

1st BEDFORDVIEW SCOUT TROOP

DISA ROAD, BEDFORDVIEW

www.1stbedfordview.org.za

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

PO BOX 16117

DOWERGLEN

1612

11 May 2014

Ref: Troop 2014/04

Dear scouts and parents

Kontiki and Other News

Guess who's back?

At the end of September 2012 a decision was taken to shut down one of the patrols in the troop due to low numbers. At one stage the troop had shrunk to 13 invested members, leaving just over 3 members in each patrol.

Less than two years later numbers have rocketed to the extent that we presently have 25 invested scouts, with several visitors who are not yet invested. On 9 May 2014 the Wildebeest patrol was reopened, with the last Wildebeest patrol leader, Ashton Du Toit, handing out patrol patches to the members of the new patrol.

Troops always go through periods of growth and periods of decline, but it is a testament to the hard work and dedication of all members of the troop that the numbers of scouts have expanded to the extent that they have of late.

Members of the troop are reminded that if they bring a friend to scouts from outside the scout movement, they and that friend qualify for a coke on the first night that the friend visits scouts. If that friend becomes invested, the scout who recruited him qualifies for a silver recruiters badge. If you manage to get five friends invested into the troop, you qualify for a gold recruiters badge, a feat nobody has yet achieved in the troop.



Kyle and Phakamani learn about CPR

In years gone past the troop comprised of eight patrols: Duiker, Eland, Kudu, Impala, Oribi, Sable, Springbok and Wildebeest. Due to the hectic pace of modern lifestyle it is unlikely that we will ever see all eight open again, but at the rate that the troop is expanding the reopening of another patrol in the not-too-distant future is certainly not a pipe-dream.

be prepared....

Troop Scouter:
Assistant Troop Scouter:
Troop Helper:

Andrew Campbell 084 758 4189 (advcampbell@mwebbiz.co.za)
Stephen Westhoff 084 744 9100 (StephenW@cubicool.co.za)
David Nunn 082 453 8607 (dave.nunn@bidfood.co.za)

Congratulations:

A massive congratulations go out to Keanan Nunn, Matthew Leishman and Luke Campkin-Smith who have earned their Pathfinder advancement badges since the last general troop newsletter. Congratulations must also be extended to Stuart Omand who has earned his silver recruiters badge. A very warm welcome must also be extended to Kyle Murray, Liam Zackey, Darren Lowery, Luke Campkin-Smith and Ethan Smith who have been invested since the last newsletter. We wish you many long and happy years scouting with the 1st Bedfordview family.

Kontiki 2014:

The long-awaited Kontiki event will be taking place next weekend (16 – 18 May 2014) at Arrowe Park Campsite in Benoni. We presently have over 20 scouts confirmed as attending this event and it looks like we are in for a weekend of fantastic fun.



At this juncture I would like to extend a massive thanks to the scouts, parents and rovers who have really come to the party when it come to preparation for Kontiki. It has been absolutely fantastic seeing so many people put in so much to this event and I am hopeful that this will be one of the best Kontikis ever.

A raft race at the recent troop camp at Arrowe Park

We will be meeting at the scout hall at 14h30 on Friday 16 May 2014 where we will load up that equipment which has not yet been transported to Arrowe Park. I am aware that this is difficult for many of you depending on which school you attend, but please try and get to the hall as close to 14h30 as possible so we can start building as quickly as possible. If you are only coming out to Kontiki later (under your own steam) please let me know so that I know not to wait for you at the hall. You should pack your bags on Thursday evening so you can get to the hall timeously.

If any parents are available to assist with transporting to and from Kontiki please let me know.

As always, we will be travelling in FULL SCOUT UNIFORM. Please remember a hanger to put this on during the camp as you will need your uniform for the closing ceremony and to travel home in.

We should be back at the hall by 15h00, at which time we will be unloading a fairly large amount of equipment. Scouts should be ready to go home some time between 16h00 and 16h30.

A reminder to those who have not yet paid for Kontiki to please do so ASAP. The cost of Kontiki is R200,00 per scout attending, plus an additional R40,00 for extra badges. The R200 covers a badge for your son, entry to Kontiki, and all food for the weekend. You can make payment into the group account, the details of which are set out below:

1st Bedfordview Scout Group
Standard Bank
Eastgate branch # 018505
Account number: 022646221
Ref: Kontiki + your son's surname

A rough kit list has been included at the end of this letter. Pathfinder candidates should pack their kit themselves, this is part of your advancement. Please also do not forget to bring a consent form with you to the camp, the organisers are particularly strict about consent forms and will not allow you to stay in camp without a consent form.



