

Greenford & District Beavers - Assistant District Commissioners Report

June 2019

Beaver colonies in the District continue to thrive and grow, with over 200 Beavers in 14 Colonies. Beaver Leaders in Greenford continue to offer amazing programmes, activities and nights away, and at the District Presentation evening in March, over 30 Beavers were presented with their Bronze Chief Scout Award.

Leaders meet at District Advisory meetings where we discuss training and current issues, share programme ideas, and organise fun events. There is great support from Colonies for our District events, and many Beavers have enjoyed activities, outings and making new friends from other Colonies.

We continue to host meetings for GLMW Beaver ADCs, although the post of ACC Beavers is still vacant. Beavers (and Cubs) from Greenford are currently involved in a GLMW project to send postcards to Bear Grylls. This is part of a 'Youth Shaped' initiative and to garner feedback about favourite events and activities, so that these can be provided on a Group, District or County basis. It will also help to raise the profile of the younger Scout sections.

Beavers enjoyed races and games at the District Sports Day at Southall Activity Centre in July 2018. Friends and families also joined in the fun.

Beavers took part in the District Camp in October at Paccar Scout Camp. Most were day visitors, but some stayed overnight despite the weather! Beavers tried out activities on site (climbing wall, crate stacking, cave bus, rabbit run etc.) as well as bases run by each Group, and cooking sausages over a campfire. After lunch Beavers went on a hike around the fields and woods. We learnt a lot about wildlife, and collected leaves and used these to make crowns. The day finished with a campfire with singing and entertainment – a good time was had by all.

Remembrance Day Parade in November may be the first parade for some of the Beavers. Although a sombre occasion, the Beavers enjoyed marching along with the band, and following the service.

Our December trip to the RAF museum in Hendon was very popular. 3 coaches of Beavers dispersed around the museum with a quiz sheet and made paper aeroplanes to fly. There was certainly a lot to see and do, indoors and outdoors. The day went very quickly, and Leaders took home a gift for each Beaver and everyone earned their Air Activity level 1 badge.

As a change from the usual Easter Egg Hunt, 100 Beavers visited Hounslow Urban Farm. Most travelled by coach but a few came by public transport to add to the adventure, Brave Beavers took part in a number of exotic animal encounters, holding and stroking snakes, lizards and spiders etc. and learned a lot about their care. There was a competition to draw an imaginary animal, and a quiz about the animals on the farm. Well done to our competition winners who had a role in the St Georges Day Parade.

We continue to review District events to ensure they are inclusive, low cost, and provide fun opportunities for all our Beavers to complete badges and meet other Beavers. Our District Beaver Account shows a healthy balance. Our thanks go to all those who have helped us during the year to organise and achieve such a fantastic programme of events and activities. Your help is much appreciated.

Yours in Scouting

Sarah Appleby and Emma Wilson
ADCs Beavers, Greenford & District Scouts