



Step 6

# Spars and Sparks

Step 7

# Adding the

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Step 8

# Camping with the

# Stars

for Beaver Scout Colonies

# Introduction

Dear Beaver Scouters and Cub Scouters,

We are delighted to bring you our eight-step 'Camping with the Stars' resources over the next few weeks. These resources aim to help you and your Colony or Pack to have a fun-filled, youth-centred camping experience in May or June 2018 by building your capacity and confidence in camping step-by-step.

## Step 1: **First Pitch**

Plan for camp in small groups; roles for Scouters.

## Step 2: **Gearing Up**

Clothing, layers, personal first aid kit, packing an overnight bag, hygiene.

## Step 3: **Out and About**

Day activity with the correct gear.

## Step 4: **Site and Oversight**

Group gear, Leave No Trace, risk management, site layout.

## Step 5: **Food for Thought**

Overnight with food hygiene and prep in small groups.

## Step 6: **Spars and Sparks**

Tent pitching, gadget construction, fire-lighting.

## Step 7: **Adding the Magic**

Campfire, Scouts' Own, flag ceremony, gear check, revision.

## Step 8: **Camping with the Stars**

Revision, get out and camp, review.

We hope you find these resources helpful and informative. Remember, your Scout section may also benefit from camping resources, which are organised slightly differently than those for Beaver Scouts and Cub Scouts.

Wishing you and your Colony or Pack the best of success in the months ahead. Happy camping!

**Ian Feighery**

Programme Commissioner (Beaver Scouts)

**Eilís Molamphy**

Programme Commissioner (Cub Scouts)



# Spars and Sparks

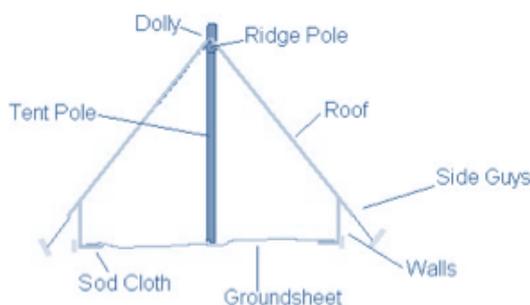
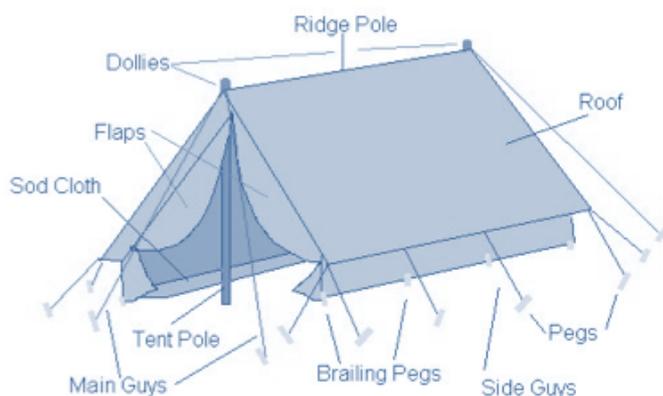
## Tent Pitching

Beaver Scouts will benefit from practise of pitching tents in the weeks preceding their camp. Their should be one Scouter per tent with half a Lodge being given the responsibility of pitching the tent. Conn Beaver Scouts, by their third stage of programme should be familiar enough with pitching tent that they can act as the Scouter's 'assistant' when pitching tents.

For Beaver Scouts who are struggling to get involved, simple tasks such as inserting pegs, straightening poles, etc. can give them a confidence boost. They needn't be perfect pitchers on their first camp- if they try their bestm are respectful of the tents and contribute in some way, they are on their way to be excellent campers as their progress on their Scouting journey.

Things to bear in mind:

- Remove shoes and boots before entering a lightweight tent.
- Do not use any SPRAYS (ie spray deodorant) inside or near tent, it can destroy the waterproofing.
- Keep all the tent parts together at all times.



# Spars and Sparks

## Pitching (putting up) tents

Clear area of sharp objects like stones, sticks, etc.  
Look up. See what is overhead. Avoid pitching under large trees.  
Make sure that the surrounding area is well drained and level ground.  
Keep away from clay soil (puddles and mud when it rains) if possible.



