

MAY 2020



101st Ottawa (St. Aidan's) Scouting Group

Newsletter



Scouting at Home

We have all had to make important and significant adjustments to our daily lives. Scouting has dramatically changed in the past two and a half months and will continue to adjust due to the pandemic. The volunteers are saddened by the fact that the youth missed out on some highly anticipated spring events. From sleepovers to soapbox car rallies, to tree planting, to the many camps that are usual for this time of year. We had to cancel our advancement ceremonies and our year-end banquet.

But, our many Scouters remain as dedicated as ever to ensuring that programming continues to the planned end of scouting year and to come up with fun and challenging things to do online. We are so impressed with how the youth have responded positively and how many badges we have handed out this spring. We also made sure those youth who qualified could get their top sections awards and we are awarding them in early June.

Thank you the parents for sticking with us and being part of our scouting family. We'll get through this together and with the skills and knowledge that the youth learn from scouting, hopefully they can face the new world and be better citizens.

Visit: <https://www.scouts.ca/programs/scouting-at-home/overview.html>

Beaver Tales

The Beavers continued their online meetings for the month of May. The Leaders were so impressed with how many Beavers turn out each week and the amount of badge work that gets done from home.

Our first meeting in May focused on first aid and staying safe. Each Beaver had the chance to show their own personal first aid kits and what each item in it is used for.

In May, the Beavers have been earning a lot of badges. This included Pet Care, Musical Beaver, Chef Beaver, Earth Beaver, Science Beaver, Explorer Beaver, and Technology Beaver.

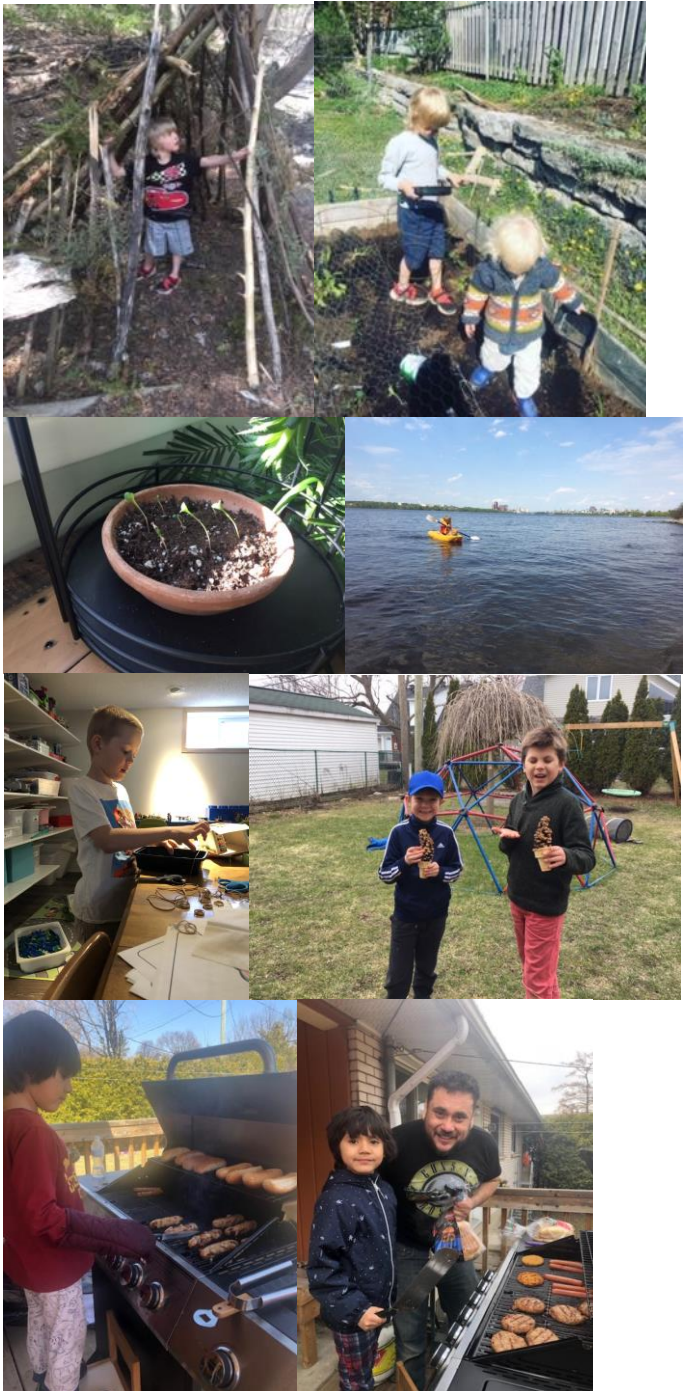


Great job Beavers!!

