



# BEAVERS

# 35



**Beaver Scouts**  
**35<sup>th</sup> Birthday Challenge**  
**Summer 2021**



## Introduction

Beaver Scouts officially became part of the Scout Association on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 1986.  
That makes Beavers an incredible 35 years old this year!

This Summer, we'd like you to join us in celebrating Beavers' 35<sup>th</sup> Birthday with 35 exciting challenges and activities.

You can do them in any order you like. You could do a couple every day, or you could do as many as you can during the time of the week when you'd normally be at Beavers – it's completely up to you.

There are some activities that you will need an adult to help you with, and some that you can do by yourself, but make sure that an adult knows what you are doing at all times. Lots of these activities will also count towards your usual Beaver badges, so if you tell your Leader you're completing them, there may be some badges waiting for you when you get back to Beavers after the holidays.

Be sure to take loads of photographs while completing these activities and please ask an adult to share these with us on Twitter at [@ScoutsScotland](https://twitter.com/ScoutsScotland) and [@Owen\\_C\\_Forrest](https://twitter.com/Owen_C_Forrest) using the hashtag #Beavers35. We'll also be putting some of our own photos, videos and helpful hints and tips up on Twitter, so be sure to ask an adult to keep an eye out for these!

You could share these activities with your friends and family as well, even if they're not in Beavers. Show them how much fun being a Beaver Scout can be!

I hope you enjoy trying all of the different challenges and activities we've set you.

Good luck and have fun!

Owen Forrest  
Scotland Commissioner (Beavers)

P.S. Happy Birthday!!!



Have fun, and remember it is essential that current government guidance is followed while doing any Scouting activities. Make sure you keep yourself and others safe while taking on your challenges.

## Looking Back/Looking Ahead

Beaver Scouts has changed a lot since it was started 35 years ago. Take some time to look back at how things have changed, and start to imagine how Beaver Scouts might look in another 35 years' time.

### **1. Recreate the UK Beaver Scout uniform from 1986 and compare it with your own.**

In any way you like, recreate the original UK Beaver Scout uniform from 1986 and compare it with your own. This uniform included a grey sweatshirt, turquoise neckie, and maroon woggle. You could draw pictures, use craft materials like felt or plasticine, or see if you can dress up as a Beaver Scout from 1986. Try to see what has changed and what has stayed the same. You could see if your Scout Group has any old photographs of Beaver Scouts wearing the old uniform.

### **2. Find out how old each of the different sections are and a little bit about them.**

We know that Beavers is now 35 years old, and officially became part of Scouts in 1986. Find out when each of the other sections started, which was the first to start, and what each of them were called when they first started. Find out who started Scouts, when it was started, and what the first camp was like. Would you have liked to be part of that first camp? Why?

### **3. Imagine Beaver Scouts and yourself in 35 years' time.**

Imagine what Beaver Scouts will be like in 35 years' time. What games will they play? Will they still have the same uniform? What activities will they do? Also try to imagine what you will be doing in 35 years' time. What job will you be doing? Does that job even exist yet? You could write or draw/make pictures.

### **4. Create a new badge that might be part of Beaver Scouts in 35 years' time.**

Back when Beavers started in 1986, there were no badges for the section! Now, we have more than 40! What new badge might there be in another 35 years? What would a Beaver Scout have to do to earn your new badge? What does it look like?

### **5. Live your Beaver Scout promise.**

One thing that hasn't changed over the past 35 years is the Beaver Scout promise. Think about how you can keep your promise during the Summer. How can you be kind and helpful over the holidays? Is there anything you could do to help the people you live with or your neighbours? What can you do to show how you love your God or our World? You could write out the promise in bright colours and draw a picture of yourself to go with it, then keep it where you will see it every day to remind you to live your promise every day.

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## Beaver Scout Skills

There are loads of different skills for you to learn in Beaver Scouts. Many of these skills have been taught since Beavers was started. Explore a variety of different traditional Beaver Scout skills.

### **6. Prepare your Beaver Scout uniform.**

Get your Beaver uniform ready for going back after the Summer. Fold/roll your neckie properly, help sew on any badges that you still have to put on your uniform, help to wash your Beaver scout jumper, and make sure that you put it on a clothes hanger once it is clean and dry. Clean or polish the shoes you normally wear to Beavers.