## Striking (taking down) tents

Striking and packing away is a reversal of the pitching process.  
Sweep out floors to remove any dirt and debris from the tent.  
Loosen guy lines.  
Pull out the pegs and wipe the mud off on rag.  
Remove poles and allow tent to come down.  
Fold, roll up or stuff tent depending on manufactures directions.

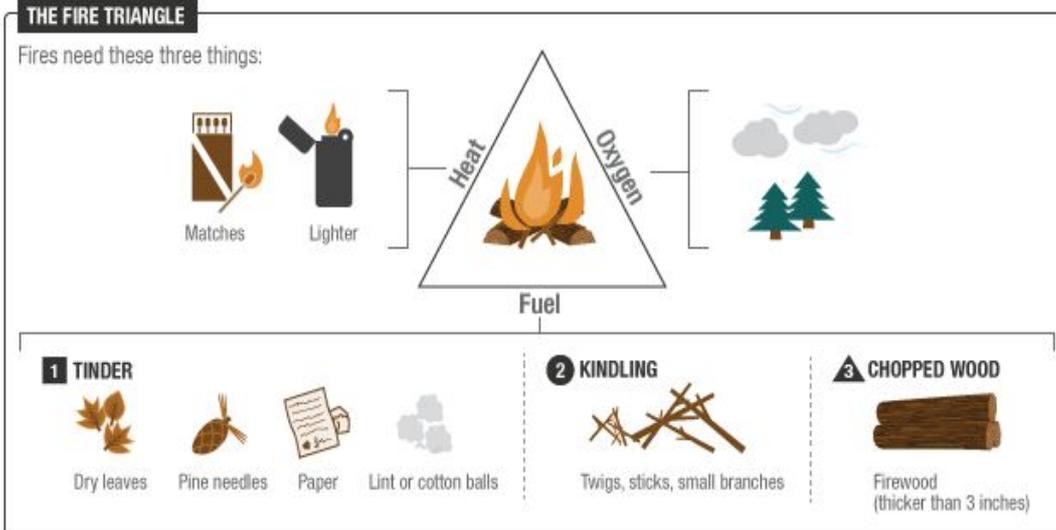
Try not to pack a wet tent. In some instances this is unavoidable. Wet tents that need to be transported should be packed loosely and set up to dry as soon as possible on return to the Scout Den. Damp tent fabric and guy lines are soon affected by mildew and will start to rot.

Mark and report any damage to the Scout Group Quartermaster so that the tent can be repaired before it is required for the camp.



# Spars and Sparks

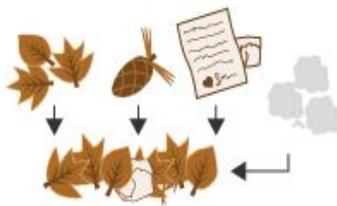
## Fire Lighting- for Scouters



### STEP ONE

Make a loose pile of tinder. **1**

**TIP:** Don't pack too tightly. Air needs to get to all parts of the fire.



### STEP TWO

Build a tepee with the kindling **2** around the tinder. Start with the small twigs first.



### STEP THREE

Light the tinder from all sides.

**TIP:** You can blow gently on the fire to get it going. Fires need lots of oxygen.



### STEP FOUR

As the fire grows, feed it with branches and eventually firewood. **3**

Enjoy!



### STEP FIVE

Put out the fire by cutting one of the sides of the fire triangle. You can do this by covering it with sand or dirt, dousing it with water or letting wood burn out. **Make sure it's cold before you leave!**



Sand or dirt



Water



Let wood burn out

# Adding the Magic

## Campfire

The campfire is probably the most loved of camping traditions. It's a place to create memories and dreams. For Beaver Scouts, a campfire of 20-40 minutes keeps attention and is not so long that Beaver Scouts become restless.

A good campfire should be structured with a formal opening, a loud animated and enthusiastic middle, and a defined closing. A good rule of thumb is to "follow the flame." When the flames are high, the energy should match. As the fire dies down, things get calmer. The campfire might also be a suitable venue for sketches and stories.

