



EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT 6th TORBAY BEAVERS

(BUT KEEP FORGETTING
TO ASK THE LEADERS!)

A PARENTS GUIDE

Welcome to the 6th Torbay Britannia Sea Scout Group, providing scouting from ages 6 to 18.

Hopefully this introduction will give you a good idea of what to expect from us, and how things are organised in our group.

Please Note: this introduction cannot cover everything but will hopefully answer most of your basic questions. If there is anything else you need to know, please do not hesitate to ask the Leaders who will do their best to help you. If you want to talk to the Leaders then please do this at the END of the meetings.

WHAT IS SCOUTING ?

Scouting is the largest youth movement in the world with over 26 million members. It is a voluntary organisation run by people who freely give up their time to organise weekly activities for young people.

HOW DID SCOUTING START ?

Scouting was started by Robert Baden-Powell, who was born in 1857.

When he left school he joined the army. As an army scout in Africa he learned and taught outdoor survival skills. When Baden-Powell returned to England, many boys looked on him

as a hero, so he started writing articles in papers and magazines about army scouting principles and how they could be adapted to everyday life.

He organised a camp at Brownsea Island near Poole in Dorset in August 1907. The young people had a great time playing sports, camping, cooking, tracking and learning knots, things young people had little chance to do before.

After this successful camp Baden-Powell put all the ideas in a book called 'Scouting For Boys', by August 1908 many thousands of boys were calling themselves Boy Scouts, so an official organisation was formed. By 1910 there were 100,000 boys in scouting. In 1916 Cub Scouting was started for boys, aged 8 to 11. The realization that a much younger age group could benefit from scouting came much later in 1982.

At first Beaver Colonies were set up for 6 and 7 year olds and these colonies were affiliated to the Scout Association. However in 1986, Beavers officially became **Beaver Scouts** - a training section of the movement and have since gone from strength to strength. Today's scout groups also offer mixed sex scouting.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT SECTIONS IN SCOUTING ?

Beaver Scouts aged 6 - 8 years

Cub Scouts aged 8 - 10½ years

Scouts aged 10½ - 14 years

Explorers aged 14 - 18 years

WHAT IS SEA SCOUTS ALL ABOUT ?

We are part of the Scout Association and must adhere to their Policies, Organization and Rules (POR) for all our activities. The usual scouting training is given but we have an added nautical theme. The aim of the Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

ABOUT 6th TORBAY "BRITANNIA" SEA SCOUTS

The group was started in 1922 and in 1942 became Royal Navy Recognized, a privilege granted to only 101 Sea Scout Groups in the UK. Our Unit Number is 29. This coveted status requires a high level of commitment from members and the Admiralty Inspection Parade is a compulsory requirement for all members of the group and takes place every 18 months. Since 1938 we have been proudly affiliated to the Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth, the name "Britannia" being given to us in 1971. We require members to attend on a regular basis and have a real interest in nautical matters as over the years they will take part in a wide variety of activities on the water as well as the usual Scouting activities. We have also been awarded RYA Training Status.

WHEN AND WHERE DO THE BEAVERS MEET ?

6th Torbay is based at South Quay, Paignton Harbour. The meeting times for the Beavers Section are as follows:

Mondays: 18.00hrs to 19.15hrs.

Thursdays: 17.45hrs to 19.00hrs.

Please note that it is not possible to attend on the alternative night if you do not come to usual meeting night. We are strictly limited in the number of children who can attend each session.

WHO ARE THE LEADERS ?

The leaders are all volunteers and are ALL UNPAID, they are mostly parents of other children in the group who have decided to become more involved. All leaders and regular helpers have been subject to an enhanced check by the Criminal Records Bureau and leaders will either have completed the Scouts Training programme or will still be in the process of completing this. When their teaming is complete they will be awarded their Wood Badge.

WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE GROUP ?

Our Group Scout Leader is Gareth Cowell - email: gsl@6thtorbaybritannia.org.uk

Gareth has responsibility for all the sections within the group - and oversees the programme of activities that we provide. The other section leaders are:

Beavers	Helen Wild	Age range 6 - 8 years
Cubs	Simon Costin	Age range 8 - 10½ years
Scouts	Martyn Cowell	Age range 10½ - 14 years
Explorers	Doug Eltham	Age range 14 - 18 years

SO - WHAT HAPPENS AT BEAVER MEETINGS ?