### **7. Create a sundial and use it to tell the time.**

A sundial is a type of clock that only uses the light from the sun to show the time. There are lots of ways to make one. You just need something tall to cast a shadow (a straw or a stick for example), and something to mark each hour (like small stones, or chalk). Try making your own whilst it's sunny outside, then use it to tell the time.

### **8. Make an outdoor trail for somebody else to follow.**

Use sticks, stones, and other natural materials to make a trail for somebody else to follow. You could lead them to a special treasure or hidden message. Try out the tracking symbols we've given you.

### **9. Learn to tie your shoelaces and two other simple knots.**

The holidays are the perfect time to learn to tie your shoelaces. We've given you some instructions to help, but someone in your household might like to show you another way. After you have perfected this, try learning two useful scout knots. You could try a reef knot, a bowline, a sheet bend, or a clove hitch.

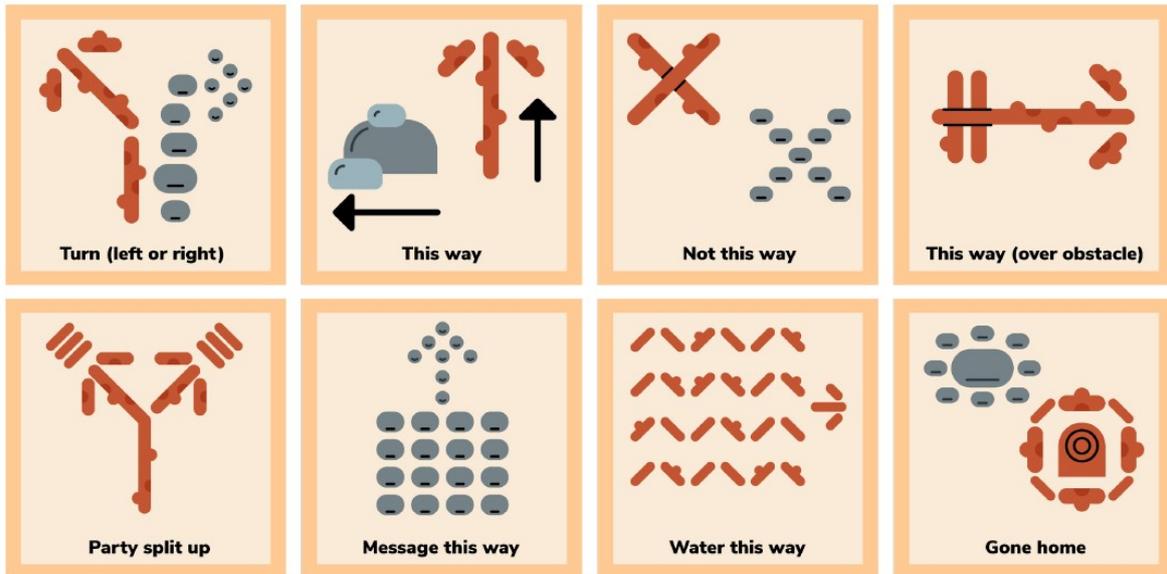
### **10. Learn at least one way to find North without a compass.**

When we try to follow a map or directions, it is important that we know which direction North is. We normally use a compass for this, but there are lots of different ways to find North without a compass. You can use the stars, the sun, two sticks, or even an analogue watch! Investigate and try using one or more of these methods.

