

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

29 May 2014

Ref: Troop 2014/05

Dear scouts and parents

Skeurkrans Hike 6 – 8 June 2014

The troop hike scheduled for next weekend will be taking place at the Skeurkrans Hiking Trail near Nylstroom. I have attached information received from the trail managers about the hike as well as a map of the area.

The troop has hiked the trail before and found the facilities at the site to be very satisfactory. In addition, the trail owners have kindly afforded the troop a 20% discount on the cost of the trail, which makes it considerably cheaper than other options which were investigated.

The focus of this hike will be in building patrol spirit. We are aiming at having the four patrols hiking separately on the trail, planning their own routes (as can be seen from the map there is a network of trails available to choose from) and running their own itineraries. Effectively we hope to have four patrol hikes taking place at the same venue, with scouters being present to lend a hand if necessary and to oversee the patrol hikes.

During Friday's programme the patrols will have an opportunity to plan their routes, work out kit lists and figure out what other planning will be required to ensure a successful and productive hike.

Ideally patrols should be planning and running camps and hikes without the direct supervision of scouters and I think that this hike, coupled with the planning on Friday, is going to go a long way to providing the patrols with the skills and training to accomplish this.



The rugged terrain at Skeurkrans

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)

The cost of the hike will be R250,00 per person. This will cover accommodation (in huts), trail fees and toll fees. **THIS DOES NOT COVER FOOD** for the weekend. Patrols will decide on Friday if they are catering as a patrol (in which case the grub master will collect monies owed for food) or if each individual will be responsible for his own catering. Payment for the hike should be made into the following account by Monday 2 June 2014:

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

It has been brought to my attention that Hurleyvale Primary School is writing examinations around this time. Regrettably at this time of the year someone will always be writing exams and the calendar is too full to move the hike. Whether you allow your son to attend the hike is up to you, but I suggest that Hurleyvale Primary scouts chat to their parents ASAP and perhaps put in a full weekend's work this weekend to help convince your parents that you are ready for exams. The benefits of the hike should be obvious but there will be other hikes in the future.



Attendees at the 2012 Skeurkrans Hike. Recognise anyone?

As mentioned, kit lists will be planned on Friday and should be sent out by the patrols over the weekend. A consent form has been attached and must be completed in order to allow your son to attend the hike.

I would like to pause to remind parents that cellphones are forbidden on scout camps and events (including troop meetings). Not only do these devices provide an unwelcome distraction but in an emergency scouts should be contacting the scouters, who are in a position to immediately deal with the problem, rather than their parents who are miles away and can do nothing. A scout calling his parents instead of fetching a scouter is effectively wasting time. Though I have never had a serious emergency at scouts in some cases the two minutes it takes to call home can mean the difference between life and death. In an emergency the scouters will of course contact the parents of the scout involved at the earliest possible opportunity. On this particular troop hike an exception will be made to this rule for Patrol Leaders, who will be in effective control of the patrol during the hike and who can bring their cellphones along, on the understanding that they are to be used for emergencies only.

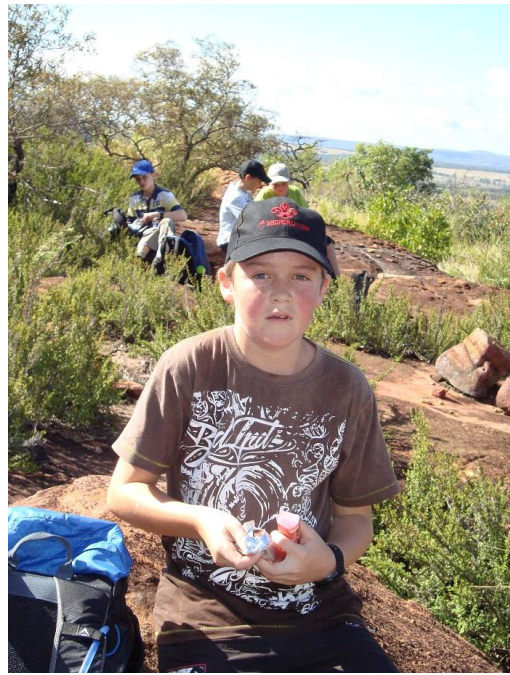
I have promised final payment to the trail managers early next week and as such would ask that you confirm your attendance on the hike by no later than Monday at 12h00 and make payment of the R250,00 on the same day. Although there is plenty of hatted accommodation at the venue (I have provisionally booked for 20 scouts), due

to the size of the troop transport to the venue may be a problem. Accordingly space on the hike will be allocated on a “first come first served” basis. Visitors to the troop (aside from invested cubs) are welcome to attend the hike.

The troop has a policy to assist scouts who are facing financial difficulties. Deserving candidates are welcome to contact the committee for financial assistance to attend this hike (such requests will be treated confidentially).

The hike itself is suitable for candidates busy with either their Pathfinder or Adventurer Badges. At 1st Bedfordview both hikes need to be logged and a formal written log needs to be submitted. Younger scouts will be taught how to do a log at scouts on Friday. The hike is an excellent opportunity for Jamboree candidates to get some much-needed work under their belts before the Jamboree. In addition there should be time in the evenings to cover other work (Adventurer candidates might consider bringing along some plaster of paris to make casts of spoor as there is wildlife on the farm).

Finally, timings for the hike will be confirmed once final numbers for the hike have been confirmed, as this will depend on the amount of transport required. At present we are looking at departing at 16h00 on Friday afternoon and returning at the same time on Sunday. As always, invested scouts should travel in full uniform.



Someone has grown since the last hike

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

Yours in scouting

Andrew Campbell