



1st BEDFORDVIEW SCOUT TROOP

DISA ROAD, BEDFORDVIEW

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15 February 2011
Ref: Troop 2011/01

Re: Upcoming Announcements

Dear scouts and parents

Congratulations:

Two of our scouts have been busy since my last letter last year and are filling up their sleeves. Well done to Robert Jones on earning his Map Reading Scoutcraft Badge and his Adventurer Badge and to Douglas Grosset on earning his musician badge. Keep up the good work!

Report-Back: White Stripe Camp 2011:

Many of you do not realise just how much work it is running a patrol. Your PL does not have an easy job, especially if he is relatively new to the position.

Early in January 2011 we ran a White Stripe Camp for all acting Patrol Leaders and one other member of each patrol at Gilbanken. In addition to learning a valuable lesson about bringing tent pegs to put up a tent, the attendees learnt about how to train a patrol, manage patrol members, planning hikes and expeditions and choosing a second. Hopefully these lessons will be put to good use in your patrol and you will notice a marked improvement in the way your patrol is run.

In spite of the rain the camp was a huge success, with at least one scout earning his Map Reading Scoutcraft Badge as a result of the camp. Hopefully the other attendees will soon have this badge on their shoulder too!

Report-Back: Troop Compo Camp 2011

Last weekend the troop compo camp took place at Arrowe Park in Benoni. Patrols needed at least four patrol members in attendance at the camp, making it a challenge just to enter. Only Kudu and Wildebeest managed to enter, but I trust that next year Sable and Springbok will rise to the challenge next year and show the other patrols a thing or two about camping.

The scouts on the camp worked very hard and produced their own tables, kitchen areas, flagpoles and other camp amenities. A number of small competitions during the weekend also tested them on a range of scouting skills.

There was also time for fun, rafting on the dam at the campsite, singing around a blazing campfire and terrorising the neighbours (3rd Impala Sea Scouts were camping at the same venue).



Douglas take the plunge on the Compo Camp

be prepared....

Troop Scouter:
Assistant Troop Scouters:

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The competition was very tight but at the end of the day Kudu beat Wildebeest with 2053 points to 2016. Well done to Kudu! The Court of Honour has agreed that 15% of the points earned at the troop compo camp be added to the points total for the best patrol of the year trophy, which will be awarded at the AGM in November.

BP Day Celebrations:

Every year the life of our founder, Lord Baden-Powell, is celebrated across the world in the week around his birthday anniversary (22 February). This year celebrations will commence on Friday 18 February. The Northrand District has obtained permission for all invested cubs and scouts to wear their uniforms to school on this day, and you are encouraged to take this opportunity to show off your uniform to your friends at school. The Court of Honour has decided that all scouts who wear their uniforms to school on this day will earn five points for their patrol.

On Sunday 20 February the celebrations will continue with the annual BP Parade, which will be taking place in Senderwood near SAHETI. We will be meeting in St John's Street, Senderwood, Bedfordview at 09h00 and will march along Civin Drive to the 1st Hellenic Scout Hall in SAHETI School. If it is raining we will meet at the 1st Hellenic Hall in SAHETI School.



A map is attached to this letter, together with a consent form for BP Sunday. Hellenic are organising some fun activities after the service and there should be food and drink on sale, so bring a change of clothes along and some money. The celebrations are scheduled to finish at 12h00. Full details of the activities will be provided at scouts on Friday.

Racing across the dam at Arrowe Park

Kontiki 2011:

Kontiki is just around the corner and this year the theme is Ancient Rome.

For the newcomers to the troop, Kontiki is an annual competition run by Gauteng Province at Murray Park, Springs. It always takes place in the first complete weekend in March (this year 4 – 6 March). Participants take up the challenge to build a raft and live on the water for 24 hours, interacting with troops and guide companies from around the province and having a great deal of fun in the process.

With over 3000 participants Kontiki is without doubt the largest scouting event in Gauteng.

