
HISTORY OF THE EAGER BEAVER PROGRAM

In 1965 , Clay Farwell, Youth Director in the Northern California Conference, his secretary Mary Christianson, Charles Temple, a teacher at Pacific Union College, and Dan Higbee, an active church worker, wanted to address the needs of the Pathfinder staff's pre-Pathfinder children. The Eager Beaver program grew out of this desire to occupy pre-Pathfinder children while their parents participated in Pathfinder meetings.

The first Eager Beaver program was sponsored by the Sebastopol Elementary School; it was quickly accepted by other Northern California churches and church schools. The Dorcas Society designed and sewed the Eager Beaver scarf, Charles Temple designed the logo, and Dan Higbee volunteered to silk-screen the logo onto the scarf.

In 1977, the Southeastern California Conference became interested in the Eager Beaver program for their Pathfinder Club staff children. The program grew under the leadership of Dixie Plata and Janet Mallery, who became Eager Beaver crusaders for the Southeastern California Conference. The Eager Beaver program spread throughout the North American Division. Dan Higbee continued to supply scarves, pins, and other program materials.

In 1993, the North American Division negotiated with Dan Higbee to make the Eager Beaver program Division sponsored rather than sponsored by a union or conference. All Eager Beaver materials are now sold from AdventSource in Lincoln, Nebraska, and a draft of the program became available in late 1993. In 1994, the North American Division introduced the Division edition of the Eager Beaver program.

Because this program filled a void in ministry to children, it was not long before other countries heard of and obtained the program. Soon the need for resources which could be adapted to other cultural realities became a necessity and in a historic youth leadership meeting held in Aguas de Lindoia, Brazil (April 2001), delegates from all over the world requested that this program be made available through the General Conference Youth Department in essence making it a world program.