

1st Claygate Scout Group



About Beaver Scouts



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Appendix

Membership Information Form (for completion)

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 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. You are especially lucky to be able to benefit from our new modern headquarters in Oaken Lane and to be joining as we our 100th birthday.

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.

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 Membership Information form at the end of the booklet and return it to your child's section Leader as soon as possible.

Thank you

Hugh Gostling, Group Scout Leader

April 2010

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 (s)he may choose to join the District Explorer Scout Unit which is based at 1st Claygate Scout Centre. (You may still hear people refer to Explorer Scouts as Ventures which was the section for 15½ -25 year olds before 2002.)

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.

All the adults 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 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 Harry Jones Group Chairman of The Group Executive Committee. All relevant contact details are in section 5.

Each colony has a parent rep whose role is to gather parents views and coordinate with leaders and management team. Details of your colony's parent representative will be on the noticeboard at the Scout Centre. He/She will be glad to receive any feedback on any aspect of the group which will be discussed at the leaders' committee.

If you would like to know more about scouting in general please visit the scout association website at www.scoutbase.org.uk or the 1st Claygate website at www.claygatescouts.org. 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

Our aim is to provide a balanced programme of activities during your child's time as a Beaver Scout. This is achieved by addressing the following six areas:

- Beliefs and Attitudes
- Community
- Fitness
- Creative
- Global
- Outdoor and Adventure

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.

Please visit <http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/6to25/beaver/programme/index.htm> for full details.

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

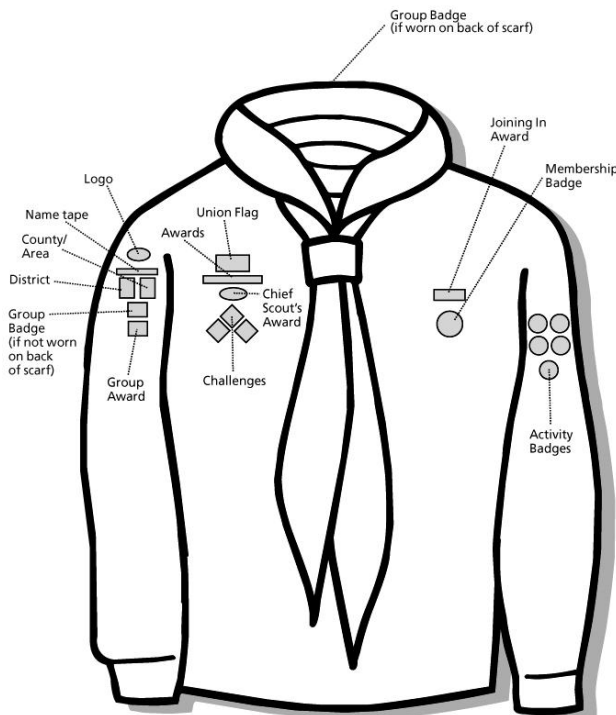
The Group scarf and woggle will be awarded at your child's investiture. (Replacements can be obtained from your BSL for a small sum.)

Sweatshirt and trousers, as well as other items such as T-shirts and caps, can be obtained from the Walton & Weybridge Scout Shop, 4th Walton Headquarters, Cottimore Lane, Walton-on-Thames, KT12 2BX. It is open on Mondays from 3.30-5pm and Wednesday from 7-9pm during term time only. Alternatively items can be ordered on-line from the Scout Shop; www.scoutshops.com.

In addition we do have a limited stock of second-hand uniforms. Your child's sections 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://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/clipart/uniforms/beaver.htm>.



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

The Challenge Badges complement the balanced programme and have been developed to extend the Beaver Scout's skills and experience. The challenges are optional but are usually completed within the Beaver meetings. They are Outdoor, Friendship, Promise, Fitness, Creative and Global and are diamond-shaped. They will be given as and when completed.

On the anniversary of joining the Group, your child will be presented with his/her Joining-in Award. To earn the Chief Scout's Bronze Award, the highest available in the Beaver Scout section, he/she must complete all six challenges.

Activity Badges and Group Awards are optional and may be achieved during section meetings or outside scouting. Further information on badges and awards is available on the website <http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/badges/beaver-index.htm>.

2.4 The Beaver Scout Promise

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

2.5 The Beaver Scout Motto

Be Prepared.

2.6 The Investiture

This event usually takes place after your child has attended meetings for 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 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 a Beaver Scout Annual which comes out every Christmas and makes a good stocking filler!

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.

3.1 Beaver District Party

This is organised by all Beaver Leaders in the District led by the District Beaver Leader and usually takes place in January. There are around 150 boys [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 usually held somewhere like Hinchley Wood Secondary School making use of the main hall and several classrooms. There is an opening ceremony where all Beavers are introduced and a break for a packed tea half way through. It usually takes the form of one main activity carried out by all or half of the Beavers (eg play, astrodome, birds of prey display) and then a number of bases which groups of 20-25 follow. 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 from the Arrow and Trefoil Hut in West End (opposite the Princess Alice Hospice). 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 is organised by the Group and usually takes place every two years in February or March during the early evening. It is currently held at the Xcel Leisure Centre in Walton. The colonies compete for points against each other.

