



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 August 2015

Ref: Troop 2015/05

Dear scouts and parents

Spring Announcements

News:

The first blossoms of spring have already arrived and the hint of greenery on grey branches heralds the arrival of spring. Scouts in South Africa are very fortunate though in that winter is no real barrier to scouting and the troop has been very busy since the last letter.

Patrol Camps:

It was a rare pleasure to see all four patrols recently undertaking patrol camps, all of which took place at the Arrowe Park Campsite in Benoni. From learning backwoods skills to baking upside-down cakes and shooting flaming tennis balls from a catapult, a great time was had by all.



It is said that true scouting takes place at patrol level and as such the fact that all four patrol leaders managed to set up camps is a mark that good scouting is happening in the troop. The running of patrol camps has also boosted advancement in the troop and will hopefully assist all the patrols in the upcoming star patrol evaluations which are just around the corner. Well done PLs!

How to keep warm on a patrol camp – by Mike Omand



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)

Winter Camp:

A handful of scouts braved the winter cold to attend Gauteng Region's annual winter camp at Gilwell, Florida. The camp had a series of fun activities including a pioneering day, orienteering and a community service project that was run for the duration of the camp. The attendees seemed to be incredibly enthusiastic about the camp and congratulations must be extended to Alison Griffiths and her team for putting together a top-notch event.



2nd Place at the District Pioneering Compo

District Pioneering Competition:

Matthew Leishman and his patrol did the troop proud by achieving a 2nd place overall in the District Pioneering Competition held at our scout hall. The patrol did particularly well by winning the most difficult part of the competition – the large pioneering project – which was a medieval drawbridge that could be raised and lowered. The patrol also won the challenging knowledge quest, a multiple choice quiz about advanced pioneering.



**Matthew prepares dinner –
Patrol Camps, Arrowe Park**

The patrol also took part in a basic skills test, a test of problem-solving ability and a small project (a chariot). Congratulations to Kengray, who won the competition with 468 points. Our 453,5 points were within a whisper of this total though and with a little bit of work we can lift the trophy next year!

World Jamboree:

During July and August five members of the troop and one Bedfordview ranger were privileged enough to join 178 other South Africans at the 23rd World Scout Jamboree held in Yamaguchi, Japan.

In order to ensure that you make new friends, Jamboree participants are placed in new troops that are deliberately made up from scouts from all over the country. 1st Bedfordview was represented in three of the four South African Jamboree troops.

The adventure of a lifetime started with a shakedown camp at Gilwell, Florida where the scouts got to meet their Jamboree troops. The new patrols took part in a series of fun activities which helped the scouters pick PLs and Seconds from their scouts.

Congratulations must be extended to Michael Omand who was selected to be the PL of the Rhinos Patrol of the Acacia Troop. At the camp participants were also formally presented with their green and gold national scarves by the Chief Scout's Commissioner, Dr Brendon Hausberger.

The scouts then jetted off to Tokyo by way of Hong Kong. Tokyo is the largest metropolitan area on earth and the sheer scale of it was awe-inspiring. In addition, on clear days the distant edifice of Mt Fuji could be glimpsed from the Japanese capital. After settling in the Contingent spent a day visiting Tokyo Disneyland. The next day they popped in to the Tokyo Tower, the Imperial Gardens and Asakusa Sensoji Temple.



Bedfordview members of the World Scout Jamboree

The scouts then went to Mt Ashi National Park, close to Mt Fuji. The lake is located in a caldera (a volcano that exploded so violently that the volcanic mountain is destroyed) and the scouts enjoyed a traditional Japanese braai before settling down to enjoy the tranquil quiet that surrounds the lake.

The next day the contingent travelled via the world-famous bullet-train to Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan. The scouts explored the delights of this surprisingly modern city in smaller groups. A five-story electronics and toy store was a firm favourite with most of the scouts, but other groups managed to find a giant underground shopping centre, went up the Kyoto Tower, had a Japanese massage or cleaned up in a traditional Japanese public bath.