The Troop needs to know who will be attending Kontiki this year to see whether we just want to build a raft, or whether we need to set up a supporter's campsite too. We also would like to purchase entry badges as we will get a considerable discount if they are pre-ordered. Each person visiting Kontiki will need a badge to get in, so if any parents are planning on visiting the event you will need a badge too. Cubs who are visiting Kontiki may fill out the attached form or they may order a badge through Akela.

Badges cost R50 at the gate or R35 pre-ordered, and stock is limited. Scouts should please fill in the attached reply slip and return it by no later than 22 February 2011 to avoid the disappointment of not getting a badge. Cash for the badges should be paid to Robert Jones by 25 February 2011.

Several scouts have prior commitments on the Kontiki weekend but have indicated that they may still want to come to Kontiki after having attended to their prior commitments. Although these scouts will not be allowed on the raft, they will be allowed to camp and should mark the reply slip accordingly if they want to attend.

Robert Jones will be in charge of Kontiki this year and will be sending out more information closer to the time, including information on preparation for Kontiki.

District Scout Gala:

The District Scout Gala has been postponed and will be taking place on the evening of Friday 18 March. Full details will be provided closer to the time.

As preparation for the gala we will (weather permitting) have two evenings dedicated to swimming. (Friday 25 February and Friday 11 March). Scouts will be afforded the opportunity to be tested on their Swimming Scoutcraft Badge or their Swimmers Interest Badge at these sessions. Please ensure that you have your swimming costumes and towels on these evenings. Emails detailing the venues and meeting times will be sent out closer to the time.

District Challenge:

The challenge for this year will be paintball. The provisional date and venue for the event is Saturday 19 March 2011 at Paintball City in Marlands, Germiston. Estimated cost at this stage is R100,00 per person, which will include protective equipment, hire of a gun and paintballs for the event. Full details will be provided in due course.



Kudu Patrol prepares to cook up a storm at Compo Camp

Patrol Hikes:

Each patrol leader should be contacting his patrol within the next week or so to discuss the upcoming patrol hikes. This is a good opportunity to catch up on some advancement. If you have an idea as to where you would like to hike as a patrol, have a chat to your PL. Patrols should be looking at an overnight hike of at least 20km. The hikes are scheduled for the weekend of 25 – 27 March.

District Competition Camp

Please diarise 1 – 3 April 2011 as the date of the annual District Competition Camp. The provisional venue for the competition is Gilbanken Camping Ground between Bapsfontein and Bronkhorstspuit. Last time the completion was held we lost the trophy by one point, and would like to bring the trophy back to its rightful place in our trophy cabinet.

Opportunity to do Interest Badges:

The Johannesburg Zoo has offered to do and test the Conservation Scoutcraft Badge and the World Conservation Badges with any scouts who are interested. You will work at the zoo on one or more of the conservation projects managed at the facility. If you are interested please let me know and I get you in contact with the relevant people.

A scout in Canada is also looking for a South African pen-pal. If you are interested in communicating with him or in doing your World Friendship Badge please let me know and I will put you in contact with him.

Upcoming Events at a glance:

February

- 18 Cubs and scouts may wear uniforms to school
- 20 BP Sunday
- 25 Swimming Programme

March

- 4 – 6 Kontiki (Murray Park, Springs)
- 11 Swimming Programme
- 18 District Scout Gala
- 19 District Challenge (Paintball City, Marlands)
- 25 – 27 Patrol Hikes

April

- 1 -3 District Competition Camp (Gilbanken, Bronkhorstspuit)
- 22 No scout meeting
- 29 No scout meeting

Yours in scouting

Andrew Campbell

KONTIKI 2011 REPLY SLIP

Surname of Family: _____

Cubs may not camp or be on the raft, but may visit on Saturday and take part in the beaver challenge. Scouts who are available for the raft need to be at Kontiki all weekend long:

Details of cubs and scouts attending (not parents)

Name	Need Badge? Y/N	Available for Raft Y/N	Available for campsite Y/N	Will visit but not camp	Will not attend at all

Number of badges required for non-cubs and scouts (eg parents): _____

Total badges required for family (cubs + scouts + non-cubs & scouts) _____