

1st Claygate Scout Group



BEAVERS

Welcome to Beaver
Scouts

"Adventure all the way"

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1 Introduction from your Group Scout Leader

Your child is about to join 1st Claygate, one of the oldest Scout Groups in the world, and one of the largest and most successful in Surrey. 1st Claygate Scout Group has been providing Scouting for the boys, and now girls, of the village and surrounding area since 1909.

Those associated with the Group are proud of the fact that Scouting in Claygate is as relevant to our youngsters today as it was at the beginning of the last century. We are over a century old but are fortunate to have a relatively new, modern headquarters in Oaken Lane!

In this booklet we tell you about the Beaver Scout Section which your child is joining. We mention the other sections but you will receive more information as you move on up through the Group. There is an accompanying booklet which describes the structure of the Group and how it is run. Both are available in electronic versions on the 1st Claygate website www.claygatescouts.org under Group Information.

What has made Scouting the world's largest voluntary movement for young people?

The answer lies in Scouting's appeal to a young person's desires for fun and adventure and its provision through attractive and active programmes. It provides opportunities for developing in young people the qualities that make good citizens: honour, self-discipline, dependability, respect for others and self-reliance.

Scouting aims to prepare young people to take a constructive place in society and does so, not by preaching at them, but by making the whole thing into a game in which it is fun to take part. That, more than anything else, is the secret of its appeal.

However, in any game there have to be rules. The rules of the Game of Scouting are embodied in the Promise and Law.

Young people learn by doing, and Scouting offers activities to capture their imagination and enable each individual to find something in which to participate, develop skills and gain confidence. As far as possible, these activities take place outdoors as in camping, hiking, caving, sailing, mountaineering and many others, alongside a training programme which is structured from Beaver Scouts to Explorer Scouts.

Scouting at 1st Claygate is for boys and girls from 6 to 14 years. It teaches what is not learnt at home or at school and it assists their character development. However, they rely on adult volunteers to make it all possible, either as leaders to run their meetings, camps and so on, or as supporters to provide the material requirements and assist the leaders with the running of activities.

We hope your child will enjoy being a Beaver Scout and will continue through the family of sections.

When your child joins the Group you also become members of the Group Council, which usually meets once a year at the Group AGM. To ensure the Group continues to survive and flourish we expect you to support your child by either helping with a section, with the general running of the Group or with at least two fund-raising events a year.

Please complete the Young Person Information form which you should receive with this document, and return it to your child's section leader as soon as possible.

Thank you

Hugh Gostling, Group Scout Leader

January 2017

2 About the Beaver Scout Section

There are 3 sections in the group which your child may progress through until he/she is 14 years old: Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scouts (usually known as Beavers, Cubs and Scouts). After this he/she may choose to join the District Explorer Scout Unit which is based at 1st Claygate Scout Centre.

Your child will belong to one of the colonies in the Beaver Scout Section of 1st Claygate Scout Group. There are currently 3 colonies in the section: Maple, Oak and Sycamore, each meeting on different evenings. Each colony is led by a Beaver Scout Leader (BSL) assisted by one or more Assistant Beaver Scout Leaders (ABSL) and one or more helpers (Assistants).

All of the leaders your child will come in contact with during his/her time in Scouting have been through a formal vetting process to ensure their suitability to work with young people. The leaders take part in a comprehensive training programme including First Aid Training.

If you have a query or concern at any time please ask your child's Section Leader or one of the Assistant Leaders. The best time to ask a question is usually at the end of the meeting as the leaders will have more time available. If you require further clarification on Scouting matters please contact Hugh Gostling, Group Scout Leader. For matters relating to the support activities of the Group please speak to Stuart Ballard, Chairman of the Group Executive Committee. All relevant contact details are published on the Group Contact List which accompanies this pack and is available from your section leader.

Each colony has one or more parent reps whose role is to gather parents' views and coordinate activities where additional parental support is needed. Details of your colony's parent representative will be provided by your section leader. He/She will be glad to receive any feedback on any aspect of the group which may be discussed at the Group Executive Committee.

If you would like to know more about scouting in general please visit the scout association website at www.scouts.org.uk or the 1st Claygate website at www.claygatescouts.org. Payments and offers of help can all be made through our website. If you don't have access to the Internet and would like any specific information please ask and we will make sure you receive paper copies.

2.1 Aims of the Beaver Programme

The Beaver Scouting Programme is based around three main themes : outdoor and adventure, world and skills. In each section a range of badges and awards support all aspect of Scouting, including the main themes : leadership, teamwork and personal development.

Our aim is to provide a balanced programme of activities during your child's time as a Beaver Scout. This is centred around 6 areas :

- my world
- skills
- outdoors
- adventure
- teamwork
- my personal challenge

This means that your child will be given the opportunity to:

- Help others
- Play games
- Explore their world
- Undertake prayer & worship
- Listen to stories
- Follow themes
- Go on visits
- Make things

- Meet new people
- Act, sing & make music
- Chat
- Go outdoors.

2.2 The Uniform

The Beaver Uniform comprises:

- Turquoise Sweatshirt
- Dark blue Activity Trousers (these are worn right through the sections)
- Black School Style Shoes for formal occasions

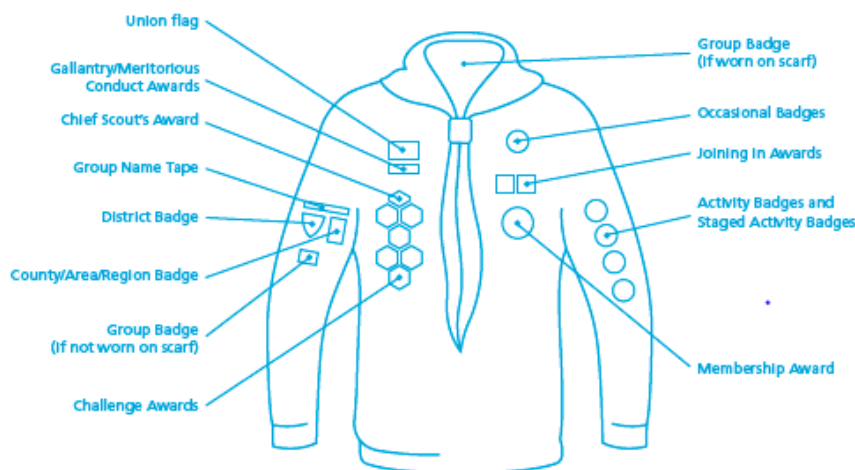
The Group scarf and woggle will be awarded at your child's investiture. (Replacements can be obtained from your BSL for a small sum.)

Sweatshirt and trousers, as well as other items such as T-shirts and caps, can be bought at John Lewis or ordered on-line from the Scout Shop; <http://www.scoutshops.com> or from a discount shop in Guildford, details of which can be found at <http://guildfordscoutguideshop.weebly.com/>.

In addition we do have a limited stock of second-hand uniforms. Your child's section leader will be able to show you what we have.

2.3 Badges

During his/her time in the colony, your child will be able to work towards a number of badges. The following diagram shows where these need to be positioned on the Beaver Uniform. You can find a larger version of this at <http://scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=11,18,241>.



Beavers receive their scarf and several badges at their investiture (see paragraph 2.6). The main one is the Membership Award worn on the front. We have a green Group Name tape with yellow writing – 1st Claygate. Our County & District badges are combined into a single badge and we do not have a Group Badge.

The Challenge Badges form the centre of the balanced programme and have been developed to extend the Beaver Scout's skills and experience. The challenges are usually completed within the Beaver meetings. The 6 challenge badges are: my world, my skill, my outdoors, my adventure, teamwork and my personal Challenge.

