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## EAGER BEAVER PROGRAM

Welcome to the Eager Beaver program! This program is designed for kindergarten-age boys and girls. The Eager Beaver program and its curriculum are separate from the Adventurer program. In fact, the Eager Beaver program is different from both the Pathfinder and Adventurer programs primarily because it involves a parent-child partnership, while the Adventurer and especially the Pathfinder programs are club organizations. Ideally, parents and their children will do the Eager Beaver activities together at home, but the program can also be done with a group of children.

Crafts are not specifically mentioned in any of the Beaver Chips; however, several Chips have craft concepts. Parents are encouraged to do as many separate craft activities as they wish. The crafts should be simple enough to complete in one sitting. Eager Beavers definitely need “hands-on” activities.

Eager Beaver sessions should last no longer than one hour—remember that this age group has a very short attention span. Also, don’t dwell on any one subject for very long—keep things moving. Start working on a requirement, play a game, choose a chip and complete a few requirements (some chips may take several nights to complete), do a craft, and end with a story. Each activity should last no longer than 10-15 minutes each. Parents may wish to work with other Eager Beaver families to plan occasional field trips or other Beaver activities. It is recommended that a maximum of two programs be planned per month.

When working on Eager Beaver chips, don’t try to finish an entire chip in one evening; take about 15 minutes to complete a few requirements and go on to the next activity. That way you won’t lose their attention as quickly. Be enthusiastic when teaching, and be prepared—these little ones know if you aren’t prepared. Organize your supplies before the meeting starts. When the Eager Beavers complete all the requirements, give them a chip—they will be proud to wear it. The chips can be sewn or glued onto the Eager Beaver scarf.

The Eager Beaver program enables parents and other adults to work together with children to reach specific goals during the school year. Children of this age level enjoy participating in activities and are not particularly motivated by the promise of a reward for their efforts. The children will enjoy doing the requirements; learning is its own reward.

The program is non-competitive. If any requirement is too difficult, parents should devise a simpler option. Award the Eager Beaver pin to the child at the Investiture program when she/he completes the record card. Help the children make the T-shirt transfer.\* Study the habits of beavers and discover the meaning of the words “Eager Beaver.” Eager Beaver scarves may be exhibited and awarded to the children at Investiture, when parents can see their children recognized for their accomplishments.

\* The T-shirt transfer works well on 501/50 material, but will not work on 100% cotton. If a steam iron is used, move the iron around when transferring to avoid a steam hole pattern. A transfer is available from *AdventSource*, 5040 Prescott Avenue, Lincoln, Nebraska 68506. Phone: 800-328-0525. Website: [www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org).

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