

Where Do White

Story by Rob Stewart Photos: Ruth Merkel-Diguer

You'll find them sleeping among dinosaurs, around huge rocks, at the feet of giant mammals or even beneath high-perching birds.

Last November, 150 White Tail Beavers in the Voyageur Region of Eastern Ontario experienced an unusual sleepover at the National Museum of Nature in Ottawa. Carefully avoiding the fourth floor (a ghost reportedly haunts its corridors) young Beavers rolled out their sleeping bags in virtually every nook and cranny — wherever they could find free floor space. As a parent of a White Tail Beaver, I shared in the overnight adventure. This sleepover really pumped up both Beavers and leaders, and proved a terrific example of a Scouting special event.

From the moment Beavers gathered in the museum's lobby on Friday evening until they packed up late the next morning, museum staff treated them to a jam-packed program of action, learning, excitement and friendship. Working in four groups, the Beavers:

- Learned about wild wolves
- Made a yo-yo
- Found out amazing facts concerning various bird species
- Enjoyed a jaw-dropping reptile show.

A relaxing campfire helped settle everyone for bed. At 6 a.m. the next morning, the fun continued with more activities. A thought-provoking Scouts' Own concluded the special event.

Outstanding Youth Leaders

In addition to the contribution by museum staff, leaders and parents, a group of enthusiastic Venturers made their presence known in many ways. Their ready input provided an exceptional example of youth leadership in action.

This was a great sleepover! Not only did it match the spirit and intent of the Beaver program, but it provided life-long memories for everyone. Why don't you plan a special event for youth members in your district? X

— Rob Stewart is the Executive Director of Program Division in the National Office.

"There's no way we're to sleep tonight!"



"You're safe as long as you don't tickle him." Everyone (well, almost everyone) wanted to touch the giant python.



Beavers Tail Sleep?

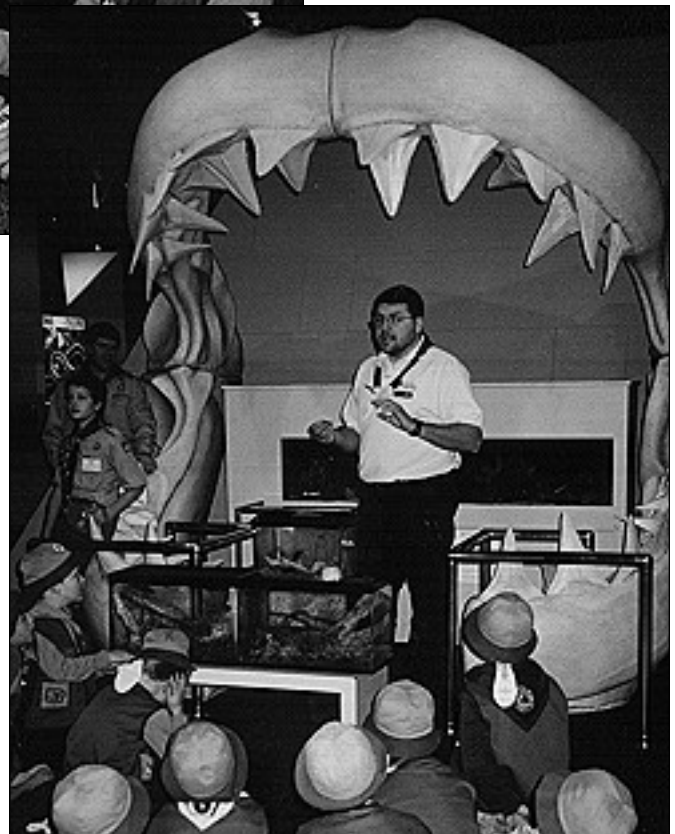
going



"Hey Malak, I think I saw something"



Beavers learned how archaeologists sift and brush through sand and rock to find fossils.



These jaws are made for ripping! A discussion on sharks captured the attention of all Beavers.