

GROUP CAMP

So, you've received the letter about the Beaver Sleepover at Blackwell Court.

Maybe your child is excited, having heard all about it from their friends who went last year ... or maybe they're apprehensive. Maybe it's the first time they've been away and you're apprehensive.

If your child goes what can you expect ?

When you arrive you'll be at one of the best outdoor activity centres in the area, which we're very lucky to have in scouting . You'll see all the Cubs and Scouts with their parents, settling in to their tents outside whilst you head to the Stable House where the Beavers will be staying in more comfortable surroundings.

The Stable House is split into rooms, each with 3 bunk beds. You can help your child choose which bed they want, and help them unpack their sleeping bag and settle in. There's no need to leave until you're happy to go.

Before you leave, have a look at the kitchen next door where Patrice and David, our caterers, will be setting up, although they may be a little busy as they unpack the 36 crates of food that Tesco have just delivered.

Feel free to have a look around Blackwell - although you might want to save this until you come back on Sunday afternoon, when we have tea & cake (and you bring a picnic if you wish). Then your child can show you around and tell you about everything that they did.



Friday night

Once all the Beavers have arrived, the leaders will take them on a walk around Blackwell with some time playing on the obstacle course. Before long it's time for supper – usually pizza and a choice of drinks – time to brush teeth and then bed. Well behaved teddies are very welcome.

Drinks are freely available throughout the weekend – usually a choice of blackcurrant, orange, apple juice or water, with biscuits of course!

At meal times there's always a choice and we'll let you have a copy of the menu beforehand. If there's nothing on the menu that your child likes, then we'll find something. We have many years experience of looking after children at camp.

There's always a vegetarian option and we can cope with any food allergies.



Saturday

So, after breakfast – toast, choice of cereals, sausage sandwich, beans on toast and so on – it's time for a day of activities. The Beavers will be in groups of 12 accompanied by 2 leaders. All the activities will be led by professional instructors from Blackwell who are great with the youngsters.



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The younger ones will be doing grass sledging, archery, climbing and caving (it's large pipes really – it's not even underground). The older ones can try climbing, zip wire and kayaking. The Beavers will also be going in the minibus for the 5 minute journey to nearby Pikes Pool for a ramble around the woods and see the Cubs kayaking.

For lunch there's a choice of sandwiches, crisps, fruit, cake, biscuit, yoghurt and drinks.

After tea in the evening – choice of spag bol, jacket potatoes, salad, and so on ... followed by ice cream factory – it's time for a camp-fire sing-song with the Cubs and Scouts. Then it's drink and biscuits and time for bed.



Sunday

After breakfast, the activities continue until lunchtime, usually beef-burgers, with a veggie option of course.

At 2.30pm it's time to collect your youngster and all their kit. We all get together – Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, leaders, helpers and parents – for our closing ceremony. But you don't have to dash off, as our Committee will be serving tea and cake on the lawn. You're very welcome to bring a picnic and your child will take you for a look around Blackwell if you want to see what they've been up to over the weekend.



What happens if a Beaver misses home ?

This rarely happens as the children get so engrossed in what they're doing. But it does happen occasionally - it's only natural. If a Beaver does start to miss home, then we take them somewhere quiet and phone you so that they can have a chat with you. That usually re-assures them and they're happy to carry on with the weekend. If not though, we arrange to bring them home. We're only 10 minutes away.



What if I'm missing my child ?

If you're worried, give us a ring at anytime (well, we'd appreciate not many calls at 3am in the morning please ... unless it's urgent). We'll send out a copy of the programme beforehand so you can follow what we're doing at any one time. And we'll be posting photos on our Facebook page throughout the weekend.



And afterwards ...

You may want to have the washing machine ready. Your child may be tired and will want to go to bed early, but we're confident that they will have had a fantastic time.

If you have any queries, or want to know more, please don't hesitate to ask.

And if you want to see a little from last year's Group Camp have a look at

www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9BbEJuBkKU&

