

# Special Interest Badges

Archery  
Orienteering  
Wilderness Experience  
World Scouting  
Languages  
Tidy Towns

Mountain Biking  
Patrol Camp Leadership  
Sailing Adventure  
Personal Fitness  
Painting & Art  
Community Radio  
World Cultures

Music  
Dancing  
Good Turn  
Gardening  
Photography  
Nature Study  
Recycling  
Swimming  
Cooking  
Farming  
Crafts  
Soccer  
Navigation

Any subject or interest you like can become a Special Interest Badge



You design your own badge for what you are interested in

# Any subject or interest can be used to develop a Special Interest Badge

## There are five Special Interest Badge areas

### Skills

This can be any new personal skill e.g. technical, mechanical, music, drama, arts & crafts

### Adventure

This should be an adventure journey that includes something completely new i.e. a new location, new method of travel, etc

### Physical

This can include any physical pursuit, activity or sport

### Community

Being involved in your community. This could be a service type project and you should create a plan that outlines what you will do and who will benefit.

### Environment

This can be any project that improves the environment in any way.



Adventure



Physical



Community



Skills



Environment



Special Interest Badges 'Bar'

- Whatever subject or interest you pick must be linked to one of the Special Interest Badge areas.
- A Scout may achieve recognition for the same Special Interest Badge Area up to three times in any one Section. You are awarded the badge the first time you do a Special Interest Badge and a 'bar' for each of the others in this Special Interest Badge area.
- You have to chance to do 15 badges in each Section
- The Scout keeps a badge until it is replaced by an equivalent in the next Section.
- Special Interest badges have different colour combinations for each Section.



# Choosing a subject or interest

Below are some suggested subjects that have been aligned with the Special Interest Badge areas. There are many more ideas that can be included. No matter what subject or interest you choose it will fall into one of the areas, sometimes it will fall into two or even three areas.

Community Involvement	Personal Skill	Physical Recreation	Adventure Journey	Environment
Good Turn / Service	Photography	Archery	Cycling Expedition	Ethical living
World Cultures & Ways of Living	Entertaining	Orienteering	Wilderness Experience	Eco-energy
World Scouting	Film/video production	Athletics	Horseback Expedition	Organic Gardening
Guide / Interpreter	Home repairs	Ball Games	Sailing Adventure	Weather Watch
Heritage	Information technology	Climbing Wall	Canoe Adventure	Animal welfare
Health Awareness	Music & Dance	Gymnastics	Bivvy Adventure	Conservation
Representation	Painting / Art	Water Safety	Camp Leadership	Nature Study
Tidy Towns	Crafts / Sculptor	Personal Fitness	Back Packing	Carbon footprint
Disability Awareness	Cooking	Swimming	Journey in a Strange Land	Environmental Audit
Active Citizenship	Motors	Martial Arts	Mountain Journey	Recycling
Faith & Beliefs	Navigator	Triathlon	Extended Hiking Expedition	Food Production
Community Radio	Observer / Tracker	Caving	Exploring	Naturalist
Current Affairs	Leadership / Mentoring	Snorkeling / SCUBA	Camping	Sustainable Building
Campaigning	Public Speaking	Mountain Biking	Nature Study Expedition	River Care
Languages	Archeology	Body Surfing	Photography Safari	Local Beautification
Surveys	Creative Writing	Canoeing	Treasure Quest	Tidy Towns
Interculturalism	Farming	Rock Climbing	Overseas Project	Nature Reserve

# Creating your Special Interest Badge



**Step 1** - Pick your subject or interest

**Step 2** - Decide what Special Interest Area your subject or interest falls into.

**Step 3** - Design your challenge in consultation with your Scouter or Mentor

**Step 4** - Complete the challenge in agreed time

**Step 5** - Wear the badge with pride

## The Challenge

When designing your badge it should :-

- Challenge you to learn new skills or develop existing ones
- Help to increase your knowledge of the particular area
- Contain a practical element which will benefit others.

A template is provided to allow you to set out your plan, which Personal Challenges you can undertake during the Special Interest Badge and to help you look back at what you have achieved.

