

Parent Handbook – Beavers

Dear parents,

This is a very important document as it outlines the goals of our program and the expectations of every family to help us achieve those goals for your child. It also contains critical information for your section such as major camp dates, packing lists, your role and other crucial information.



Table of Contents

Introduction to the 403rd Toronto Sea Scout Group.....	3
About Scouting & Scouts Canada.....	3
Our Sponsor.....	3
Our Meeting Hosts.....	4
Meeting Nights.....	4
Tuesday.....	4
Wednesday.....	4
Communications.....	4
Registration and Program Costs.....	5
Membership/Registration Fee.....	5
Program Fees.....	5
Subsidies.....	5
Expectations of Scouts and their families.....	6
We expect that.....	6
Volunteer roles for parents.....	7
Group Events.....	8
Important Group Dates.....	8
Fundraising.....	8
Apple Day.....	8
CGaming.....	9
Group Committee.....	9
Colony Structure:.....	10
What do Beavers do?.....	10
Beavers' activities.....	10
More about beavers?.....	11
Beaver uniform.....	11
Personal outdoor activity equipment.....	12
Key items.....	12
Hats.....	12
Gloves and mittens.....	12
Raingear.....	12
Water bottle.....	13
Sleeping pad.....	13
Mess kit.....	13
Do not ever bring.....	13
Packing lists.....	14
Contacts.....	14
Payments.....	14
Core Beaver Program Calendar.....	15

Introduction to the 403rd Toronto Sea Scout Group

Scouting is a program with a strong outdoor focus that develops youth leadership and independence.

Our group has grown greatly in the past 5 years and provides an expansive program following [Scouts Canada](#) standards with four sections: [Beavers](#), [Cubs](#), [Scouts](#), and [Venturers](#).

We are a diverse group with members and families from many different backgrounds, beliefs, ethnicities, and economic circumstance.

Our program is varied and exciting but is only possible with volunteer leadership, financial donations, and inexpensive space provided by our sponsor and hosts.

Volunteers are Scouters and administrators for these programs. Your support and active participation are required to make it a strong and successful group. As the group has grown, the demands have grown, and our Scouters give a great deal of time and energy to the program. This means that we need more parent leadership in managing the group administration, fundraising, and non-camp events. We will say more below.



About Scouting & Scouts Canada

Scouting, the largest youth organization in the world, has over 40 million members in some 167 countries. [Scouts Canada](#) offers Scouting programs in Canada to over 42,000 young people, supported by 13,000 caring and dedicated volunteers.



The Scouts Canada Mission applies to all of our programs:

“To help develop well rounded youth, better prepared for success in the world.”

Our Sponsor

403rd Toronto Scout Groups sponsor is [Queen City Yacht Club](#) (QCYC). They offer us support in sailing training, boat storage, and summer meeting space. In exchange, we provide use of our canoes, and volunteer labour for various tasks around the club.



Our Meeting Hosts

In addition to our sponsor QCYC, we receive very reasonable rates for meeting space from Dixon Hall, Paroisse du Sacre-Coeur, and Club L'Age D'Or Sacre-Coeur.

Meeting Nights

Meeting times and locations may change from time to time. Be alert for messages from Scouters through ScoutsTracker

Tuesday

- **Beavers** (ages 5-7) – **Colony B**
 - 474 Ontario St from 5:45-7pm

Wednesday

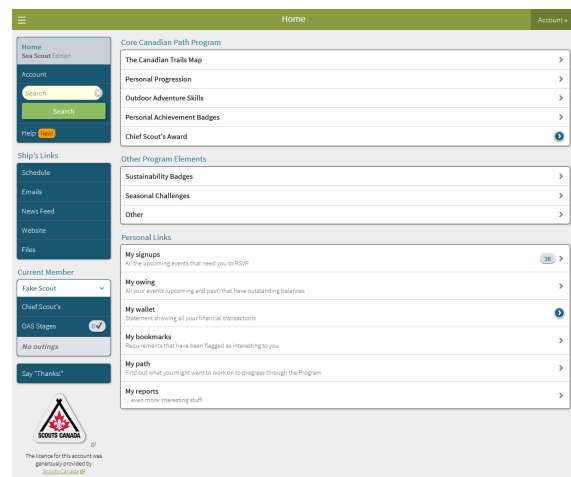
- **Beavers** (ages 5-7) – **Colony A**
 - 188 Carlton St from 5:45-7pm
- **Cubs** (ages 8-10)
 - 474 Ontario St from 6:30pm – 8:00pm
- **Sea Scouts** (ages 11-14)
 - 381 Sherbourne St (back entrance) from 7-9pm
- **Sea Venturers** (ages 15-17)
 - 381 Sherbourne St (back entrance) from 7-9pm

