

1st BEDFORDVIEW SCOUT TROOP

DISA ROAD, BEDFORDVIEW

www.1stbedfordview.org.za

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/52684287286/>

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15 November 2015
Ref: Troop 2015/06

Dear scouts and parents

End of Year Announcements

News:

Although the late onset of the rains does not bode well for South Africa in general, it has afforded the troop an opportunity for fantastic scouting activities without the worry of inclement weather.

Early September saw the scouts taking part in the District Camping Competition and the First Aid Competition, where they achieved a fourth and a third place respectively. Congratulations to Martin Kleer who for the first time led a Bedfordview team in a District Competition.

The Troop also took a trip out to Ellis Park where they watched the Lions continue their unbroken winning season against Western Province, they did an orienteering programme at Oriel Park, learnt how hobbits were hiding in the Disa Road Closure and did a boating evening with 1st Benoni Sea Scouts.

The Group AGM was a success with a new and vibrant committee in place. Congratulations must be extended to all the scouts who were awarded prizes at the evening and to Springbok Patrol who won the inter-patrol competition for 2014 / 2015.



At the District Competition Camp

Last weekend Douglas Grossett led a patrol to do a scouting display at the Edenvale Mardi Gras where the lights of Van Riebeeck Avenue were switched on for the first time in over a decade. An immense amount of interest was shown by members of the

be prepared....

Troop Scouter:
Assistant Troop Scouters:

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public in scouting in general and in the troop in particular and I am confident that we will have quite a few new recruits in the new year.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Bradley Petersen who was invested since the last newsletter and to congratulate Stuart Omand and Jason Bailie, both of whom achieved their Pathfinder badges since the last newsletter.

Awaiting inspection – District Compo Camp

The final bit of good news is that Sable and Springbok Patrols have both been assessed for a bronze award at the annual star patrol assessments, and the troop has also been assessed for a bronze award. Well done to everyone whose hard work has made these awards possible.

Attendance at Scouts:

Every scout is expected to attend 75% of troop meetings and events. This forms part of the annual star patrol and star troop assessments. Attendance has been a problem of late. Only eight of our scouts achieved 75% or higher last year, and at present the troop is sitting at a 61% attendance rate for the 2015 / 2016 year.

Please consider the following when it comes to attendance:

- 1) You are not expected to attend all scout meetings. In a year there are generally about forty scout meetings, which means that you can miss ten meetings and still make the 75%.
- 2) You earn points for your attendance. Each patrol is given ten points each week for attendance. For every scout missing, the patrol loses two of the ten points. A patrol earns back a point though if the missing scout has excused himself.



Closing Ceremony – 1st Benoni Hall

- 3) Some items in programmes are difficult to achieve without a large patrol. Good attendance means that your patrol can get the most out of the programme.
- 4) If you cannot make a meeting, please excuse yourself timeously to your PL. Not only does this earn your patrol back a point, it also helps us plan the

programmes. It is the responsibility of the PL to pass the excuse on to me as soon as it is received.

- 5) If you are taking off scouts to study for exams that is commendable, but ask yourself if you are actually studying on a Friday evening at 20h00? If not, could you still study for exams and attend scouts?
- 6) Try to plan your social life to avoid Friday evenings (I do). Movies with friends can happen just as easily on a Saturday or a Sunday as a Friday.
- 7) If you are under pressure to do things with friends on a Friday, why not recruit them into the troop? That way you can spend time with your friends every Friday evening!
- 8) Several scouts are part of lift schemes, which means that their parents do not need to make the trip every week to collect them at 21h30. If you want to find out which scouts live close to you with a view to setting up a lift scheme please chat to me.
- 9) Our top attender last year attended a whopping 95,12% of troop meetings despite being in High School and having a busy extra-mural programme, so good attendance is possible despite a pressured, modern lifestyle.
- 10) Have a look at the year planner at the beginning of each year. This is there to help you plan your life to maximise your scouting experience.



