



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

1 April 2015

Ref: Troop 2015/02

Dear scouts and parents

Easter Announcements:

News:

It is hard to believe that the first quarter of 2015 has passed by and that we are already well into Autumn. Members of the troop have been very busy and have achieved a great deal since the last newsletter.

Matthew Leishman, Keanan Nunn and Martin Kler were promoted Patrol Second just in time for the District White Stripe Dinner. The dinner was a huge success. In addition to a delicious dinner and some knotty brain-teasers, the PLs and Seconds from around the district putting forward their thoughts on how scouting in the district should be run. Hopefully these thoughts will allow for an even better scouting experience for everyone in the troop and in the district. Well done to Harmelia for hosting a cracker event!

The troop also ran a very successful Link Camp at the end of January, attended by seven potential recruits. Jason Bailie, Alexei Werner and Massimo Mordini (who attended last year's link camp) have subsequently been invested into the troop and we hope that we will see the remaining five recruits being invested in the not-too-distant



Members of the Troop prepare for a game of airsoft

be prepared....

Troop Scouter:
Assistant Troop Scouters:

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)

future. A very warm welcome to all three of you and good luck on the scouting trail ahead.

A session at the Edenvale High School swimming pool saw a huge amount of badges being earned. Matthew Adamson, Cameron James, Simon Kleer, Thomas Leishman, Phakamani Msimang, Jarod Nunn, Ethan Smith and James Snyders all earned their Swimming Scoutcraft Badges and Ray Braun, Matthew Holfeld, Darren Lowery, Michael Omand and Michael Westhoff all earned their Swimmers Badges. Well done to all of you! In addition to our fantastic swimmers, Matthew and Thomas Leishman have managed to successfully complete their Food For Life (Starters) Scoutcraft Badges.

The Troop hosted a very enjoyable BP Sunday on 22 February 2015. A huge amount of work was put into the event by the scouts (who built a commando course and stage for the event) and the parent body (who provided a very efficient catering service for the event). At BP Sunday it was announced that the troop had achieved a second place in the District Challenge for 2014. From a patrol perspective Sable deserves a special mention as they managed a 5th place out of the 27 patrols that took part in the challenge from around the district. A special thanks must be made of the support of St Benedict's College who kindly allowed the district the use of their swimming pool as part of the scouting triathlon that followed the BP Sunday service.



1st Bedfordview at the annual BP Sunday Parade

The next week saw the District Gala take place at Edenvale High School, where the troop continued its good form by taking a third place. The support of many non-swimming scouts for their compatriots was greatly appreciated. Not only is this a sign of true scouting spirit but it also meant that there was a fantastic atmosphere at the gala. Thanks must also be extended to the Bedfordview Rover Crew for organising the event and to Edenvale High School for once again supporting scouting by allowing us the use of their pool.

In March the troop's busy calendar continued with the District Cooking Competition, hosted at our hall by Kengray. A mammoth 29 patrols attended the event and all four Bedfordview patrols showed that they can compete with the best. None of the Bedfordview patrols achieved under 60% and the best Bedfordview patrol got 78,4%, less than 3% behind the winners. Kudu placed 8th overall, Springbok 9th, Sable 14th and Wildebeest 25th. Well done to all of you! A special mention must be made of Matthew Leishman who took over the Kudu cooking efforts at the proverbial 11th hour and yet managed to lead the patrol to place first out of the Bedfordview patrols.

Douglas Grossett organised an exciting game of airsoft towards the end of March. The scouts braved the sting of the pellets and even took on one of the Bedfordview Rovers in this exciting, action-packed game. Organising an event like this is never easy and Douglas certainly got two thumbs-up from the scouts who attended for his excellent organisational skills.

On the same weekend Dave Nunn and Stephen Westhoff successfully completed their scout warrant courses. Both are now fully qualified to run a troop and the process of having them formally warranted is well under way. Dave and Steve sacrificed two weekends to attend the course and to ensure that they are able to offer quality scouting to the troop. Thanks to you and your families for your sacrifice and congratulations!

Finally, the troop finished off the first term with an evening of Lazer Quest at the Stoneridge Shopping Centre. The turnout was excellent and the scouts had a great deal of funning seeing who had shot who after each battle. There is nothing like a space-age battle to end off a term!

BP Friday Challenge:

A challenge was issued to scout to attend school on BP Friday in full scout uniform and to take a picture of it. Congratulations to Stuart Omand, who submitted the best picture and who wins the prize – a badge which has gone to the top of Kilimanjaro!



Kontiki 2015:

Kontiki will be taking place from 15 – 17 May 2015 at Arrowe Park, just off the Atlas Road turnoff from the N12. The theme for this year is “There be Dragons”, so it would be great if you all grabbed your swords and shields and joined us for a knightly adventure against an ancient foe.

For those who don't know, Kontiki is presently the largest scouting event in South Africa, with several thousand people attending each year. This means that there is plenty of opportunity for you to interact with scouts and guides from all over Gauteng and from further afield.

The cost of Kontiki will vary according to the number of scouts attending. At this stage we anticipate an approximate cost of between R200,00 and R250,00 per scout for the weekend. This price includes a Kontiki badge, camping fees and food for the weekend. Due to the large growth of the troop we have booked two campsites this year, so there should be plenty of room!

Some scouts have indicated that they have sporting commitments on the Kontiki weekend, but would still like to camp with the troop and travel to and from Kontiki. If you fall into this category, please make a special note on the reply slip.

