

TELSTAR BEAVER **PARENTS GUIDE TO** **DISTRICT CAMP**



The District Camp usually takes place in Spring every year at a venue in Belgium. It is an opportunity for our Telstar Group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers) to meet up with other European based Scout Groups and share a fun filled weekend of activities around a theme which changes every year.

Every year a different Scout Group (or Section) prepares the programmes of activities. Leaders and Helpers from all Scout Groups run the activities over the weekend. They are split into activities for each section (Beavers, Cubs etc.) Parents of Beaver age children accompany their children whilst they participate in these activities. It is an exciting chance for our kids to meet up with other Scouts and share in the experience of outdoor living and nature.

This is a camping event and Beavers who attend **MUST** be accompanied by a parent or adult carer. Beavers will be camping with their parents over the weekend and remain the responsibility of their parents throughout the weekend.

Beavers and their parents will be camping on the same field site as the Cubs. We will be sharing cooking and eating facilities. Toilets may be shared with other Scout Groups.

One of the highlights of the weekend is a huge campfire singing session on the Saturday evening.

The Camp runs from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. We ask parents to feed their children before they arrive as they will only be offered a snack and a drink before bedtime on Friday evening. All other meals will be provided .

Some Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why must a parent accompany a Beaver age child ?**

For insurance purposes and for good practice guidance Telstar Scout Group are covered by the UK Scouting Association which does not allow Beaver age children to attend a Camping event without their parents or a responsible adult.

- **What will I be doing as a Parent at District Camp ?**

You will be responsible for taking your Beaver aged child around the activities during the day and attending the opening, closing ceremonies and camp fire. You will also be given tasks to help out around the Camp over the weekend. You

will need to support the Beaver Leaders and Helpers at meal times and general down time (outside specific activity time). We ask parents and helpers to support the service team (i.e. the people preparing and cooking meals for the Telstar Beavers/Cubs) wherever possible and generally get involved. We also need adults to help with putting up /taking down tents and clearing up at the end of camp. It makes the experience more fun for everyone.

- **Do I need a tent to attend? What size tent would you recommend?**

Yes, unfortunately we cannot provide tents for this event. Usually parents and children sleep in two/three person small tents or suitable 'pop up' tents. These can be purchased very reasonably from sports shops. We do not recommend bigger, or more complicated tents to put up, as we are limited with space and it maybe dark when you arrive. Don't hesitate to ask your District Camp Contact or Leaders for advice. Be advised that older children (Cubs, Scouts etc.) will not be sleeping in your tent.

- **What else do I need to bring? Should I pack my Child's bag?**

You will receive a Camp Kit List which lists everything you and your child will need to bring. Please do not put all your child's kit in the same bag as your own. We try and teach the Beavers to start to take responsibility for themselves when they go camping. We encourage your child to pack their own bag so that they understand what they need to bring and most importantly know where it is in their own bag.

- **What are the arrangements for eating on site?**

District Camp usually takes place in an open field site. Each Group provide their own kitchen which is run by volunteers and parents who accompany the children. Some food is prepared in advance and some simple food is prepared on site. We try to make at least two cooked hot meals and cooked breakfast but we are limited by how many volunteers we have to help. For Beaver age children we suggest to parents to bring a snack (cereal bars, extra fruit etc.). Mealtimes and menus have to be fixed to accommodate for everyone. If your child has food allergies please inform your Camp Contact in advance.

- **What are the arrangements for bathing & toilets on the site?**

There are limited bathing facilities in shared blocks. There are also usually shared basins for washing hands and Portable Toilets (portaloos) are hired for the event. It is a good idea to bring wet wipes and antibacterial hand gel. However please ensure that Beavers do not put wet wipes into the toilets as unless stated these are not biodegradable.

- **Why do you need Medical Forms for my child?**

For insurance purposes even though parents are in attendance we need Medical Forms to be returned before the Camp to your District Camp Contact. If your child has allergies please ensure that your Camp Contact knows in advance

- **How will we get there ?**

There are limited places on the coach but mainly Beaver parents come by car as you may be bringing more kit (adult/child, tent etc.) It maybe possible to share cars . If you would be interested in car pooling please let us know and we will try and get people together. You will be given directions in advance.

- **Can I smoke / drink alcohol at the camp?**

We ask parents to respect our rules of no smoking and drinking alcohol in front of children at Camp. We try to make these events a social event for adults too, so generally after all kids are settled in the evening we usually share a drink and nibbles. So you are welcome to bring some alcohol and nibbles to share.

- **Can we attend for a day/ leave early ?**

No, unless there is a pre -arranged reason agreed with the District Camp Contact you will be expected to attend the whole camp from Friday evening until Sunday afternoon after we have cleared the site.

All Leaders and Helpers give up their time voluntarily for this weekend to be a success so please help out where you can.

If you have any further questions do not hesitate in contacting your District Camp Contact Lynn Frank nicklynn82@yahoo.com or tel 24873731