Keanan, Martin, Michael and Andrew at the Golden Pavilion, Kyoto, Japan

The next day saw a formal tour of ancient Kyoto, including visits to a geisha school, the world-famous Golden Pavilion and a traditional marketplace. By this stage the excitement was palpable as the scouts prepared the next day to depart for Yamaguchi in the far south-west of Honshu (the main Japanese island).

Another bullet-train trip brought the scouts the Jamboree site where they joined over 33 000 other scouts in setting up camp. The Jamboree is massive – try picturing 11 Kontikis all taking place at the same time and you will have very a rough idea of the sheer scale of the event. Twelve youth sub-camps, each with over 50 troops in them, covered the majority of the campsite.



Each day at the Jamboree offered its own adventure. The scouts learnt about cutting-edge science, the global community and the myriad of cultures at the Jamboree site. A peace programme took place in nearby Hiroshima, which was marking the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the city. Scouts immersed themselves in Japanese culture by visiting a local Japanese community, seeing how their schools work and finding out how locals do things (including the famous “Starship Enterprise” toilets). A nature walk allowed participants to explore the local countryside and the nearby inland sea allowed for participants to have a brief respite from the heat with a water activities programme.

Special programmes like the cultural day, a visit by the Japanese Prime Minister and the Crown Prince of Japan, concerts by local artists, a display by part of the Red Bull Aerobics Team and a fly-past by the Japanese Airforce meant that there was never a dull moment. But I think what the participants enjoyed most was the interaction with



scouts from over 150 different countries and territories. Be it having a joint dinner with the Japanese troop next door, a friendly rugby match with the local Welsh troop or trading for an elusive New Zealand scarf the Jamboree is first and foremost about the international exchange of ideas, cultures and a message of peace.

Michael learning about British culture ...

After narrowly missing a typhoon (which delayed the return to South Africa of part of the contingent, including Douglas and the collapsible bicycle that he brought in Japan), the scouts returned to South Africa much the richer for the experience.

If you are born between 23 July 2001 and 22 July 2005 you will probably be eligible to attend the 24th World Scout Jamboree to be held in West Virginia, USA from 22 July 2019 to 2 August 2015. (These dates exclude the pre-tour which normally forms part of the trip. The guestimated cost of this trip including the pre-tour will be R50 000, which equates to saving about R1 000,00 a month between now and the next Jamboree. The exact requirements with regards age will be available in the not-too-distant future but in the interim you may want to visit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yixTHVdSqJI&feature=youtu.be> and look at the Jamboree site, which has already hosted a number of large scouting events. A meeting will be held later this year to discuss the 2019 Jamboree with those cubs, scouts and parents who may be interested in attending.



Aerial view of the Jamboree

Dads and Lads 2015:

Twenty-three dads and lads tackled the Wathaba hiking trail near Machadadorp in the Mpumalanga escarpment for the annual Dads and Lads weekend. The weather was particularly mild and the abundance of water on the farm was too much temptation for several of the scouts (and a dad or two) who had a dip in the crystal-clear pools on the farm.

The steep kloofs hid some real gems of indigenous forest and the mountain ridges offered spectacular views of the surrounding countryside. Clear skies allowed for an astronomy lesson or two in the evenings and a blazing campfire each evening offered the perfect setting for relaxing and some quality family time.

Several scouts logged the hike for their Pathfinder badges and we will hopefully see some advancement badges being handed out in the next couple of weeks. Those scouts are reminded to hand in their log within three weeks of the end of the hike.

Kim Shield:

Five scouts under the leadership of Keanan Nunn are presently taking part in the annual Kim Shield event just north of Johannesburg. We wish them good scouting in this event and lots of fun. We will tell you more about what happened at Kim Shield in the next newsletter, but with roughly 50 patrols from all over Gauteng to interact with I have no doubt that the scouts will have a great time.



Keanan, Jason, Ray, Michael and Massimo arrive at Kim Shield

General Achievements:

Well done to Gordon Grossett who has been particularly busy since the last newsletter. Gordon completed his Micro Computer Badge as well as his Pathfinder Badge and was promoted second of the Wildebeest patrol.

