

## How can your Colony have successful Lodges?

The Beaver Scout Lodge/ small team is where the small group system starts in Scouting. It is the place where youth take on leadership roles. In the Lodge, Beavers have the opportunity to get to know each other and to have their first "learning by doing" experience as a team.

How can you make Lodges a successful part of your Colony's program?

Lodges are a great way to get the Beavers engaged in programming – some Beavers may not be comfortable sharing their voice in a larger group but may be more comfortable sharing in a smaller group, like a Lodge. Lodges allow for different voices to be heard, and for more Beavers to take on leadership roles. Lodges encourage sharing and teamwork and are a key part of Section programming.

Even if you meet as a Colony, meeting in Lodges at the beginning of a Colony meeting (this is easier during in person meetings), is a great way to start the night. Beavers can use their Lodges to take attendance, gather dues, and get ready for that week's meeting. During Outdoor Scouting, they can be a great way to break into smaller groups for activities, as well as to gather feedback.

### Getting started

At the beginning of the year split the Colony into small groups of 8 youth maximum. There should be a mixture of Kits (brand new Beavers), Brown Tails (5-6 years), Blue Tails (6-7 years) and White Tails (7-8 years). Look at which youth should be put together, two friends might be great together, they might not. Look also at the older White Tails, do a couple shine out to be the leaders of the Lodge? The Lodges can be juggled in the first few weeks, so that all personalities work smoothly together.

Each Lodge should have a Section Scouter/s assigned to that Lodge. This Section Scouter/s should be the main Scouter/s for that Lodge for the whole year. The Scouter/s assigned to the lodge get to really know the Beavers within their Lodge. This builds great relationships with the youth and the Scouter/s.

### Picking their Lodge Emblem/ Badge

Each Lodge should designate an animal as their Lodge name. The Scout Shop has these badges available to buy. (visit [www.scoutshop.ca](http://www.scoutshop.ca) to purchase). Your Lodge may already have a name from the year before.

### Using Patrol Boxes

Each Lodge should have its own individual patrol box-it should include but is not limited to: scissors, glue, crayons, pens, pencils, pencil sharpener and eraser.

By having a Patrol Box, it gives the youth everything they need, and they don't need to wander around looking for equipment or wait to use the equipment. This also keeps them well controlled and less chance of them getting into mischief.

### How to use the lodges in a meeting?

Designate an area of your meeting location or a corner of your room as that Lodge's corner. This location should stay the same every week.

As soon as the Beavers arrive, they should be sent to their Lodge corner. Try to stop them gathering at the start unless there is a Scouter already running a gathering game. When the first beaver arrives from that Lodge, their job is to collect their Lodge's Box. There should be activities inside the box to keep them busy such as crosswords, colouring pictures, puzzles, individual packs of Legos etc. When the White Tail arrives, they may have duties such as checking that the beavers arrive with all their uniform on etc. (you may hear some Scouters refer it to as Paws (clean hands), Claws (clean nails) and Fur (brushed hair) or they may collect dues.

Once everyone has arrived the beavers should be gathered for Riverbanks and Opening Ceremony.

The beavers should return to his Lodge corner to do the meeting activity. The beavers stay in these small groups for everything except games, Open and Closing Ceremonies. By using Lodges in this way, the youth remain calm and attentive by being in smaller groups.

