

Choosing Lodge Names

The '**Small Group System**' is an essential part of the Scout Method. In Beaver Scouts, the small groups we use are called '**Lodges**'. Real-life beavers work together to build their lodge, which acts as their home during the winter months. So too should Beaver Scouts see their Lodges as their 'home' for the duration of the Scouting year. Through the Lodge, they will gain **knowledge**, develop their **leadership** skills, form their **opinions** and most of all **make friends and have fun**.

There would ideally be three to five Lodges per Colony, depending on the total number of Beaver Scouts. Each Lodge should be represented by Bree, Ruarc and Conn in as equal numbers as possible.

Another important aspect of the Scout Method is '**Symbolic Framework**'. A Lodge **identity** with which its members feels ownership and belonging means greater 'buy-in' from Beaver Scouts.

Beaver Scouts should be given the task of **naming** their own Lodges through collective agreement. Some Colonies may choose to **vote** for a theme that links all Lodge names, for example an 'under the sea' theme may have the Fish Lodge, the Octopus Lodge, the Dolphin Lodge and the Shark Lodge. If a Colony chooses to base its Lodge names around a theme, it is important that Beaver Scouts have a say in choosing **both** the theme *and* their respective Lodge names.

Choosing names may cause some **tensions** within Lodges. A Scouter- or, preferably, a Conn Beaver Scout- should explain the concept of voting in choosing the most popular name. To avoid Beaver Scouts copying the choices of others, a **secret vote** could be carried out by having their eyes closed and raising their hand when their preferred option is called out- the non-voting Conn Beaver Scout could then count the votes and announce the result. Alternatively, they could draw or write their choice from the shortlist on a slip of paper. Another option if discussions get heated is drawing the name out of a hat- but Beaver Scouts must promise to **respect the outcome** before this is done... remember the Beaver Scout Law!

The Lodge Identity

Beaver Scouts should feel proud of their Lodge, which can help **build collegiality** so that every member achieves their best with help, when needed, from other members of the Lodge. This can be reinforced in the section through organising Lodge games, calling Lodges by their names when asking Beaver Scouts to line-up, etc. Perhaps Lodges might like to draw up mini contracts promising to help other members of the Lodge which all members sign.

Lodges should have Lodge '**corners**'- a place in the Den or meeting space where they gather regularly when they are learning a new skill or having a **Lodge Discussion** (see separate resource on this topic). This corner should be in the same location each weekly meeting and should contain displays of the Lodge's name (for example, decorated with octopi and tentacles for the Octopus Lodge). For Colonies without a permanent Den of their own, this can be achieved by decorating an A2 or A3 sheet with images, words, etc. and bringing these along and hanging them in the same places each week. For outings, Colonies may like to bring symbols of each Lodge that Beaver Scouts identify with and sit around when doing Lodge work or reviewing.

In summary, the name of the Lodge must be **chosen**- through whatever means necessary- **by the Lodge members themselves**. Lodge members should feel **proud** of their Lodge and must have something to **identify** their Lodge corner by each weekly meeting and, if possible, each outing too!



Zena, Moon, Spike, Casper, Star and Fionn are all proud members of the Fox Lodge. They love working together and helping each other along the Beaver Scout journey!

We are proud of our Lodge!

Our Lodge's name is:

Here are the members of the Lodge!