

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 October 2014

Ref: Troop 2014/07

Dear scouts and parents

General News and Announcements

General News:

A great deal has happened since the last troop newsletter.

A very warm welcome must first be extended to Cameron James and Jarod Nunn who have been invested since the last newsletter. We hope that you both spend many happy years with the troop.

Congratulations must be extended to Stuart Omand for completing his Climbing Scoutcraft Badge and to Matthew Leishman for successfully completing a Leadership Development Course run by Gauteng Province.

The Bingo Evening was again a huge success, with just over R9 000,00 being raised from the activity. As always I must extend the heartfelt thanks of the group to Sue Omand and her team for organising the event, as well as to the Bedfordview Rover Crew for assisting with the catering for the evening. Thanks must of course also be extended to everyone who supported the event and helped to make it such a success.



Members of the 1st Bedfordview Scout Group and the 1st Bedfordview Guide Company prepare to help clean up the Bill Stewart Nature Reserve.

be prepared....

Troop Scouter:
Assistant Troop Scouter:
Troop Helper:

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The troop took place in three District Competitions since the last newsletter. Sable patrol achieved a 5th place in the First Aid Competition (out of 16 teams entered) and also managed a 5th place at the Survival Competition. Well done! All four patrols entered the Cooking Competition, competing against 20 teams from the rest of the



district. Wildebeest achieved a 5th place, Springbok a 9th, Sable a 12th and Kudu a 15th. Well done to all of you!

A number of scouts also braved the July cold and took place in the annual 702 Walk the Talk. In addition to getting fit, the scouts raised money for the troop and raised awareness of scouting in the community by completing the walk in full scout uniform.

Crossing a bridge on the recent Dads and Lads

The Dads and Lads event took place at the Bermunzi Hiking Trail in Mpumalanga, with over 20 people in attendance. A light drizzle did little to dampen spirits as the dads and lads explored a pristine indigenous forest in a deep kloof on the farm. The second-highest waterfall in Mpumalanga at the head of the kloof was a breathtaking sight, and sitting around a blazing campfire made for the perfect end of the day.

Finally the troop recently helped clean up part of the Bill Stewart Nature Reserve in Bedfordview. Broken bottles, concrete and general litter not only look unsightly, they also pose a risk to wildlife and I am sure that the good turn will be appreciated by the residents of Bedfordview (both human and animal!).

Annual General Meeting

The Group AGM will be taking place on Friday 7 November 2014 at 18h45 at the Scout Hall. At this function awards for the best patrol, most improved scout, scout of the year and best attending scout will be made. Please all make a special effort with your uniform in case you are presented one of these awards and please try and be on time (the start is 15 minutes earlier than normal).

The AGM itself is fairly short (40 minutes maximum normally) and it will be followed by a bring and braai and a go-cart race with the go carts that the patrols built last week. If you want to make improvements to your cart I suggest that you do so quickly!

The committee will be providing salads and fires, so please rsvp to Lee Barford by 5 November 2014 with numbers for the AGM. Lee can be emailed at Lee.Bartlett@spar.co.za. The committee will also be selling braai packs at R40,00 a

pack as a fundraiser if you do not want to bring your own meat. You have a choice of a chicken pack (a breast, a sosatie and a chicken sausage) and the meat pack (a 150g rump, a lamb chop and some boerewors). Packs must be pre-ordered by 5 November 2014 from Lee.

Please note that although this is a social function it is a scout activity and parents are asked to respect Scouts South Africa's "no alcohol policy". An agenda will be distributed in due course.

Memorial Parade

Every year the Mayor of Johannesburg hosts a parade on the Sunday closest to Remembrance Day to honour those who have lost their lives for South Africa. For years this event has been stoically supported by members of Southern District and this year this troop and other troops from the Northrand District will be joining our fellow scouts in honouring those who have given their lives for us. **The top of the gorge – the Bermunzi Hiking Trail**



We will be meeting in full scout uniform at the corner of Harrison and Kerk Streets in Johannesburg on Sunday 9 November 2014. The parade starts at 14h25 but parking (in the library parking under City Hall in President Street) is limited so I would recommend getting there by 13h30 at the latest. In addition the police will cordon off the area of the parade so if you arrive too late you will have difficulty accessing the area with a vehicle.

You should wear FULL scout uniform to this event. Limited numbers of poppies are apparently available at the venue but if possible bring your own poppy along. The parade will be followed by a short service and I would imagine that the ceremony will be concluded by 15h30. There is no cost to this event but it is not covered by your annual consent form, so you will need to fill out a consent form for this event, which has been sent out with this newsletter.

Carols by Campfire

On 5 December 2014 we will be hosting the rest of the Northrand District for an evening of carols around a blazing campfire. The campfire will be lit at 19h00 and I would recommend arriving by 18h30 to ensure a good spot around the fire. The committee will be selling food and cooldrinks as a fundraiser for the scouts attending the World Scout Jamboree next year.

This event is open to friends and family and we are expecting a turnout of about 200 people. For this reason we cannot guarantee seating for everyone and you should bring along your own chair if you want to avoid sitting on the ground.

A small charge will be levied which will include a badge and a candle. The Campfire should be over by 20h30. Further details will be provided closer to the time.

End of Year Camp

In light of the fact that nobody from the troop will be attending the National Senior Scout Adventure, a number of parents have approached me to see if it would not be possible to run a troop camp in early December.

Bruce Nel has kindly afforded the troop the use of Rosedale Farm in the Drakensberg



close to Van Reenen's Pass from 12 until 16 December 2014. We anticipate packing for the camp on the evening of Friday 12 December and leaving for the Drakensberg early on the 13th, arriving back in Johannesburg on the evening of Tuesday 16 December (which is a public holiday).

A well deserved rest after completing the “Walk the Talk”

The venue offers a range of activities, including cycling, boating (there are two dams on the farm), hiking (the farm is a mere 5,4km from Van Reenen Town in the Drakensberg), visits to the battlefields (Spioenkop is an hour or so from the farm and Isandlwana, Rorkes Drift, Blood River, Colenso, Talana and Majuba are all close by), a visit to the world's smallest church (in Van Reenen), visits to bushmen paintings (on the farm), and abseiling (an old railway bridge offers a 60m abseil, this activity is weather dependent).

In the past I have run the cyclist badge at this venue. This is a tough badge, part of which includes riding 100km on dirt roads in 5 hours or less. In the past I have split the troop between those who want to do this badge and those who just want to cycle for pleasure.

At the request of several of the parents whose sons are attending the World Jamboree in Japan next year, the camp will also be aimed at giving attendees the maximum possibility to pass advancement.

A final cost for the camp can only be determined once numbers and activities have been finalised, but I would anticipate the camp costing in the region of R500,00 per person, inclusive of food, activities and accommodation. Scouts with financial difficulties can approach the committee for financial assistance. Such requests will be kept strictly confidential.

Space on the camp is limited due to transport and limited ablution facilities and as such places on the camp will be allocated on a “first come, first served” basis. The troop is open to non-invested scouts who are visiting the troop. It would be appreciated if scouts interested in attending could confirm this interest by Friday 7 November 2014. Prospective attendees should submit the reply slip at the end of this newsletter so that I can get an idea of what activities most appeal to scouts. Final details will be provided to prospective attendees at a later date.

Patrol Points:

The troop runs an inter-patrol competition from 1 October to 30 September each year. These points determine who wins the patrol of the year competition. From now on a running total of points earned thus far will be set out in each newsletter to help patrols see where they stand in the race to lift the trophy. As of today, points stand as follows for the 2014 / 2015 year:



Look at what we collected mom!

Kudu	83
Sable	86
Springbok	116
Wildebeest	84

Points are earned as part of the programme for items like attendance, excusing yourself if you cannot attend, doing well in activities, inspections or just doing the right thing. Springbok’s large lead is thanks largely to the 20 bonus points they earned for running a patrol meeting. It would be nice to see more patrols running activities like this. Bonus points can be earned for earning an interest badge (20 pts), earning an advancement badge (50 pts), bringing a friend to scouts for the first time (10 pts), earning a gold recruiters badge (200 pts), attending a Court of Honour (10 pts), running a patrol overnight activity (100 pts), running a patrol day hike (50 pts) and running a patrol meeting (20 pts).

Upcoming Activities:

November:

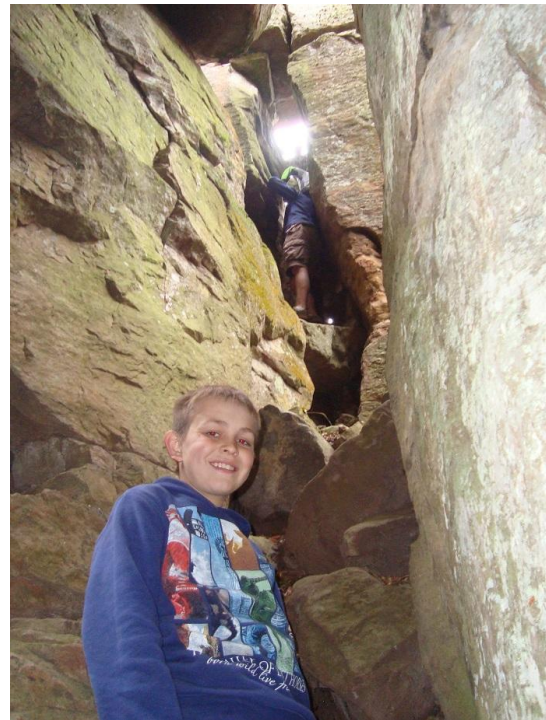
- 7 Group AGM
- 9 Memorial Parade

December:

- 5 Carols by Campfire (last meeting of the year)
- 12 – 16 End of Year Camp

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

Yours in scouting



Andrew Campbell

Rock climbing at the Dads and Lads

2014 YEAR END CAMP REPLY SLIP
(Only submit if you want to attend the camp)

Name: _____

Please rate the following activities by putting a tick in the appropriate box:

Activity	I really want to do this	I do not mind doing this, but it is not a "must do"	I do not want to do this
Hiking in the Drakensberg			
Visit to a Battlefield			
Visit to the Smallest Church			
Visit to the Bushmen Paintings			
Boating			
60m abeil			
Cycling			

Please circle the correct option for you below:

If we do cycling, I intend trying for my Cyclist Interest Badge. (Y/N)

If we do hiking, I would prefer a day hike long enough for Pathfinder or an overnight hike long enough for Adventurer (**Day / Overnight**)

Is there a specific battlefield(s) you want to visit (name it on the line below):

My parents can assist with transport to the camp (Y/N)