Scouting Display at the Edenvale Mardi Gras

- 11) If you are not attending scouts because you are not enjoying the programme or for any other factor at the troop, please chat to your PL or a scouter about this so we can see if we can make your scouting experience better. If you have an idea for a programme that you want to do, tell us!
- 12) Some scouts have particularly poor attendance. If you fall in this category, perhaps you should be asking yourself if you still want to be part of the troop. Though we are always sad to see someone leave, a person who never attends scouts is not getting anything out of scouts and is only hurting their patrol's points and chances at a star patrol award.
- 13) Every few weeks we print out the attendance register and post it on the notice board. This enables you to keep track of your attendance during the year. Your patrol should also have an updated attendance register in its den.

We are always open to ideas and suggestions on how to improve the troop and the scouting experience of the scouts. If you have ideas on how to improve attendance or your general scouting experience, please chat to your PL or one of the scouters.



Carols by Campfire:

The troop will be hosting a Carols by Campfire Service on Friday 4 December 2015. This will be the last troop meeting for the year. All are welcome at this event, the entrance “fee” is an item of non-perishable food which will be donated to the needy.

A separate letter will be sent out with this letter providing more details of this event, but please make an effort to support this and to spend some quality family time together. Douglas Grossett and Michael Omand will be running the actual campfire

programme as part of their advancement and will appreciate your support.

End of Year Camp:

The End of Year Camp will be taking place on Willowbrook Farm (Portion of Zondagskraal) in Mpumalanga. The farm is at the intersection of the R36 and the Schoemanskloof portion of the N4 and is located between the towns of Machadadorp and Lydenburg. The camp will be taking place from the weekend of 11 December until Wednesday 16 December.

The End of Year Camp is immensely popular and we try to accommodate as many scouts with as many different tastes as possible, whilst keeping the cost of the camp as low as possible. This section of the newsletter will tell you as much as possible about possible activities in the area. At the end of the newsletter there is a reply slip. Please fill this in and return it by Friday 20 November 2015 so that we can arrange a camp that will appeal to as many of you as possible.

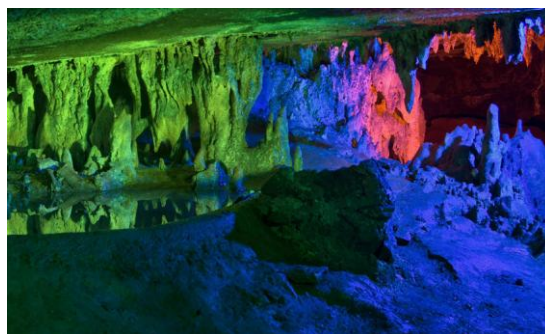


Long Tom Pass and the Cannon

The camp is open to all invested scouts and potential recruits of scout-going age. Space is limited and preference will be given to those who submit their reply slips first. The cost will depend on the number of scouts attending, the length of the camp as well as the activities included. Visits to the caves or the dinosaur park are expensive and will add to the cost of the camp, whereas an item like boating will add nothing to the cost of the trip.

Possible Activities:

- **Visit to the Long Tom Cannon and Pass:** The famous Long-Tom pass is located just outside Lydenburg. Named after the famous Boer-War cannon, the head of the pass boasts a replica of one of these famous guns which is placed on the site where these guns were last used against the British Army by the Boers.



The Sudwala Caves

- **Visit to the Sudwala Caves:** Located between Lydenburg and Nelspruit, the caves were home to our ancestors some 2,5 million years ago, and more recently were the site of several battles for control of the Swazi throne. The caves boast some beautiful rock formations and are a must for any keen geologists out there.
- **Visit to Sudwala Dinosaur Park:** Located just outside the Sudwala Caves, the park plays home to full-sized models of dinosaurs and other prehistoric creatures as well as several Nile Crocodiles.
- **Hiking:** There are a number of fantastic hiking sites in the area, including the picturesque Sterkspruit Nature Reserve. The farm itself is located next to the beautiful Schoemanskloof in the Mpumalanga escarpment.
- **Boating:** There is a dam on the farm with two canoes. Depending on the demand for boating, we may also bring along the troop's small sailing dingy. Swimming will obviously be available so bring your swimming costumes along!
- **Marksmanship:** There are six air rifles on the farm which can be used for some target shooting.
- **Zip Lining:** There is a zip line on the farm for those who enjoy zinging along above everyone else's head.
- **Bass Fishing:** The local dam has some whoppers in it. If you enjoy spending a couple of quiet hours next to a tranquil dam you will love this activity.
- **Cycling:** Last year several scouts indicated an interest in the cyclist badge. This includes completing a 100km cycle in under five hours. Scouts not doing the badge just enjoyed cycling in the area. If you would like us to run a cycling activity again please let us know.
- **Climbing / Abseiling:** Cliffs and mountains in the area may allow us to look at some rock climbing and abseiling.