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# Tracking signs

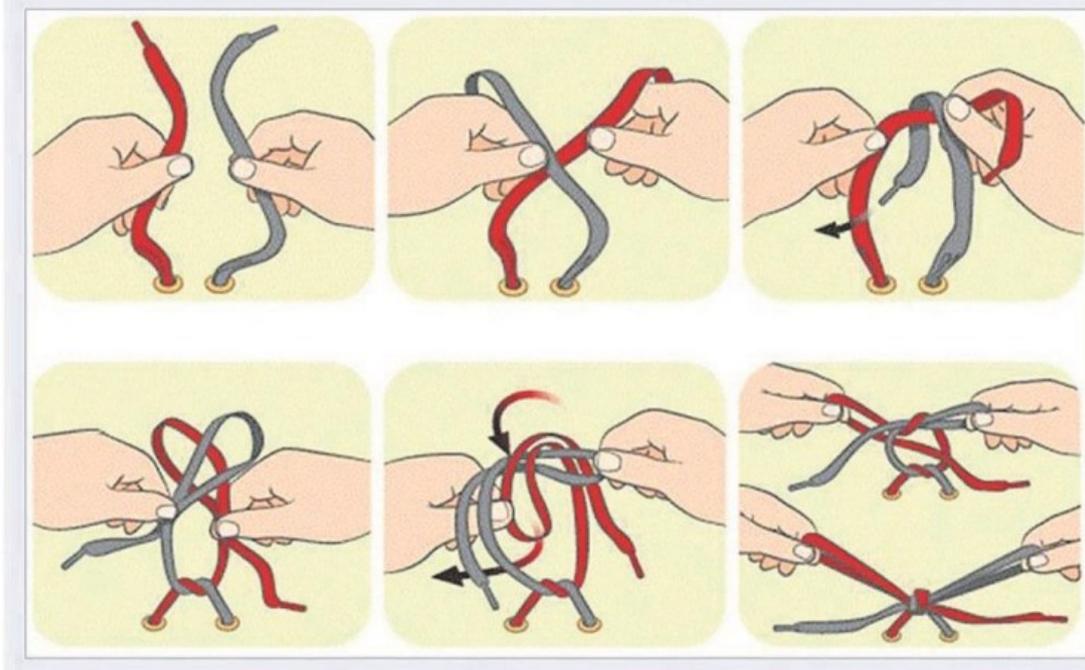
Tracking involves leaving signs or symbols made from natural materials, such as sticks and stones, on a trail or course for others to follow.



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## The Bunny Ears Method



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## Local Adventures

The Summer holidays are the perfect time to explore what's on offer right on your doorstep.

Investigate what your local area has to offer, and see what you can do to make the most of it this Summer.

### **11. Follow a nature trail and complete a scavenger hunt.**

Find a natural trail, park path, or other walk in nature local to you and follow it using the trail signs or markers. While you are following this trail, try to find something smooth, something fluffy, something round, something spiky, something hairy, something soft, something hard, something shiny, something rough, something sticky, something smelly, something noisy, and something that an animal might eat.

### **12. Go on a picnic.**

Find a nice local area where you and the people you live with could have a picnic. Help to make lunch for yourself and the people going on your picnic, wrap it up, and pack it in a bag, rucksack, or basket. You might also want to take something like a blanket to sit on. Set up your picnic outside and enjoy your meal, hopefully in the sunshine!

### **13. Visit your local library and take out a book that you would like to read.**

Your local library has more books than anyone could ever hope to read in their lifetime. They may also offer lots of different activities and clubs for different people in your community. Visit your local library, find a book that you would like to read, and check this out. You may need to get a library card to do this. Make sure that you take your book back on time!

### **14. Take part in your own mini indoor or outdoor camp.**

Summer camps are a big part of Scouting. Hold your own in your home or in your garden. You'll need to set up a den/tent and sleep in it, try cooking some Scout camp favourites for breakfast or dinner (like Eggy Bread or Dampers), sing some campfire songs, and perhaps even roast some marshmallows.

### **15. Find and investigate an important landmark in your city, town, or village.**

Every village/town/city has its own important landmarks. These might be buildings, statues, natural sights, or something a little more unusual. Head out to see a landmark in your area.

Try to find something that you haven't seen before. After you've seen it, you could try making a model of it or drawing it.

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## The Natural World

Exploring the natural world has always been a big part of Beaver Scouts.  
Get exploring all of the wonders around you with these activities.

### **16. Look for symmetry and patterns in nature.**

Patterns are everywhere in nature. The number of petals in a flower, the way the seeds are spread out in a sunflower, and the spiral in a snail's shell are all natural patterns. Lots of things are also symmetrical – one half is a mirror image of the other. Look around outside for as many examples of symmetry and patterns in nature as you can find. Take photos of what you find if you can.

### **17. Grow something from seeds or from a bulb.**

Loads of flowers and plants bloom and look their best in Summer. Plant something to join them. You could try something edible, like herbs, something bright, like a sunflower or daffodil, or use leftover apple/lemon/orange pips/seeds to plant a sapling. Whatever you choose, be sure to give it plenty of sunlight and water to help it grow.

### **18. Search for insects and mini-beasts.**

There are an unbelievable number of different creatures in our own gardens and parks just waiting to be found. Search under rocks, logs, and leaves to find as many different creepy-crawlies as you can. Try to identify them/find out their names. You could even make a Pooter to help with your search. With some help, you could also try pond dipping to see if you can find anything different.

