

Title: Trails and Ways – Hike Buddies

Section: Beaver Scouts

Place: Outdoors - Hike

Duration: 3 - 4 hours

Participants: Beaver Scouts (can be facilitated by older sections with supervision of Scouters)



SPICES – Learning Objectives

Intellectual – Be able to challenge yourself and make informed decisions

Spiritual – Experience the beauty of nature (the impact you can have on it and others)

Overview

- This activity is designed to create an awareness and appreciation of nature and the environment. It covers looking after someone or something besides yourself and identifying differences and sharing thoughts and emotions with others. The purpose of this activity is to promote empathy as this helps youth member to avoid engaging in harmful behaviours and more likely to recognise them and report accordingly.
- Beaver Scouts select an appropriate item in the natural world environment (taking care not to disturb the living environment). When they have picked up a stone, stick or another suitable item (hike buddy) they bring this on the hike and share with them what happened on the hike. They could also pair up with another Beaver Scout as their Hike Buddy.

Note: This can then be used in conjunction with the 'Kindness Rocks' activity in this programme.

Activity Objectives

- Demonstrate an appreciation and care for the environment and people around us.
- Challenge yourself to complete the hike making informed decisions regarding equipment and safety of yourself and others.
- Learn about the impact your actions can have on the environment and how it can affect others.

Materials

- Items for Beaver Scouts to use if there is nothing appropriate in the area for them to collect where you are walking.
- Gather some sticks or stones in advance and bring them to the hike venue.
- Get the Beaver Scouts to bring something from home.

Description:

- Beaver Scouts and Scouters plan a hike or similar activity, considering the safety and abilities of all who will be attending, and what they could use as a Hike Buddy.
- They go on a day hike where the Beaver Scouts select their Hike Buddy that they will take to on the hike. They must take care of their Hike Buddy for the duration of the event and ensure they are enjoying the experience.
- At the end of the activity the Beaver Scouts are asked to share about their hike and how their buddy got on. This forms part of the review of the hike.

Tweaks

- The activity can be adapted to the local environment that is accessible to the Beaver Colony and the ability of the group.
- A canal walk, a forest trail or even a local park.

Review

- In addition to the standard review, Beaver Scouts should be facilitated to express themselves through their Buddy, covering the main objectives of the activity.

Notes

- Be aware of what emotions may be expressed through the Buddy by the Beaver Scouts and be prepared to deal with them as necessary.