

# 1<sup>st</sup> BEDFORDVIEW SCOUT TROOP

DISA ROAD, BEDFORDVIEW

[www.1stbedfordview.org.za](http://www.1stbedfordview.org.za)

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

GPS Co-Ordinates: 26° 10' 12" S 28° 08' 29" E

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1 February 2016

Ref: Troop 2016/01

Dear scouts and parents

## Announcements for 2016

### News:

A very warm welcome back after what I trust was a restful and joyous festive season. I wish you all a prosperous 2016 with soft but bountiful rains and good fortune.

The troop has been very busy over the past couple of months.

The senior scouts did us proud by running a very successful Carols by Campfire in early December. In addition to some festive cheer around the fire, the food collected at the campfire was gladly received by the Colonel Rowland Home for the Deaf and Blind Aged. Well done to everyone who helped contribute to this worthy cause!



**Douglas and Keanan at the Col. Rowland Home**

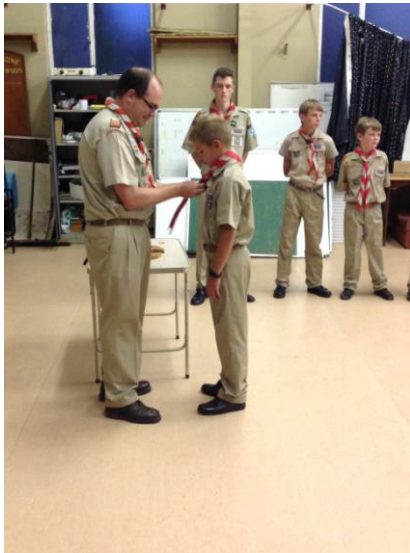
The troop then packed up for a five day End-of-Year camp in the Mpumalanga Drakensberg. Regular showers did little to dampen the spirits of the scouts who attended. The two patrols visited the Sudwala Caves, hiked in the nearby countryside, cycled gruelling miles in the area, spotted the local wildlife on a game drive, learnt about the difference between igneous and metamorphic rocks, fished to their heart's content, canoed on the farm dam, conquered a fearsome commando course, orienteered the wilds in the area, proved their marksmanship prowess on the shooting range, swam in the pristine dams, smelted tin into medallions and attacked the "enemy" with a mighty potato gun amongst other activities.

I have had numerous comments about the excellent behaviour of all who attended the camp and would like to thank the attendees for keeping the troop flag flying high (even though the winds did their best to knock over the flagpole!) A special thanks

be prepared....

**Troop Scouter:**  
**Assistant Troop Scouters:**

Andrew Campbell 084 758 4189 ([advcampbell@mwebbiz.co.za](mailto:advcampbell@mwebbiz.co.za))  
Stephen Westhoff 084 744 9100 ([StephenW@cubicool.co.za](mailto:StephenW@cubicool.co.za))  
David Nunn 082 453 8607 ([dave.nunn@bidfood.co.za](mailto:dave.nunn@bidfood.co.za))



must also be extended to the 1<sup>st</sup> Lydenburg scouter team for their invaluable help on the camp, to Rik, Austin and André for help on specialist activities, to Kevin for providing the venue and to the Petersens and Kleers for their help with transport.

Michael Omand attended a PLTU course over December, with Douglas Grossett helping run the course as staff. I think that Sable patrol has already seen the benefits of Michael's new-found skills and I am confident that the troop as a whole will benefit from the scouts who attend this excellent course.

### Connor's Investiture

Congratulations must also be extended to the winners of the various prizes at the Group AGM. It was particularly difficult to choose the winners of the various awards this year and I think that all the scouts can hold their heads high knowing that they helped to build a very successful 2015 year.

Finally, I must extend congratulations to Bradley Petersen on obtaining his silver recruiter badge and extend a warm welcome to Connor Petersen, who was invested into the troop last week.

### Annual Consent Forms:

My thanks to those of you who have completed and returned your annual consent forms.

For those who have not done so, please note that the rules of Scouts South Africa prevent us from allowing scouts who have not returned their annual consent forms from taking part in the programme. As such, those of you who still have annual consent forms outstanding will regrettably not be able to take part in the scout programme until such time as these forms have been submitted.



