

Summary information for joining 4th Sevenoaks (St.John's) Scout Group - Beaver Section

This is a link to the 4th's Welcome Pack (<http://www.4thsevenoaks.org.uk/resources/welcome-pack/>), which includes lots of information about Scouting and our Group for you and your Young Person (YP).

You can also find lots of information on the UK Scout Association's website <http://scouts.org.uk/home/>

"Pinewood" Colony meet Wednesdays 5:15 to 6:30pm. "Millpond" Colony meet Fridays 4:15 to 5:30pm.

On the first week and especially if you need to complete the Membership details form, please could you arrive 5-10minutes earlier.

What to wear? Practical clothes until your YP wishes to wear Beaver uniform or is ready to be invested (make the Beaver Scout promise). Once invested your YP should wear uniform to all scouting activities unless you are informed otherwise. Footwear must always be appropriate to the activity on the programme or at least appropriate for being outside in our grounds, at a minimum we would suggest trainers - school shoes are only appropriate for parades and other official occasions.

Where to buy uniform locally? Our website has a link to the Sevenoaks District run Scout shop which is run by leaders to support District funds. It is also cheaper than buying online, visiting Horncastles or John Lewis! Please do try to purchase from the Scout shop. It is open term time only on the 1st 3 Saturdays of each month 10am to midday. However do check the calendar first which is on our website under Resources. You can now check stock in advance or place an order by emailing scoutshop@sevenoaksscouts.org.uk. We also have a few sizes of new tops and second hand items too so do ask if you would like to look at these.

What is uniform? *a Beaver sweatshirt, navy trousers.* Any navy trousers are fine for weekly activities but Scout activity trousers are best for official occasions and outings and are the same for each section. *Beaver polo shirts are optional* but nice to have in the summer, extra warmth or to allow top to come off when they are warm after running around. Beavers receive a *scarf (neckerchief) plus woggle when invested.* Please name all items - by their nature they are identical otherwise!

What to bring with you? To the first session a Membership details form - a copy might be emailed to you or you will find it within the Welcome pack or arrive a little earlier prepared to fill it in. We also ask for this to be completed annually, in the Autumn term. In addition we ask you to complete a Scout Association information form. We will give you a copy or it can be edited online and printed from the Scouts website. Scouting is for all - it is an open and inclusive organisation and Scout policy supports the principle that no member should be discriminated against so with this in mind please do give us as much detail as possible when completing these forms. This will enable us to give your *YP the best possible experience in Scouting.*

What does it cost? Subscriptions are paid at the start of each term currently £30. If you are new to the group this can be paid half termly @£15 for the first term. If starting mid way through a term subs is £3 per week for the number of remaining weeks of the term - please send it in a sealed, named envelope. Camps/outings and activities outside of normal on site meetings have separate charges but no additional event is compulsory to attend. If your YP is new to the group there is a "joining" fee of £5 when they are invested to be paid the following half term. This covers a scarf, badges and a woggle. When moving up to the next section, the scarf moves too and some badges transfer to the next uniform. New badges can be bought @£1 each. Replacement woggles are £1 and a new scarf is £3.

What do Beavers do? While a Young Person is in Beavers they will have fun, make friends and get to do exciting activities that they wouldn't get to do anywhere else. But this is just the start! Beavers is the first step in Scouting for future development as individuals and Scouts. It will seem like they have only just started before it will be time to 'swim up' to Cubs!

Each term a programme is put on our website along with other useful information and updates about the group. It is usually emailed &/or handed out to you too. Please see our online "Welcome Pack" for more information. Each year we try to produce a Key Dates list as well.

Email is our main method of communication for any changes to the programme. "Group" emails will also be sent too via the Mailchimp system. If you need any forms printed for you or communication in another way please do ask. We also use Facebook to share news too.

If you have any queries or for any reason your young person is not able to attend one week please can you send an email or text to our Beaver leader to let her know. Contact details are on this note and on our web site too along with all other member of "the Team" at the 4th.

Leaders "names" and a little Beaver and Cub information

Beaver leaders take their names from "Friends of the Forest" and the Beaver colony is split into lodges (groups of 6-8 Beaver Scouts). Beavers first started in Canada and the UK adopted the Beaver programme in 1986 for age 6-8 years old. Beaver and Forest themes are used in the youngest section of scouting and the leaders have animal names. In the next section, Cubs for age 8 to 10 ½ years old, the "Jungle Book" theme is used for naming leaders and some of our Cub leaders regularly support Beavers and are included below.

We have two Cub packs at the 4th

"Greatness" Cubs meet 5:45 to 7:15pm on Fridays. "Wilderness" Cubs meet 6:30 to 8pm on Wednesdays.

When your Beaver is ready to swim up to Cubs we will let you know. This can be anytime between the age of 7 ½ to 8 ½ years old. We will discuss with you and your YP when they are ready. We will also try to move them on with their peers at the same time. This means it will never be at exactly the same age for all. If you have a strong preference for Wednesday or Friday, do let us know in advance and we will do our best to accommodate if we have space.

Leaders

Pinewood Beaver Scout Leader

Shelley Williams (Rainbow) - sjwilliams68@tiscali.co.uk - 07526 106322

Millpond Beaver Scout Leader

Becky Sandles (Bramble) – Bramble.millpond@hotmail.com - 07765 280776

Assistants

Pinewood

Laura Wynes (Woody Woodpecker)

Martha Rutherford (Dove)

Nikki Myall

Julie Easy (Vixen)

Millpond

Emily Underhill (Keeo)

Sophie Stronge (Fern)

Jo Norland (Tictac)

Sam James (Fox)

Section assistants and occasional helpers - these are adults that help on a regular or occasional basis but are not necessarily in uniform:- **Pinewood** - Charlene (Squirrel) and Amy (Robin) **Millpond** - Verity, Sarah, Helen, Hannah and Laura (Bluebell)

Young leaders aged 14 to 18 years old also support each section:-

Kelly (Kanga) and Riana (Tigger) currently support Beavers and Cubs. Josh is supporting Millpond.

Other leaders that support Beavers when needed are as follows:-

Steve Kelley - **Akela for Greatness Cub Pack**

Peter Willson (Bagheera) - **Assistant Cub Scout Leader** for both Cub packs

Freddie Willson (Hathi) - **Assistant Cub Scout Leader** for both Cub packs

Jo Brookbank (Raksha) - **Assistant Group Scout Leader**

- 4thSevenoaksAGSL@gmail.com - 0780 6601995

Paul Davis - **Group Scout Leader** - PaulDavis50@gmail.com 07884 436171