The Sudwala Dinosaur Park

Water Savings:

You are by now no doubt aware that most of South Africa is in the midst of a drought. This will cause hardship for many people and as scouts we need to do our bit to save



water as best we can. Here are ten water saving tips that we can all implement. Pass this information on to friends and family and see how much water we can save!

- 1) Check for leaky taps or toilet cisterns that constantly let water run and repair or replace them. According the European Environmental Agency, a leaky tap can waste up to 1 litre per hour. That is a full-to-the-brim bathtub every week!
- 2) If you need to wash your parent's car, use a bucket and sponge only rather than a hosepipe.
- 3) Try not to water your garden. If you have to, use grey water (more about that later) and do it before sunrise or after sunset (to avoid water loss via evaporation). If you must use a sprinkler, use it after sunset or before sunrise and switch it off when it is raining.
- 4) Recycle water! Collect grey water (water from your bath or shower) and use it to water plants. Do this by placing a bucket on the floor under the shower head (showers) or by scooping water out of your bath when you are done (baths).
- 5) If you shower, wet yourself, then turn OFF the water. Soap yourself down. When you are done, switch on the water again to wash yourself off. If you bath, share the bath water with someone else. Remember to collect your grey water!
- 6) Consider replacing exotic trees with indigenous ones. According to a "Working for Water" article by Dye and Jarmain, areas covered in black wattle typically loose 1 500 mm annually to evaporation, whereas indigenous fynbos and grassland loses only 600 - 850 mm annually. The White Stinkwood, Karee and Mountain Karee are trees indigenous to the greater-Johannesburg area. It would be great to see some patrol activities clearing exotic plants from Bedfordview's parks and reserves.
- 7) Think about flushing. "If it's yellow, let it mellow, if it's brown, flush it down" is a rhyme that can save a great deal of water. Dual flush systems allow you to flush the yellow with much less water and a full 2 litre coke bottle in your cistern can reduce the amount of water used in a flush.
- 8) Think about when you work. Heavy manual work in the heat of the day is not only unpleasant, it also makes you drink more. Get up early to help your parents with household chores rather than sleep in and do them when it is much hotter.
- 9) Think about water wastage. Do you have a glass of water next to your bed at night? Do you drink it all? If not, what happens to the water the next day? Do you drink it or does it get thrown down the sink when the dishes are done?
- 10) Think about what you eat. A drought means less food and it will be more expensive, but your diet can also save water. A cow drinks water for itself and it also consumes plants which also had to drink water to grow – double consumption! A carrot only drinks water for itself. According to



the Institution of Mechanical Engineers it takes between 5 000 and 20 000 litres to produce a kg of wheat, but only 500 and 4 000 litres to produce a kg of wheat. Maybe look at having a vegetarian meal once a week?

Cederberg 2016:

If you will be 15 or older on 10 December 2016 then I suggest you

visit <http://www.scouting.org.za/adventure/> now for more information on the 2016 Senior Scout Adventure in the Cederberg Mountains, about 200km north of Cape Town.



The Adventure is run every two years and is one of the premier events on the South African Scouting Adventure. Participants will be treated to over ten days of hiking in the pristine wilderness, doing activities ranging from flying in light aircraft to abseiling to treasure diving to paint balling.

The Adventure is scheduled to run from 10 to 22 December 2015, although the troop



Abseiling Base

normally departs a few days earlier and spends some time exploring the Mother City first. In addition to the age requirement, the organisers generally expect participants to hold at least their Adventurer Advancement Badge. The cost of the 2014 Adventure was R3 300,00 per person. This excludes transport to Cape Town and the cost of the pre-tour, but includes transport from Cape Town to the Adventure and back, food, accommodation and all activities on the adventure.

The troop will hold a Q&A session early in the new year to provide more information on this event, but please consider this if you intend booking a family holiday in December 2016. PLTU, which is ordinarily held in December each year, is generally held on the January after the adventure on years that Cederberg is run so it is possible to do both.

Badge Design Competition:

If you are interested National is running a competition to design the new advancement badges, which closes on 4 December 2015. A R250,00 voucher is up for grabs. Information on the competition is available at <http://scouts.org.za/2015/11/05/design-the-new-scout-programme-badges-and-win/>.

Patrol Points:

With seven weeks of the new year already gone the inter-patrol competition is already hotting up! Will Springbok retain their trophy or will another patrol wrest it from their grasp? As at 13 November 2015 the patrol points stood as follows:

Kudu: 166
Sable: 126
Springbok: 122
Wildebeest: 181

Upcoming Activities at a Glance:

An annual planner for 2016 will be ready in the next few weeks. In the interim please take note of the following events for the rest of 2015 and the beginning of 2016:

December:

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

January:

15 Scouts reopens

February:

6 District White Stripe Dinner (by invitation only)
21 BP Sunday and District Gala

March:

6 District Pioneering Competition

Yours in scouting

A Campbell
Andrew Campbell



'Ah, Mavis. Councillor Frobisher is here with some useful tips on saving water during the drought...'

END OF YEAR CAMP REPLY SLIP

Name of scout: _____

Are you interested in attending the End of Year Camp (Y/N): _____

(If you are not interested please do not fill out the rest of this form)

Please mark which activities you would be interested in by ticking the relevant box:

Activity	I want to do	I don't mind doing	I don't want to do
Long Tom visit			
Caves visit			
Dinosaur Park visit			
Hiking			
Boating			
Marksmanship			
Zip Lining			
Bass Fishing			
Cycling			
Climbing / abseiling			

Any other activities you would like us to do on the camp: _____

If we hike, I would like to do the following type of hike (tick the box that suits you):

10 km + day hike (suitable for Pathfinder)	15km + overnight hike (suitable for Adventurer)	20km + overnight hike (suitable for First Class)
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I would be interested in the requirements / part of the requirements for the following badges being completed on the camp (mark those badges which interest you, badge requirements are available at <http://wiki.scouts.org.za/resources/scouts/badge-book/>). S/C stands for "scoutcraft":

Camping S/C	Canoeing S/C	Climbing S/C	Conservation S/C	Fires & Cooking S/C
First Aid S/C	Hiking S/C	Map Reading S/C	Observation S/C	Pioneering S/C
Astronomer	Cook	Cyclist	First Aid	Fishing
Hike Leader	Mapping	Ornithologist	Pioneer	Rock Climbing
Signaller	Veldcraft	Water Biologist	World Conservation	World Scout Environment

I would also like it if the following interest badges / sections of an advancement badge could be covered on the camp: _____

I would be prepared to pay the following for the camp (tick the option that suits you):

R650 – R700 pp	R700 - R750 pp
R750 – R800 pp	R750 – R850
R850 – R900 pp	I cannot afford R650 but am interested in the camp

I would prefer the camp to start on:

Friday 11 December	Saturday 12 December	Sunday 13 December
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I would prefer the camp to end on:

Sunday 13 December	Tuesday 15 December	Wednesday 16 December
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My parents would be available to assist with transport to the camp (Y/N) _____

My parents would be available to assist with transport from the camp (Y/N) _____

If my parents can assist with transport, number of scouts that can be seated in vehicle with safety belts (excl driver): _____

Details of any other assistance your parents may be able to provide for the camp (food donations, badge testing, equipment etc): _____

Do you own your own bicycle and safety gear (helmet etc) Y/N: _____

Any special notes or comments? _____
