



# 1<sup>st</sup> BEDFORDVIEW SCOUT TROOP

DISA ROAD, BEDFORDVIEW

[www.1stbedfordview.org.za](http://www.1stbedfordview.org.za)

GPS Co-Ordinates: 26° 10' 12" S 28° 08' 29" E

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6 November 2012

Ref: Troop 2012/09

## Re: Year Planner Opinion Poll

Dear scouts and parents

The time has once again for the scouter team to finalise the year planner for next year. This past year has seen a problem with attendance at troop events, and if possible I would like to address this issue before going to the effort of planning events which are not going to be supported by members of the troop.

I would firstly like to check if troop meetings are convenient for members. Scouts are reminded that you are expected to attend 75% of all troop meetings during the year. I do not think this is excessive (one can imagine the fuss if you only attended 75% of school days), but it pays to check that troop meetings suit everyone.

I would also like to check what events appeal to scouts. It is quite disheartening to plan a camp or other scout event only to see it cancelled due to lack of interest. Scouts properly happens at camp, and scouts should be attending several camps each year of they are to get the most out of their scouting experience. In order to run a successful camp one would ideally want at least two patrols worth of scouts attending.

To this end I have prepared a written poll which will hopefully provide the scouter team with meaningful information which will allow for a scout programme which appeals to everyone and which will allow for maximum attendance at scout events. It would be appreciated if everyone could endeavour to fill this out and to return it to me by Monday 13 November 2012.

I have included some notes on the poll to assist you in filling it in. My thanks for taking a few minutes to help us build a better troop.

Yours in scouting

Andrew Campbell



Troop Scouter:

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## OPINION POLL EXPLAINED:

Question 1: Simply tell us what type of school you will be attending in 2013.

Question 2: We have had a major problem with camps this year. School sports seem to take up more and more weekends, long weekends (when there is no sport) seem to be family time, and during holidays there are school tours and family vacations. When should we be setting our camps to ensure you are most likely to be able to attend?

Question 3: The scouter team needs a break and so do you, but when should the troop close? You can choose more than one option (eg over December holidays and long weekends). The problem at present is that, normally with the exception of a week or two and the December holidays, there is no overlap between government and 3 term private school holidays. The abysmal attendance in August and September this year simply cannot be repeated. I am not sure if this is an issue with sports or whether the large amount of holidays was the cause of this period of poor attendance, but please let us know when you would like to see the troop closed.

Question 4: Are you interested in camps of several days duration over school holidays?

Question 5: Please choose only your top four events, no more. If there is an event not on the list you would like to see run, please write it in a blank box. An explanation of the events is at the end of this document.

Question 6: Similarly, please mark only four events and write in any event you want run that does not appear in a blank box.

Question 7: When should the troop meet?

### Events Explained:

**Backwoodsman:** A survival camp where you learn about living off the land

**Badge Test Camp:** A camp where we look at passing most of an interest badge

**Boating Camp:** Spend some time on the water sailing, rowing or canoeing

**Boot Hike:** Hike around completing a series of fun bases.

**BP Sunday:** Parade through the middle of town in celebration of BP's birthday

**Canoe Polo:** Play polo in a canoe – try not to get too wet!

**Compo Camp:** A weekend of competition where you create a dream campsite

**Cooking Compo:** The scout version of Masterchef

**Cycle Rally:** Take on the other teams to see who is the master of the bike

**Cycle Camp:** Explore the great outdoors from the back of your bike

**Dads and Lads:** A camp / hike where your dad, uncle or grandpa can tag along

**District Challenge:** Each year it differs, from paintball to lazer quest to soccer

**Emergencies Compo:** A first aid compo with elements of firefighting

**First Aid Compo:** Show the other teams how good your first aid skills are

**Gala:** From underwater races to the tube race, this is a gala with a difference

**JOTA / JOTI:** Link up with scouts worldwide on the internet and with ham radio

**Kim Shield:** A boot hike run at province level

**Kontiki:** An provincial event where we build a raft and spend 24 hours on a dam

**Pathfinder Camp:** This will get you well on the way to completing your Pathfinder

**Pioneering Compo:** Compete to build bridges, towers etc with poles and ropes

**Tarzan Camp:** Build a platform and spend 24 hours in a tree

**Troop Hike:** Explore our beautiful countryside on shanks pony

**Troop Holiday:** Go out on holiday with the troop, fun, sun and good friends

**White Stripe Camp:** A training camp for PLs and Seconds