

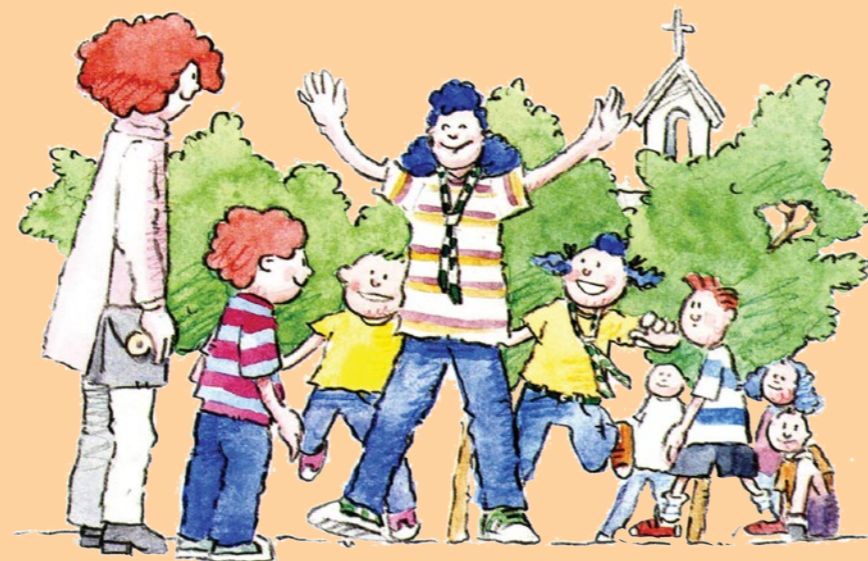


Beaver Scouts had existed unofficially in Northern Ireland and Canada since 1965 operating to meet demand from younger people and parents and as part of official pilot programmes. In 1974 the Beaver Scout Programme/Scheme for Canadian Scouting was officially launched in 1974. SAI (Scout Association of Ireland) started an experimental stage in 1974 and formally recognised Beaver Scouts in May 1976.



BEAVER SCOUT STORY

Beaver Scouts first started in the Scout Association of Ireland in May 1976, following a demand for a section for the pre-cub age. In 1979, six leaders from the SAI took part in the first Beaver Scout Leader's Training Advanced Course at Crawfordsburn, Co. Down run by the Northern Ireland Scout Council. Later in 1979, two SAI leaders went to Canada to explore Beaver Scouting and discover how their scheme worked. Following these meetings and interactions a great deal of help was given by the NISC in the foundation of Beaver Scouting in SAI.



CBSI commenced experimental Beavers in 1977, and gave the section full recognition in 1980. Great Britain followed Northern Ireland's lead by introducing Beaver Scouts as an informal pre-Cub section in 1982, and granted full recognition in April 1986.

During this time interest was growing in other countries: Beaver Scouting in the UK became official in 1982. In 1985, the first ever International Beaver Scout Conference was held in Bellinter, Co. Meath, later our International Commissioner presented findings, observations and recommendations to the World Scout Conference in Senegal.



Beavers make a much simpler Promise appropriate to their age group, and their motto is "Sharing, sharing, sharing".

In 1993 the Second International Beaver Conference was held in Denmark and since that time many European associations have adopted the Beaver Scout Section or junior scout section into their associations programmes with various names (other than Beaver Scouts) to suit their culture and symbolic frameworks.