Family and friends are welcome to visit Kontiki during the day. We would encourage supporters to purchase a badge from the troop at R45,00 per badge, which will allow you access to Kontiki to the entire weekend. If you prefer, you can obtain your own badge at scout shop before the event (R40 per badge) or at the gate (R50 per badge) or you can obtain a day pass at the gate (R30 per pass – valid for one day only). Please note that Kontiki is a scout event and alcohol is not allowed at the event. The SAPS will be on site to enforce this.



At this stage I would ask that everyone complete the reply slip attached to this newsletter and return it to me by 11 April 2015 so we can get a feel for who wants to attend Kontiki. One form per family is sufficient. At this stage we are not certain whether or not we will be putting on a raft, this will to a large extent be determined by how many scouts are keen on being on the raft if we put one on, so please indicate this in the space on the form. Please note that you have to hold your Swimming Scoutcraft Badge in order to be eligible to be on the raft and you will have to be available the entire weekend as you cannot leave the raft once the raft has launched until late Sunday morning.

Stuart wearing his uniform to school

If you would prefer not to camp you can attend Kontiki as a day visitor, in which case we will not cater for you but you will require a badge or day pass to visit on the day you intend visiting. We would much prefer for you to camp with us though and join in the fun – irrespective of whether or not we put on a raft we have some plans for an absolutely awesome campsite and a super programme.

Cubs visiting the troop regrettably cannot camp with the troop due to Scouts South Africa rules, but other visitors to the troop who have not yet been invested are welcome to join us.

Kontiki Prep Camp:

On the weekend of 17 – 19 April 2015 the troop will be holding camp at Arrowe Park to make sure that we are 100% ready for Kontiki. The camp is open to all scouts, irrespective of whether or not you are attending Kontiki. The camp will certainly not only be focussing on Kontiki preparation and should offer a great deal of fun to all.

The cost of the camp is R200,00 per scout for the weekend, which will cover all food and camping fees for the weekend. If you would like to attend the camp but cannot afford the fees please let me know so that the committee can be approached to see if they can render financial assistance.

If you are interested in attending the camp please let me know by no later than Friday 10 April 2015. Further information on the camp will then be sent to those scouts who are interested in attending.

White Stripe Camp:

Patrol Leaders and Patrol Seconds should please ensure that they keep the weekend of 29 – 31 May open for the annual white stripe camp. This camp is only open to PLs and Seconds and is a once-off chance for the troop leadership to spend some quality time together and to learn a bit about leading your patrols in the process.

Patrol Camps:

In June each patrol will hopefully be undertaking a patrol camp. During most troop meetings your patrol should get a moment in the programme to have a “patrol in council” where you can discuss patrol activities like patrol camps and hikes. If you have not discussed your patrol’s camp, maybe you should raise it at your next patrol-in-council.



Olé! Cooking Mexican at the Cooking Compo

Pack Scouter:

A cub pack is probably the single biggest asset that any troop can have. Not only does a pack ensure that there is a steady supply of recruits to a troop, but the recruits that it produces have had a good grounding in basic scouting which makes for a stronger troop.

The troop has gained the benefit of Steve Westhoff’s vast experience as an ATS. The only down side of this is that the pack has been left without a PS. We are in desperate need of a new PS to take over the leadership of the pack and if you know of anyone who enjoys working with kids, likes the outdoors and who is prepared to make a big difference to the lives of the cubs in the pack and have a great deal of fun in the process, please let us know.

Prior scouting experience is not required, training is available and the pack has two pack helpers and an Assistant Pack Scouter who can offer invaluable help to the new PS. Regrettably due to other commitments these adults are not in a position to take on the PS position.

Scout Golf Shirts and Caps

Stock of caps and golf shirts has now arrived. If you would like to purchase a troop cap or golf shirt please liaise directly with Zelia Cardoso, who can advise you of costings. Zelia can be contacted at Zelia.Cardoso@macsteel.co.za.

The caps and shirts (together with your troop scarf) make up your camp uniform and every scout should make sure that they have at least one cap and golf shirt. New members to the Group receive these items once they have paid their investiture fee and do not have to worry about purchasing these items before they are invested. Cubs from 1st Bedfordview should already have these uniform items and do not receive them when they move up to scouts.

Parents and friends of the group who would like to identify with 1st Bedfordview are welcome to purchase golf shirts and caps to show their support.

Green Cards:

For several months now Scout Shop has been without green cards. I am now advised that for reasons known only to themselves green cards are no longer being printed by



Scouts SA. A letter protesting against this decision has already been sent via District.

In the interim Gauteng Scout Shop is producing their own cards which the troop has purchased. These are not of great quality but they are better than nothing and we will be making use of these cards until Scouts SA comes to their senses and recommences with printing cards on good-quality card.

Learning about fires at the link camp

Scouts who have lost their green cards are welcome to buy new green cards at a cost of R40,00 per card. If and when Scouts SA recommences with printing cards you can exchange your “low quality” card for a new Scouts SA card.

New members of the troop should receive a green card when you are invested.

Patrol Points:

Here are the points to date for the inter-patrol competition.

Kudu	463
Sable	523
Springbok	640
Wilbebest	472

Upcoming Activities at a Glance:

April

3	Scouts closed
11	Kudu Patrol Orienteering Activity
17 – 19	Kontiki Prep Camp
18	LDC Course
25 – 26	Springbok Patrol Hike

May

1	Scouts closed
8 – 10	Sable Patrol Hike
15 – 17	Kontiki
29 – 31	White Stripe Camp *

June:

5 - 7	District Boot Hike
26 – 28	Patrol Camps

July:

3	Scouts closed
4	District Pioneering Compo
20 – 31	World Scout Jamboree begins
24 – 26	Troop Compo Camp



If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Wishing all of you on holiday a restful break and a safe return.

Yours in scouting

Andrew Campbell