



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

DISA ROAD, BEDFORDVIEW

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

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Ref: Troop 2014/01

## Re: Announcements for the New Year

Dear scouts and parents

A very warm welcome back from the summer holidays. I trust that you all had a restful festive season and trust that you will have a productive 2014. A very warm welcome to Matthew Wyche who was invested at the beginning of the year. I wish you all the best on the scouting trail ahead and trust that your stay with the troop will be a long and happy one! Congratulations must also be extended to Dean Theron on having successfully completed the Gilten PLTU course in December.



**A meal on the Vaal Camp**



**Saying goodbye to Nelson Mandela**

### News:

The troop has been very busy since the last newsletter at the end of 2014.

At the end of last year we held a three day camp on the banks of the mighty Vaal River. All three patrols were well represented on the camp. In addition to learning a great deal the troop took off time to fish, to swim, to boat in the river, to cook up a delicious three course meals and to explore the surrounding countryside.

On the Saturday the troop was joined by members of the Eastleigh Sea Scout Troop and set of inflated tyres, which they then used to cruise down the river back to base camp.

be prepared....

**Troop Scouter:**  
**Assistant Troop Scouter:**  
**Troop Helper:**

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After an action-packed three days the members of the troop said goodbye to the Vaal, but will keep memories of the camp with them always.

The patron of scouting, Mr Nelson Mandela, passed away at the beginning of the camp, and as a sign of respect several members of the troop travelled out to Pretoria to pay their respects a week after his passing.

An early morning trip on the Gautrain ensured the scouts a good place in the queue, where they were joined with other scouts from as far afield as Madagascar. A hot bus ride lasting several hours saw the scouts safely at the Union Buildings, where each scout paused for a few seconds to say farewell before moving on.



**The Troop flag atop Kilimanjaro**

Later that evening the troop was joined by over 200 scouts from around Gauteng at a scout's own organised outside Mr Mandela's house in Houghton. Messages were written on stones, which were then placed in a massive "Gone Home" symbol, a scouting tribute to a South African icon.

Just before Christmas the troop flag made a trip up Mt Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa and the tallest free-standing mountain in the world. A number of badges also made their way up the mountain which will be used as prizes for deserving scouts during the course of this year. The challenge is now out there for you to find other awesome places to take the troop flag. Who knows, maybe one day the flag will fly atop Mt Everest?



**The Mandela Scout's Own**

The New Year got off to a bang with the District White Stripe Dinner hosted this year by Eastleigh. Attendees learnt how to make a pizza from scratch and swopped war stories with other PLs and Seconds whilst watching the cheese melt into their home-made creations.

Last Friday the troop attended at the SAEC Centre where fire-fighters and paramedics took members of the troop through the basics of fire-fighting. The scouts learnt how to move around in an emergency situation in the centre's smoke room and then learnt how to properly attack a fire using both fire extinguishers and water hoses on a real fire. The troop extends its heartfelt thanks to the SAEC staff for a truly memorable evening.

### **Scouts on Friday:**

Please note that there will be no scouts on Friday 14 February 2014. If you are interested in doing something scout related, why not contact your patrol leader to see if you can not organise a patrol activity?

### **District Boot Hike:**

The annual district boot hike will be taking place at Delta Park on the evening of Saturday 15 February 2014. Both Kudu and Springbok patrols will be taking place in this event and by now members of these two patrols should have been contacted by their Patrol Leaders with more information on the hike. If you are in one of these patrols but have not been contacted please find out from your patrol leader what arrangements have been put in place for this event.



**Fire fighting at the SAEC Centre**

### **Link Camp:**

There will be a link camp from 22 – 23 March 2014 at the Scout Hall. This covers the requirements for the Link Badge (cubs) and the requirements for troop membership (new recruits who are not cubs). If you have a friend who is interested in joining the troop it is highly recommended that they attend this camp. If anyone is interested in the camp please contact me for more information.

### **BP Sunday:**



**Resting after a morning of tubing the Vaal**

The annual BP Sunday parade will be held on Sunday 23 March 2014. The Link Camp will have finished in time for attendees to get to the parade.

We will be meeting at the corner of Van Riebeeck and Hendrik Potgieter Roads in Edenvale at 08h45 on Sunday 23 March 2014. We will be marching from there to the Eastleigh Sea Scout Hall at in JP Bezuidenhout Park in 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, next to the Edenvale Municipal Pool.



Scouts are to please wear full scout uniform for the parade. The parade will be followed by a short service and then by some fun activities. Please bring a swimming costume, towel and clothes to change into. The festivities should be over by 14h00.

Permission has been obtained for scouts to wear full scout uniform to school on Friday 21 February 2014 in celebration of his birthday. This is also good advertising for scouting in general.

### **Kim Shield:**

The Kim Shield Competition has been moved to the weekend of 15 – 16 March 2014, please adjust your diaries accordingly. Details of the event have been given to your patrol leaders. If you are interested in the event please contact your PL to discuss entering a team.



### **Upcoming Events at a Glance:**

#### February

14	No regular scout meeting – enjoy Valentine’s Day
15 – 16	District Boot Hike – Delta Park
22 – 23	Link Camp
23	BP Sunday

#### March

14	District Gala
15 – 16	Kim’s Shield
21	Scouts closed for Human Rights Day

#### April

11 – 13	Troop Camp
18	Scouts closed for Easter



**Scouts wrote messages to Mandela, which they then formed in a “Gone Home” sign at the Mandela Scout’s Own.**

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

Yours in scouting

Andrew Campbell