Dave Nunn (contact details at the foot of the first page of this newsletter) is in charge of the forms and can be contacted for more information on the forms. The form will be resent to anyone who has lost it on request and is also available on the 1<sup>st</sup> Bedfordview facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/52684287286/>).

## 2016 Subscriptions:

At the recent AGM fees for the year were set at R1 706,00 per person, with a 5% discount for a second child, a 10% discount for subsequent children and a 10% discount for the children of scouters. This can be paid annually or quarterly.

Please note that it is the policy of Scouts South Africa and of the 1<sup>st</sup> Bedfordview Troop that, insofar as is possible, no child should be denied the benefits of scouting due to indigence. As such, if you are unable to pay annual subscriptions you are encouraged to approach the committee, who will look at each case on an *ad hoc* basis with a view to providing financial relief to indigent families. Such communications will not be broadcast to the group as a whole and your application will be treated by the committee with the utmost sensitivity.

By now each family should have received an invoice for subscriptions and should have either made the annual payment or the first quarterly payment. If you have not received an invoice or if you have any queries about the invoice or discounts, please contact our treasurer, Belinda Nunn, on [belindanunn2411@gmail.com](mailto:belindanunn2411@gmail.com).

Some scouts have not yet made payment and I would ask you to do so or to make alternate arrangements asap. The group has numerous expenses such as water and electricity, capitation to HQ and items for programmes and needs your payments in order to continue providing a quality scouting programme.

## What is it to be a Scout?

It has come to my attention that some scouts feel under immense pressure to achieve advancement and that this is detracting from their experience at scouts.

So how important is advancement in scouts? What role does it play in you being a



scout? Is advancement something that you should be worrying about?

The essence of being a scout is about following the Scout Promise and the Scout Law. As long as you are doing your best to do this then you are living the life of a scout and are welcome at 1<sup>st</sup> Bedfordview or indeed in any troop in the world.

## Carols by Campfire

The Advancement programme is designed to help make you a better person, someone who can "... do their duty to God and their country ..." and a useful member of society. Following the programme can help you achieve within yourself and I would certainly encourage you all to try and advance through the advancement programme. But it is certainly not the be-all-and-end-all of scouting and I know many excellent



scouts who did not view advancement as being important at all and who did not achieve very much in terms of advancement.

Advancement is also a very personal thing. Remember that you promised to do “your best”. “Your best” is not the same as someone else’s best, and there is no race to finish a badge because one of your peers has done so. Competition can be healthy, but when it starts detracting from your experience at scouts it is better to take a step back and move at your own pace.

Certain activities at scouts such as the World Scout Jamboree are only open to scouts who have achieved a certain level of advancement and advancement is obviously something that is taken into account when we look at the appointment of PLs and Seconds, but if you would simply like to enjoy scouts without taking a leadership role or working through the programme then there is nothing wrong with that, particularly if you are one of the younger scouts. Work out what advancement (if any) you would like to achieve and then work through that advancement at a pace that is comfortable for you.



### **Bass fishing – End of Year Camp**

Though the scouters will continue to encourage all scouts to achieve in terms of the advancement programme and will continue to provide opportunities to advance, advancement is certainly not compulsory and I would rather have a troop full of happy scouts following the scout law than a troop with badges on the sleeves but who are not enjoying themselves.

If anyone has any concerns about advancement or indeed with any other issue at



scouts please discuss them with me, one of the ATs or your PL. Scouts is first and foremost about having fun and about living the Promise and Law, and if you are not experiencing this then we need to look at our programming. This can only be done if you talk

to us though!

## **Martin, Stuart and Michael catch a breather**

### **Swimming Programme:**

On Friday 5 February 2016 we will not be meeting at the scout hall. Instead we will be meeting at the Edenvale High School pool in Linksfield Avenue, Edenvale. You will not require scout uniform but should instead bring a swimming costume with a towel and something warm to wear afterwards (like a tracksuit). The programme will take place from 19h00 until 21h00 and you should be dropped off and collected at the school.

During the evening you will have an opportunity to be tested on the scoutcraft swimming badge and the swimmers interest badge. If anyone would like to be tested on the lifesavers badge please let Dave Nunn (contact details at the foot of the first page of this newsletter) know asap so we can attempt to arrange a suitable badge tester.