### **19. Make something to help wildlife.**

Use whatever you have to hand to make something to help out wildlife. A small log pile makes a great home for insects. You could make a bee hotel from a tin can, twigs, and tubes of paper/card. You could also put out a dish of fresh water every day to make sure that the local birds have something to drink.

### **20. Get up early or stay up late to take a photograph of the sunrise or sunset.**

One of the most beautiful things to see in Summer is a sunrise or sunset. Stay awake or get up early to take a photograph of one. Make sure you don't look straight at the sun though! What colours can you see in the sky? Is it all blue/black, or are there some more unusual colours? What can you see, hear, and/or smell at this time of day that you don't normally notice during the day?

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## Get Creative

Being creative and using your imagination can be exciting, and is a great way to have fun and keep yourself busy during the Summer holidays.

Get creative with these activities.

### **21. Create a simple kite and fly it outside.**

Look around the house for materials that you can use to make a kite that will fly outside on a windy day. You could use plastic bags, straws, small sticks, spare fabric, or even paper, with some string or a ribbon to hold onto. Once you've built your kite head outside and see if it will fly.

### **22. Make a miniature garden.**

If you had complete control of a garden, what would you grow/plant in it? In a small box or tray, make your own miniature garden. You could use crafts, natural materials, or real plants and soil to design and make your garden. What would you use to encourage birds, bees, and other wildlife to come to your garden? Would you have any activities or furniture?

### **23. Invent and make a machine that might exist in 35 years' time.**

Many of the things that we take for granted today didn't exist when Beavers was started 35 years ago. Imagine what new technology or machines might exist in another 35 years' time. What would cars look like? Invent and build a machine or car that might exist in 35 years' time. You could build it from recycled junk, or anything else you like.

### **24. Make a natural sculpture to represent your favourite thing about Beavers.**

Using natural materials, create a sculpture that represents your favourite thing about Beavers. You could head to a beach and make a sand sculpture, head to the wood and make a sculpture out of twigs and leaves, or just use what you have available in your garden.

### **25. Make a boat and try to float it.**

Out of anything you like, build yourself a boat and try to float it. You could use recycled materials, fold a boat from paper, or make it out of construction toys. Which designs, shapes, and building materials float, and which sink?

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## Keep Active

It's important that we all stay active during the Summer holidays.

Exercising regularly keeps us all happy and healthy.

Complete these activities to get yourself moving.

### **26. Go for a 35 minute ride on wheels.**

Use anything with wheels (but without an engine) to go on a 35 minute journey/trip. You could use a scooter, bicycle, unicycle, roller-skates, skateboard, or anything else on wheels.

Be sure to wear a helmet.

### **27. Construct and complete your own obstacle course.**

Using anything you have to hand, create an obstacle course in your garden or anywhere outside. Include at least five different obstacles, including; something to jump over, something to run around, something to crawl under, something to zig-zag in-between, and something to balance on. Ask some people in your household to try it out. Are you the fastest?

### **28. Find 35 ways to travel 35 steps.**

Outside, mark out a starting and finishing place 35 steps apart. Try to find 35 different ways to get from your starting point to the finishing point. You could start with walking, hopping, running, skipping, and jumping.

### **29. Develop your Shinty skills.**

Shinty is an ancient Scottish game. It is a little like hockey but the ball can be played in the air as well as on the ground. Shinty players use a wooden stick called a Caman to score goals in the other team's net. Make your own Caman by rolling about 6 sheets of old newspaper up quite tightly and covering them with sticky tape to hold them firm. Bend the bottom slightly and cover the bend with more newspaper. Secure this with more sticky tape. Your Caman should look like a short walking stick. Using your Caman, try dribbling a small ball in a straight line, then through obstacles. Try passing to another person. Set up a goal using posts, stones, or chalk and try to score a goal.

### **30. Complete 35 repetitions of any exercise.**

Choose any exercise you like and do it 35 times. You could do 35 sit ups, 35 press ups, spin a hula hoop around 35 times, run on the spot for 35 seconds, or any other exercise you like.

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## Party Time

What would a Birthday Celebration be without a party!?

Complete these activities to help you plan a Birthday party for your Colony.