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These Beavers are so keen to earn badges and we love it!!



The second meeting had to Beavers print off and colour their favourite provincial or territorial flag. Some picked it because they liked how it looked like Newfoundland, others because they have family that live there, like New Brunswick and Manitoba. We also had a Beaver chose Alberta where she was born while another chose the Northwest Territories as he actually went there with his parents on a trip. We also found out how far do each Beaver have family and it included South Korea and Australia.

The third meeting was devoted to meeting some emergency, safety, hiking and scouting skills. The Beavers went through a quiz and they did really well with their knowledge.

Our fourth meeting was our last one of the year. We allowed the Beavers a last chance on badge work. We also presented our certificates to each Beaver and handed our North Star Award.

Our White Tail Beavers all worked very hard to meet the requirements of the North Star Award. Some of them needed to meet certain outdoor activity skills. But they one requirement that was needed to be met was for each Beaver to do a community service project.



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Projects included picking up trash in a local wooded area, growing lettuce and donating it to the Ottawa Food Bank, donating books to the library, sending words of encouragement to local front line workers, and building a bird house to put in a local park.



Cub Corner

Well now, we may be getting the hang of these Virtual meetings after all.

Our first May meeting was Virtual Knots. Have to say, being able to show an animation of the knots on the screen and hear everyone say I GOT IT! Afterwards, was music to Akela's ears! Still have to try that Fisherman's knot, but we'll get there! A brief discussion on exercises that would be good for Gamers earned a few Cubs their Technology Badge! By the way, water bottles make GREAT knot holders if anyone wants to practice.



The Leaders are very proud of how dedicated the Beavers were to complete their award despite this being a more challenging time.

Finally, the Leaders wish each Beaver a safe and happy summer. We hope they get to spend lots of time outdoors and that we will see them again in the fall.

The second meeting in May was devoted to finishing some OAS Skills. Thanks to Raksha's hard work in making booklets, everyone pretty much knew what they had to finish to get the Trail Skills OAS so we spent the night playing Trail Skills OAS Trivia – Like Trail Etiquette. Trust me, no one was more shocked than Akela when she found out that as one of the slowest hikers, she should be leading the hike. THAT never happens! :-) We'll know for next time!



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Our third meeting showcased some skills the Cubs have been working on during the Lockdown. Not necessarily Outdoor Adventure Skills, but a skill is a skill! We have a Cub Pack full of fantastic artists, builders and adventurers! We also floated around the idea of continuing the virtual meetings through the summer! As long as the Cubs want to continue, Akela will be there.

Howlers Gavin, Dante, Jacob and Andrew joined the Scouts on a Wednesday night for their weekly meeting. They took part in a Scouting Quiz- where they found out that Scouter Sunshine did NOT, in fact, begin the Scouting movement and I'm sure a few of them were very disappointed with this revelation.

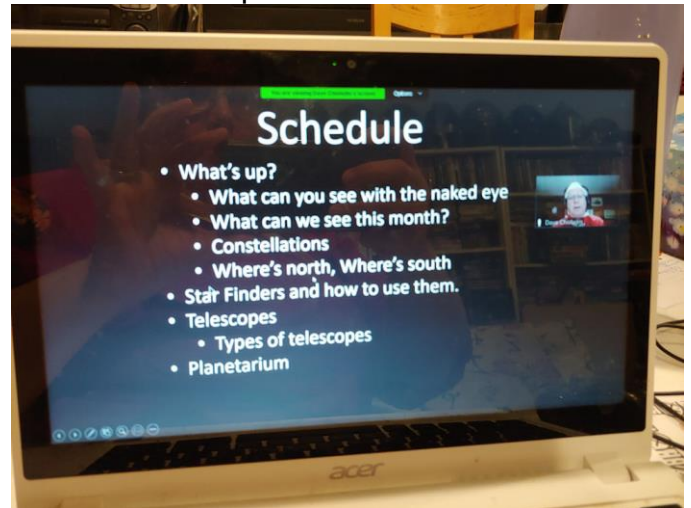
How many of you checked out the Scouts Canada Virtual Campfire on Saturday May 23? Akela did! Do you think Akela will remember any of the songs? No, probably not. That banana cheer was pretty cool though.