Please try to arrive at least 10 minutes before the start of a meeting, this gives the leaders time to answer any queries you may have before we start the meeting. We have a small flag raising and lowering ceremony at the start and end of each meeting. During this time, it is important that the children stand still and remain silent to honour the flag. We also have a series of Beaver Chants and a points competition, details of which are in your child's welcome pack. It would greatly help if you could collect your children promptly at the end of each session, especially on Thursdays as there is a Scout meeting immediately after our session.

The leaders will provide you with a programme sheet every term so that you are aware of the activities on offer. Please be aware that these are not set in stone and amendments may be necessary to accommodate special events. Updates and further information will be given out regularly. To keep costs to a minimum and to avoid items being lost on the way home, we would like to send out all correspondence by email. You may however, need to print off various reply slips which must be signed and returned to the leaders in order for your child to attend the events in question. Please provide us with your email address as soon as possible to ensure that our records are up to date.

WHAT HAPPENS IF WE MISS A WEEK ?

If your child misses the odd week due to illness or a holiday, this is not normally a problem. However, if more than 3 consecutive weeks are missed with no explanation, then it will be assumed that they no longer wish to be a member of the group. If you could advise the leaders of any absences this, will avoid any confusion and we can also let you know of any last minute programme changes or notes which have been issued in your absence. If weeks are missed, your child may not be able to complete a badge.

DO WE HAVE TO COME TO ALL THE ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES ARRANGED OUTSIDE THE NORMAL PROGRAMME ?

In addition to the weekly activity programme there are occasional Borough organised activity days and outings which the Beavers will be offered. Some of these may occur on weekends. Attendance is not compulsory; however, your child may miss part of a unit to complete a badge if they do not attend.

We do however have certain activities for which attendance is compulsory for ALL members, these are:

St Georges Day Parade - annually, all members from all sections are required to attend, IN PULL UNIFORM.

Group Carol Service - annually, all members from all sections are required to attend, IN FULL UNIFORM.

Remembrance Day Parade - annually - Scouts, Explorers and some Cubs are required to attend. Beavers are NOT obliged to attend this parade.

Admiralty Inspection - every 18 months - Scouts, Explorers and some Cubs are required to attend. Beavers are NOT required to attend this inspection.

ARE BEAVERS ALLOWED TO CAMP ?

Under the Scout Associations Rules, Beaver Scouts are allowed to sleep outdoors under canvas, unaccompanied by a parent for one night. For camps of more than one night's duration Beavers can attend if they accompanied by a parent or nominated responsible adult. The adult will have responsibility for the Beaver Scout during the camp.

We try to hold an annual Family Camp, either in the Spring or Autumn. This camp is very dependent on the number of Cub and Beaver parents who want to attend - if there are not enough to make the camp viable then it will be cancelled. We also hold an annual themed Beaver Sleepover in our Head Quarters in the Spring; parents are not required to attend this event unless we need extra adult cover. All adults attending these events **must have a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check** (previously called a CRB check) through The Scout Association. This can be done on-line at our Headquarters, Paignton Harbour by prior arrangement.

DOES MY CHILD HAVE TO BE ABLE TO SWIM ?

No, but we do expect them to learn before they progress up to Cubs and Scouts. Being a non-swimmer will greatly limit the activities they can take part in.

ARE BEAVERS ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN WATER ACTIVITIES ?

Unfortunately, we are unable to allow the Beavers to take part in regular water activities as they do in the other sections. The supervision of the children would be too great for the leaders to undertake. However, every summer we do arrange for a family boating evening, when the Beavers have a chance to have a go at Kayaking, sailing, rowing and power-boating. We would stress however, that they may only participate in these activities if they are accompanied AT ALL TIMES by a parent or nominated responsible adult.

PHOTOGRAPHS

From time to time, your child may be photographed in the course of their scouting activities, the photographs may appear on our notice board, our Group Web Site, in the local press or in Scouting literature to promote the Group and show our wider links with the community.

WHAT DO WE DO NEXT ?

