

Beaver Report for the AGM

May 2011

First of all a little bit of background as to what we aim to achieve at beavers.

At beavers we try to ensure we cover a balanced programme. The emphasis over recent years has been to ensure that the boys experience a quality programme covering a wide range of subjects relating to all aspects of their lives.,

The programme areas are:

Belief and attitudes, The community, Fitness, Creative, Global, Outdoor and adventure.

Linked to these are the **six challenge awards** and by making sure we cover all programme zones we ensure the boys achieve these badges if they attend regularly. If they achieve all of these then they have achieved the highest award in Beavers the **Bronze award**.

The boys are only young so we have to make sure there are lots of **games, craft activities, chatting and visits out** so they are always busy.

There are **twelve activity badges** that the beavers can do and we do try to cover some of them during meetings . We have a very keen bunch of beavers at the moment who love to do badges so this year we have incorporated a few into our meetings. Many of them are busy doing that home as well which is great.

Some of the badges we did last year were the **fitness badge, the healthy eating badge., the Faith badge** (which included a very interesting visit round St Johns church) and the **experiment badge**.

Plenty of sewing for parents.

It's always quite nice to think back over the last year and to remember all the activities we have done with the boys.

During the summer we try and get out as much as possible and last year we went up to **snelsmore for a wildlife walk, had a trail at Bowdown woods , a fitness evening at the local park and visited a local working farm**, where the boys fed chickens and pigs and learnt how a working farm operates.

The autumn term kicked off with a **group camp** with the scouts at Youlbury. Strange but we only had Dads volunteering to come along!! The weather was kind and we all had a great time. The scouts were great with the beavers teaching them how to poke fires and sharpen sticks with penknives!! The boys took part in many activities including go karting and climbing. But the greatest joy I think was having a fire and being dirty

I believe these camps are fantastic for introducing the beavers to camp with the comfort of Dad being there especially at night. Its always good to see the scouts helping the younger boys.

We cover a lot of themes at beavers and some of the ones we covered last year were **India, islands, farms , circus, valentines day and treasure**.

Each term we link with the cubs as its important for the beavers to become familiar with the cub leaders before they move up. Last year we went up to snelsmore for a trail and went shelter building at Ashford Hill.

As well as all we do on a Monday night we took part with the rest of the group in **Remembrance day and St Georges day**. In November we had a **district beaver event** where the boys took part in lots of craft and games with all other beavers from Newbury..This year is the **25th anniversary of beavers** so there is another district event taking place in the summer

Our aim through beavers is to introduce the boys to a taste of scouting through craft activities, games and trips out. We hope we achieve this and the boys then stay on at cubs and then scouts.