



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

18 June 2015

Ref: Troop 2015/04

Dear scouts and parents

Winter News:

News:

It has been particularly exciting to see that the patrols have in particular been busy since the last general troop newsletter. The troop has also been reasonably busy and scouting seems to be alive and well at Bedfordview.

A small Kontiki Prep Camp was held at Arrowe Park leading up to Kontiki. Two mini rafts were produced by the troop and attendees were treated to a session of gigging on the dam by the 1st Benoni Sea Scout.

This year Kontiki visited a place where “There be Dragons.” 25 Bedfordview scouts visited or camped at Kontiki, which was excellent. A great deal of fun was had by all, and hopefully next year the PLs will remember to submit their marksheets so that our overall placing looks a little better! A special congratulations must go to Gordon Grossett for heading up the Land Crew and to Keanan Nunn for taking on the responsibility of the raft. Thanks must also go to the scouters and parents who sacrificed many hours to make Kontiki the success that it was.



Pulling down blue gums on Bill Stewart

As mentioned above, the patrols have been busy. Newly appointed Kudu PL Matthew Leishman got off to a flying start with an orienteering evening that he organised for his patrol. Racing around a golf course after dark is always fun, particularly when there is a prize at stake!

Both Sable and Springbok Patrols recently undertook hikes in the Vredefort Dome Area. This World Heritage Site is generally accepted to be the largest and oldest

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)

meteor impact site on the planet and has resulted in fascinating geology in the area.



Though one of the PLs was to describe his hike as the hardest he had ever done, everyone seems to have enjoyed themselves at the end of the day and passed off some valuable advancement in the process.

Sable PL Michael Omand also organised the clearing of invasive species off a portion of the Bill Stewart Nature Reserve as part of his First Class Community Service. Rover David Huddy was on hand to assist with training the scouts in the safe use of chain saws, which added to the fun.

Douglas receives his PLTU Badge

Ward Counsellor Jill Humphreys was particularly impressed with the work done and Vini's Pizzeria supported the project by sponsoring a pizza lunch for the intrepid conservationists. Springbok Patrol is also in the process of completing a community service project, which I hope to report on in the next newsletter.

Martin Kleer also did the troop proud by attending a Leadership Development Course. Hopefully the skills that he learnt on the course will be put into good use. After a long wait, Douglas Grossett was finally awarded his PLTU badge, confirming his successful completion of scouting's premier leadership course for scouts.

I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to Thomas Leishman and James Snyders who have been invested since the last troop newsletter.

Thomas has already earned his silver recruiters badge, which is an excellent way to start one's career in the troop.



Taking a break after clearing invader species off Bill Stewart

Congratulations must also be extended to Matthew Leishman, who earned his firefighter interest badge, and to Michael Westhoff, who managed to complete his Pathfinder and was promoted Second of Sable Patrol. Well done to all of you!

Patrol Camps:

All four patrols have planned patrol camps for the weekend of 26 to 28 June 2015 at the Arrowe Park Campsite in Benoni. It has been years since we had all our patrols undertaking patrol camps in a single year and as such I am very excited with this development.

I would ask every scout to please support his PL in his endeavour. Patrol camps are where scouting really happens and your PLs have put a great deal of work into a fantastic weekend for you. They need as much encouragement as possible and a good turnout is the best way to ensure that they continue to put in the hard work into your patrols to produce top-quality activities that you want. One day you will hopefully be a PL and you will be relying on your scouts to support your patrol camps and other activities. All four PLs are running their camps as part of their advancement and hopefully all scouts attending will get a chance to advance too.

Parents can rest assured that all patrol camp programmes are carefully vetted before a permit for the camp is approved. Arrowe Park is in a good area, with a roving security company in the area and a warden resident at the campsite. In addition due to there will be an adult on site during the weekend and scouters will be popping in during the weekend to check that all is shipshape.

Most of the PLs have already sent out correspondence about their camps and the other PLs have promised that information on their camp will be forthcoming shortly. If you have not received correspondence about your PL's camp by scouts on Friday please contact your PL in case you slipped through the cracks.



Do you think there are enough of us to move it?

Winter Camp:

Gauteng Region will be running its annual winter camp at Gilwell, Florida from 28 June at 16h00 until 3 July at 21h00. The cost of the camp is R750,00, which covers all food, accommodation and activities during the camp. Activities include a pioneering day, a rafting day, an orienteering day and a community service day. Entries for the camp close on 24 June 2015 and entries can be sent to ngoscoutingza@gmail.com. I have got more information for those who require it.



District Pioneering Competition:

The troop will be hosting the Northrand District Pioneering Competition on Saturday 4 July 2015 from 08h30 until 15h30. Each troop can enter two patrols of up to eight scouts into the competition.

Keanan Nunn and Matthew Leishman will be heading up the 1st Bedfordview efforts to lift the trophy this year and will be keeping a close eye on all the scouts with a view to picking the best pioneers in the troop as part of the team. If you would like to be considered for the pioneering team please chat to Keanan or Matthew by the end of scouts on Friday so they know who to keep an eye on.

There has been an immense improvement in the pioneering standards of the troop over the past couple of weeks and I am confident that we have an excellent chance of doing really well in the competition.



Ready to set sail on Kontiki

1st Bedfordview Cub Pack:

By now you should all be aware that a decision was recently taken to open the 1st Bedfordview Cub Pack to girls on the understanding that girl cubs will feed the 1st Bedfordview Guide Company and that the 1st Bedfordview Troop will remain a “boy only” troop. If you know of any girls (or boys) between the ages of 7 and 11 who are interested in joining the pack please refer them to Katy Young (kty@absamail.co.za). Scouts can earn a recruiter’s badge by successfully recruiting members into the pack OR the troop. (Silver recruiter’s badge – 1 cub or scout from outside the scouting

movement invested into the group. Gold recruiter's badge – 5 cubs or scouts from outside the scouting movement invested into the group).

Katy is “on loan” to us from the 1st Edenvale cub pack and she is in the process of rebuilding the pack and ensuring that the pack helpers have the skills to make the cub pack great. If you know of an adult who is passionate about the youth who would like to make a huge difference by helping Katy with the pack please refer them to Katy.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, a strong pack is vital for a strong troop and I would encourage the troop to give as much support as possible to the pack.

Patrol Points:

Here are the points to date for the inter-patrol competition. The top two patrols have both run an overnight patrol activity, which counts 100 points per activity.

Kudu	641
Sable	816
Springbok	940
Wildebeest	632

Upcoming Activities at a Glance:

June:

26 – 28 Patrol Camps

July:

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

August:

1 – 9 World Jamboree continues
7 – 9 Dads and Lads
28 Group Campfire
29 – 30 Kim Shield

September:

11 – 13 District Compo Camp
25 Scouts closed



Yours in scouting

Andrew Campbell