Communications

Most communications will come via email through [ScoutsTracker](#) and will show a Scouter name and “403rdtoronto-beavers@scoutstracker.ca” as the sender. Please check your email program to ensure this address is not blocked. The simplest way is usually just to add this address as a contact, but ensure you call the contact “ScoutsTracker” and not a Scouter name since this email address cannot receive mail.

ScoutsTracker is how section Scouters keep track of the program, badge progression, emails to Beaver parents, and other administrative aspects. There is a separate one for each section, but information is shared in part between them.

By default the first parent listed in MyScouts will be added as a login to ScoutsTracker for their Beaver, but there can be additional logins provided on request.



Things you can do in ScoutsTracker:

- Check the [calendar](#) for the year
- [RSVP for events](#) in the calendar
- Review [badge progression](#)
- Mark badge requirements you think you're ready to demonstrate as completed
- Check the [status of your program fees](#)

Registration and Program Costs

There are two main costs in Beavers – the membership/registration fee and program costs. There is also the cost of uniform and personal camping equipment such as raingear and sleeping pads and bags.

Membership/Registration Fee

The membership/registration fee is the same across all sections, and is an annual payment made through [MyScouts.ca](https://myscouts.ca).

Scouts Canada is in a registration transition. Some families will need to re-register in December, while others are

Registered to next August. Please log in to MyScouts to review your current registration status. The group Commissioner will send out emails to affected families in the late fall.



Program Fees

Program fees are set by the individual sections and are dependent on the type and number of activities scheduled throughout the year. Our aim is to keep the program fees as low as possible through fundraising. Payment schedules can be arranged if needed.

We expect that the Group Committee and Sections will be transparent and timely in telling families about costs for camps and events. Those costs will be subsidized as needed.

Subsidies

We want every youth to be able to participate in the full program. We do not want cost to prevent this. Programs can be offered on a sliding scale. Please contact the Group Commissioner to find out more.

Expectations of Scouts and their families

In order for the 403rd Toronto Scout Group to thrive, there are a number of expectations from youth and families. Scouting is a voluntary association, but having joined, full participation is not optional. We hope that sharing these expectations allow all youth, families, and Scouters to get the most from the program.

We expect that...

- Beavers will participate fully in the program on a weekly basis and parents will communicate with Scouters when their child will be away
- Beavers will attend meetings and other events in full uniform and conduct themselves according to their promise and law
- Beavers will attend camps and outings – notice of these events is provided in advance. Camping and outdoor activities are a significant part of the Scouting philosophy and program.
- A parent will speak to the Group Commissioner if you are unable to cover the cost of a camp or other event.
- Beavers will come to activities with the appropriate clothing and footwear. This is an important safety issue. See our website or your scouter for seasonal packing lists. Please speak to your Scouter if you need help obtaining these.
- Beavers' families will actively participate in our fundraising activities.
- Adults in Beavers' families will support the 403rd Toronto Sea Scout Group through volunteer roles.

**Scouting works when
we all work together**

Volunteer roles for parents

- **Apple Day coordinator**
 - organizes communications, books sites and coordinates volunteer shifts, arranges for apples
- **Founders' day banquet coordinator**
 - organizes communications, coordinates various volunteers and pot luck plan
- **June picnic coordinator**
 - organizes communications, coordinates various volunteers and pot luck plan
- **Treasurer**
 - ensures our accounts are accurate, reports on finances to Group Committee, writes cheques and sets up payments for signatures
- **Secretary**
 - takes minutes of Group Committee meetings; takes the lead in group communications; sends out notice of Group Committee Meetings via ScoutsTracker
- **Registrar**
 - assists in maintaining member registrations and interviewing new Scouters
- **Parent roles in each section:**
 - **Transport coordinator**
 - works with Scouters to ensure that Scouts get to camp through parent drivers or other parent-supported transportation
 - **Quartermaster**
 - oversees the maintenance of section-specific equipment and works with the group Quartermaster to ensure problems with shared equipment are identified and dealt with
 - **Web content poster/creator**
 - gathers and posts information for the section onto the group website: events, reports, photos, etc.



