

## How do I Facilitate an Investiture Ceremony?

The Investiture Ceremony is a very important part of Scouting tradition. In this ceremony, returning youth and Scouters re-affirm their commitment to Lord Baden-Powell's vision, while the new youth and Volunteers have the excitement of making their Promise for the very first time. For the Beaver Scouts, the presentation of the Brown, Blue and White Tails are part of this ceremony. The presentation of tails is the way we celebrate how the Beaver Scouts have grown. Beaver Scouts enjoy receiving these tails and seeing how their journey has progressed.

How you develop your Investiture and Tail Ceremony is up to your Colony. However, it should have the following elements:

- This ceremony is planned by the White Tail Beavers who, with support of the Scouters, work to make it very special, because it celebrates what Scouting is all about!
- Beaver Scouts will be excited about becoming a member of the Colony and receiving their Tail, so they should be invested as soon as possible after joining. No Beaver wants to feel different, and receiving a Tail quickly after joining the Colony will minimize a feeling of difference. Neckers may be worn before being invested.
- The ceremony is held outdoors, if at all possible. If not, make sure it has an outdoor theme.
- The Beaver Scout flag is held by the youth and Scouters while reciting their Promise, during their respective ceremonies.
- The new neckers and woggles are presented to those making the Promise for the first time. (Returning Beavers who have grown might wish to exchange for a larger necker at this time.)
- The Beaver Scout Promise is recited by all Beaver Scouts (new and returning) and the Scout Promise is recited by Scouters (new and returning), during their respective ceremonies.
- Group, Council and Section badges are presented to those who need them.
- Parents and guardians are invited to be involved in this significant ceremony.

- Tails are presented according to grade levels—not by how long they have been registered.
  - Kindergarten Beaver Scouts are **Brown Tails**.
  - Grade One Beaver Scouts are **Blue Tails**.
  - Grade Two Beaver Scouts are **White Tails**.
- The meaning behind each tail colour and the difference of each year in the Beaver Scout program is explained to the youth and parents.
- Although the ceremony should stay the same (relatively) from Colony to Colony, Groups are welcome to establish their own traditions.

The ceremony begins outdoors at the beginning of the path the group will walk for the ceremony. The Colony and parents walk to a new location for the presentation and Investiture of each Tail Group to symbolize the Beaver Scouts' growth and progression. A Scouter begins by welcoming everyone and explaining what will happen. The group then walks to the first stop, where the Brown Tails will be presented with their tails and then invested.

**Note:** It is helpful to have one person designated to take care of neckers, tails and badges for each Tail Group. A different Scouter could be in charge of leading the ceremony at each stop. For more information about Beaver Scout investitures, see the *Scouter Manual*.