The three badges are sequential (you need your swimmers badge before you can do your lifesavers badge and you need your scoutcraft swimming badge before you can do your swimmers badge) and you will need to bring along the following depending on which badge you will be attempting:



**Connor learns about axemanship**

#### Scoutcraft Swimming:

- A shirt, socks and jeans that you will swim in (make sure you have other dry clothes for when you get out of the pool);

#### Lifesaver:

- Shoes, socks, long pants, shorts, belt, long-sleeves shirt and a jacket. All items except the shoes will get wet so make sure you have dry clothing.

I would recommend looking at the badge requirements before you attempt the badges as some of the badges have a theory component which you will need to prepare before Friday. The badge requirements can be found at: <http://wiki.scouts.org.za/resources/scouts/badge-book/>. Please note that if you want to be part of the Kontiki raft team that you have to hold the Scoutcraft Swimming Badge, so this is a golden opportunity to earn this badge if you do not already hold it.

If you would like to join us for a game of water polo and a splash in the pool without trying out for a badge that is also fine.



### **Movie Evening:**

The ever-popular movie evening will be taking place on Friday 12 February 2016 at the hall. You do not require your uniform for the evening but should bring along breakfast, bedding and a small bathroom bag (toothbrush etc).

The challenge this year is to use the movie evening as a recruitment tool. Each scout is challenged to bring along one or more friends who are potential recruits for the troop to join in the evening. Scouts who do this will earn 5 points towards their patrol.

The evening will start at 19h00 and scouts can be collected the next morning at 08h00. A small tuck-shop will sell snacks and cooldrinks. If necessary arrangements can be made for you to be collected early. Please note meals are not provided!

Please chat to your PL about what movies you would like to see. We will provide the projector, but feel free to bring along your own DVDs. Please remember that this is scouts and DVDs with inappropriate content will not be screened.

### **Daredevil Challenge and Troop Dinner:**

1<sup>st</sup> Kengray have challenged us to see how many scouts we can get to enter the Daredevil Run. The run will take place on the afternoon of Friday 19 February 2016 (starting at 15h00) and is used to raise funds for cancer screening and awareness programmes. The run itself is about 5km long and takes place in and around Zoo Lake and the Johannesburg Zoo. The “daredevil” element comes from the fact that you do the run in a purple speedo, so this is not for the faint-hearted!

More information on the run and entry details are available at <http://www.daredevilrun.com/>. I think this is an excellent way to raise money for a good cause (on BP weekend) and to have a couple of laughs in the process. Bring a friend or two along, the more the merrier! I am confident that we will not only have more scouts than Kengray, but also more fun too!



### **Phakamani and Martin out on the range**

The Court of Honour has suggested that on the evening of the run that instead of a regular scout programme we hold a troop dinner. At the end of this newsletter is a reply slip, please fill it in and return it by no later than Friday 12 February 2016 so we can gauge how successful this idea will be.



### **BP Sunday and Gala:**

### **Are you man enough to be a Daredevil?**

BP Sunday will be held on Sunday 21 February 2016 at the 1<sup>st</sup> Hellenic Scout Hall in SAHETI School, Civin Drive, Bedfordview. No details are yet available but we normally meet at around 08h30, march off at 09h00 and start the service at 09h30. The District Gala will follow the service at the SAHETI school pool.

Full details of BP Sunday will be forthcoming shortly, but in the meantime please pencil the date into your diary. Invested cubs and scouts will be allowed (and encouraged) to wear their uniforms to school on the preceding Friday (19 February).

There will be a prize for the best photo of a scout in his uniform at school on Friday 19 February 2016. This is an excellent opportunity to showcase scouting and I would encourage you all to wear your uniforms with pride. Each scout submitting a photo of him attending BP Sunday in uniform will also receive some points for his patrol.

### **Link Camp:**

Every year the troop runs a link camp which covers the requirements for the link badge (cubs) or troop membership (recruits from outside the movement). This is a fun way for potential scouts to complete almost all the requirements to join the troop and to see if scouting is something that will appeal to them.