Parents are welcome (and encouraged) to visit Kontiki during the day to see what is happening. Please remember though that your sons are probably going to be quite busy and that this is a scout competition, not a parent competition! So if your son is in the process of making a mistake, let him do this, he will probably earn more points for the team than if you do it for him.

We would encourage as many parents to come out on Sunday to help dismantle the raft at the end of Kontiki. I recommend bringing a staunch screwdriver with to help loosen wet ropes.

To get in you will need a Kontiki badge. Extra badges have been handed out to the scouts who pre-ordered them, please check with your son if you ordered extra badges. If you would still like to attend but have not ordered an extra badge please note that badges are still available at the scout shop at a cost of R40,00 per badge, else at the gate at R50,00 per badge.

The Kontiki gates are only open at certain times. For full details of gate hours, the official programme and how to get to Arrowe Park, please visit <http://kontiki.scouting.org.za>. When you arrive look for lucky team number 13.

Finally, please note that due to Kontiki there will be no regular scout programme on Friday. Those who cannot attend the camp but who would like to attend scouts on Friday are more than welcome (and indeed are encouraged) to visit Kontiki on Friday

and to help with the raft. You will require a badge to get in to Kontiki and it would be appreciated if you could also bring along a duly completed consent form.

702 Walk the Talk:

A reminder that I need to submit entries for the 702 Walk the Talk by 12 May 2014. If you are still entering through the troop but have not submitted your entry information to me please do so as a matter of urgency, and certainly not later than noon on 12 May 2014.



This is a great opportunity to raise money for the troop and to do some publicity for the troop and scouting in general. It is also a great deal of fun and is also open to friends and family. Full details of how to enter as part of the 1st Bedfordview team were sent out in my email of 17 April 2014. If you are interested in this event but have lost the email please contact me and I will forward it to you.

If you have already entered the 702 Walk the Talk you can still walk with the troop in uniform, we will just miss out on the fundraising opportunity. I know some scouts have already entered but will be there in full uniform.

The walk is taking place on Sunday 27 July 2014.

Survival Bash 2014:

A reminder about the Survival Bash with the 2nd Boksburg Troop which will be taking place from 6 July 2014 to 13 July 2014. Full details were sent out on 15 April 2014 but if you have lost these please contact me and I will forward the information to you again. At present only about 7 scouts have rsvp'd for this camp, can you all please rsvp (if you have not done so already) so that I can confirm details with the Boksburg scouters. It would be appreciated if this could be done by Friday 16 May 2014 (this coming Friday). This is a great opportunity for advancement work, but will necessitate some of you asking for time off of school. I believe that the camp falls in the middle of government school holidays but those attending private schools will have a problem with the timing of the camp.



Simon helps prepare for Kontiki

Pack Scouter Needed:

Stephen Westhoff, our Pack Scouter who also helps to run the troop, has indicated that he would like to step down from his position as Pack Scouter in order to spend more time with his family and with the troop.

We are hence looking for a new Pack Scouter. If you or someone you know enjoy working with kids and would be interested in the position, please give Stephen a call (his details appear at the foot of this letter).

The pack caters for boys between the ages of 7 and 11 and presently meets on Fridays



from approximately 17h00 until 18h30. The meeting times of the pack are negotiable if the successful applicant finds the present meeting times inconvenient. The pack has two assistant pack scouters, one of whom is warranted, and three pack helpers so the successful applicant would not be taking on the responsibility of the pack alone and has a strong team in place with which to build the pack.

What parents don't want to know about scouts – Liam at the recent troop camp. Tomato sauce explosion or tragic accident? You decide.

A strong pack is vital for the ongoing wellbeing of the troop, and a good pack scouter is indispensable for leading the pack from strength to strength. No experience is required (though it is of course beneficial) and the Group Committee will provide the necessary funds for a suitable applicant to attend the necessary training courses provided by Scouts SA. These courses will enable the successful applicant to take over the pack from Stephen and to give him or her the necessary knowledge to take the pack to the next level.

World Scout Jamboree

Six scouts from the troop have presently applied to attend the World Scout Jamboree to be held in Japan next year. There are several other scouts in the troop who meet the requirements from an age perspective (you need to be born between 27 July 1997 and 28 July 2001) who may be interested in attending. Your entry forms have to be submitted by no later than 31 May 2014. There will be no extensions beyond this date.

If you missed the Jamboree presentation held at our scout hall a few weeks ago and have got even a mild interest in attending, there will be a second presentation on Monday 19 May 2014 at 19h00 at the 1st Rosebank Scout Hall, Selby Road, Rosebank. You will only get one opportunity to attend a World Scout Jamboree as a

scout, so this is literally a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. There is no obligation to attend the Jamboree if you attend the presentation.