The campfire should be hosted by a Scouter with the assistance of Conn Beaver Scouts who has been given the role of helping with the planning. Each Lodge could prepare a song or silly skit for performance at the campfire and could be given ten minutes before the ceremony to practise!

The Campfire Leader should keep the pace rolling along and make sure that all Beaver Scouts are involved and that there is a good mix of song types such as songs with lots of movement, while "repeat after me" songs are always hugely popular. You can practise some songs at the weekly meetings in the lead-up to the camp so that everyone feels involved.

To close out the campfire, choose something appropriately quieter and reflective. Traditionally, the first verse of 'Taps' is the most common closing to all Scouting campfires:

*Day is done.  
Gone the sun  
From the lake, from the hills, from the sky.  
All is well.  
Safely rest.  
God is nigh.*



# Adding the Magic

## Extinguishing the fire, preserving the spirit

After the closing, the Beaver Scouts should head back quietly to the mess tent for supper before lights out and bedtime. The campfire lead should always make sure that the fire is safely extinguished before bedtime.

The next morning after the campfire, you may like to collect the ashes from the pit and put these into small individual tubs to be given out to each Beaver Scout at the Scouts' Own. The next time the Beaver Scout attends a camp with a campfire, they can add their ashes to the fire and again collect the cooled ashes of this new fire, doing likewise for every campfire they attend. This creates a spiritual link between their Scouting experiences.

## Campfire songs

There is a vast array of campfire songs and these have been passed down via oral tradition for generations. For those who are new to scouting, or to widen your knowledge base of campfire songs, try the Scouting Ireland Campfire Songs App which has an impressive collection of songs loved by scouts of all ages. Having over 150 songs available on your smartphone will allow you to learn and practice new songs in the scout den with the Beaver Scouts in preparation for camp.

Check out and download the Scouting Ireland Campfire Songs App from the links below:



**Android devices**

[goo.gl/53w7ob](https://goo.gl/53w7ob)

**Apple devices**

[goo.gl/rwg8dy](https://goo.gl/rwg8dy)



# Adding the Magic

## Scouts' Own

A Scouts' Own is a short inspirational ceremony usually built around a theme such as friendship or giving thanks.

For Beaver Scouts, keep the ceremony short and simple- no longer than 15 minutes. The ceremony should ideally take place outside of where the tents are pitched- is there a quiet field with a stream or river somewhere on site that would be appropriate. Sit or stand Beaver Scouts in a circular formation. Let them know that this part of camp is intended as a moment of reflection- a time of calmness and thinking after all the hustle and bustle of Scouting activities.



Is there anything the Beaver Scouts are thankful for? Perhaps go around the circle and get each Beaver Scout to list one thing they are thankful for in their lives/ their favourite memory of camp/ an aspect of Scouting they really enjoy.

You may wish to give Conn Beaver Scouts the extra challenge of reading out their favourite memory of camp or simple prayers or reflections. The Scouter team too should have a role to play- perhaps a Scouter could read a short and simple fable and all Scouters contribute to the circular discussion.

You could choose to end the Scouts' Own with a recital of the Beaver Scout prayer, call or promise, with a short explanation about how you are all living the prayer or promise on camp!



# Adding the Magic



## Flag Ceremony

Some Colonies choose to have flag ceremony at camp- it may be a tradition within your Scout Group. The flag ceremony is usually conducted at the opening of a camp, as well as every morning at camp. Flag lowering is done at the closing of camp as well as every evening. It is a nice way to 'book-end' a two-night camp for your Colony.

At camp, the flag ceremony is best held before breakfast. This is a good way to get everyone up and going before the start of the morning's activities.

A flag on land should not fly at night unless it is fully illuminated. The flag should be lowered at sunset. In the summer, this can be after dinner as part of gathering for the evening's activities.

A recitation of the Beaver Scout Promise or Law can happen at the ceremony. When these are recited, everyone must be at alert, making the Scout Sign, and facing forward.

These ceremonies are normally led by the Camp Chief. They can be assisted in raising or lowering the flag by the Conn Beaver Scouts/ Lodge Leaders on a rota basis.

