



1st BEDFORDVIEW SCOUT TROOP

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Ref: Troop 2008/1

Welcome to 2008

Dear Parents and boys

Roughly 80 years ago the newly formed village of Bedfordview saw the founding of an establishment which aimed at catering for the youth of the settlement. This establishment was the 1st Bedfordview Scout Troop, and it is hard to believe that the troop is 80 years young this year.

This year is full of the promise of adventure, including the Senior Scout Adventure to be held in the Cedarberg Mountains from 9 – 20 December. These 11 days will involve hiking in pristine wilderness from one action-packed base to another. From parasailing to abseiling, paintballing to diving, flying to skeet-shooting, Cedarberg promises to be an unforgettable experience. Regrettably the adventure is only open to the older scouts who have at least their adventurer badges, so get working now! Further details will be provided closer to the time or on request.

The year planner for 2008 cannot be published until the dates for the male PLTU courses have been finalised by Gauteng Province, however, we can provide the following calendar for the first couple of months:

JANUARY

26 – 27 **LINK CAMP:** To be held at the scout hall, this is the ideal opportunity for anyone who is interested in joining the troop to complete all their membership requirements in one swoop. If you have any friends interested in joining scouts, make sure that they are on this camp. Also remember that there is a recruiters badge out there for those who have friends that they introduce to the troop who then become members.

FEBRUARY

15 – 17 **ADVENTURE HIKE:** To be held in the Magaliesberg Conservancy near Buffelspoort, the scouts will hike up a kloof next to cool refreshing pools which are perfect for swimming, water-cricket or diving into from nearby rocks. Once up the Kloof, scouts will split into their patrols and use their mapping skills in a race to find nearby natural features before spending the night next to a roaring fire and the sounds of nature.

24 **BP SUNDAY AND GALA:** To be held at Bishop Bavin School, this event celebrates BP's birthday and also affords the troop to reclaim the swimming trophy from 1st Kengray BK, a trophy which rightfully belongs here!

MARCH

7 – 9 **KONTIKI:** To be held at Murray Park in Springs, this event of home-made rafts on a serene lake is a firm favourite with the scouts. Cubs and siblings are also welcome to take part in the beaver challenge on the Saturday. Attended by several thousand scouts each year, this is also an opportunity to network with some of estimated 28 million scouts out there. This year's theme is "Kontiki visits Brownsea Island".

At present, the troop will also be swimming on 8 and 22 February. Younger scouts will be afforded the opportunity to complete their swimmers badges, whilst the older scouts will learn about lifesaving and

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will be tested on their lifesavers badges. Details will be provided closer to the time once venues have been confirmed.

A reminder to all scouts that their annual consent forms need to be handed in by no later than the end of January 2008. A copy of the consent form is available on request for those of you who have (inevitably) lost their consent forms since the end of last year. A huge thanks to those who have managed to complete and hand in their forms already.

Finally, congratulations must be extended to those boys who took place in the first aid competition and the inaugural District Challenge competition. The troop won both trophies. As we won the District Challenge last year, it is up to us to issue a new challenge for this year, which can be any fun activity except paintball (last year's event). If you have any ideas, talk to your PL now so that the challenge can be issued as quickly as possible.

If you have any queries or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me or your patrol leaders.

Yours in scouting.

Andrew Campbell