



# 1<sup>st</sup> BEDFORDVIEW SCOUT TROOP

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20 July 2007  
Ref: Troop 2007/9

Dear Parents and scouts

## Notices for the Upcoming Vacation

Dear Parents and Scouts

There has regrettably been an extremely poor response to the reply form attached to the last letter (Troop 2007/8) and as a result preparations for the big shoot are extremely difficult to make. I am left largely in the dark as to who will be attending and the details of who can assist with transport. A scout is courteous and it would be appreciated if these details can be furnished as quickly as possible. My thanks go to those who did bother to reply, some people could not return the form but instead smsed me or telephoned me, which is greatly appreciated. There will be normal scouts on the Friday prior to the event.

At the request of the Court of Honour, during the scheduled break in August there will be badge testing from 19h00 to 20h30 on Friday evenings, unless notice is given to the contrary. Uniforms are not required. These sessions are for those who have one or two items on badges that they would like to be signed off, but haven't had the time to do so during term. Scouts should ensure that they are adequately prepared for the sessions. A number of scouts have outstanding hiking logs which have not been handed in after being returned for alterations. Should these logs not be in by 17 August the hikes will regrettably have to be redone.

Patrol leaders are also reminded that at the end of September the annual star patrol and star troop evaluations will take place. At present, only Sable Patrol is obtaining the necessary requirements for a bronze star award, all the other patrols do not even make the requirements for this award. The break from normal troop activities should be an ideal opportunity to catch up on some of the requirements. Patrol leaders may contact me to find out exactly where their patrols are falling short.

On 1 August 2007 scouting turns 100. As part of the celebrations there will be a short service at Horwoods Farm in Edenvale at 07h00 on 1 August. 10 trees will be planted (1 for each troop in the District) and copies of the 10 scout laws will be attached to the trees at a later stage. The press will be present and the service will form part of a series of sunrise services celebrated around the world by 28 million scouts to commemorate the centenary. District has also obtained permission for all scouts to wear their uniforms to school and all scouts are requested to do so. District is also informing schools of the service and the fact that scouts will necessarily be late for school. It is requested that all scouts make a concerted effort to take part in these celebrations.

During March the troop was invited to participate in the Chairman's Challenge (an event for the top troops at kontiki) which will be held on the Vaal River near Parys from 17 to 19 August 2007. Competitors will build a light-weight raft out of inner tubes and race down the Vaal River, which should be a great deal of fun. If you are interested, please contact me by 28 July 2007, as we need to reply to the event organisers and have event badges printed. The cost at this stage is anticipated to be in the region of R90,00, which excludes food and transport. I would budget an additional R90,00 for food and transport. Apparently the reason for the basic

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cost is that camping as at a resort and not a scout camping ground, and the badge is included in the cost.

Gauteng Area has also organised a centenary camp to be held on the Vaal from 24 to 29 September 2007. The cost of the camp is R1 000 per person and includes food, accommodation and activities such as abseiling, paintballing, canoeing, archery and much, much more. Scouts who are interested in attending should contact me by 10 August 2007 so that the necessary entry form can be sent in. The cost of the camp does not include transport to the event, to be held near Parys.

Troop camp shirts are finally available. These black shirts have the Bedfordview logo on them and are ideal for camps and competitions, where uniformity is nice but full scout uniform is impractical. The shirts cost R80,00 and may be ordered from Zelia Cardoso, who may be contacted on 083 993 8546.

Attention is also drawn to the hike scheduled for early September. Details will be sent out in due course, but those who are interested should make sure that the week is kept open.

Finally, it has been drawn to my attention that communication within some patrols seems to be lacking. Letters such as this one are also generally sent out by email, if you are not receiving such emails please inform Penny Lucas at [ngolovan@global.co.za](mailto:ngolovan@global.co.za) of your email address and she will ensure that you are put on the mailing list. Letters sent out to the troop receive consecutive reference numbers, so it should be easy to spot if you are missing a letter from the sequence. If so, please ask your son why you do not have the letter, often it is lying at the bottom of a bag somewhere. This will also aid in communication.

Scouts are also reminded that they should contact their patrol leaders with information as to whether they will be attending and event (including normal troop meetings) or not. This is plain courtesy. Scouts should also ensure that they have their parents permission to attend camps before they reply. We have recently experienced a situation where a patrol leader informed me that various members of his patrol would be attending a camp, only to be informed by parents of the boys that they would not be attending. This was after food had been purchased, and goes to show that a lack of proper communication can have severe financial consequences.

All those who are travelling during the break are wished safe roads and a safe return

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in scouting.

Andrew Campbell