

1st BEDFORDVIEW SCOUT TROOP

DISA ROAD, BEDFORDVIEW

PO BOX 16117
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20 July 2010
Ref: Troop 2010/06

Re: Announcements for the Second Half of 2010

Dear scouts and parents

News from the Holidays:

Last week the troop had a hike in the breathtaking scenery of the eastern Free State, close to the Maluti Mountains. Seven scouts braved the icy cold to scale the cliffs and mountains of the Sporekrans Hiking Trail near Fouriesburg.

After a steep climb the scouts were treated to beautiful views of the surrounding countryside. Herds of Hartebeest and Blesbok bounded away as the hikers



approached, and deep rock pools on the route would have been very welcome had the hike been in summer.

At the end of the first day a roaring campfire and ghost stories awaited the tired hikers, who then climbed thankfully into warm sleeping bags.

A Short break after a long climb on the Sporekrans Trail

The next morning the scouts learnt a bit about spoor and tracking at a nearby dam, noting that mountain reedbuck, ostrich, porcupines, zebra and other wildlife had visited the dam in addition to domestic goats, horses, dogs and sheep. After a short



be prepared....

Troop Scouter:

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Assistant Troop Scouters:

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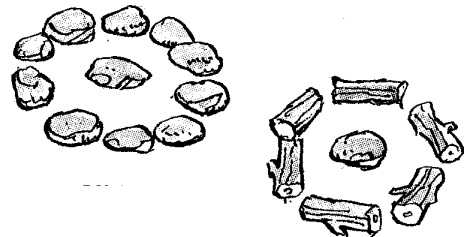
hike on the Sunday the scouts left for home, memories of the hike stored in their heads, cameras and hike logs.

Those scouts who logged the Sporekrans hike for advancement purposes are reminded that your logs need to be in by no later than Friday 6 August 2010. Those who made plaster casts are reminded to bring them in on Friday for assessment.

On the subject of advancement, a number of scouts made full use of the advancement sessions run over the holidays. Every scout who attended a session had at least one item signed off on his advancement, and Raul Giannoccaro managed to complete his Pathfinder advancement badge. Well done!

Gone Home:

Our sincere condolences go out to Mark Brown on the loss of his mother on Wednesday. The thoughts of the troop are with Mark and his family in this time of sorrow.



Communication during August:

Please note that during the month of August I will be in Scotland playing in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and will accordingly be completely out of contact. Mark Brown will be running the troop in my absence and any queries should be directed to him. His contact details can be found at the foot of the first page of this letter.

Northrand District Boot Hike:

Next Friday (30 July) the troop will be competing in the annual Northrand Boot Hike. This year the event will be run in the Tswaing Crater north of Pretoria by the Eastleigh Sea Scouts. Crater is on a fenced off reserve and the boot hike was successfully run there several years ago.



The cost of the event is not yet certain but should be in the region of R50 per person. The event will be run on the Friday evening and scouts can be collected on the Saturday morning. **Sporekrans scouts with “Ashton” & “Smallfry”**

We need to ascertain exactly who wants to attend this event in order to arrange transport etc. Further details will be provided as they become available, but I require numbers by no later than 19h00 on Sunday, 25 July 2010.

Younger scouts who are nervous about camping should really consider attending this event. It is only one night away from home and as such it is a good introduction to camping and hiking. Because the event finishes on the Friday you should be able to leave in time to attend any sport commitments that you may have.

Competition Camp:

The Compo Camp scheduled for 13 – 15 August has been postponed due to the non-availability of the Jan Smuts troop scouter, who is running the event. At present the proposed new date is 1 – 3 October, so please pencil this date in. Confirmation of the new date will be provided later in the year. The troop will be running a handyman activity on this weekend instead, details are set out below.

Handyman Weekend:

The patrol dens are in a sorry state and far from being a “home away from home” are in fact an embarrassment.

The committee has allocated some money towards the purchase of paint, doors, window panes and other items to remedy this problem, and the rover crew has volunteered to assist the troop with making the dens a source of pride again.



To this end, on 13 and 14 August 2010 the troop will be running a special programme aimed at fixing up the patrol dens. The troop will be sleeping at the hall and will utilise the Friday evening and Saturday morning to fix up the patrol dens. Scouts who attend this activity will also have items signed off towards their Handyman Badge. Full requirements of the badge can be found at <http://www.scouting.org.za/library/scoutbadgebook/ScoutBadgeBook-InterestBadgesF-L.pdf>. Whilst it is unlikely that you will be able to complete the entire badge you will certainly be able to make good progress towards it. The Handyman Badge counts as an Explorer Interest Badge.

There will be no cost for the weekend but you will need to provide your own food. Fathers who would like to lend a hand should contact Mark Brown and let him know. Please remember though that this is about scouts fixing the dens assisted by rovers and fathers, not scouts sitting and watching while fathers and rovers do all the work.

This activity is very important and I would ask every scout to attend. It is not fair that some of you will benefit from the labour of others whilst contributing nothing yourself.

Soccer Competition:

The 3rd Kensington Sea Scout Troop will be running a 6-a-side soccer day on 15 August 2010 at the Edenvale Sports Centre. The entry fee is R140,00 per team and a number of scouts have expressed an interest in taking part. If you would like to play, please contact Ashton Du Toit as he will be coordinating the Bedfordview team.

Troop Camp:

There is a troop camp scheduled for the weekend of 27 to 29 August. Further details will be provided closer to the time, but you are all encouraged to note this date in your diaries. We are hoping to run the camp in the Groenkloof Nature Reserve just south of Pretoria, but this will be confirmed closer to the time.

If any scout is keen on having a particular item of advancement tested at this camp please advise Mark ASAP so that it can be worked into the programme.

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 Friday 30 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.

Jamboree News:

The troop will be collecting jumble to raise money for the upcoming World Jamboree. Please bring any old items that you may have with you to scouts.



Important dates for the rest of 2010:

23 July	Scouts who made plaster casts at Sporekrans to hand in casts.
30 July	Northrand District Boot Hike
6 August	Sporekrans Hiking Logs are due in
13 – 14 August	Handyman Badge at scout hall
15 August	Soccer competition
27 – 29 August	Troop Camp
17 – 19 September	Troop Hike
18 September	Troop Fundraiser
1 – 3 October	Northrand District Competition Camp
8 – 10 October	Northrand District Pioneering and Cooking Compo
5 November	Group AGM
6 November	Northrand District Go-cart Competition
3 December	Scouts closes
11 – 23 December	Cederberg

Yours in scouting

Andrew Campbell