



Help develop well-rounded youth, better prepared for success in the world.

Beaver Colony Investiture and Tail Ceremony *(per The Scouter's Manual)*

The Investiture Ceremony is a very important part of the Scouting tradition.

In this ceremony, returning youth and Scouters reaffirm their Scouting Promise and their commitment to Baden-Powell's vision, while new youth and Scouters make their Promise for the very first time.

It is an opportune time to share, in an age-appropriate way, Baden-Powell's original vision of Scouting and to show how that vision continues to be lived out in Scouts Canada programs.

New youth and volunteer-ready Scouters are welcomed into the program and presented with their neckers, woggles and identifying Group, and Council crests.

Beaver Scouts receive the appropriate colour Beaver tail to be pinned onto their Beaver hats.

How to Hold an Investiture and Tail Ceremony

How you develop your Investiture and Tail Ceremony is up to you. However, it should always include the following elements:

- The ceremony is planned by the White Tail Beavers who, with support of the Scouters, work to make it very special because it celebrates what Scouting is all about!
- The ceremony is held outdoors, if possible. If not, make sure it has an outdoor theme.
- The Beaver Scout flag is held by the youth and Scouters while reciting their Promise.
- The new neckers and woggles are presented to those making the Promise for the first time. Returning Beavers who have grown might upgrade to a larger necker at this time.
- The Beaver Scout Promise is recited by all Beaver Scouts (new and returning) and the Scout Promise is recited by Scouters (new and returning).
- Section, Group and Council badges are presented to those who need them.
- Parents/guardians and families are invited to be involved in this significant ceremony.
- The meaning behind each tail colour and the difference of each year in the Beaver Scout program is explained to the youth and parents/guardians.
- Although the ceremony should stay the same (relatively) from Colony to Colony, Groups are welcome to establish their own traditions.

Procedure:

- The ceremony begins outdoors at the beginning of the path the group will walk for the ceremony.
- The Colony and their parents/guardians walk to a new location for the presentation and Investiture of each Tail Group to symbolize the Beaver Scouts' growth and progression.
- A Scouter begins by welcoming everyone and explaining what will happen.
- The group then walks to the first stop, where the Brown Tails will be presented with their tails and then invested.



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Note: It is helpful to have one person designated to taking care of neckers, tails and badges for each Tail Group. A different Scouter could oversee leading the ceremony at each stop.

Meaning of the Tail Colours



Brown Tail

Natural World: The Brown Tail represents the colour of wild beavers' fur, and the earth where we live and where things grow. (Remind Beaver Scouts of their responsibility to help take care of the world.)

Growth and Development: The Brown Tail symbolizes a time of discovery and potential growth, when Beaver Scouts are entering a new phase in life and discovering a broader world beyond family and close friends. Think of the brown earth where a seed is buried, just waiting for the right opportunity to grow.



Blue Tail

Natural World: In nature, blue represents the sky and water.

Growth and Development: The Blue Tail symbolizes the immense opportunities to explore now opened up to Beaver Scouts whose abilities are expanding and changing. Think of how endless the sky or sea seems when you're standing on the shore.



White Tail

Natural World: The White Tail represents the moon and the stars. They give us light to help us find our way through the darkness of the night.

Growth and Development: The White Tail symbolizes distant goals, which seem difficult and far away, but which can be reached. Traveling to the moon was once considered impossible, but now we look forward to voyages to Mars and beyond. Through hard work and determination, we prove that nothing is impossible. As the stars in the night sky guide adventurers home, the White Tail Beaver Scouts guide the Colony.

Brown Tail Stop

- The Scouter calls “Riverbanks” and Beaver Scouts and Scouters get into formation. Parents stand behind the Riverbanks on both sides, possibly behind their own child.
- Ask the Beaver Scouts what the meaning of a Brown Tail might be. Encourage as many ideas as possible, but make sure the “natural world” points listed in the ‘Meaning of the Tail Colours’ (above) are mentioned and understood.
- The Scouter calls up one youth at a time to receive his or her Brown Tail. When a Beaver Scout’s name is called, the youth take two steps back from the riverbank, walks to the bottom of the river and swims towards the Scouter conducting the ceremony. If you have a Cub Scout or Scouter who is a youth from another Section, he or she could lead this part of the ceremony. The tail is buttoned on. The Brown Tail Beaver Scouts remain standing at the front, forming a Brown Tail group.
- Once all Brown Tails have been presented with their tails, a parent, grandparent or guardian is invited to come and stand behind each Brown Tail. For Brown Tails who do not have a parent present, a Scouter will stand with them.
- The Scouter speaks briefly about the importance of the Beaver Scout Promise and how it joins us to Scouts across Canada and around the world.
- The Brown Tails, as a group, hold on to the Beaver Scout flag with their left hand and make the Beaver Scout Salute with their right hand. With support of all the



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Beaver Scouts, they then say the Beaver Scout Promise as a group. This is not a meant to be a test of memory!

- Neckers and woggles are given to the parent or Scouter with each youth to place on along with the Brown Tails. Group, Area and Council badges should also be presented at this time. Make sure you give an opportunity for excited parents to take pictures!
- All Scouters congratulate the Beaver Scouts with the left-handshake and they return to their spot by walking outside the river (they do not walk back up the river). If the Colony Leadership Team has chosen a special cheer for congratulations, this is performed at this time.
- The group then walks to the Blue Tail Stop.

Blue Tail Stop

Repeat the same ceremony as for the Brown Tails with the following changes:

- Speak of what it means to be a Blue Tail.
- Have both new Blue Tails and returning Blue Tails repeat the Promise together.
- Acknowledge the leadership role Blue Tails fulfill in the Colony.
- Present neckers and badges to only the new youth. (The returning youth continue to wear neckers from the previous year unless they need a bigger one.)
- Congratulate the Blue Tails in the way chosen by the Colony Leadership Team.

White Tail Stop

Repeat the same ceremony as for the Blue Tails with the following changes:

- Speak of what it means to be a White Tail.
- Have both new White Tails and returning White Tails repeat the Promise together.
- Emphasize the leadership role they have together in their Lodges and as the Colony Leadership Team.
- Present neckers and badges to only the new youth. (The returning youth continue to wear neckers from the previous year unless they need a bigger one.)
- Remind them that in a few months, they will begin their Northern Lights Quest and work toward the North Star Award.
- Congratulate the White Tails in the way chosen by the Colony Leadership Team.

Closing Stop – At the End of the Trail

- Invest new, volunteer-ready Scouters. Remember to use the Scout Promise (not the Beaver Scout Promise) when investing Scouters. Beaver Scouts can place the necker on the Scouter and announce the Scouter's 'Friends of the Forest' name.
- Thank parents, grandparents and guardians for coming, and remind them of their role in making the Beaver Scout program successful.
- Share a moment of reflection, a Beaver Scouts' Own or a Scouter's Five.
- Conduct the Closing Ceremony, if you are not returning to the meeting place.