

## Grove's Silver Beavers Sleepover at Youlbury

Twenty one Silver Beaver Scouts from Grove Scout Group descended on the Gulf building at 10 o'clock Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October. The parents were allowed to settle them in and departed leaving four leaders and a parent acting as cook for the weekend. The theme for the sleepover was Canada. All the rooms were named after Canadian Provinces.

After the incoming activity of creating a totem pole and some fliers from lolly sticks, the briefing, and the Opening Ceremony, Neckers were removed and we all walked down to the 'old reception' area in Youlbury to get ready for Small Wall climbing and Archery. As there were so many of us, we had to split the Colony into two. Beavers A did Archery and Beavers B did the climbing. We returned to the Gulf building for lunch consisting of beef burgers, chips and fruit and cake. During the lunch break we finished off making pictures for the totem pole and played a few games.

After lunch we made our way back down to the 'old reception' area again. This time Beavers A were climbing the wall, and Beavers B doing Archery. We were pleased to see that everyone had a go at the climbing the wall, even those who were not good with heights! We also noted a few 'Robin Hoods' amongst us too. The Youlbury squirrels were fairly safe from the Silver Beavers that day!! After that, Beavers B were harnessed up to have a go on the Small Abseiling wall, whilst Beavers A moved across to Crate Stacking. At break time, there was tea and coffee which had been brought down for the leaders and also drinks for the Beavers, with Belgian buns and muffins to eat. We were pleased to invite our Instructors for the Activities to join us for 'afternoon tea'.



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After renewing all our blood sugar levels, we then moved to our last activities of the day. Beavers B to Crate Stacking and Beavers A to wall climbing. I would like to thank the Youlbury instructors that the Silver Beavers had that day. They were absolutely brilliant! Harry and Mitch, for the wall activities and the crates and Carl for the archery. Without their skills at least one of the Beavers would not have an Adventure Badge today.

We all returned to the Gulf building for another drink and to make tee pees from paper and straws. We also had a go at changing the colour of some white carnations to blue, red and green using some food colouring, and discussing how the plant would do it.



Tea of baked beans, sausages, baked potatoes and sweet corn was served, followed by waffles, maple syrup and ice cream. A small amount of free time was given, whilst the adults cleared away and washed up.

Outdoor shoes were then put back on, along with coats and we went outside to learn how to lay a camp fire in the semi darkness. Wayne soon had the fire lit and we were getting quite cosy. We sang some songs and some with actions, and then we couldn't remember any more. We were saved by some Scouts who were passing us, so we asked them to join us for short while and help us think of some more campfire songs to do. The Scouts turned out to be from Chipping Norton, and entered into the spirit of the occasion with great enthusiasm!

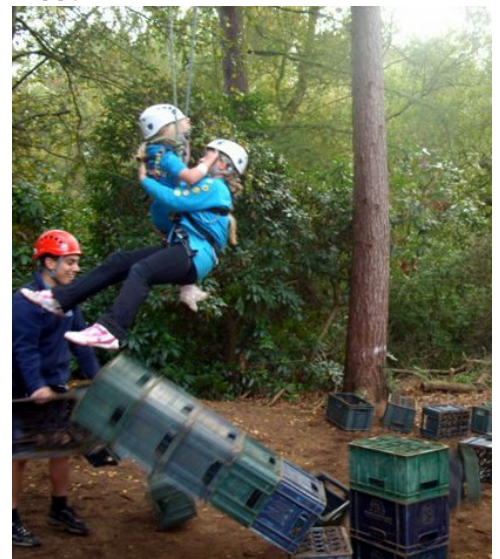


When they had gone back to their campsite, we returned to the Gulf building, having put out the fire. The Beavers changed for bed, but returned to the activity room for some bed time stories read by Fiona, Becca and Jenny. We were all introduced to their cuddly toy and they all listened attentively to the stories read to them. After a drink and cleaning of teeth, they were all sent to their beds. By 10.15 the last one had fallen asleep! This left the adults free to talk, read the paper and write up notes for the badge work and create the early morning activity. Come midnight there was not a sound from the Beavers, even though they had threatened to have a midnight feast! Only dead silence!! Wayne and I were the last to retire, still waiting for the midnight feast to materialize!!

Some Beavers were awake about 7 o'clock and they came to the activity room to make feather head dresses, whilst the rest of the Colony came to and made their way to the activity room. After breakfast of cereal, toast and eggy bread, beds and clothes were packed away and each room tidied up, with a promise that they could visit the shop when it opened at 9 o'clock. Unfortunately, it was not opening until 12.30, well after we had left. So big disappointment! The Beavers were taken out onto the lawn area to play ball games until the parents came. Leaving the room to be tidied and got ready for presentation time.

The parents all gathered in the room with the Beavers sitting on the floor. The badges that were presented were, The Adventure Activity, Creative Challenge, Staged Activity Nights Away 1 and a Nights Away 5, Beaver Sleepover Badge and a Certificate of Attendance. Also mentioned were two Beavers that had just gained their Bronze Award over the sleepover.

There were two Beavers given special awards: Beaver of the Sleepover: This was to a young person, who had only just been invested, and who did not want to climb or abseil the wall or do crate stacking as they involved heights of which he went out of his way to avoid. He actually had a go at two of these activities, with some encouragement from the instructors, his 'buddy' and myself, and found that he quite liked the crate stacking! He had also been quite nervous at coming away on his own too. The next award went to a Beaver who had been asked to 'buddy' the previously



mentioned young man. He did his job so very well, which enabled that young man to get Beaver of the Sleepover.



The leaders were the last to leave the Gulf building at 11.15 and were all back home by mid day. We had all had such a good time and the Beavers were all very well behaved.

My thanks go to Wayne and Rachel, Silver Beaver's Assistant Leaders; to Jenny Smith, our parent helper and cook for the event, and to Tracey Beamont, Assistant Cub Leader with Jaguar Cubs, Grove, who came down for the day to be leader with me, whilst our Young Leader was working her Saturday job; and to Becca White Silver Beaver's Young Leader who came down after working, and stayed until we finished on Sunday. Thanks also, too the parents for allowing their young people to attend. Without all of these wonderful people, the sleepover would not have happened!

Fiona Stovold - BSL  
**Silver Beaver Colony**  
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