

Parent Information

1st Beckenham South (Christ Church) Scout Group
Beaver Colony



1stbeckenhamsouth.org.uk
#SkillsForLife



Welcome to our Beaver Colony

Where and When

Our Colony meets during term times on **TUESDAY** from 6pm-7:15pm.

We meet in the Main Hall, Christ Church, Christ Church Road, Beckenham, BR3 3LE.

If a special evening is planned, full details will be given to you in advance.

Subscriptions

The Annual Fee is £105 and payment is due in three payments (at the beginning of each term). If your child is new to Beavers you will be asked for payment two weeks after your child has joined the Colony and has decided they would like to be a Beaver Scout. Please contact the Group Scout Leader, Bruce Howard, if you would have difficulty paying the Fee, as our Scout Group aims to be fully inclusive, irrespective of financial background.

Uniform

Your child will require a uniform in order to be invested as a Beaver Scout. This is available online (shop.scouts.org.uk) or from the District shop (The Frank Rhodes Centre, 15 Prospect Place, Langdon Road, BR2 9HL, parking outside – open Saturdays term time only 9.30am-12.30pm). This is slightly cheaper than other suppliers and any profits go back into District Scout funds.

- Beavers Turquoise Sweatshirt (see below) – essential
- Navy Blue Activity Trousers – optional
- Beavers Polo Shirt - optional / recommended
- Group scarf & woggle (given by Colony on investiture)



Church Parade

As our Scout group is sponsored by Christ Church Beckenham, we do expect Beavers to attend church parades which are usually held on the first Sunday of each month during term time (meet 10.15am outside the church and finish approx.11:30/11:45am). We also take part in St Georges Day and Remembrance Sunday. Beavers should attend in full uniform.

FAQs

What are Beavers?

The youngest section of the Scouting Family for 6-8 year olds, followed by Cubs (8-10½), Scouts (10½- 14), Explorers (14 – 18) and Network Scouts. Scouting is open to all young people aged 6-25 of every faith and background.

What do Beavers do?

Earn badges, get active and embrace the challenge! You can expect your child to get involved in crafts, health & fitness, experiments, nature walks, scavenger hunts, gardening, camp craft, sports, cooking, photography, sleepovers.....and lots of fun games!

What happens now?

Come along, meet everyone and have fun. See what we do, find out what is planned for the term and make new friends. Try it for a couple of weeks and decide if they would like to commit to becoming a Beaver.

If they like it, what happens next?

Once they've attended for a couple of weeks and wish to become a Beaver Scout the next step is investiture. This is a short ceremony where they are made an official Beaver Scout. A short promise is learnt and said by your child together with the rest of the Colony and they are in!

Parent Involvement

Before your child is invested, you will be given a pack containing some forms to be completed. The Group Agreement details what we expect from your child, the support that we expect from you, and what you can expect from us. You and your child are both asked to sign this Agreement. We do ask that ALL parents become involved to support the 1st Beckenham South (Christ Church) Group, either by attending our fundraising events, sitting on the Executive or Supporters committees, or even becoming a leader or an administrator. These are not always big commitments but are vital to sustaining the 1st Beckenham South (Christ Church) Group, as all Leaders are volunteers with jobs/families!

To ensure the safety of all the children we must ensure an adequate ratio of adults to Beavers so we organise a parent rota for weekly meetings. We will arrange this in discussion with you.

Safety & Child Protection

Leaders complete 19 Scout Training modules to ensure that they are trained and skilled to deal with all elements of looking after the needs of 6 to 8 year olds, including Child Safety, emergency first aid and full child protection (DBS renewed every 5 years). If parents or Young Leaders are helping they are not left with children without a leader and likewise Leaders themselves are never on their own with one child. The Scout Association prides itself on the care we offer Beavers and we never take the responsibility lightly. A full risk assessment is completed by District (for their events) or by the Leader for each event or meeting, putting the Beavers' safety first. Accidents can happen, but we are trained to anticipate dangers and be prepared to deal with injuries and incidents that can occur. If an accident happens that does not necessitate immediate medical attention the person collecting the Beaver is told what happened and the parent will be contacted to check how the Beaver is (by email or text as a record of contact). The Group Scout Leader / the Scout District are also informed. It is recorded on a medical form signed by the leader and parent and kept in case of further complications.

What is important to us?

Be Happy

We want your child to have fun with lots of friends and be able to get involved in great activities in a safe environment. Scouting works well when young people enjoy learning by working in partnership with adults by taking part in a variety of activities and new experiences, exploring the outdoors, participating in teams and by taking responsibility.

