



1st BEDFORDVIEW SCOUT TROOP

DISA ROAD, BEDFORDVIEW

PO BOX 16117
DOWERGLEN
1612

16 January 2009
Ref: Troop 2009/1

RE: First Term of 2009

Dear Scouts and parents

A warm welcome back after a well-deserved rest. May 2009 bring prosperity and good fortune for you and your loved ones.

As is evident from your year-planners the first part of the year is very busy. The first camp of the year is taking place this weekend and by now you should have received extensive correspondence about it.

Investiture

On 23 January 2009 there will be an investiture ceremony. For this reason scouts will start at 18h45 sharp. Please make a concerted effort with your uniform on this day. Scouts will finish as per normal. Parents and family of the scouts being invested are welcome to attend the ceremony, tea and coffee will be provided after the investiture.

Canoe Polo

The next event of the year is the District Canoe Polo Competition. This will take place at the quarry behind the Edenvale Hyperama on 25 January 2009. The site may be accessed by a road which runs past the Builder's Warehouse in Herman Road. The event starts at 09h00 and will continue into the afternoon. An exact finishing time will be provided once the organisers know how many teams will be entering.

There are three categories which one can enter: cubs, junior scouts (14 ½ and under) and senior scouts (14 ½ and over). Teams consist of 5 players. All participants must be able to swim. There is an entry fee of R5 per person. Boats, life-jackets etc are provided. There will be food and cooldrinks on sale. If you are interested in entering, please let your PL know ASAP so that we can advise the organisers. If you cannot make a team of 5, teams will be made up using scouts from other scout groups. Otherwise, this may be an ideal opportunity to let your friends visit scouts and see what it is all about. Consent forms will be provided once you have confirmed that you will be entering.

Programme away from the Hall

On 30 January 2009 the programme will take place on a secure plot Crystal Park, Benoni. We will meet in uniform at the scout hall at 18h30 to allow for travelling to the plot and scouts will finish at 22h00 at the hall. Please ensure that you have old clothing with you to change into as the programme promises to be a fun and adventure-filled one.

The plot itself is well-lit, is surrounded by an electric fence with armed response linked to the alarm system. As the venue is outside of the Northrand District, regrettably you will need to fill in a consent form for the event. The forms will be provided the week before the event. If you will not be attending scouts on this evening, please let us know so that we can ensure enough transportation is available on the evening.

be prepared....

Troop Scouter: Andrew Campbell 084 758 4189 (advcampbell@mwebbiz.co.za)
Assistant Troop Scouter: Mark Brown 082 788 0139 (mark.brown@ap.sony.com)
Troop Quartermaster: Nicholas Westhoff 082 876 3930

Patrol Hikes

From 6 – 8 February most of the patrols will be going on patrol hikes. As a result, there will not be normal scouts on this Friday. Please speak to your PL about the hike that your patrol will be going on and RSVP as quickly as possible. Most of the hikes require the booking fee to be paid in advance, so to ensure that your booking is secure it is important that numbers are finalised quickly. The hikes are suitable for those who want to complete logs for their Pathfinder or Adventurer advancement badges.

Swimming

On 13 and 20 February the troop be meeting away from the hall in order to test the swimmer's badges and to prepare for the annual district gala. Full details of the venue will be provided closer to the time, but will probably be either St Benedict's College or Mandeville Swimming Pool.

BP Sunday and Gala

The annual BP Sunday and Northrand District Gala will take place at St Benedict's College on Sunday 22 February 2009. Please pencil this date into your diary, we would like to defend the swimming trophy which the troop won last year and can only do so if we have as many scouts as possible to assist. As is tradition, those scouts who wish may wear their scout uniforms to school on Friday 20 February in celebration of BP's birthday.

Full details on the BP Sunday event have not yet been provided by St Benedict's Troop, and as such further information on the event will be provided closer to the event.

Kontiki

Kontiki will be taking place from 6 to 8 March at Murray Park, Springs. The troop will be entering a raft this year and as such a great deal of preparation will need to take place. Unfortunately there is a limit to the number of scouts who can stay on the raft, but those scouts not on the raft will be camping on the shore and taking part in shore-based activities.

The choice of who is worthy of going on the raft lies entirely with the Court of Honour, but normally preference is given to those scouts who have actively assisted with the preparation for Kontiki. I anticipate that in the weeks to come you will be called upon to assist with the preparation, and would especially encourage those scouts who want to be on the raft to make an effort to attend preparation sessions, which are normally held at the hall.

Annual Consent Forms and Year Planners

Annual Consent forms were handed out at the end of last year, together with year planners for 2009. The annual consent forms must be returned by no later than 31 January 2009 failing which you will not be allowed to partake in any scouting activities.

Additional annual consent forms and year planners are available on request.

Congratulations

Finally, congratulations must go to those scouts who successfully completed the Cederberg Senior Scout Adventure during December. The patrol hiked the most strenuous route on the Adventure and received awards for their achievement. If you want to find out more about Cederberg and how to get on the next adventure (in 2010), talk to your PL and I am sure he will tell you all about the amazing time that was had on the adventure.

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

Yours in scouting

Andrew Campbell