Activity Badges and the Staged Activity Badges complement the challenges and there are a total of 34 to choose from such as air activities, emergency aid, Animal friend, gardener, Space to name but a few. These are optional. Some will be covered during meeting some can be done outside meetings.

The Chief Scout's Bronze Award, the highest available in the Beaver Scout section, he/she must complete all six challenges plus 4 Activity Badges or staged Activity Badges.

On the anniversary of joining the Group, your child will be presented with his/her Joining-in Award.

Partnership Awards are optional and may be achieved during section meetings.

Further information on badges and awards is available on the website
<http://scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=11,18>.

2.4 The Beaver Scout Promise

I promise to do my best to be kind
and helpful and to love God.

Alternative Promise

Scouting is available to people of all faiths as well as people who are humanist, atheist or have no affirmed faith and must therefore take account of the different religious obligations or non-religious beliefs of its Members.

Similarly, people of other nationalities resident in the United Kingdom, who may become Members of the Association, owe allegiance to their own Country.

To meet these circumstances, there are different variations of the Beaver Scout Promise that can be made, allowing for the individuals obligations while upholding the essential spirit of the Promise. Please speak to Hugh Gostling the Group Scout Leader or your child's Leader if you would like your child to use a different promise.

2.5 The Beaver Scout Motto

Be Prepared.

2.6 The Investiture

This event usually takes place after your child has attended meetings for at least 4 weeks. The GSL or one of his deputies will be present at the normal weekly meeting and will ask your child to repeat the words of the promise after him. Your new Beaver Scout will then be presented with his/her Group Scarf, woggle which he/she will wear throughout his/her time in the Group, a certificate, and badges for his/her uniform. This is an important occasion and parents are invited to attend.

2.7 Moving Up to Cubs

Your child will be eligible to move on to Cubs when he/she is 8 years old and will be part of a group of Beavers who move up at the end of each term. By this time you should have had the chance to see what our cub packs get up to through taking part in events and reading our regular Newsletter. We hope you will have seen what's in store through your attendance at our Scouts Own & Moving-Up Ceremonies each term

2.8 Points of Interest

There is no longer a Beaver Scout Annual but there are various publications available from Scoutshops which make good stocking fillers!

Members of 1st Claygate Scout Group are proud to be able to wear a khaki coloured scarf to show that we were one of the first groups to join the Scouting Movement. The other groups have more colourful scarves but it is worth remembering why we are different.

Members of the Scout Association always shake hands with their left hand. This is a sign of trust which originates from Baden Powell's meeting with Zulu warriors who laid down their shield (held in their left hand) to greet him.

3 About Group and District Activities

This chapter gives a general description of events which you will hear about through your colony. There may be changes to the format and venue of these activities so please treat this information as guidance only. A full calendar of events is available on our website – www.claygatescouts.org. You can sign up there to receive updates to the calendar and to see new photos of events. Please also note that you can usually sign up to help at events by completing a shared spreadsheet on our website. This saves the organisers or parent reps worrying about getting enough help.

3.1 Beaver District Party

This is organised by The Esher District Beaver Leader Esher and usually takes place in February. There are around 220 Beavers [from 10 groups in Esher District: 1st Claygate, 1st Cobham, The Dittons, 1st Hinchley Wood, 1st Molesey, 2nd Molesey, 3rd Molesey, 1st Oxshott, 4th Thames Ditton (Ajax Sea Scouts) & 1st Weston Green].

It is held in Hinchley Wood Secondary School making use of the main hall and several classrooms. There is an opening ceremony where all Beaver Groups are introduced and a break for a packed tea half way through. Usually a theatre company performs a fairy tale or fable with a number of bases for groups of 20-25. A great time to meet and catch up with friends from other areas.

3.2 Cross Country Run

This event takes place in February and is organised by the District. It usually takes place on Oxshott Common. Beavers need to be accompanied on the run by a parent or other adult. Each young person participating receives a medal and points for their group.