Raksha found a REALLY COOL Cub Escape room so she invited Akela, Baloo, Bagheera and

Hathi to try it out before setting it up for the Cubs. So COOL! Cubs, look for your invite coming soon! She also discovered an escape room made for Scouters. I think there may be an opportunity there to challenge the Beaver and Scout Scouters. Possibly the Ventures too! What do you think?

Our last meeting in May was a Virtual Astronomy Meeting with Scouter Dave Chisolm, an amateur member of the Royal Astronomical Society. An absolutely fabulous presentation. Great comments and questions from our Cubs too!



Coming up in June, we've invited the Beavers to join us June 2 for our Seasonal Review. Looking forward to hearing what the Cubs liked and disliked and what the White Tail Beavers would like to do next year!

Last thing, Akela has decided she will be running virtual meetings this summer for all Cubs who are interested – Beavers, Scouts and Ventures are also invited! You too Scouters! Email the Cub inbox at cubs.101stottawa@gmail.com for an invite. Summer Meetings will start Tuesday June 16, probably around 7pm.



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Scout Trails

Let's start out by saying that the Scouters are both incredibly impressed and pleased to see the majority of the Scouts tuning in each week for our virtual meetings. Not to mention that they actually helped organize some of them.

We started to month with a meeting that had a presentation "cool things you did not know about scouting". Stuff like over half a billion people have taken the scout promise, only 5 countries do not have scouting organizations and famous scouts include Bill Gates, Justin Trudeau, Neil Armstrong and Michael Jordan.

We had the four Howlers join us for an online scouting skills quiz and some games. Thanks for joining us.

Scouter Bill came the following week and we practiced some of the knots we've been practicing this year. We also went through some more outdoor skills to brush up on those.

We also challenged the Scouts to earn at least one personal achievement badge during April and May and so far several scouts have come through. Congrats to Eli and Sophie for the Home Badge, Indira for her Science Badge, Chris for his Technology Badge and Sophie for her Hobby Badge and Summer Fitness Badge. We hope to award more during our last meeting.



The Chief Scout's Award is the highest honour a Scout can earn. It takes a few years to get there to meet the requirements for the outdoor activity skills, the 30 volunteer hours and the community service projects.

The 101st has not had a Chief Scout's Award recipient since 2017 and thus when all five of our senior Scouts said at the beginning of the year that they were working towards it, the Scouters were very excited. But then the pandemic hit and opportunities to complete the community service project were limited. But, thanks to Akela, one project they are working on is to organize a Howler camp for the fall.



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Indira, Chloe, Sofia and Luca also made 1200 packages of masks and instructions for front line border services officers. Edoardo spent several hours cleaning up the local woods near his house from years of accumulated trash.



Venturer News

Our Vents have met via Zoom a few times now (as well as their normal online chats). The sessions are setup and facilitated by our own Scouter Bill, who seems to be the most technically inclined of all us leaders! Ever the competitive group, the Vents plan to have a Zoom scavenger hunt on their next meeting. Who knows - we may transition to Zoom hikes next.

Spring Scouting & Covid-19

Currently all scouting activities are cancelled until at least June 30th at the earliest. This includes in person meetings, camps and other activities.

Unfortunately, this means we've lost some great activities in May and June like RSVP camp, the Rideau Challenge, the Cubs and Beavers spring camps and the Scouts canoe camp. Stay safe everyone and keep the scouting spirit alive!!



Great job Scouts and we are all very proud of you to doing your best and helping others during this time.



Saying Thanks to a dedicated Scouter is easier than you might think...

<http://www.scouts.ca/thanks/>

Visit our website regularly for updates:
<http://www.101ottawa.com/>



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