[Link to Template](#)

You can use another method to document your Special Interest Badge e.g. poster, diary, email, social networking website etc.

Check out how some Scouts have designed their Special Interest Badge

Beaver Scouts

Cub Scouts

Scouts

Venture Scouts

Rover Scouts



## Sample Projects: Active Citizenship

***Agata is a 6 year old Beaver Scout who has just joined the Group after she moved from Hungary with her family. It will shortly be St. Patricks Day. All the Beaver Scouts are busy preparing for the festivities. Agata is not sure what all the fuss is about but wants to find out more.***

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Agata is:

- Find out about the legends of St. Patrick and other famous Irish saints (Columba or Brigid for example). The Beaver Scouts could help Agata find out about these other saints and produce a drama retelling the legend.
- Learn some basic Irish to practice with fellow Beaver Scouts for St. Patricks Day. Pick up a traditional Irish game e.g. Gaelic football, hurling, potato race, sack race etc.
- Have gained an understanding of Irish culture and the importance of St. Patricks Day, Agata will be ready to take a full part in the local St. Patricks Day parade with the rest of the rest of the Group.



## Sample Projects: Archery

***Marie is a 7 year old Beaver Scout. She loves the story of Robin Hood and how he is such a good shot with the Bow and Arrow. She wants to learn more about it and how she can make one.***

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Marie is:

- Find out how to make a Bow and Arrow using a simple design.
- Try and fire an arrow from the Bow she has made and see can she hit a target with it.
- Ask her to think of a game that the Beaver Scouts could play using a Bow and Arrow and then play it with them.





## Sample Projects: Information Technology

*Karin is interested in doing a computer project. She has lived with computers all her life. Her dad and brothers have laptops and she uses a desktop. She likes art and can type on the computer. In discussion with her Scouter she has decided to develop the following challenge for herself.*

The project, agreed between Karin and the Scouter is:

- She will find out more about how to draw on a computer. She will then produce a number of drawings that can be used as greeting cards.
- She will find out and learn how to upload a picture to the computer and place it in a document.
- Find out what the members of her Lodge think about the design of a Lodge logbook, gather ideas and suggestions.
- She will act as 'scribe' for her Lodge, and make a Lodge logbook. The logbook will have drawings, text and pictures.



## Sample Projects: Conservation

*Paul is a 7 year old Beaver Scout and is very enthusiastic for recycling at home. He has been telling the Scouters to not waste things in the Den so the Scouters thought it a good idea to run an activity with him and his Lodge.*

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Paul's Lodge is:

- Go through all of the waste in the Recycling Bin and see what can be reused.
- With the Scouters make things with other recyclable waste.
- Learn how to avoid using disposable things - use things which last longer.





## Sample Projects: Faith & Beliefs

***Abdul Salam is an 8 year old Beaver Scout who joined the Colony this year. He is the only Muslim in the Group and wants to make friends with the other Beaver Scouts but does not understand some of their customs or some of the things they do like saying "God bless you" The Scouters think it would be good if he tells others about being Muslim.***

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Abdul Salam is:

- Tell his Lodge about what things he does with his family and about going to the Mosque.
- Share some of his prayers with the Lodge and the importance of these prayers
- See what things he has in common with others in the Lodge



## Sample Projects: Good Turn / Service

***Aoife is a 7 year old Beaver Scout. She heard a radio advertisement that October 1 is International Day of Older Persons. She would like to do something to mark it.***

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Aoife is:

- Find out how many older persons (60+) are in the world, where the majority live etc. Think about what about roles older people have in our lives and with the Beaver Scouts create a picture collage of these.
- Learn to live like it was 100 years ago. Spend a night at home/in the Den with no heat, no light and play card games by candlelight.
- Aoife's action to mark October 1 is to spend the day with her grandparents doing something they like.