Every family's participation is critical to our shared success.
To volunteer for any of these roles, please send an email to scouts@403to.ca or speak to your section Scouter.

Group Events

In addition to the activities planned by each section, there are several group events that will be held throughout the year. Parents are asked to offer leadership to make these events successful.

The Group will communicate details about group-wide activities and events through [ScoutsTracker](#) emails, as well as on [our website](#).

Important Group Dates

- October 17th: Apple Day Fundraising at St. Lawrence Market (and possibly other locations)
- December 4th – 5th: Santa Parcel Deliveries
- December 16th: 2026 group outdoor event – location TBD
- February 24th: Group Banquet – Baden Powell (Founder of Scouting) Day
- June 16th: Group Picnic – @ QCYC Paddle Centre, Ward's Island

Fundraising

Scouts Canada is a non-profit organization based entirely on volunteers. In order to provide the activities, equipment and accommodations for our program, fundraising activities continue throughout the year.

There are two key fundraising activities that the group participates in annually – Apple Day and CGaming.

Your participation in these activities is very important to the quality of the program we can offer to your and other's children.

Apple Day

This is a fundraising exercise and community profile event that is well known and supported in the community. Apple Day is important to the 403rd as 100% of the money donated is retained by the group and it is often a moment when people discover us and join. We set up a number of stands in the local area and give an apple in return for a donation of any amount.



In the past we have averaged around \$2,500 - \$3,000 a day which goes towards helping run the section programs, badges, keeping program fees down, purchasing equipment, rent etc.

CGaming

We do our major fundraising through cGaming. Two adult volunteers, (any family or friends of the 403rd), do two hour sessions at Rama Gaming House, 991 Kennedy Road, at Lawrence. Each session involves greeting patrons at the reception desk and wiping fingerprints off electronic gaming machines. It's very easy, and for each session the group receives about \$2500.



You don't have to sell anything!

Since starting in late 2023, the group has received over \$200,000. This pays for buses to camp, new tents, canoes and other equipment, subsidizes uniforms, and offsets higher camp fees for high cost camps and jamborees.

To volunteer, you need to complete an online orientation (in your own time). Your first session, you will be paired with an experienced volunteer. You will be provided a purple uniform polo shirt, which is yours to keep!

Group Committee

The Group Committee consists of one Scouter from each section, and parent members. It meets 9-10 times a year, generally once a month but often taking a short break at the new year and a longer one in the summer.

The Group Committee selects a Group Commissioner who is responsible for overseeing the operation and development of the group. The committee supports the commissioner in carrying out these tasks;

- Approving the budget of each section
- Ensure that the necessary resources are available for the Scouters to conduct the program (materials, training, transportation and funding).

Beavers

The Beaver program emphasizes having fun while encouraging children to feel good about themselves, their friends and family, their own spiritual beliefs, and nature. Beavers helps children learn basic social skills and gain self confidence. The Beaver program is first step in Scouts that builds leaders, enabling youth to lead their own path toward outdoor adventure and fun.

A Beaver Scout Section is called a “Colony” and youth within a Colony are organized into smaller teams called “Lodges”. The colony explore and have adventures in the forest around the pond discovering new things and embark on great adventures. Youth aged 5 to 7 get to explore a little bit of everything. Along the way, they face challenges (Such as Outdoor Adventure Skills); explore their own ideas (Scouts is youth led); and creativity (through Personal Achievement badges). Beaver Scouts is all about teamwork, cooperation and developing self-confidence.

The motto for Beaver Scouts is: Sharing, Sharing, Sharing and through Beavers, youth develop a respect for nature and others while exploring the world around them.

Colony Structure:

Beavers Scouts is where youth first learn about leadership. Within the Beaver Scout section, the colony is organized in tail groups:

- Brown tails: Age of 5 years old - Exploring the program for the first time and learning about Scouting in general
- Blue tails: Age of 6 years old – Take more leadership role welcoming helping Brown tails
- White tails: Age of 7 years old – Helping the leadership of the ceremonies, lead their lodges and working towards their North Star badge and the Northern Lights tail.

What do Beavers do?

Learning by doing is the Scouting Method and Beaver Scouts do all kinds of fun and exciting things!