The Jamboree participants were also particularly busy in an attempt to get their uniforms looking top-notch in time for Jamboree. Keanan Nunn completed his Guide Badge as well as his Adventurer, Martin Kleer completed his Adventurer and Douglas Grossett and Michael Omand were each presented with their First Class Badges. Congratulations to all of you!

News from the Cub Pack:

In the last troop newsletter an appeal was made for adults who are interested in joining the pack as scouters to come forward. It gives me immense pleasure to announce that not one but two new pack scouters have been found for the cub pack.



Katy and Charmaine will be taking over the cub pack

Katy Young joins us from 1st Edenvale cub pack, where she has worked as an Assistant Pack Scouter for the past year or so. The Edenvale pack is a particularly strong pack and hopefully the excellent training that Katy received there will be put to good use at 1st Bedfordview. Katy will be taking on the Pack Scouter warrant.

Charmaine Smith joins us from the successful 1st Wychwood pack in Eland District after having taken a brief sabbatical. Charmaine has two and a half years experience as an APS and will be taking on an Assistant Pack Scouter's warrant with 1st Bedfordview.



Mike got a tad cold on the Dads & Lads

Both of our new pack scouters are full of enthusiasm and good ideas for the pack and I am sure that we will see the pack numbers and strength grow rapidly under their leadership.

A reminder to all scouts that you can earn your recruiter's badge not only by recruiting into the troop but also by recruiting into the pack.



District Competition Camp:

Northrand District will be running a full-blown competition camp at Arrowe Park Campsite on the weekend of 11 – 13 August 2015. This year we will be joining Asterix the Gaul and his adventures against the dastardly Roman invaders.

The Lads at the Dads and Lads

Competition Camps are probably the best way to assess the basic skills of a troop and as such I have always considered it to be the premier competition in the District. Participants will pioneer a campsite, will be marked on their general camping ability, will have to produce top-notch meals during the weekend and will also have to take part in a series of challenges which can test skills ranging from knotting to first aid to navigation. It is the one competition that tests it all.

The troop will certainly be entering the competition but needs to decide how many patrols to enter and will need to have a look at the composition of the patrols. Accordingly, please email your PL by Monday evening indicating if you are interested in taking part. The camp will not cost more than R250,00 for the weekend, which will include badges, camping fees, food and activities for the weekend.



Jarod Nunn with a Nunn-nunn tree

The closing date for entries is looming so please let us know about your availability as quickly as possible.

District First Aid Competition:

On Saturday 12 August 2015 as part of the compo camp the District First Aid Competition will be taking place. Our compo camp team(s) will be competing in this as part of the camp, but the competition is also open to patrols who are not taking part in the camp.

As such, if you are not available for the entire weekend but are available on Saturday afternoon and are keen in taking part in the First Aid Competition, please also email your PL by Monday and let him know about this.

At this stage I do not anticipate any cost for the first aid competition unless you want to purchase a compo camp badge, which will probably be in the region of R12,00 a badge.



Jarod and James at the recent Dads and Lads

Offers of help:

A number of parents have recently approached members of the scouter team noting that they would like to help out with the troop, but are not certain how to go about doing this. Most troops would give their eye-teeth for such offers and the scouter team is certainly incredibly grateful. We can always use extra help and this section of the newsletter will hopefully help answer some questions. Here are a couple of things you should be aware of:

- 1) All adult helpers, be they uniformed scouters or non-uniformed helpers, need to go through a screening process. This involves filling out a form, which includes a reference section and a brief interview process after a background check. This is to ensure that all the people we have working with the cubs and scouts are suitable to work with them and do not pose a threat to them. The process is not perfect but it is better than nothing. I am sure that all the parents out there can appreciate the need to screen adult volunteers as thoroughly as possible if they are to be working with the youth.