Share all of your ideas with your Beaver Leader, who might want to use them to help throw a Birthday Celebration with your Colony in person.

### **31. Create and send out an invitation to your celebration.**

Design and make invitations to your Birthday celebration. Be sure to include all of the important information a guest would need, and make your invites colourful and attractive.

You could use crafts or a computer. Find out who our Scouting Ambassadors are and choose one that you would like to invite. Send an invite to your Beaver Leader, and to us at Scouts Scotland by emailing [owen.forrest@scouts.scot](mailto:owen.forrest@scouts.scot).

### **32. Prepare a party piece.**

Prepare a short party piece to perform to the guests at your party. You could try a magic trick, tell some jokes, or put on a short play. Rehearse and then perform your party piece to someone in your household or to a friend.

### **33. Choose games to play at your party.**

Choose a variety of different games that you could play at your party. Make up your own party game complete with instructions. Get together with some friends or others in your household and teach them how to play your new game.

### **34. Plan a menu and prepare a dish.**

Plan what food and drinks you would serve at your party. Include both sweet and savoury dishes, and be sure to design a fancy Birthday cake. Prepare one of the dishes you have chosen and serve it up to the others in your household.

### **35. Create the most elaborate party hat that you can.**

Using anything that you like, create the most exciting, interesting, and colourful party hat that you can. You could start with a hat that you own/wear and add extras to it, or create your own from scratch.

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## Activity Checklist

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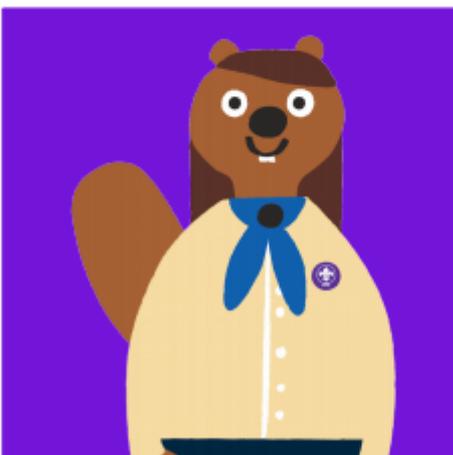
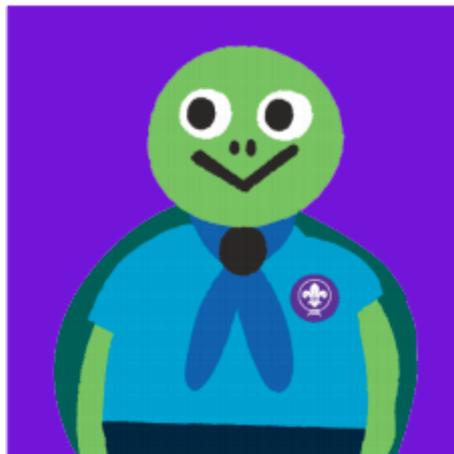
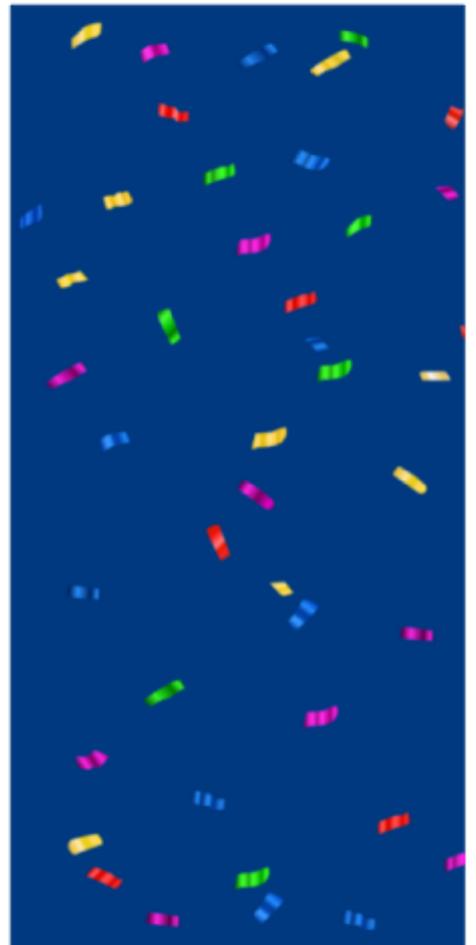
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