Beaver Behaviour

We ensure that the Beavers understand what behaviour is expected of them as we have a strict code of conduct which they must adhere to, whilst we also appreciate that they are at a very excitable age!!! Any unruly and disruptive behaviour and physical or verbal bullying will not be tolerated and we will deal with any bad behaviour as it spoils it for everyone who is trying to have a good time. Please remember that the Leaders are all volunteers and do not have to put up with consistently bad behaviour from anyone. We will always keep you informed of any issues that arise during meetings as if bad behaviour continues then it may be necessary for your child to be suspended or asked to leave.

The Ethos of Scouting

The Scout Association offers adventure and activity to 400,000 young people across the UK. The Movement is the largest co-educational youth organisation in the world, with over 28 million Members in 216 countries and territories. In the UK Scouting is organised through The Scout Association and has a clear purpose:

“Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society”

Scouting makes a positive contribution to society by helping young people to develop as active members of their community who are committed, self-reliant, caring and responsible.

The Method of Scouting

The method for giving young people the opportunity to learn by doing is called the Programme which is a continuous progression of training, activities and awards from aged 6 to 25. Leaders take responsibility to ensure that the Programme is fun, exciting and safe. The Scout Association's policies (including Child Protection and Safety), rules, code of behaviour, are there to ensure our young people stay safe while they enjoy themselves and learn.

Promise and Motto

The Beaver Scout Promise

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

The Beaver Scout Motto

Be Prepared.

Alternative Promise

Scouting is available to people of all faiths as well as people who are humanist, atheist or have no affirmed faith and therefore must 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 individual's obligations while upholding the essential spirit of the Promise.

Online Scout Manager

The 1st Beckenham South (Christ Church) Scout Group use a system called Online Scout Manager (OSM) to manage personal details, badges, attendance and payments. It is also used to send out emails to parents containing invitations to events or camps. OSM is used by a large number of Scout Groups across the UK and all data is held securely and in accordance with data protection legislation.

When your child joins the Scout Group, you will be sent an email invitation to join OSM. Once you have set up your account, you will then be able to check and update your child's details. When you login to OSM, you will see a number of headings on the left hand side:

Noticeboard – An area where leaders can leave a message for section members.

Payments – Under here there is a list of payments made by yourself plus any upcoming payments.

Events – Details of events that your child has been invited to or has already signed up for.

Programme – Details of this term's programme. The programme can be saved to your computer or phone calendar.

Badges – Details of badges that your child has completed or is working towards. There is also an illustration of where badges should be sewn on their uniform.

Personal Details – This is where you can update all of your child's details, medical details, allergies, dietary needs, emergency contact details, school and provide your consent choice for photo publicity.

Emails – You can see emails that have been sent to you by your section and by the group during the past 3 months.

Gift Aid – You can see/update your Gift Aid Declaration. If you sign up for Gift Aid, then the government gives us 25 pence for every pound you donate, which includes the membership fees you pay for.

Online Payments

Online Scout Manager is used by our Scout Group for payment of termly subscription fees and events. The payments are taken by Direct Debit. All Direct Debit payments are covered by the Direct Debit Guarantee which means you are entitled to a full and immediate refund if there are any errors in a payment. The Direct Debit payments are handled by a company called GoCardless, which is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and sponsored by the Royal Bank of Scotland. Your bank account details are held only by GoCardless and are never shared with Online Scout Manager or our Scout Group. Setting up an account with GoCardless is very easy and should take no more than one minute. You will typically see two payment schedules in OSM: one schedule for regular "Subscription" payments and a second schedule for occasional "Camp and Event" payments. You will need to set up a Direct Debit subscription for each schedule but you only need to register with GoCardless once. You will receive an email 3 days before each payment is taken from your bank account and the Direct Debit can be cancelled at any time.

Where to find us



Main Hall
Christ Church Road
Beckenham
Kent
BR3 3LE

Leaders / Contact Us

Colony Email: beaverleaders@1stbeckenhamsouth.org.uk

Beaver Scout Leader: Daniel de Cruz (07419320266)

Assistant Beaver Scout Leader: Emma Carlile

Section Assistants: Tanya Holley
Daniel Quinlan

Young Leader: Greta Kirkby-Muirhead

Group Scout Leader: Bruce Howard (07703538607 / gsl@1stbeckenhamsouth.org.uk)