3.3 Swimming Gala

This event usually takes place every two years in February or March during the early evening. It was held at the Xcel Leisure Centre in Walton but we are currently looking for an alternative venue. The colonies compete for points against each other, as do the cub packs.

3.4 Group Activity Weekend

Each year during May Explorers, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers have a weekend camp at either Polyapes (in Oxshott) or Walton Firs (in Cobham). Beavers may be invited to a sleepover for one night only in a hut where they either sleep on bunk beds or mats on the floor. Scout Association rules state that Beavers are only allowed to sleepover for a maximum of 24 hours. Our aim is that 2/3 of Beavers come for the sleepover and the rest are invited for the afternoon and evening. The Beavers attend the camp fire, Scout's Own and Going-up ceremony with the rest of the Group. The sleepover takes on a fun theme such as pirates, knights etc. and is a good introduction to scouting outdoors.

3.5 Beaver Fun Day

This takes place in July and is organised by the District with a similar format to the Beaver District Party with one major difference – it is held outside! It usually takes place at Esher District's campsite at Polyapes, Blundel Lane, Oxshott in the main field. There are a series of bases which groups follow during the afternoon and it is a great deal of fun, especially if the weather is good! You will be encouraged to share lifts as the car park there is too small to accommodate 150+ cars!

3.6 Scouts Own/Going-up Ceremonies

These take place on a Sunday morning soon after the beginning of each term (Feb, May & Oct). After a short service which is planned by the Group, the Beaver Leader says goodbye to Beavers who are old enough to join the Cub Pack and they carry out some sort of activity such as climbing along a set of logs to their Akela (Cub Scout Leader). There are also tasks for Cubs joining Scouts and Scouts moving on to Explorers. This is a good opportunity to remind ourselves of the spiritual

element of scouting and to meet other members of the Group. There are sometimes special presentations to be made where for example money has been raised for charity and/or leaders have completed training or reached milestones in their service to scouting.

3.7 Group Summer Fundraiser

This event has changed in format over the years in an attempt to avoid competing with school fetes. It is currently an afternoon of scouting activities organised by each section followed by a barbeque and is an enjoyable and profitable event for the Group.

3.8 Group AGM

As a charity we need to hold an Annual General Meeting to present our accounts to the membership. This usually takes place in June or July and in addition to the short formal business there is a barbeque and awards to leaders and members.

3.9 Annual Awards

The annual awards were introduced in 2000 to reward individuals who have stood out in some way as representatives of scouting. Recipients of awards are chosen by the leaders of each pack. These awards are presented before the summer break usually at the AGM.

3.10 Claygate Flower Show

We always have a pitch at the Village Flower Show in July and any help with this event will be appreciated. The Scout Group is an important part of the community and this is a good forum for showing them what we are about! The Beaver Colonies try to enter the Group Category each year.

3.11 St Georges Day

This takes place towards the end of April and is usually held jointly with Hinchley Wood, Cobham and Oxshott so can be at either one of their village churches as well as our own. We take this as an opportunity for all members of the Scout Association to renew their promise so it is really important for all Beavers to attend. We do all we can to make the occasion interesting for younger members whilst recognising that it is for all ages.

The event usually begins with a march through the streets led by our band. Each colony has a flag which will be carried by a representative with two escorts. All members should be well turned out and apologies for non-attendance should be directed to our GSL.

3.12 Remembrance Day Parade

This is similar to St Georges Day but takes place in November and only involves 1st Claygate. We join members of the British Legion and the Guide Movement for a parade from the car park next to Champions in Hare Lane to Holy Trinity Church. Once again apologies for non-attendance must be sent to our GSL and smart uniform is essential.

3.13 Claygate Scout Group Carol Service

This event is organised by the Group on an evening near to Christmas and varies in format and includes music from the Band and is a chance to share mulled wine and mince pies with Scouting friends.

4 Subscriptions

Membership subscriptions are levied three times a year on 1st April, 1st September and 1st January. They are calculated on an annual basis and revised annually. You will receive an email requesting payment in the first weeks of term and will be asked to post monies to our Treasurer or use the on-line system which is accessible from our website at http://www.claygatescouts.org/site_map.htm.

