

Beaver Scouts: Environmental Activities

This selection of resources can help Beaver Scouts explore environmental themes and protect the natural environment.

Nature Detective

1. Time for the Beaver Scouts to become nature detectives by conducting a biodiversity survey of the area outside your meeting place.
2. In Lodges, the Beaver Scouts should look for flowers, bugs and weeds using magnifying glasses and record what they find to share with the rest of the Group.

Game: Rain, Thunder, Lightning

1. All the Beaver Scouts run around like the “Wind”.
2. A Lodge Leader, with the help of a Scouter, calls and Beaver Scouts do actions - “Rain” slap thighs quickly; “Thunder” - stamp feet; “Lightning” - squat and spring up three times.
3. Between commands all are the “Wind”. Also, try calling two of these weather patterns at the same time.

Make a speedy bird feeding cake

You will need: Good quality bird seed, Raisins, Grated cheese, Suet or lard, Yoghurt pots, String, Mixing bowl, and Scissors

1. Carefully make a small hole in the bottom of a yoghurt pot. Thread string through the hole and tie a knot on the inside. Leave enough string so that you can tie the pot to a tree or your bird table.
2. Allow the lard to warm up to room temperature, but don't melt it. Then cut it up into small pieces and put it in the mixing bowl.
3. Add the other ingredients to the bowl and mix them together with your finger tips. Keep adding the seed/raisin/cheese mixture and squidding it until the fat holds it all together.
4. Fill your yoghurt pots with bird cake mixture and put them in the fridge to set for an hour or so.
5. Hang your speedy bird cakes from trees or your bird table.

Read more at <https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-kids/games-and-activities/activities/make-a-speedy-bird-cake#2WmxwLbrFry226Z2.99>

How do you know?

You will need: pictures of different types of common animals (a bird, a fish, a domestic animal, a wild mammal, an insect)

1. Show a picture, and have the Beaver Scouts identify it, then discuss this animal- What is it? How do you know? How is it different from us? What can it do that we can't? (Mention size, shape, flight).
2. Show another picture and ask the same questions.
3. Talk about how animals are all different and we should value them all.



Environmental Project

- Plan: In the Lodges, have a chat about what the Beaver Scouts need to do to look after the environment. Talk about the different things in the environment that need to be looked after such as plants, animals, birds or water sources like rivers.
- Do: Pick an area in the locality that needs improvement and see can you improve it by doing a tidy up or maybe making signs to let people know what is happening when people don't look after the area eg. throwing things in the river will kill the fish. let the relevant people know if you are putting up signs (County Council etc.)
- Review: Review how you got on by going back to the area regularly to see how things are and if things have changed. Also look at what else could be done in future

Write a story about nature, with stones

1. Every Beaver Scout should bring in 5–6 smooth flat stones. Make sure they are all smooth and have been cleaned well.
2. Working in Lodges with a Scouter, have everyone make a list of 5–6 animals, plants, or objects or ideas found in nature such as flowers, weathers, shapes and so on.
3. Each Beaver Scout should paint each item on their list as a simple symbol on the stones they have.
4. Leave the stones in a safe place to dry. Once dry, put everyone’s stones, or a selection of them, into the drawstring bag.
5. In Lodges, have a Beaver Scout pick a stone out of the bag and, using the symbol as inspiration, says a couple of sentences to start the story. The next Beaver Scout picks a stone and carries on the story, again using the symbol on the stone to work their imagination. Continue in this way until the story reaches its natural conclusion.
6. The Lodge or Colony can make another bag of story stones and tell another tale. You can also use your stones to create an artistic scene or as inspiration for a poem or short story.

From 109 Activities, Scout Association UK



Animals in your area

1. All parts of Ireland are full of animals of all sorts! Make a list of animals in your area and find out some facts about them.
2. Each lodges can do some research on one animal and draw a poster showing what they found out.