If your child decides they want to become a member, please work through the Welcome Pack with them over the next two weeks, this will help them to understand what is happening at each meeting and help them to settle in quicker.

You will need to complete a membership application form for your child which will be given to you when the workbook has been completed.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST ?

As we are a voluntary organisation, we receive no funding for our activities, we therefore make a small monthly charge to cover the cost of materials and resources used in the weekly meetings and the annual insurance which all members (including children) are required to pay to Scout Headquarters. It is group policy that these monthly subscriptions are paid by Standing Order. The current rate is £12.00 per month. (If you are unable to set up this facility at a bank please inform the section leader.) We will provide you with a standing order form and a unique identification number. Once completed the form should be taken to your bank.

We would also ask all UK tax payers to complete a Gift Aid form to enable us to claim back money from the Inland Revenue. This will allow us to keep future subscriptions to a minimum.

DO I HAVE TO HELP AT MEETINGS ?

You may be asked to help at meetings, especially when we are outside as we need more adults to allow these activities to take place. Please let the Section Leader know as soon as possible if you are able to help on any activities. All help will be gratefully received. Please Note: this does not mean that you have to come each week and wear the uniform - it just means you can help us now and again when needed.

WHERE AND WHEN DO I BUY THE UNIFORM ?

Please do not buy uniform until your child is sure that they want to join Beavers. It can be purchased from any of the Scout Shops within the UK. Our closest one is located at Watcombe Scout Campsite, Easterfield Lane, Torquay and is open on Saturday from 10:00hrs to 12:00noon during term time only. See the info and map at the end of this document.

Please note that the Scout Shop now accepts card payments as well as cash or cheques.

The Beaver Scout uniform consists of;

- Turquoise Beaver Sweatshirt & Navy Cargo Pants - available from the Scout Shop
- Group Scarf & Group T-shirt - these are available from the Leaders
- Black Socks & Black shoes - school shoes will be fine

The Leaders will give you all the details regarding the date and time of your child's investiture, usually after your child has attended for 6 weeks.

Once invested they will be required to attend all meetings in full uniform and your assistance is required to ensure that they are well presented for each meeting with correct uniform and all badges awarded sewn on as soon as possible.

A diagram of the placement of badges is shown on the next page, but if you have any queries, please ask your Leaders.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP ?

We are always looking for volunteers to help with our smooth running of the group. If you would like to help in any of the following areas, please let your Leader know and your details will be passed on to the right person.

Regular Uniformed Leader

Regular helper

Fundraising

Housekeeping

Catering

Towing boats etc.

Maintenance of Buildings

Maintenance of Boats

Any hobby / interest / job you could share with the children.

