



1st BEDFORDVIEW SCOUT TROOP

DISA ROAD, BEDFORDVIEW

PO BOX 16117
DOWERGLEN
1612

23 September 2010
Ref: Troop 2010/08

Re: Upcoming Competitions and Events

Dear scouts and parents

Competitions

The final district events of the year are almost upon us and we have one last opportunity to restore some pride to the trophy cabinet! Please take note of the following events and then fill in the reply slip at the bottom of this letter by next week Friday to enable us to plan fully for them.

Cooking Competition:

On Friday 8 October 2010 the Northrand District Cooking Competition will be taking place at our hall in the place of the normal scout meeting. It is our hope that all four patrols will be able to enter this event and have a great deal of fun in the process.

The organisers estimate a cost of R50,00 per person. Please note that a full dinner will be provided on this evening, so don't have supper beforehand. We need to pay up-front and as such need to know who will be attending this evening. Full details will be provided once they become available.



Calvin enjoys the view on the recent Buffalo Gorge hike

Pioneering Competition:

From 08h30 Saturday 9 October to 14h00 on Sunday 10 October the Pioneering Competition will take place at our hall. Due to equipment constraints we will not be able to enter multiple patrols as for the cooking competition. We will probably be

be prepared....

Troop Scouter:
Assistant Troop Scouters:

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entering one composite patrol of ten scouts. It would be appreciated if you could advise whether or not you will be available on that weekend to take part in the pioneering competition so that a team can be selected. We will then provide full details of the competition to the scouts that will be representing the troop.

There will be a campfire at 20h30 on the Saturday evening which all scouts and parents are welcome to attend irrespective of whether or not you are part of the competition team. Please bring your own chairs if you do decide to pop around.

Boot Hike:

On the evening of Saturday 30 October the Northrand District Boot Hike will be taking place at Tswaing Crater north of Pretoria. Patrols are meeting at the crater at 19h00 so you will need to be available from about 16h30. The event finishes at 06h00 on the Sunday morning and you will probably be back in Bedfordview by about 09h00. Entry fee will be an estimated R50,00 per person, which will cover the fee to use the nature reserve. This does not include food or transport to the event.

The patrol leaders would like to put together a good showing for this event too, so please again indicate whether you will be available to be selected to represent the troop at this competition.

A boot hike, for those new to scouting, comprises of a series of bases designed to test scouting skills. Patrols navigate and hike between the bases, attempting to score as many points as possible at each base. It is a great deal of fun and is a great way to get to meet other scouts in the district. The Tswaing crater is an ideal site for this sort of event, in addition to being on a fenced-off nature reserve, the meteor crater makes this an interesting site which the scouts are sure to remember!

Other News:

Congratulations:

Robin Serafino was recently awarded his Pathfinder badge after a great deal of hard work. Well done Robin! A number of other scouts are also well on the road to completing their Pathfinder or Adventurer badges. Hopefully your name will be featuring in the next newsletter. Ask your PL or a scouter for help if you are having problems with the advancement requirements.

Link Camp:

Most of you will have noticed a large number of visitors around the troop recently. Seven of those visitors will be completing their link badge / membership requirements this weekend and will be invested shortly.

If you have friends aged 10 ½ to 18 who are interested in adventure, camping, hiking and getting to know nature, why not bring them along to a meeting? The recruiter's badge can be awarded if you recruit a scout from outside the scouting movement. This is one badge that every scout should aspire to have on his uniform. The troop is

affiliated with a guide and ranger guide company, which cater for young women with a similar interest in the out-doors.

Buffalo Gorge Hike:

Last week the Robert Jones organised his First Class hike to Buffalo Gorge near Mpumalanga. Although very dusty and dry, a swimming pool and a perennial river



helped ensure that a great time was had by all.

A number of scouts logged this hike for various advancement badges. Please ensure that your log is submitted to me by no later than Sunday 10 October 2010, else you will regrettably have to do their log on another hike

Taking a breather on the Buffalo Gorge Hike

General Announcements

AGM 2010:

The Group AGM will be taking place on Friday 5 November 2010 at the hall. The annual Group photograph will be taken at this time and various awards, including “Scout of the Year” will be made.

From a parental perspective this short meeting is vital. Fees are set for the new year and you will have an opportunity to chat to the scouters about your son’s advancement. The meeting normally takes about 40 minutes and is then normally followed by an optional fun activity.

Full details will be provided closer to the time, but in the interim please pencil this very important date into your diary. Every family should try to have at least one parent at this event.

Kontiki 2011:

Although still several months away the Patrol Leaders have already begun planning for Kontiki 2011. Kontiki is a competition run by Gauteng Province which sees several thousand scouts building rafts and camping in Murray Park, Springs. The 2011 event will be taking place from 4 to 6 March 2011, the same weekend as the SA Schools Rowing Championships.

It is far too early to expect a firm commitment from scouts at this time, but it would be appreciated if those scouts who are interested in attending Kontiki could make a note of this on the reply form.

Year Planner 2011:

During the course of October the Court of Honour will be planning the 2011 troop planner. If there are any camps or events which you would particularly like to see run in 2011, please advise your PL and they will attempt to ensure that it is run. This is your opportunity to make sure that you are getting the type of scouting that you want and deserve.



Robert Jones organised the hike for his First Class badge

Jumble:

Could all those scouts who have not yet returned their jumble bags please do so as a matter of urgency. This is an important fundraiser for the boys attending the Jamboree in Sweden next year and every little item counts. Bags should be returned to Robert Jones.

Upcoming Events at a Glance

September	24 – 25	Link / Membership Camp
October	8	NRD Cooking Competition
	9 – 10	NRD Pioneering Competition
	10	Buffalo Gorge hiking logs due in
	30	NRD Boot Hike
November	5	Group AGM
	6	NRD Go-Carts (no details available as yet)
December	3	Last meeting of the year

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

Yours in scouting

Andrew Campbell

REPLY SLIP

Please attempt to return this form by no later than 1 October 2010

Name of scout: _____

Email: _____ Tel: _____

Please delete the option which does not apply to you:

I **will / will not** be taking part in the cooking competition (8 October 2010)

I **am / am not** available to be selected for the pioneering team (9 & 10 October 2010)

I **am / am not** available to be selected for the boot hike team(s) (30 October 2010)

I **am definitely available for / am interested in / am not interested in / am definitely not available for** Kontiki 2011 (4 – 6 March 2011)

I think the troop should be running the following events next year:
