic list you may want to gather. You can get by with less, of course, but it is nice to have a good supply.

→ **First Aid:** First aid equipment appropriate to Beaver activities should be provided and personnel familiar with its use should be available. Medical Consent forms completed by parents/guardians should be close at hand.

→ **Games Box:** Fill an old suitcase or trunk with anything that might be used for games: balls, rackets, bean bags, cards, board games, parachutes (as it gives children the opportunity to engage in movement activities and encourage imagination), wooden blocks, exploration of magnets.

→ **Craft Box:** This box provides initial supplies for the handicraft part of the programme containing enough scissors, glue, paint, tape, etc., for everyone. Should there not be enough or space is limited in the HQ than Beavers can be encouraged to use their

own share with others. Your group/section will supply a few major items, or they may be purchased from Colony funds. Make sure both Colony Leaders and members are aware of their responsibility for looking after the equipment and putting it away after each meeting.

→ **Flag:** In instances where the flag needs to be used, Colonies can use the official Beaver Scout Flag of the Scout Association of Malta. (Flag specifications are listed further along in this Chapter).

## Record Keeping

As a Colony Leader, focus your attention on the essential information you will need to have:

- Your Beavers' Membership Forms and Health Cards
- Your Beavers' attendance list
- Your weekly programme activities
- Other useful information.

The Colony Annual Records should include:

- Members' information details
- Members' Programme Progress Sheets
- Meetings Logs
- Activity Logs
- Income and Expenditure Logs\*
- Reports and photos of Section's history

\*It is important that financial records are kept as outlined in the Policy Organization and Rules (POR) of The Scout Association of Malta. For more information consult your Group Scout Leader.

## Uniforms

The Colony wears the same uniform as the rest of the Group except for the headgear:

- Beige Shirt
- Navy Blue Trousers
- Belt with the Scout Association of Malta Emblem buckle
- Dark Blue baseball cap with the Scout Association of Malta Emblem
- Group Scarf
- Beavers Woggle

## → Colony Turquoise Epaulettes

It is important that the Beavers learn the basic ways of how to take care of their own uniform. Few examples:

- Placing the uniform on a hanger
- Knowing how to fold your scout shirt
- Knowing how to fold your scout trousers

## The Beaver Flag

Like all other Sections, the Colony has its own Flag too. However, it is smaller in size and has a flag carrier pole made of a lightweight material. This is due to the fact that the anatomy of a Beaver Scout is much smaller than those of the Scouts in the other Sections. Thus WOSM (World Organization of the Scout Movement) has set out these standards and specifications with the Beaver Scout's height and build in mind.

Specifications are as follows:

- Same design as other sections
- Size – 60cms x 90cms
- Background colour – Turquoise
- Wording colour – White
- Motto – Naghmlu Hbieb
- Head – Fleur de Lys in lightweight material
- Pole – Lightweight Aluminium or light wood 140cms long

Since these are **official specifications** be advised that they **cannot be altered** in any way.

## Flag Raising and Lowering

Preparing a flag to break at the top of a flagpole has been a traditional method used in Scouting for many years.

When the flag is “broken”, a Colony should stand to attention and salute with the Scout sign.

When the flag is lowered, it should not be allowed to touch the floor or ground but be gathered up in one's arms. At the lowering of the flag, the Colony again stands to attention, removing any headgear, but NOT giving the Scout sign.

Colonies open their meetings with a flag break, which is often followed by a prayer; and

they end the meeting by lowering the flag, and finally repeating the Beaver Promise together, or offering a brief prayer of thanks for fellowship and fun.