

Small Groups in Action

Lodge Discussions

The Activity:

Hold a 'Lodge Discussion' that is inclusive and constructive and acts as an important component in the programme cycle.

Beaver Trail

Bree – Contribute in some way to a Lodge Discussion

Ruarc – Ensure everyone gets a say in the Lodge Discussion

Conn – Help to record and report everything mentioned in a Lodge Discussion.

Whose talents can help with this activity

Star- Be an active participant in a small group.

Fionn- Be welcoming and include others in the things I do.



Introduction

What is a 'Lodge'?

The Lodge system is the small group system as applied in Beaver Scouts. Amongst its equivalent would be the Six system in Cub Scouts and the Patrol system in Scouts.

A Lodge is usually composed of 6-8 Beaver Scouts, and made up of Beaver Scouts from the three different stages of the programme- Bree, Ruarc and Conn.

A Lodge Leader is appointed and this can be changed and spread amongst the members of the Lodge every six weeks or so.

A Lodge has an identity which would include their corner where they meet in the den, or hall on a weekly basis. Beaver Scouts have a name to identify the Lodge to which they are members.

Why are Lodges important?

Individuals working successfully together for the betterment of their own programme and development is a central idea of the Scout Method

What is a 'Lodge Discussion'?

A Lodge Discussion is, quite simply, a discussion about some aspect of programme that occurs within a Lodge. It aids in the promotion of youth empowerment and the cycle of plan-do-review.

A Lodge Discussion differs to a whole-Colony Log Chew in that it is often less formal, sometimes less structured and perhaps less daunting for particular Beaver Scouts to participate in. Scouters can observe and participate in a Lodge discussion, but should refrain from dictating the content or outcome of the discussion.

Plan

To enable the Beaver Scouts to hold constructive Lodge Discussions, the following areas should be considered before implementation.

What is being discussed?

A Lodge Discussion is one of many tools Colonies can use in their plan-do-review activities. You may choose to use a Lodge Discussion to host a pre-discussion before a whole-Colony Log Chew, with all Lodges having the same expected discussion. Perhaps Lodge Discussions in the Colony can each be different, with the aim being for each Colony to plan or review a different component of an activity.

It should be clearly defined with the whole Colony beforehand what Lodges should discuss, and whether each Lodge is discussing different aspects.

Do Beaver Scouts need jobs?

Your Colony may feel the need to have a structure around the Lodge Discussion, whereby different Beaver Scouts are assigned different tasks to ensure focus and considered outcomes. Some 'jobs' might include:

- Discussion director: ensures all Beaver Scouts are heard, and that the discussion is not being dominated by one Scout.
- Scribe: notes down all opinions and recommendations.
- Speaker: informs the rest of the Colony of what the Lodge decided.

Do

Breakdown of a Lodge Discussion

Opening and setting rules

What are we discussing in our Lodges? Does every Beaver Scout have to speak? Can somebody who is shy draw a picture or write a few words down? Are Scouters present and allowed to contribute, but not dictate?

Speaking

Who gets to speak first? Does everybody say a few words first, with a discussion following this?

Recording

Who is recording the opinions and recommendations? Does each discussion in each Lodge feed back to the whole Colony?

Closing

Is every Beaver Scout satisfied that what is recorded is a true reflection of what was actually discussed?

A conscious effort should be made on the part of Beaver Scouts to implement their own recommendations in future programme as a result of what was discussed in Lodges.



Review



Lodge Chew: How did the Fox Lodge help us achieve our Beaver Trail badges?



Star reminds us to be an active participant in our small groups.

Bree: Did I contribute in some way to the discussion?

Ruarc: Was I aware of the need for everyone to have their own say in the discussion?

Conn: Am I aware of how different opinions in the Lodge changed my own?



Fionn tells us to be welcoming and include others in the things we do.

Bree: Did I feel included?

Ruarc: Name one example of when somebody agreed with your opinion.

Conn: How can we ensure that next time everyone in the Lodge feels comfortable to contribute?

Let's get out the trail map and colour in some dots!

In our Lodge, we are discussing:

Here is what we have said: