

1st BEDFORDVIEW SCOUT TROOP

DISA ROAD, BEDFORDVIEW

www.1stbedfordview.org.za

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

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19 July 2014

Ref: Troop 2014/06

Dear scouts and parents

General News and Announcements

General News:

Winter is upon us and I am sure most of us have been snuggling up to warm cups of coffee and thick duvets to keep the cold at bay. Whilst in many countries the onset of winter means an end to camps and hikes, in South Africa we are lucky in that although it is not hot our comparatively mild winter weather means we can still take advantage of many outdoor activities. Indeed, some parts of our country which are unhealthy during the summer months in fact become more accessible during the winter. The troop has certainly not let winter slow us down and has been very busy over the past couple of months.

The annual Kontiki event took place during May. We had the best turn-out in years, with about 20 scouts taking part in the festivities. This year's theme was "Kontiki goes Green" and a great deal of work went into eco-friendly meals and impressing the judges. Although everyone did their bit and many junior scouts did wonders in running items such as the Beaver Challenge and the Supporter's Meal I would like to extend a particular thanks to Michael Omand for leading this year's Kontiki effort. This was one of the best organised Kontikis that I have seen and next year's Kontiki PL is going to have a hard act to follow.



Chef Gordon at Kontiki 2014

At the beginning of June the troop took to the Stamvrug Hiking Trail between Warmbaths and Nylstroom in Limpopo Province. Though the hiking was not particularly challenging, there were some spectacular views of the Waterberg Mountains and the patrols learnt a great deal about navigation and how to get back to

be prepared....

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civilisation when the trail peters out. The trail would through the Bataleur Nature Reserve and all the patrols had good sightings of game whilst hiking. Several scouts completed the trail for either their Pathfinder or Adventurer hikes and I hope to see some advancement badges being awarded in the not-too-distant future.

Three members of the troop took part in the annual Provincial Winter Camp in Gilwell, Florida. Though Florida Lake is not the most tropical place on the planet the scouts had a great deal of fun and also managed to do some community service into the bargain.

I joined three other members of the troop on the 2nd Boksborg Survival Bash in the mountainous terrain around the Pongola River. Sixteen scouts and four scouters from 1st Boksborg, 2nd Boksborg, 1st Kempton Park, 1st Kengray BK, 1st Norkem Park and of course 1st Bedfordview took up the challenge.

Survival Camps are not what I would describe as “fun”. They are character-building though and certainly separate the men from the boys. The scouts survived in shelters they had built and lived on iron rations for a week. Washing took place in the rapids of the icy Pongola River, a few hundred metres from the home of five resident crocodiles. A spade was the participants’ best friend for the purposes of performing ablutions and each day ended with a hike of a couple of kilometres to camp.

The country around Pongola is tough. Steep hills with plenty of cliffs are infested with thick bush and the exotic (and thorny) lantana. Valleys are deep so the sun only rises at about 08h15 and there is no cellphone signal. In addition to smaller game and an abundance of cattle, elephant from the neighbouring Ithala Nature Reserve occasionally cross the Pongola. To top things off a cold snap hit South Africa early on in the adventure. Ithala recorded temperatures of -5° on the Tuesday morning and the organiser, who has been attending survival bashes since 1987, noted that this was by far the coldest he had ever known Pongola.



Attendees of the Stamvrug Hike

At the end of the camp though all the scouts survived and showed that they had what it took to take on nature and win. A massive congratulations must be extended to Luke Campkin-Smith, Keanan Nunn and Christopher Woods for coming out on top. In addition, large portions of the Scoutcraft Hiking, Fires and Cooking, Mapping, Survival, Conservation and Observation Badges, as well the Mapping, Backwoodsman, Marksman, Water Biologist and Veldcraft Interest Badges were

completed and it is my hope that all three will be sporting new badges on their arms in the not-too-distant future. A massive thanks must also be extended to Brian Statt and the 2nd Boksburg Group for putting together a man-sized activity such as this one.

Finally, congratulations must be extended to Darren Lowery and Stuart Omand who both earned their scoutcraft swimmers badges. It is great to see scouts achieving in the troop.

World Cup Draw:

As most of you are aware the troop held a recent fundraiser linked to the Soccer World Cup. Congratulations to David Huddy who won the first prize of R500,00 and to Simone Lobetti who won the runners-up prize of R300,00.

The fundraiser has brought in a profit of R1 800,00 which will help us get our Jamboree contingent to Japan next year. Two people have as yet not paid for their tickets for the draw. If you have not yet done so please contact Susan Omand so we can bank the profits. A massive thanks to Sue for arranging this successful fundraiser.

Bingo Evening 2014:

Following the huge success of last year's bingo evening, we will again be running this event this coming Friday (25 July 2014). Tickets cost R85,00 and will get you a light



supper and ten games of bingo. If you have not yet booked your place or if you have a prize you would like to donate please contact Susan Omand at iansue@netactive.co.za. There will be no regular scout programme on this evening and scouts are encouraged to attend and enjoy a few games of bingo.

Keanan helps prepare a pizza at the Survival Bash

Full uniform is not required but troop golf shirts would be nice. Friends and family are more than welcome to attend. Proceeds will be split between the hall maintenance fund and the Jamboree fund.

District First Aid Competition:

The District First Aid Competition will be taking place on Saturday 26 July 2014 at the 1st Hellenic Scout Hall in SAHETI School, Civin Drive, Senderwood, Bedfordview from 14h00 to 18h00. The cost of the event is R30 per person and will include a light meal. Payment can be made at the door but you need to enter beforehand.

Patrols of five can enter this event. Each patrol will also require a patient, who need not be a scout.

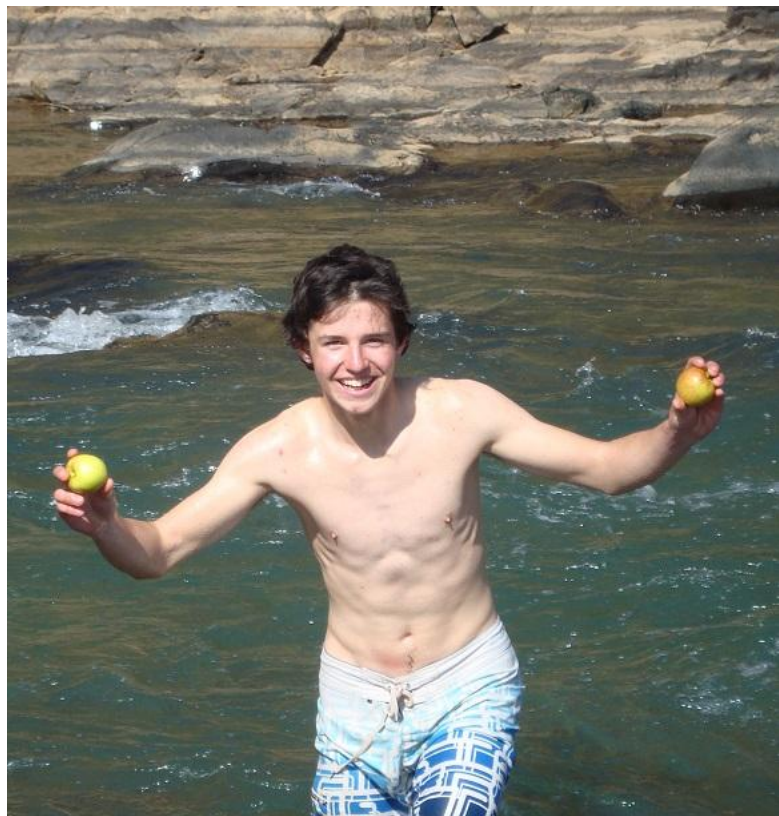
At present Chris Woods, Michael Westhoff, Liam Zackey and Keanan Nunn have confirmed that they can make the competition. A number of other scouts have indicated an interest in the competition but have indicated that they need to confirm their availability with their parents first.

Could all scouts who are attending the competition please confirm their attendance by Monday at 18h00 so that I can finalise numbers with the organisers for catering purposes and so that patrol leaders can be determined. At present we need one more scout and a patient in order to be able to attend this competition, but it is quite possible for us to get sufficient scouts to enter more than one patrol.

702 Walk-the-Talk:

A reminder to those who entered that the 702 Walk-the-Talk will be taking place this Sunday. Members of the troop who have entered are asked to wear full scout uniform to help advertise the troop.

I will collect the 702 entry pack from the scout shop during the course of this week and the contents, including race numbers etc will be distributed on Friday evening. If you will not be at the Bingo Evening this Friday please let me know so we can arrange for you to get your goodies. We can also arrange a meeting place so that those who want to can do the walk together.



Luke braces the icy Pongola River at Survival Bash

I will bring my cellphone with me on Sunday so you can call me if you cannot find the rest of the troop.

District Survival Compo:

In place of the regular competition camp this year troops will be doing battle to see who has the best survival skills in the district.