NB: If you choose to fly the Irish tricolour flag on your camp, don't forget the expected protocols/ etiquette around this. More information can be found here: [goo.gl/aAJRjn](http://goo.gl/aAJRjn)



# Adding the Magic

## Gear Check

Good practice dictates that a gear check precedes the camp, with enough time between the check and the camp for parents to purchase any required items.

Apart from these small ‘forgotten’ items which the parents may need to purchase at the last minute, the Beaver Scout should be familiar with all items in their kit. Camping clothes- and especially boots- should be ‘worn in’ in the weeks leading up to the camp to prevent problems such as blisters from occurring.



The gear check should be completed by a Scouter with the Beaver Scout; the Beaver Scout should be able to sort through their kit and know where each piece of personal gear goes. Ensure that parents are aware that Beaver Scouts should pack their gear with them at home. Beaver Scouts may be upset on camp if they are unable to find their equipment in their rucksacks and this can be prevented by Beaver Scouts being familiar with the contents of their bags.

In order for the Beaver Scout to prepare for this gear check, a gear list (an adaptation of one listed in the previous resource) should be provided. The Beaver Scouts should be able to ‘check off’ each item as they pack at home with their parent or guardian.

# Camping with the Stars

## Administration

All camps must adhere to **Scouting Ireland's Camping and Adventures in the Out of Doors Policy (SID 77-11)**. Refer to the most up-to-date version of this document.

Make sure that all of your paperwork is in order well in advance of the camp. Insist that where there is no consent form or medication form (where applicable), the Beaver Scout will not be able to partake in the camp.

It is good practice to have copies of the Accident/ Incident Report Form printed out for the weekend.

Links to the forms required for camp are listed below:



### **Activity Consent Form (SIF 11/05)**

[goo.gl/qG9uGc](https://goo.gl/qG9uGc)

### **Managing Medications Form (SIF 11a/10)**

[goo.gl/6RxKx8](https://goo.gl/6RxKx8)

### **Accident/Incident Report Form (SIF 10/05)**

[goo.gl/g3jj4P](https://goo.gl/g3jj4P)



# Camping with the Stars

## Revision

As the Camp Chief, you may like to have your own checklist ready to tick off by the time the week of the camp comes around, for example:

- Parents informed of drop-off and collection times
- All activities consent forms completed and collated
- All relevant medication forms completed and collated
- Medicines kept/ stored in agreed manner
- Copies of accident report form
- List of Beaver Scouts attending
- List of parental and emergency contacts
- Phone and phone charger
- First Aid kits
- Group gear sorted and dropped to site in time for camp
- Activity equipment packed
- Money/ signed cheque for campsite
- Spare personal equipment (you may like to have a spare sleeping bag, etc. in case of accidents)
- Suncream, insect repellent, etc.
- Risk assessment carried out
- Outline of Camp programme and times; washing and cooking rotas

With your checklist all ticked off, all that is left is to ensure your Beaver Scout Colony has a camp to remember!



# Camping with the Stars

## Review

Following the return from your camp, it is time to review with the Scouters and the Beaver Scouts. These reviews should be done through Lodge Discussion and Lod Chews. See separate resource on advice on how to organise these:

[goo.gl/yvAhsf](https://goo.gl/yvAhsf) and [goo.gl/Giq3Zk](https://goo.gl/Giq3Zk)



It is important to take on board reviews of the Beaver Scouts when planning the next adventure or camp. Are there areas that could have been improved or unforeseen circumstances that you might be better equipped for next time? A sit-down with the Scouter team allows a more in-depth discussion and this review should also greatly inform planning for future camps.

Remember, it is not a true camping experience if everything goes exactly to plan! The plan is there to guide your Scouters and Beaver Scouts, but it is not the end of the world if one or two things didn't happen due to running out of time, etc. Oftentimes, the most memorable parts of camp are the unexpected moments nobody could have planned! As long as everyone got back in one piece, had a fantastic time and- most importantly- are eagerly awaiting their next camp, chalk that down as a success! Know what can be improved, but don't forget to celebrate the successes too!

