



1st BEDFORDVIEW SCOUT TROOP

DISA ROAD, BEDFORDVIEW

PO BOX 16117
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1 July 2010
Ref: Troop 2010/05

Re: Sporekrans Hike – 16 to 18 July 2010

Dear scouts and parents

As you will note from your Year Planners, a troop hike is scheduled from the 16th to the 18th of July 2010.

I have made a provisional booking for the Sporekrans Trail, located within the Bergdeel Nature Reserve in the Eastern Free State. The trail is run by Jacana Trails and is 16,5km long, making it ideal for those who want to complete either their Pathfinder or Adventurer hikes. More information on the hike and the facilities available on the trail can be obtained from <http://www.jacanacollection.co.za/details.aspx?ID=27>.

The hike is shorter than most troop hikes, owing to the large amount of younger scouts in the troop who tend to struggle with longer hikes. As such, this is an ideal opportunity to find out about the joys of hiking without having to worry too much about your fitness levels. Even the youngest members of the troop should be able to successfully complete and enjoy the hike.

The hike is open to all invested scouts and to young men of scout-going age who are interested in scouting. Cubs who are visiting the troop regrettably may not attend the hike due to SASA rules. We will be meeting at the scout hall on the afternoon of Friday 16 July and will return on the afternoon of Sunday 18 July. Full details will be provided closer to the hike.

The cost of the hike itself is roughly R190 per person, which only covers the use of the trail and facilities. Petrol costs will vary according to the number of scouts attending, but should be in the region of R80 per person. As such, the cost of the weekend is an estimated R270 per person, which excludes food, which each scout should bring with him. Over the years the troop has made extensive use of Jacana's trails and we have always found the facilities to be excellent and well worth the cost.

If any invested scout is interested in attending the hike but cannot afford the fee, please contact our chairman, Marlou Giannoccaro on 082 457 1820 to seek financial assistance from the Group Committee. Such requests will be treated confidentially and the committee will do their utmost to try and help you. Young men who want to



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attend the hike but who are not invested can regrettably not approach the committee for assistance.

Scouts who are planning to attend the World Jamboree next year in Sweden are reminded that you need to have completed your First Class Advancement Badge within the next couple of months. To keep on track with this goal I would recommend that you all aim to have your Adventurer by the end of September this year. This hike is an ideal opportunity to get going with your advancement and World Jamboree hopefuls are particularly encouraged to attend.

Those scouts who want to log the hike for their Adventurer hike are reminded that you need to complete a Pathfinder hike first. As the Adventurer hike has to be overnight whereas your Pathfinder hike can be a day hike, you are encouraged to do a patrol day hike of at least 10km prior to this hike so that you can make full use of your opportunities.

As the trail needs to be booked with a private company who will require payment up-front, you are asked to RSVP to me by no later than Sunday 11 July 2010 as to whether or not you will be able to attend. If you want to attend, a deposit of R200,00 should be paid by no later than 11 July 2010. Unless there is a medical or family emergency, this deposit will be non-refundable and will be lost should you cancel your attendance after 11 July 2010.

Full details of the hike, including consent forms and final costings will be provided to those scouts confirm that they wish to attend.

Depending on the response to this hike, scouts may or may not be cancelled on 16 July 2010. You will be advised of this once we know how many scouts will be attending the hike.

Finally, some scouts have borrowed compasses from the troop and not returned them. As these are to be utilised on the hike you are requested to return these to the troop as quickly as possible.

Troop Fundraiser:

St Andrew's School has asked whether the troop would be prepared to assist with parking at their Spring Expo in return for a donation. This will take place on 18 September 2010 from 07h00 until 16h00. This is a great way to put the troop in the eye of the public and every cent counts.

A troop hike is currently scheduled for this weekend, which we can move if necessary. Can scouts please advise whether they can assist with this event by no later than Sunday 18 July 2010 so that I can advise the school as to whether we can help out or not. Please reply via email to advcampbell@mwebbiz.co.za.

Yours in scouting

Andrew Campbell