The current subscription for Beavers is £135 per annum (£45 per term).

4.1 Subscriptions – by Gift Aid

Since the introduction of Gift Aid we aim to collect all subscriptions in this way. The Scout Group reclaims the tax as a recognised and registered charity in the same way as other well known charities such as Cancer Research. The tax is reclaimed as it has already been paid through the donor's taxed income. This means that for every £1 of subscriptions you pay the group is able to claim 25p.

This is obviously a very advantageous method of the group increasing its annual income and is put to good use in the equipment and activities that the group provides.

You will be prompted to donate in this way when paying your subscription - please do so if you can.

5 Group Behaviour Policy and Code

This policy was introduced in 2011 and is 'signed up to' by parents and members over 8 years of age.'

Verbal Warnings

If the behaviour of a Beaver/Cub/Scout/Explorer is considered to have fallen well below the '**Group Code of Acceptable Behaviour**', that Beaver/Cub/Scout/Explorer, or group of Beavers/Cubs/ Scouts/ Explorers, will be given a verbal warning by a Leader. The offender(s) will be told to stop whatever they are doing and warned what will happen if they don't comply.

Examples of unacceptable behaviour could be: -

- continual talking, or verbal disruption when a 'Leader' has asked for quiet;
- continuing with unacceptable or disruptive behaviour after being directly told to stop;
- persistent refusal to follow instructions, or the rules of a game.

Initial Formal Warnings (aka Yellow Card)

If a verbal warning is ignored, the Beaver/Cub/Scout/Explorer may be required to take a time out away from the other members of the sections. The form of this will vary from section to section. The Section Leader will record the name and details of the incident in the register. The parent(s) of the section member may also be contacted.

More serious bad behaviour could result in the immediate issue of an initial formal warning. Examples of this type of behaviour include:

- threatening language or behaviour – (not involving use of physical violence);
- careless disregard of property leading to its damage;
- challenging the authority of a Leader, Instructor or Helper.

Second level warnings (aka Red Card)

If the Beaver/Cub/Scout/Explorer commits a second Yellow Card offence on the same night they will receive a second level warning. Again, name and details of issue will be recorded and the Beaver/Cub/Scout/Explorer will not be allowed to take any further part in that evening's Colony/Pack/Troop/Unit meeting.

Parent(s) will be advised of the issue of a second level warning, as soon as it is practical to do so. Depending on the situation the Section Leader may send for the parent/guardian to collect their child early. Sending a Scout home, (if he makes his own way to Troop meetings) could also be an option, but only after the parent/guardian had been contacted and advised.

Certain behaviour could result in the immediate issue of a second level warning. Examples of these include:

- bullying or physical unprovoked attack on another Group Member;
- blatant vandalism to property or equipment;
- deliberate defiance of clearly given instructions - particularly where safety is threatened.

Please note that some sections will operate this system using Yellow and Red cards:

Suspension - If a Beaver/Cub/Scout/Explorer receives a Red Card, he or she will automatically be suspended from the next two meetings and will not be allowed to attend camps or outings held during that month, or the next. In some cases the Section Leader may also request a letter of apology.

Continual Offending- If a Beaver/Cub/Scout/Explorer receives four Yellow Cards in any six-month period he or she will be suspended.

Appeal – If a Beaver/Cub/Scout/Explorer feels that they have been unfairly issued with either a Red or Yellow card, he or she can appeal to the Group Scout Leader to review the incident and punishment. Any appeal must be made within seven days of the issue of the card.

Exclusion- If a Beaver/Cub/Scout/Explorer receives three Red Cards (either as a Cub or Scout), then on issue of the third Red Card, exclusion proceedings will be initiated. This is a very serious matter involving the Section Leader, Group Scout Leader and District Commissioner and would result in exclusion from all Groups in the District.