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 are invited to a sleepover for one night only in a hut where they either sleep on bunk beds or lilos 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.

Beavers and cubs group together and carry out combined activities organised in a series of bases with adult supervision. This is an ideal opportunity for older Beavers to see how Cubs and Scouts camp and to partake in some camping activities such as Backwoods cooking and gadget making. Parents will be asked to help so leaders can run activities and will also be invited to attend the camp fire at the end of the day.

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 of boys 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 Fete

This is our annual summer fund-raiser and a big event where we can show off our skills to members of the village whilst raising money for the Group! There are lots of traditional elements such as Pimms with strawberries and cream, the plate-smashing stall, barbeque and Tug-o-war, all lots of fun. You will be asked to sign up for a short spell on one of the stalls and may receive a

call from your colony parent representative. We liaise with local schools to try and ensure there are no clashes with their events.

3.8 Group AGM/Annual Awards

As a charity we need to hold an Annual General Meeting to present our accounts to the membership. This is usually some time in June and we aim to keep it as short as possible and combine it with other activities such as a barbeque and our 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 colony.

3.9 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.

3.10 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.

3.11 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

3.12 Claygate Scout & Guide Carol Concert

This event is organised by local representatives of each movement, usually on a Monday evening near to Christmas, and varies in format.

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 a request for payment in the first weeks of term and will be asked to post monies to the Subscriptions Co-ordinator.

The current subscriptions for Beavers is £117 per annum (£39 per term).

4.1 Subscriptions – by Gift Aid

Since 1986 we have managed to increase our fundraising by the reclamation of tax on Covenanted Subscriptions. The system was changed and now we wish to collect all subscriptions by Gift Aid. The Scout Group reclaims the tax as a recognised and registered charity in the same

way as other well known charities e.g. 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 can claim back 22p.

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 Contact Details

There is a complete list of all adults who do voluntary work for the Group with their addresses and phone numbers, at the Scout Centre. Details below should be sufficient to enable to contact anyone you might need to speak with. If you are interested in joining the team – there is usually room for more help!

5.1 Group Leaders

G.S.L.	:	Hugh Gostling
A.G.S.L.	:	Graham Gibbs
A.G.S.L.	:	Debbie Bowles

Group : Harry Jones
Chairman

5.2 Maple Beaver Colony

B.S.L. : vacant
A.B.S.L. : Howard Dutton
A.B.S.L. : Micheline Foreman
Assistant : vacant

5.3 Oak Beaver Colony

B.S.L. : Debbie Bowles
A.B.S.L. : Kim Gilbert
A.B.S.L. : John Paul Bland
Assistant : Gavin Bacon
Assistant : Catherine McIlwain

5.4 Sycamore Beaver Colony

B.S.L. : Stuart Ballard
A.B.S.L. : Mandi Schultz
A.B.S.L. : Katie Ernest

1st Claygate Scout Group

(Founded 1909)



Membership Information

Not only does this form give us important information (e.g. having been 'cleared' by the Scout Association, a necessary process before all adults have contact with young people. Please return this form to your child's section Leader at the next meeting or e-mail it and copy to gostling.family@ntlworld.com An electronic version of this form is available from Hugh Gostling or the Group Web Site – www.claygatescouts.org.

Section: _____ (e.g. Maple Beavers)

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Tel. No: _____

E-mail address: _____

Emergency Contact details for during meeting: _____

School: _____

Place of worship/faith: _____

Parents/Guardians names: _____

Fathers occupation: _____

Mothers Occupation: _____

Child's special needs-medical, dietary, social, educational: _____

Relatives in Group/ Friends in section: _____

Is there anything else you would like us to know? _____

P.T.O

www.claygatescouts.org

Registered Charity No.308135

Child's Name: _____

Section: _____

As mentioned already it is a requirement of your child's membership that you either help with a section, help with the general running of the Group or help with two fund-raising events per year. If you want further details on these please either contact your child's section Leader, or Hugh Gostling. Could you please indicate your preference below:

	Father	Mother
Help with a section:	_____	_____
Help with Service Crew:	_____	_____
Help at a camp etc:	_____	_____
Help with transport for camp: (Have Van/lorry for transporting equipment)	_____	_____
Help with fund-raising:	_____	_____
Serve on a sub-committee: (Please indicate which one)	_____	_____
Help with building maintenance:	_____	_____
Help with grounds maintenance:	_____	_____
Help with cleaning of the Centre:	_____	_____
Please indicate if either of you have ever been involved in Scouting or Guiding as a member or helper	_____	_____

Data Protection

This information will be held on computer for the Group's use and will only be used for scouting purposes. The Group will not pass on e-mail address to other parties outside of Scouting and e-mail addresses will only be used to provide information about Scouting events.

If you object please contact Harry Jones.