



Introducing... Ahmik!

by Julian Celms

AHMIK IS THE NATIVE American word for a beaver. Ahmik dropped by our den at the pond while on break from dam building and took the opportunity to answer some questions.

Dear Big Brown Ahmik,
What is your favourite snack?
signed Yearning for Unbaked Melted MunchY

Dear YUMMY,
Although carrots and apples are a lot tastier than birch tree leaves, when I crave a special treat, I love to make some no-bake cookies with the whole colony. Bring in a hot plate and try a recipe from this page: <http://www.cooksrecipes.com/cookies/no-bake-cookie-recipes.html>.

Dear Big Brown Ahmik,
I have a confession to make. I love to sing, but can never remember some of the tunes. What do I do?
signed Tuneless

Have no fear TUNELESS, most of my brood choose to go swimming instead of listening to my campfire rendition of Boom Chicka Beaver! To sing better, I listen to *The Campfire Book CD* sold at the Scout Shop, or find song tunes that will play on the web. Ask the parents in your colony — there may be one who's a whiz with the guitar. Here's a web site that has some tunes you can listen to: <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/douglas.gowan/campfire/songs.htm#International>.

Dear Big Brown Ahmik,
When are you stumped by a question or problem, where do you go for help?
signed Baffled

We all have those days BAFFLED, where we need another perspective. Malak the owl is usually pretty wise, although a bit chatty for an owl. For tough questions, your Group Commissioner is the first place to go, as is your Area Service Team. Their job is to help find the answer for you. One question I

know many new leaders are curious about is ceremonies. Most of your questions about ceremonies can be found in the *Beaver Leader Handbook*. Another useful resource is my friends at the Program Help Line (e-mail pgmhlp@scouts.ca).

Dear Big Brown Ahmik,
When do you change the tail colours for all the beavers in your colony?
signed Sunshine

Dear Sunshine,
I love changing the tail colours for my beavers in the fall when the leaves change. Make this a special time for Beavers by emphasizing personal growth and development. You can find some great suggestions on page 12-5 of the *Beaver Leader Handbook*! Using the tail levels throughout the year is a great way to fine-tune the program to the various needs of your colony — allowing white tails to work on more challenging activities than brown or blue tails, or in a supporting role to brown or blue tails.

Dear Big Brown Ahmik,
Do you go camping with your colony?
signed Outdoors Under Tents

Absolutely I do, OUT! The Beaver Program Standards (found in the October *Leader Magazine*) mention having at least one night at camp per year (in the spring is a great time). I camp with parents in what we call family camping — where the child is accompanied by a parent. This can be a really fun experience for everyone! You might also want to check out *Bylaw Policies and Procedures*, Section 10000.

In the winter while I'm sleeping in my den, I think it's great that your beavers are outside exploring on those cool crisp days! Checking out animal tracks, looking for birds and playing fun games in the snow is the way to use a day!

Dear Big Brown Ahmik,
What are some of your favorite web sites for craft ideas?
signed Thumbs Glued Together

Well TGT, I was just looking for some neat ideas and I'm glad you asked. I'm

finding that much as I enjoy building dams, I like to try something different now and again. The Idea Box <http://www.theideabox.com/> has a lot of neat crafts, as does the Crayola site <http://www.crayola.com> and Kids Domain <http://canada.kidsdomain.com/craft/>. I also love to go through older issues of *Fun at the Pond*.

That's all the time I've got for now. Until next time, don't eat any rotten wood! Ahmik X
— Julian Celms, Director of Beavers, Cubs and Outdoors, lets Ahmik answer his mail occasionally.

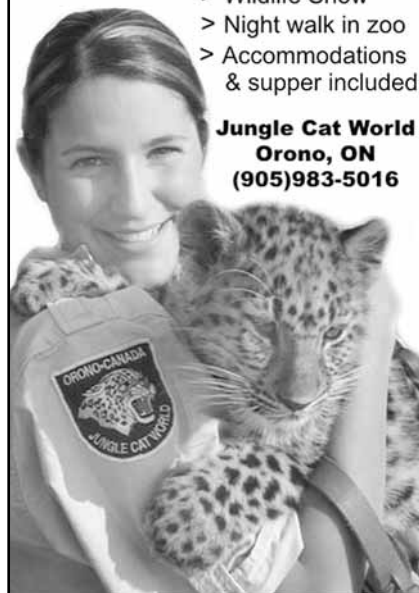
ASK AHMIK

Have a question for a future Q and A with Ahmik? Send them to jcelms@scouts.ca.

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