Beavers’ activities

403rd Toronto Beaver Scouts like to spend a lot of time outside. Together they might go on nature hikes, learn to build a simple shelter, have a campfire, experience their first-time camping. It’s all about exploring and trying new things. Mainly,

- They do a camp each season of total 4 camps a year. Camps vary between heated cabins or tents depends on the weather and the season
- They do two Beavers' days. Knowing that the weekly meeting might not be enough to learn new skills such as cooking and setting up tents, Beavers' days permit a deeper focus on skills

Helping others is also an important part of being a Beaver Scout. Whether it's helping to keep a park tidy through a clean-up project or helping a friend try something new, it's all about teamwork and cooperation. Beaver Scouts are always there to lend a hand.

More about beavers?

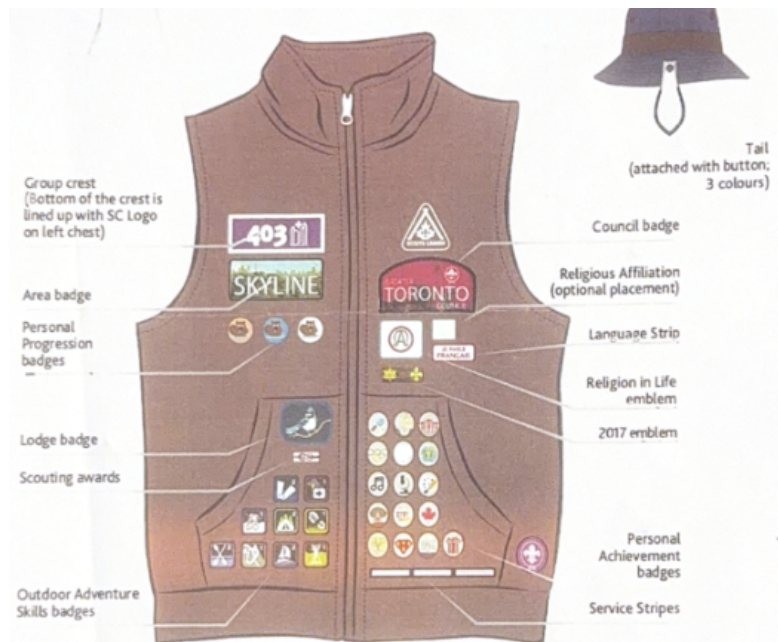
Beaver motto: Sharing, Sharing, Sharing

Beaver Law: Beaver has fun, works hard and help friends and family

Beaver promise: There are two promises that Beavers choose from based on their family beliefs

- I promise to be kind and help take care of the world; or
- I promise to love God and help take care of the world.

Beaver uniform



Personal outdoor activity equipment

Every Beaver will need to be appropriately dressed and equipped so they can be safe and relatively comfortable in our activities. Beavers are expected to **help pack their own gear** with their parents and know where to find the items they need. These skills are best built early. There are a limited number of Scouters and the more independence that Beavers have for their basic needs the easier all activities will be.

Below are some important notes about those items in general.

Buying equipment: You can buy gear many places, but it is well worth checking thrift stores first, especially for non-cotton outdoor clothes. Talk to other parents, there may be outgrown equipment in the group. In addition, we often arrange gear nights at [Mountain Equipment Company](#) on Queen Street West near Spadina.

Fabrics: As much as possible, **leave your cotton at home.** Avoid cotton sweatshirts, sweatpants or cotton socks. Cotton does not dry or help you stay warm.

- **Use Synthetic Fleece or Pile:** Fleece is quick drying, remains warm even when wet and is only half the weight of wool. Most fleeces do not block the wind and so, should be paired with an outer shell - like a rain jacket!

Layers: Your Beaver will be drier and more comfortable if dressed in layers that can be added or removed as conditions change. Wearing an inner wicking layer followed by insulation and an outer wind- and water-proof layer is the way to be comfortable in all weather conditions.

Key items

Hats

In warm conditions, hats provide protection from both the rain and the sun. In cold conditions, they help keep you warm. Even if it seems like the weather for your trip is looking warm, pack a winter hat just in case. It can be chilly at night and in the mornings.

Gloves and mittens

We are outside and hands are exposed to wind and weather. In winter, mittens are a must – gloves just aren't warm enough when it's below zero.

