

A Leader's Guide to Peer Leadership in Beavers

Peer leadership is a great way that you can support young people to develop their leadership skills- skills which are useful and relevant for later life. In addition, it helps young people develop in confidence and gives them something to aspire to. However, what we expect from young people is different through each section.

This leader's guide is designed to support Beaver Leaders who wish to implement a peer leadership system, such as Lodge Leaders in their Colony.

Top Tips

In Beavers we give young people three top tips to be a great leader.

1. Help pick and lead games and activities
2. Look after new Beavers
3. Be kind and helpful

By giving Beavers **3 top tips**, it is memorable and not overwhelming, whilst still ensuring there is something tangible for them to do.

As a Leader, it is important to make sure that your Beavers understand the top tips to make sure they know what is expected from them as they take on what may be their first experience of leadership.

Top Tip 1: Help pick and lead games and activities

Beavers who are taking the lead can:

- help choose games when presented with a choice
- tell you what activities they have enjoyed doing as part of their Programme
- help to explain the game or collect equipment where suitable
- encourage teamwork in their Lodge

Top Tip 2: Look after new Beavers

Beavers who are taking the lead can:

- make a great buddy for new Beavers, introducing them to others in their Lodge
- tell the new Beaver their favourite thing about Beavers
- feedback to their Leader how the new member is settling in

Top Tip 3: Be Kind and Helpful

Beavers who are taking the lead:

- should be kind to all Beavers
- are role models- in terms of behaviour, attendance and uniform
- share with everyone
- help leaders and others

Personal Goal

You can set a personal goal for Beaver, who take on the challenge of leading their Lodge. This could be linked to their Personal Challenge Award or can be one of the above pointers.

Choosing the right Beaver!

A Beaver who stands out for being good at sharing and being kind and helpful is a good choice for a someone to look after and lead a team.

They are not necessarily the oldest Beaver in the Lodge, but the Beaver who demonstrates the qualities of an effective leader.

Leading a team is also a great opportunity for Beavers that may not necessarily stand out as the most confident or loudest but those that show that they are caring and helpful to others. Think about asking the Beavers themselves to help select the next leader.

A Lodge Leader can be appointed for any amount of time, but it is recommended for a term. Woggles are available for Lodge Leaders that can be rotated to show who the current leader is.

After completing a term as a leader, the young person can then be awarded their Beaver stripes. These can be worn on their uniform to show that they have successfully completed their time as a leader in Beavers.

Extra opportunities for Leadership in Beavers

You might like to think about running a special session just for Lodge Leaders in your Group or District. These events can help to make Lodge Leaders feel proud of their achievement in becoming a Lodge Leader, as well as helping them to understand what is expected and to give them some ideas of what they can do in the role. This could be a morning session on a weekend with your District or as simple as one hour on a week day evening.

Resources

A poster for the meeting place is available to support young people in understanding what being a Lodge Friend is all about. The poster can be found on the Brand Centre and the leaflets are available on the member's area of scouts.org and through Scout Stores with purchase of the Peer Leader badge.