The cost of the Jamboree (estimated at R30 000,00) is probably the single biggest factor that parents look at when deciding whether or not to send their sons on Jamboree, and I know of at least one scout in the troop who would like to attend the Jamboree but who probably will not be able to make it due to financial constraints.

To help address the issue of Jamboree finances I have asked Zelia Cardoso to make herself available at 18h30 on Friday 23 May 2014 at the scout hall to meet with the parents of potential Jamboree attendees.

Zelia is a single parent who managed to single-handedly raise thousands of rand to allow her son, Ricardo, to attend the Centenary Jamboree in the UK. Zelia will be able to advise how much money can realistically be raised towards the Jamboree and will also be able to give a couple of tips on how to approach sponsors and raise funds.



I would encourage all parents of prospective Jamboree participants to use this opportunity to meet with Zelia, firstly to allow you to work out whether you can afford to attend the Jamboree, and secondly to meet with the parents of other potential attendees with a view to setting up fund-raising opportunities to get your sons on the



Jamboree at a minimal cost to yourselves.

Attending the meeting in no way obliges you to attend the Jamboree, but will either allow you to determine whether the Jamboree is an option at all from a financial perspective or allow you to start moving with raising funds for this fantastic opportunity.

Michael Omand finds out that rafts are heavy ...

Winter Warmer Drive

A reminder that the District is collecting warm clothing for the underprivileged this winter. My thanks to those who have already donated items to this worthy cause. If you have not yet done so and have some unused clothing around the house, please donate it, it will be put to good use.

Upcoming Events at a Glance

May

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|---------|---|
| 12 | Closing Date for Walk the Talk entries |
| 16 – 18 | Kontiki |
| 19 | World Jamboree Information Session – 1 st Rosebank Hall |
| 23 | World Scout Jamboree Fundraising Session – 1 st Bedfordview Hall |
| 31 | Closing Date for Jamboree Applications |

June:

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| 6 – 8 | Troop Hike |
| 20 | Cub Night Hike |
| 29 – 30 | Winter Camp Commences |

July:

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| 1 – 4 | Winter Camp Continues |
| 6 – 13 | Survival Bash – Klipwal Gold Mine, Pongola |
| 26 | District First Aid Compo |
| 27 | 702 Walk the Talk |

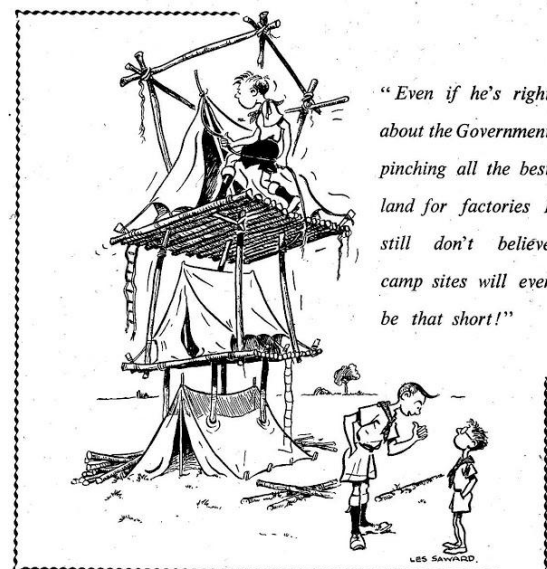
August:

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|---------|------------------------------|
| 1 – 3 | District Survival Compo Camp |
| 2 | LDC |
| 15 – 17 | Dads 'n Lads Camp |
| 30 | District Orienteering Compo |

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

Yours in scouting

Andrew Campbell



KONTIKI KIT LIST

- A sturdy screwdriver
- Old shoes (to allow you to enter the dam safely to pull in / push out the raft)
- Sleeping bag with a pillow and a compact ground mattress
- A rain coat
- A hat (troop caps if you have)
- A towel
- Full scout uniform together with a hanger to hang it on
- A bathroom kit (comb, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, shampoo, sponge, shaving kit (if you shave), face cloth etc)
- Insect repellent
- Sun cream (high protection factor, should be water resistant)
- Any personal medication
- Shoes suitable for wearing on your feet whilst on a raft or walking (can be your old shoes set out above)
- Strops or similar shoes for wearing in camp
- A 1 litre water bottle
- A torch with spare batteries
- A mess kit (plate, bowl, mug, knife, fork spoon etc)
- socks
- underpants
- 3 x shirts (troop golf shirts if you have)
- 1 x shorts
- 1 x long pants (jeans are normally good)
- 1 x warm clothing for the evening (very important)
- A duly completed consent form (must be an official Kontiki consent form)
- One or two plastic shopping bags to store laundry etc in
- A note pad and pen
- Your green card
- A sense of fun and adventure!