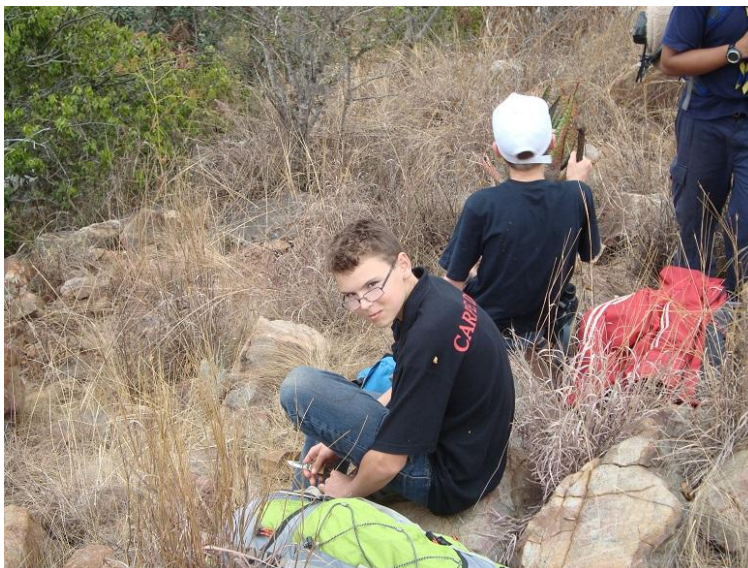
The District Survival Compo will be taking place at Gilbanken Camping Ground between Bapsfontein and Bronkhorstspuit on the weekend of 1 – 3 August. Patrols of between 4 and 8 scouts may enter and the cost is R300 per person. Patrols need to be in camp by Saturday morning but may arrive on the Friday evening if they want, in which case they should provide food for the Friday. The cost includes camping fees, a badge and most of your food for the weekend.

Payment for the camp needs to be made in full by 25 July 2014, and at present I have had affirmative replies from the following scouts:

Chris Woods, Liam Zackey, Darren Lowery, Simon Kleer, Matthew Leishman, Keanan Nunn and Michael Westhoff.

Again a number of scouts have indicated an interest in the camp but have requested time to check with their parents if they are available for the camp.

In order to finalise the numbers and PLs for this competition I would again ask that those scouts who are attending confirm their attendance by no later than 18h00 on Tuesday so that I can liaise with the organisers.



Chris takes a breather on Survival Bash

After the recent Survival Bash and a series of survival-based programmes at the troop I am confident that we will be able to do well at this competition. It will be tough though and we are going to have to work hard in order to lift the camping trophy this year.

Dads ‘n Lads 2014

The annual Dads and Lads event will be taking place on the weekend of 15 – 17 August 2014. This is a chance for you to spend some quality time with your dad and for him to see a little bit of what scouts is about. If your dad is not available you are welcome to bring a proxy in the form of a grandfather, uncle or similar figure in your life, or to attend the camp by yourself.

Last year we travelled down to Van Reenen where we built a monster aerial runway. This year we will be hiking in the beautiful wilds of South Africa. The hike will be long enough to be logged for an adventurer hike. The exact venue will be determined once we know how many people will be attending the hike. This will also impact on the price of the hike, which is expected to be in the region of R300 per person **EXCLUDING FOOD**. We hope to use one of the Jacana Hiking Trails, which are expensive, but which provide excellent facilities. Accommodation is expected to be in huts with rough beds being provided.



Luke in his Survival Outfit

It would be appreciated if everyone could RSVP for this hike by no later than Sunday 27 July 2014 so that I can finalise the cost and venue for the hike.

Payment for Activities:

Please note that payment for activities cannot always be made into the Group Bank Account. In certain instances the Group has no involvement whatsoever in a camp or activity and funds need to go to third parties rather than to the group. For example, both the First Aid and Survival Compos are being run by other scout groups.

Parents are asked to please check the details for payment carefully before making payment into the group account. In terms of scout rules we require two signatures in order to authorise a cheque from the group, which means that “reversing” a payment made incorrectly into the group account can be very difficult.

Upcoming Activities:

July:

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| 25 | BINGO Evening |
| 26 | District First Aid Compo |
| 27 | 702 Walk the Talk |

August:

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| 1 – 3 | District Survival Compo Camp |
| 15 – 17 | Dads ‘n Lads Camp |
| 30 | District Orienteering Compo |

September:

- | | |
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| 12 | District Cooking Compo |
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13 – 14 White Stripe Camp
19 – 21 Challenge Camp

October:

3 – 5 District Jamborally and Canoe Polo
3 – 5 PLTC
18 – 19 JOTA / JOTI

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

Yours in scouting

Andrew Campbell