

Taking the Program Outdoors



Pacific Coast Council
Woodbadge I
Basic Training for Leaders -
Beaver Colony

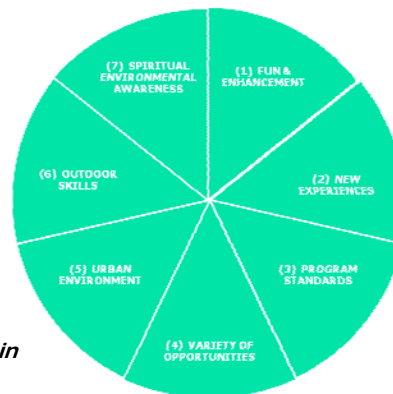
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1. Objectives in the Outdoor Programs

The objectives of holding a regular weekly meeting in the outdoors include:

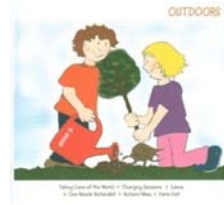


<Category 1 activity as described in the COAP>



1.1 Outdoors are more fun & enhance the colony program

- The Beaver motto, "Sharing, Sharing, Sharing" encourage Beavers to share themselves, their abilities, their efforts and their joy with others.
- Outdoor activities will have more fun, encourage youth to be active and maintain a healthy lifestyle.



1.2 Provide new opportunities/experience

- Leaders can expose Beavers 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 hikes, picnics, and visits to conservation areas.



1.3 Requirement of National Program Standards

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

- One regular meeting per month outdoors
- One weekend outing every two months
- One night at camp annually
- All activities follow Bylaws, Policies & Practices, as outlined by *Camping/Outdoor Activities, Section 10000, B.P. & P.*

<Other requirement, see *Beaver Leaders' Handbook Pg. 3-4, 3-5*>

1.4 Provides variety to the program

- Four seasons (spring, summer, autumn and winter) provide a wide variety of opportunities for outdoor experiences.



1.5 Allows youth to learn about their urban environment


- The Beaver program allows youth to learn about their urban environment.
- Adults can stimulate their youth interest and appreciation for our natural environment with hands-on experience.



1.6 Opportunity to learn, develop and practice outdoor skills

- To be able to help “take care of the world” a Beaver must be exposed to, and learn more about the natural wonders which separate many children from nature’s mysteries.
- Although taking Beavers out requires extra planning and care, the benefits are immeasurable in terms of helping children better perceive their world.





1.7 Provides spiritual and environmental awareness

- The basis of spiritual fellowship in Beavers involves showing children how they can relate to their spiritual principles by the way they treat other people and nature.
- Through Beavering, children can come to know and appreciate the beauty and fragile nature of open spaces, forests, streams, ponds and wildlife ecosystems in our world.



2. Identify Implications of Taking the Program Outdoors

- Scouts Canada believes that the outdoors provides an ideal setting for personal growth and recreation, and that responsible citizenship imposes upon us all an increasing duty to live in harmony with our natural environment.
- Because of the above, outdoor activities are an essential part of all Beaver programs.



2.1 Increased Supervision

- Beavers always require special care and extra supervision when you meet away from the pond. Prepare carefully for and closely supervise all outings (*see Chapter 17 of Beaver Leaders' Handbook*).

- For detailed policies and procedures, we recommend you familiarize yourself with the information on Scouts Canada By-laws, Policies and Procedures:
 1. Section 10000 – Camping & Outdoor Activity Procedures (COAP)
 2. Section 20000 – Various forms used when conducting activities

B.P.&P. – available at www.scouts.ca



2.2 Need for specialized planning

- Take advantage of every opportunity to re-establish relationships between Beavers and the natural world. Specialized planning are needed, for examples:
 - *risk assessment , travel, first aid, ... & etc.*

- Scouting requires to have adequate first aid facilities, equipment, and personnel trained in first aid; leaders should also know the location of the nearest doctor or medical facility during any camp.



2.3 Proper outdoor wear for adults and youth

Dressing for the Weather

- Make sure the Beavers are appropriately clothed for fall, winter or spring in outdoor activity. Particularly during winter, long underwear, extra sweaters, socks, hats, mittens and scarves are necessary and especially if you'll be outdoors for some time.
- Whenever your programming will take you outdoors for a period of time, make sure you alert parents in advance.



2.4 Safety



- Safety should be the number one priority at any meeting, indoors or out.
- As a leadership team, review the program to highlight potential hazards and risks, then take action to minimize these.
- Discuss specific rules of behavior; Beavers must stay with their lodge or ask permission before leaving the lodge.

2.5 Any forms needed to be filled out

- Take time at the beginning of the year to review the physical fitness and registration forms you have parents filled out to review any special needs, allergies or other issues your youth or leadership team may have.
- Make certain a copy of these documents are available at all meetings and contact parents for more information or advice on how to accommodate special needs where possible.

<B.P.&P. Section 20000 – various forms used when conducting activities>

3. What needs to be done to take your meeting outdoors?

Here are some general trips for an outdoor meeting:

- 1) Ensure all your Beavers are registered, and that you have a copy of the Program Participant Enrolment form for everyone.
- 2) Plan the meeting carefully so that the Beavers are involved in a game or activity all the time.
- 3) Propose your plan to your group committee and get approval.
- 4) Make sure you inform parents. In some circumstances you will require a permission form (Refer to Section 10000 form use.)
- 5) Invite parents attend with their child. You need a ratio of at least one leader for every five Beavers, as well as additional parental help. *<See Section 3001 in B.P. & P. for screening process of adult volunteers>*



3. What needs to be done to take your meeting outdoors? (cont'd)

- 6) Wear uniforms on outings whenever appropriate. It makes Scouting visible and helps identify any lost Beavers.
- 7) Know the area you are taking the Beavers to, and make sure it is reasonably safe. Check for broken glass and other dangerous objects in the play area.
- 8) Before the outing, tell your Beavers what sort of behaviour you expect of them.
- 9) Keep a first aid kit available for any accidents.
- 10) Parents are responsible for transporting or arranging for transport of their children to and from Scouting activities.

(Develop your own checklist with some suggested questions that may help you on Beaver Leaders' Handbook Pg. 17-6)

4. What kind of meeting/activities can be done outdoors?

- Brainstorm ideas?



"HAVE LOTS OF FUN !!!"



5. A List of the Great Outdoors

The outdoors is an essential part of the Beaver program. Here are some suggested outdoor ideas:

- Spring – Planting trees, outdoor games, farm visits, parades, ... etc.
- Summer – Picnics & short nature hikes, family based camping or fishing, ... etc.
- Autumn – Cycling, bike trips or campfires, ... etc.
- Winter – Skating, tobogganing, snowshoeing, ... etc.

Resources:

- Beaver Leader's Handbook*
- The Campfire Book*
- The Song Book*
- Climate Change Resource Book*