Alexei and Pedro have a bite to eat – D&L

- 2) You obviously need to know what sort of position you are willing to take on. There are a myriad of positions available for potential helpers and the level of commitment ranges from position to position. All of them help will help make the Group more successful and will help contribute to a better scouting experience for your children. I have set out some of the positions you can consider below:

Committee Member: This is a non-uniformed position and no training is required, although there is a committee member course for available for those who are a bit nervous about this position. The Committee ensures that the scouters have the basic resources available to them to run a successful pack / troop / crew and control the group equipment and finances. Committee members are elected at the AGM (6 November) for a year and there are a variety of portfolios available. The basic commitment is to a committee meeting once a month plus whatever additional work you take on as part of the committee. Without a strong committee the group simply cannot function.



Preparing for a mud war at base camp – D&L

Sub-Committee Member: This is a non-uniformed position and no training is required, though the committee member course is available if necessary. This is for someone who is happy to lend a hand on committee projects but who does not want to be on the committee itself. A committee member will head up the sub-committee and the sub-committee members will help make the projects happen. Examples of sub-committees would include a fund-raising sub-committee, a hall maintenance sub-committee or a transport team member. The commitment is normally on an *ad hoc* basis for a specific project.

Pack or Troop Helper: This is a non-uniformed position. Though no training is required, there are a variety of courses available to give you the skills required to help run a pack or troop. Helpers work under the direction of uniformed scouters. They cannot run pack or troop meetings without a warranted scouter being present to take control of the event. Helpers normally run specific items in the programme and obviously basic scouting skills are an asset. However, some helpers focus on non-scouting items such as administration, which can be very helpful to the scouter in charge. The commitment can vary according to the person, some people are available every Friday, some can make every second week or once a month, yet others have busy diaries and are only available on an *ad hoc* basis.

Badge Tester: You might have a special skill or be part of a profession that makes it easy for you to test certain specialised badges. For example, the Electrician interest badge should ideally be tested by someone who is qualified to do electrical work. If you think you could offer something in the way of badge testing, be it on cub or scout badges, you could become an official



badge tester. The position is non-uniformed and does not require any special training, although normally the TS or PS will normally run over you the concept of “doing your best” when it comes to cub and scout badge testing.

Global Development Module – 23rd World Jamboree

Assistant Scouter: This is a uniformed position. Formal training in the form of a permit phase course and a warrant course is required and assistant scouters should attempt to complete a woodbadge course within three years of taking on the position. Once warranted, scouters can take control of pack or troop meetings and arrange and take charge of excursions and other outings. A variety of other courses are available to provide you with the basic skills required to run the pack or troop. Assistant Scouters are led by the Pack or Troop Scouter as the case may be, who will provide direction and leadership to the pack or troop. This is a big commitment but is one of the most rewarding positions in scouting as you work directly with the youth, developing them and helping them achieve their full potential. Assistant Scouters are warranted to either the pack (APS) or troop (ATS) and would be expected to attend the majority of pack or troop meetings as the case may be (once a week on Fridays) and where possible to attend camps and other excursions. Planning meetings are normally held quarterly and preparation for programmes, as well as taking charge of certain admin items normally form part of the portfolio. The commitment is not to every pack or troop event though and the commitment is not to be at every event, just most of them.



Japanese Airforce – World Jamboree

Scout Group Leader: This position can be either uniformed or non-uniformed. Formal training in the form of a permit phase course and a warrant course is required and the candidate should obtain a woodbadge within three years of taking on the position. The warrant is normally for three years at a time. Unlike other warranted scouters, the SGL position does not entail a

commitment to running pack or troop meetings every Friday. The SGL is the parent-figure of the Group who does not run a branch directly. The SGL is there to facilitate communication between the various branches in the group, to ensure that the committee is running smoothly (normally this would be delegated to a chairman, though the SGL retains ultimate responsibility) and to liaise between the group and district. Essentially the position is that of a manager of the branches of the group and the committee. Like any good manager, the SGL will pop in and visit troop and pack meetings from time to time (possibly acting as an assistant scouter to help run the meeting) but this does not happen on a weekly basis. The commitment is to attending District Scouters Council and committee meetings once a month and to running Group Scouters Councils once a quarter. A scouting background is very useful as the SGL in many ways acts as a mentor to the other scouters in the group and a great deal of tact is required to ensure that the group remains happy and cooperates well. A SGL provides support to the other scouters in the group, and is a coach more than a “boss”. If things turn pear-shaped however it is the SGL who will step in and put the ship back on a steady course before returning control to pack or troop scouter as the case might be. The position is ideal for someone who wants the involvement of a warranted scouter but who does not have the time to commit to the running of weekly programmes.