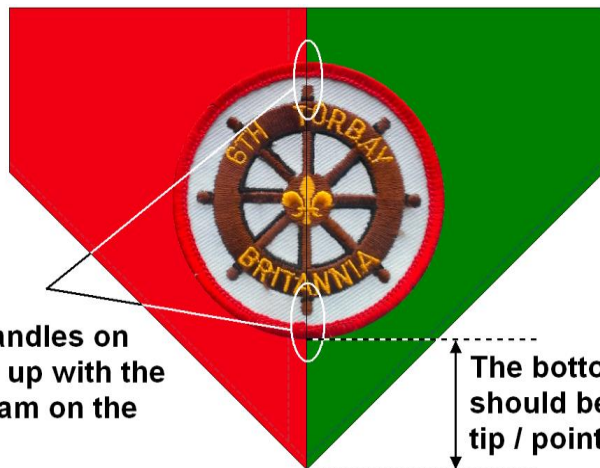
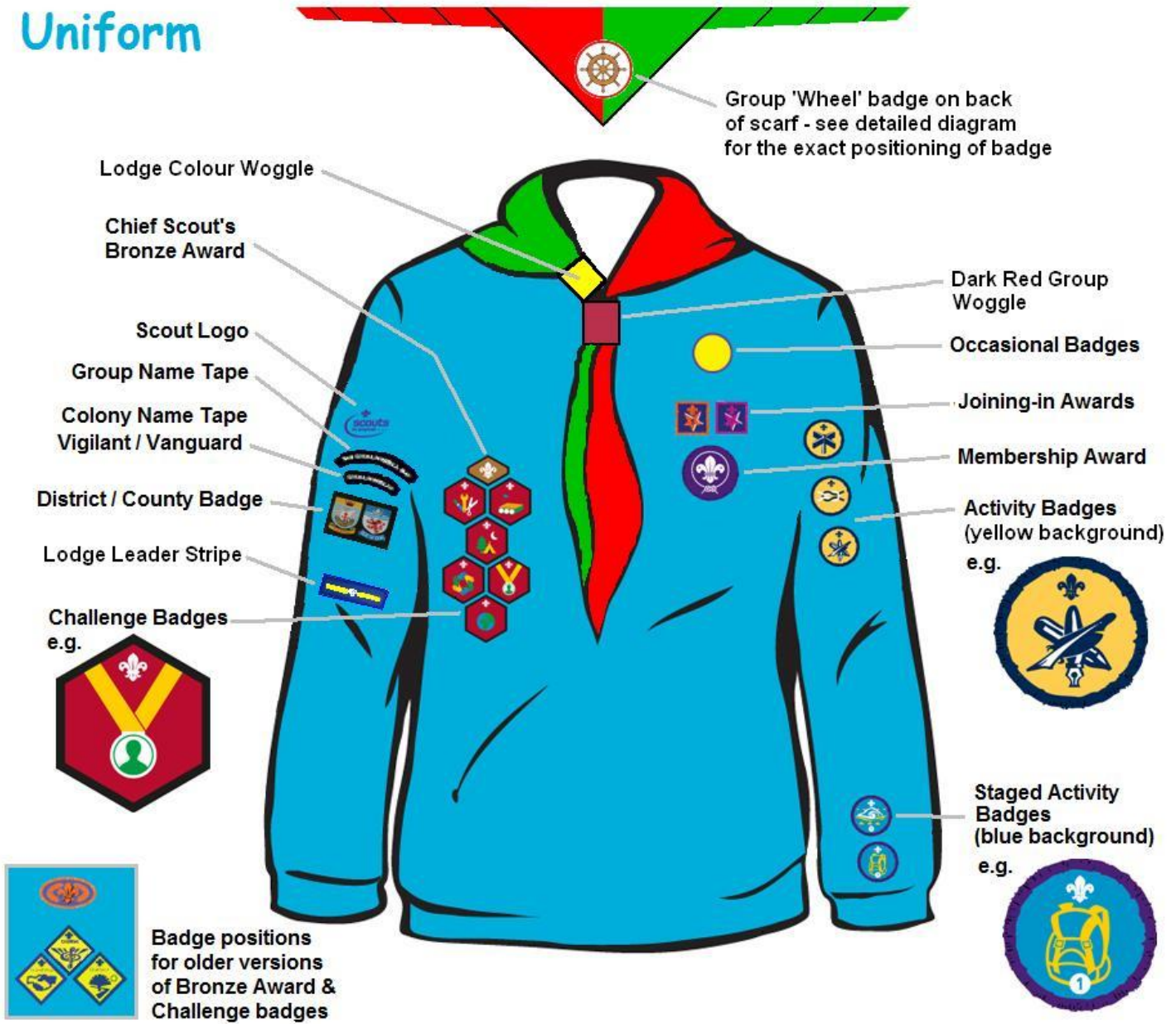
REMEMBER the group cannot exist without volunteers, so please help us if you can.

All the people who enable your child to have all these great opportunities & experiences are UNPAID and give up their time to keep the Group going – what can you offer?

WHERE TO PUT YOR BADGES ?

Use this as a guide – but if you are uncertain then please ask a Leader:

Beaver Scout Uniform



Torbay Scout Shop

The Torbay Scout Shop is at the Watcombe Scout Campsite, in the main building just to the left of the Tuck Shop and the Wardens Office. Parking is free in the main car park at the very top of Easterfield Lane.

Opening times: 10am until 12 noon on Saturdays.

The Scout Shop is open during Half Term but closed for the Christmas, Easter and Summer school holidays.

Items not usually held in stock can be ordered for you.

Torbay Scout Campsite,
Easterfield lane,
Watcombe,
Torquay, TQ1 4SW

Scout Shop Manager:

Tel: 07858 998157

Email: scoutshopmanager@torbayscouts.org.uk

