



OTTERS

Age 5-7 | Grades K-2

OTTER MOTTO

“Busy & Bright!”

OTTER LAW

“An Otter is always busy and bright and helps other people by doing a good turn every day.”

OTTER PROMISE

“I promise to do my best, to obey my Leaders and my parents and to be a good Otter.”

OTTER SIGN



OTTER SALUTE



BADEN-POWELL SERVICE ASSOCIATION

64th Brandywine BPSA

BPSA-US.org | 64thbrandywine.org

A LITTLE ABOUT OTTERS

Otters are semiaquatic mammals related to skunks, mink, weasels, martens, and badgers.

Otters are built for swimming. They have a small, flattened head, long whiskers, a thick neck, and a powerful, tapered tail. Webbed toes help them swim. Special muscles allow otters to close their small ears and nostrils to keep water out.

River otters live near rivers and lakes, and feed on fish and small animals such as crayfish. They can crush shells and slice fish with their strong, sharp teeth. They also eat snakes, clams, snails, frogs, and even earthworms.

Sea otters live along the Pacific coast of North America. They are slightly larger than river otters. They eat shellfish and other invertebrates (especially clams, abalone, and sea urchins) off the sea floor. Sea otters

frequently carry a rock in a pouch under their forearm and use this to smash open shells, making them one of the small number of animals that use tools.

Sea otters can hold their breath and stay under water for up to 5 minutes.

Unlike most marine mammals, the sea otter's primary form of insulation is an exceptionally thick coat of fur, the densest in the animal kingdom. Sea otters spend much of their time grooming their fur.

In the past, otters were hunted for their fur until they were near extinction. Otters are a protected species in the USA.

Sources:

Otter Leader Handbook, BPSA, 2013.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_American_river_otter

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_otter

A LITTLE ABOUT BADEN-POWELL

Robert Stephenson Smyth Powell was born in London, England, on February 22, 1857 to the Rev. Professor Baden and Henrietta Grace Powell. After his father's death in 1860, his family changed their surname to Baden-Powell in his memory.

As a boy, B-P loved the outdoors and with his four brothers he did lots of camping, hiking, and boating. He was good at sports, acting, music, and sketching, and was ambidextrous, meaning that he could use both hands equally well.

As a young man, B-P served as a soldier in Africa and India. He had many adventures as a soldier, but the most famous was his defense of the city of Mafeking in South Africa during the Boer War. During the siege, he was impressed by the courage shown by the Mafeking Cadet Corps, boys who stood guard, acted as messengers, first aiders, and did other helpful jobs. From this experience he

developed a lot of ideas for Scouting.

When he returned to England, B-P developed a program of activities which he called "Scouting for Boys." In August of 1907 he held a camp on Brownsea Island off the English coast, and this camp is today recognized as the very first Boy Scout camp in history.

Having tested his program, B-P wrote a book, also called *Scouting for Boys*. As a result, patrols and troops of boys calling themselves "Boy Scouts" sprang up all over England.

Scouting grew and grew until today, where it is active in nearly every country in the world, with over 25 million members.

B-P died in Kenya in 1941. February 22, B-P's birthday, is known to scouts as Founder's Day.

Source:

Timberwolf Handbook, BPSA, 3rd Edition, 2013.