I want to trade badges ... but my feet are sore.

- 3) If you are keen on helping out with one of these positions, chat to one of the scouters or a committee member. They will then be able to put the process in motion to getting you on board and will be able to answer any further questions that you may have.
- 4) If you are placed in a position that requires training or a uniform, the training and uniform will be paid for by the committee.
- 5) Most of these positions are very rewarding. Watching kids grow through achievement is incredible.
- 6) If things get to hectic, one can always take a break or step back from the position.

Airsoft:

Douglas Grossett is in the process of organising an inter-patrol airsoft



competition for Thursday 24 September 2015. An email with all the details was sent out yesterday but in summary:

WHEN: 24 September from 10h00 to 17h00
WHERE: Cnr Benoni and Estate Roads, Benoni (directions attached to Douglas' email)
COST: R160 rifle and mask hire
R70 entrance / deposit
R150 for a bag of 4 000 rounds (can be split between players)
RSVP: To Douglas (072 591 0668/lgrosset@iburst.co.za) by 11 September
WITH YOUR DEPOSIT.

For those who don't know, airsoft is a bit like paintball except instead of paint balls you use small plastic pellets. If you enjoy playing soldier this is a must for you and promises to be a great deal of fun. There is limited space so first come, first served!

Cycle Challenge:

If you cannot make the Compo Camp or the First Aid Compo, you may be interested in a Cycle Rally that is taking place at the 2nd Boksburg Hall in Farrar Park Boksburg. The event takes place from 09h00 to 14h00 and costs R15,00 per person. A separate letter with details on this event will be sent out with this newsletter.



Ahhh ... Western food. At Narita Airport

Scout Shop Hours:

Some good news is that the Johannesburg Scout shop will now be open on the first Saturday of each month, which will give those of us who have day jobs a chance to get out there at a more leisurely pace.

The Johannesburg Scout Shop is located at 3 Glen Road (cnr Junction) in Bramley, near the Corlett Drive offramp to the M1 highway. You can contact the scout shop on 011 440 6490 during the scout shop operating hours.

The Johannesburg Scout Shop is open as follows:

Wednesdays and Thursday:	08h30 to 15h30
Fridays:	08h30 to 15h00
First Saturday of the Month:	08h30 to 10h30

Patrol Points:

The inter-patrol points competition for 2015 ends at the end of September 2015. Points earned from October onwards will go on to the 2016 competition. The final results of the competition will be announced at the AGM. Good luck to the patrols,

let's get one or two more activities in before the end of September to boost your final tally!

Facebook Group:

A number of you may not be aware but 1st Bedfordview has a facebook group which is open to members, former members and friends of 1st Bedfordview. The group is "closed" but if you are interested in joining ask to join the group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/52684287286/>). I find the group is particularly useful for sharing photographs and old members will be pleased to note that old photographs are periodically posted on the site.

Upcoming Activities at a Glance:

September:

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|---------|--------------------------------------|
| 11 – 13 | District Compo Camp |
| 12 | District First Aid Competition |
| 12 | 2 nd Boksburg Cycle Rally |
| 24 | Air Soft Activity |
| 25 | Scouts closed |

October:

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|---------|-------------|
| 16 – 18 | JOTA / JOTI |
|---------|-------------|

November:

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| 6 | Group AGM |
| 8 | Memorial Parade |



See you next Jamboree ☺ PHEW!

December:

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|---------|--|
| 4 | Carols by Campfire (Last meeting for the year) |
| 11 – 16 | End of year Troop Camp |
| 11 – 20 | Gilten PLTU (by invitation only) |

Yours in scouting

Andrew Campbell