## Sample Projects: Nature Study

*Emma is a 7 year old Beaver Scout. She recently moved house and has to walk through the park to school. She has become fascinated by the trees in the park which lose more of their leaves every day. Emma wants to find out more about trees and why they lose all their leaves.*

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Emma is:

- Emma will find out about different types of tree and why certain types lose their leaves.
- Emma will ask the park warden about the trees that grow in the park and how to identify them.
- Emma will learn how to tell the age of a tree.
- Emma will lead her Lodge in creating a nature corner in the Scout Den.



## Sample Projects: Orienteering

*John has just taken part in his first orienteering event, which was run by his Scout County. He is enthusiastic to get a badge on his uniform for orienteering. John has a chat with his Scouter and it is agreed that he cannot get a badge just for taking part in the event but must continue developing his interest in orienteering to gain the badge.*

The project, agreed between the Scouter and John is:

- John is to find out about maps. How they are made and how features on the ground are showing on the map.
- John is to make a map of a piece of ground that he plays on; showing trails, markers and feature.
- John is to participate in another orienteering activity, complete the course and find all markers.
- John is to learn about how a compass works and make a simple poster or training aid for his Lodge notice board.







## Sample Projects: Photography

*Catherine would like to do photography. She has the use of a camera from her parents and has taken photographs at parties and on holidays. Catherine chats with her Scouter and they decide what Catherine can do to develop her skills as a photographer.*

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Catherine is:

- She is to explore how to use her parent's camera and talk to her brother about photography, he is a keen photographer.
- She is to act as 'official' photographer on the next Beaver Scout activity and make a poster of photographs for the notice board.
- She is to make a simple picture album using her own personal photographs showing at least 4 subjects - landscape, portrait, sport, nature.



## Sample Projects: Navigator

*Joyce and her family have recently come to Ireland from Ethiopia. She has never seen the sea until her first outing with the Beaver Scouts to the beach. She is fascinated by the sea and wants to know more.*

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Joyce is:

- Joyce will find out as much as she can about beach: why some are sandy and others stony, why is it warmer in winter and cooler in the summer at the beach, how sand dunes are formed etc. and tell her Lodge what she found out.
- Joyce will collect sample of the shells and stones found at the beach for the Scout Den's nature corner.
- Joyce will help with the organisation of the Beaver Scouts first camp, which will be to a coastal location where Joyce can fill in the rest of the Beaver Scouts on what she has discovered.





## Sample Projects: Wilderness Experience

*Darrin is interested in adventure. He watches survival based programmes on television and wants to be able to explore the forest. He visited the Cub Scout camp during the summer and they showed him how to make a bread twist on a stick. Darrin would like to explore the subject more and become 'more expert' as he says himself.*

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Darrin is:

- Darrin is to create a survival kit that consists of at least 20 items and can fit in a small container.
- Darrin is to make a small shelter with other members of his Lodge or friends using a plastic sheet in his garden or at the local campsite on a hike or camp.
- Darrin is to visit and explore a wilderness area with his family or on a Colony hike. This might be a bog, seashore, forest, mountainside away from people with nature all around him.
- Darrin is to learn about nature and be able to identify at least six flowers and six birds found in hedgerows and wild meadowland.



## Sample Projects: World Cultures & Ways of Living

*Sean is an 8 year old Beaver Scout. There are two new young people in his class this year. One is from Poland and the other from China. Sean has made friends with the two young people and says he wants to find out more about where these two young people come from.*

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Sean are:

- Find out about two different cultures living in your community e.g. Polish, Chinese, Traveller, Nigerian (In Sean's case it will likely be Polish and Chinese as this is where his friends are from. Sean might like to present what he has found through picture collages, artwork or telling the Lodge or Colony what he has found).
- Learn 2 games that young people from each of the two cultures in question that you have never played before.
- At your next Beaver Scout meeting lead the Lodge in these two games.



Which Special Interest Area are you going to work on?

What is your project? Describe what you want to do and the steps to get there

What do you hope to achieve doing this badge? How will you know you are finished?

Which Personal Challenges will this help you with?

At the end: How did your plan go? What did you learn from it?

## Special Interest Badge Design template



Planned Start Date:

Planned Finish Date:

Signed (youth member):

Signed (Mentor):