



Holy Name Beavers – Joining Information

Beaver meetings are usually held on most **Thursday evenings 5.00 - 6.15pm during term time** at Holy Name Church hall. For many of the children it is their first experience of membership of a social group without the presence of parents. Each week we hope to provide opportunities for them to have fun and make friends. To that end we regularly play games, make things, hear news, tell stories, sing, eat and enjoy ourselves as well as taking the occasional trip out.

However, we also have to stress that there is a **behaviour code** (see **separate document**) so that every Beaver has the best opportunity to enjoy the activities on offer and to secure safety.

Information about Beavers is issued by way of termly newsletters with any amendments or reminders usually sent by email or text message to the number and email address supplied on your joining form. Information is usually also provided on the Parish website www.ourladyofkirkstall.org.uk/ under the Scout group section (go to Beavers in the drop box).

Church Parade is held at the 9.00am Mass at Holy Name Church on the first Sunday of every month during term time (this works out at 6 or 7 Parades each year). As a Parish group, **all members** of the Holy Name Scout Group are **expected to attend** in their uniforms and participate in the Parade and Mass. We find that the Beavers enjoy the occasion with the friends they make at Beavers and it is a positive experience for them. Although many Beavers also have sporting commitments on Sunday mornings, from experience it is often possible to attend both, even if they have to leave before the end. It should not be an assumption that the sporting commitment takes precedence.

Subs of £20 are payable each term: this sum covers the cost of insurance, Scout Association fees and the running expenses of the group for badges, equipment etc (as the leaders and helpers are all unpaid volunteers). A **standing order form** is provided as this is the most efficient way to pay, together with a **Gift Aid Declaration** so that as a charitable organisation the Scout Group can reclaim the tax if you are a UK taxpayer. Occasionally we organise trips which require a small payment to cover costs and these will be notified in advance.

The Beaver uniform required is the turquoise sweat shirt and the turquoise polo shirt. Official navy blue scouting trousers are optional; as long as your child wears **dark blue** or **black trousers**/dark jeans or shorts that will be fine. A necker and badges will be provided. Uniform is not required for the first meeting as you may wish to check if your child settles in first. Beaver uniform may be obtained from the West Leeds Scout shop, online at www.scouting.outdoors.ltd.uk, at Rawcliffes in Leeds, at PC Sports on Yeadon high street or other school uniform supplier.

Leaders

From Easter 2012 there will be a rota of uniformed leaders to organise sessions. All leaders are CRB checked and undertake training with the Scout Association. We are always looking for new committed leaders, so please consider whether you could join our rota of volunteer leaders.

Parent volunteers/Occasional Helpers As we are a large group we also require all parents/family members of any Beavers joining the group to help out on a rota basis. At times we will prepare a rota termly in advance for each Beaver's family, and parents will need to make suitable arrangements themselves, swapping with others if the date is not convenient.

Parent volunteers may also be asked to help out at camp, trips and at the Parish Christmas Bazaar (where the Beavers run a stall)

In order to help or attend any functions including camp visits **any adult is required to fill in a CRB form** (even if you have completed one for another purpose).

Attendance

We expect Beavers to attend every week, but of course illness and clashing special events do not always make this possible. **Please make sure that a leader knows if your child cannot attend a session.** As we work towards various badges as a group, if your child misses sessions it may well not be possible for them to catch up on that particular badge. Additionally, we plan our adult/child ratio around the number of Beavers in the group.

If a Beaver has not attended **for three consecutive weeks** or several sessions over a term for reasons other than illness or exceptional family circumstances we will ask if they still want their place. This is because there are usually more children wanting to attend than there are places available and so we need to monitor the position carefully. If Beavers are also expressing themselves to be unhappy or unwilling to participate we will let you know in order that discussions can take place at home as to whether your Beaver wants to remain in the Group or not.

Reward system

Most weeks we present two awards to Beavers – ‘Beaver of the week’ and ‘the Kind and Friendly Award’. We take care to encourage fun, engagement with activities, generous actions and positive behaviour from all Beavers and the awards are based on the identification of a range of these elements depending on the particular observed response by Beavers to the session. We are keen that all Beavers should be presented with an award through their time at Beavers and therefore monitor this quite carefully.

Each week, Beavers are also awarded ‘points for their Lodge’, whereby their Lodge receives a sweet, which are shared out at the end of term. These are short term rewards, allocated when Beavers have listened to instructions and behaved appropriately.

31 March 2012