Raingear

You must have a waterproof jacket, pants and footwear. We cannot stress this enough. We are outside most of the time at camp. **A nylon shell is not waterproof.** Beavers are smaller and have less body fat and get cold and wet more easily than adults. Being outside for much of a weekend in the rain is fine if you have waterproof gear, but it is horrible and can be dangerous if you do not. We can advise you on the least expensive options. Raingear is critical gear!

Water bottle

A water bottle needs to be leakproof, easy to carry and at the Beaver level must be at least 500mL. The standard for outdoor use and our preferred bottle for older youth is the 1L wide-mouth Nalgene. It is leak-proof, indestructible, is easily filled and cleaned and can be marked with stickers to show ownership. There is a 500mL version that would be a good starter for Beavers. The loop on the lid keeps it from being lost and provides an attachment point for a carabiner so it can be clipped to things. There is a reason it is the standard bottle for canoeists, hikers, sailors and outdoor leaders—it is the best choice. The lid can be replaced if need be and it is possible to get an insert that restricts the flow for easier drinking.



Sleeping pad

A sleeping pad is primarily for warmth, not comfort. Beavers should be able to pack it themselves. We recommend foam pads for Beavers. Foam pads are easy to pack. Two good and less expensive options are a [yellow evazote pad](#) and for easier packing, the [Z-Rest](#). They are less warm than some of the more expensive pads, but that can be extended with a blanket on top of the pad.

Mess kit

Metal is usually a poor choice for mess kits. A mess kit must also have it's own mesh bag so it can be hung up to dry. It is not for hanging on the outside of a pack, it's annoying and will get damaged. A mess kit should always be inside the pack. Our preferred mess kit is the [GSI Cascadian 1 Person Table Set](#).



Please **label all of your gear** with your name. If it goes missing it is easier to return it to you if your name is on it. [Mabel's Labels](#) provide an easy way to label a lot of equipment at once. Mabel's is a Canadian company based in Hamilton and we have registered with them as a "fundraiser." If you order labels from them, on the checkout page, you can search for us in the "supporting a fundraiser?" box by typing 403rd Toronto. A portion of your purchase will come back to the group. You can also just write on things with a permanent marker, but please do label gear.

Do not ever bring...

- extra food of any kind – odorous items invite insects and critters into tents and may cause harm to those with food allergies;
- video games, computers, or other electronic amusements;
- mobile phones. If you would like to take pictures, bring a camera.

Packing lists

Our [packing lists are on our website](#) and will also typically be sent out in ScoutsTracker emails before a camp. Be alert to the contents as sometimes there are specific requirements for a camp. If you haven't seen one, check ScoutsTracker and if there is nothing there, then contact a Scouter.

Contacts

Group Commissioner - Beth Baskin beth@kapn.net or 647-224-2384

Beavers Key Scouter - Ihab Sunbati ihab.sun@gmail.com or 647-963-3001

Cubs Key Scouter - Steve Norrie snorrie667@protonmail.com or 416-710-9107

Sea Scouts Key Scouter - Benjamin Wilkins benjamin.wilkins99@gmail.com or 613-863-6704

Venturers Key Scouter - Keith Nunn kapn@kapn.net or 647-824-1408

cGaming coordinator - Evelyn Saungikar evelyn.saungikar@rogers.com or 416-997-0011

Payments

Emails for e-transfers – you will usually use the address for your section

- beavers@403TO.ca
- cubs@403TO.ca
- seascouts@403TO.ca
- venturers@403to.ca
- admin@403to.ca – use this for uniform payments or when directed

Core Beaver Program Calendar

[Details and full calendar in ScoutsTracker](#)

Optional items are marked optional. All other entries are core program.

Oct 2-4 – Fall Camp at Woodland Trails

Oct 17 – Apple Day

- St. Lawrence Market (Sat)

Nov 2 – Winter Hike

Dec 4-5 (Fri-Sat) – Santa Parcel Delivery

Dec 9 – Holiday Party and Secret Santa

Dec 16 (Wed) – Whole group event

January/February – Winter Camp

Feb 24 – Baden-Powell Week banquet and 35th Anniversary celebration

June – Spring/Summer camp

Jun 16 (Wed) – Group Picnic at our Paddle Centre on Toronto Islands

You can subscribe to the Beavers' [ScoutsTracker calendar](#) which includes all meetings and events with the link at the bottom of the calendar.