At present we have four cubs who will be attending the camp but if you have a friend who is interested in scouts why not invite him on the camp? Attendees will attend the regular scout programme on Friday 26 February 2016, will camp at the hall on the Friday evening and will be finished the camp by late Saturday afternoon.

If you would like more information on the camp to pass on to friends please let me know.

### **Canoe Badge Testing:**

During the recent End-of-Year camp a number of you learnt the ins and outs of canoeing. If you are interested in attempting your Canoeing Scoutcraft Badge (requirements at <http://wiki.scouts.org.za/resources/scouts/badge-book/>) please pencil

in Sunday 28 February 2016, when we will be joining the Eastleigh Sea Scouts at Arrowe Park in Benoni where you can be tested on the badge.



**Canoeists in the Mist – Year End Camp**

There is no cost to attend and boats, lifejackets etc will be provided, but you will require your scoutcraft swimming badge before you can attempt the canoeing scoutcraft badge. Scouts (and potential scouts) who did not attend the camp are welcome to try out for the badge, and if you are not interested in the badge but would like to do some boating you are welcome to attend too.

Times for the testing session have not yet been finalised but if you are interested in attending this session please let me know via the reply slip at the end of this letter so that I can pass on further information to you.

#### **Hall Cleanup:**

The hall is looking a little tatty and there are a couple of final touches to be made to the patrol dens (such as the laying of genesis strips). Many hands make light work and I would encourage as many scouts, moms, dads and siblings as possible to pop round and lend a hand on Sunday 13 March.

#### **Mayoral Residence:**

Some of you may have come across a newspaper article in “The Tame Times” noting that the Ekurhuleni Council wishes to demolish the scout hall with a view to building a mayoral residence on the site. I wish to clear up any rumours around this.

In December last year Clr Humphreys (the ward councillor for Bedfordview) contacted me noting that a document had come across her desk indicating that the hall was to be rezoned as a mayoral residence. Investigations by Clr Humphreys confirmed that the council had taken a decision to replace the hall with a mayoral residence. This decision was taken without consulting the group committee or any of the other groups that use the hall, or the ward committee.



The committee drew this to the attention of council and asked for an opportunity to make representations on the decision. Various meetings were held with Clr Humphreys and other concerned parties and written submissions were made to Clr Humphreys detailing the use of the hall not just by the scouting movement but by the community at large.

Last week communication was received to the effect that the decision to replace the hall with a mayoral residence has been reversed and that the council will be looking at purchasing, rather than building a mayoral residence.

Accordingly there is no foreseeable threat to the hall at present. A massive thanks must go out to Clr Humphreys and her team for all their hard work in assisting us on this matter. A suitable thank-you ceremony will be organised in the not-too-distant future to properly thank all of those who literally moved mountains to assist us.



**Learning a bit about geology – Year End Camp**

The group committee will continue to engage council on any issues surrounding the use of the hall and hopes to work hand-in-glove with the council to ensure quality outdoors programmes are provided to the youth in the Bedfordview area, which will hopefully uplift the entire Bedfordview community.

### **Kontiki 2016:**

The popular Kontiki event will be taking place on the weekend of 13 – 15 May at Arrowe Park in Benoni. Keanan Nunn will be taking overall control of 1<sup>st</sup> Bedfordview's efforts. For those who don't know what Kontiki is, please visit <http://kontiki.scouts.co.za/>.

Keanan will be calling regular “prep” meetings during the course of the next couple of months and I would encourage as many of you as possible to lend a hand and to attend these. Building a raft is a massive challenge but is a great deal of fun, unless you have not planned properly!

Scouts who are keen on being on the raft will have to hold the scoutcraft swimming badge but we are limited in how many scouts we can have on the raft. One of the most important factors in deciding who will be on the raft will be the dedication that individual scouts show towards helping to prepare for Kontiki, so if you want to be on the raft I recommend attending as many “prep” meetings as possible.

## Cederberg 2016:

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the National Senior Scout Adventure will be run from 10 to 22 December 2016 in the Cederberg Mountains about 200km north of Cape Town.

On Friday 11 March 2016 there will be a meeting directly after scouts (at 21h35 or as soon as possible after that) for scouts and parents who are interested in the adventure. The adventure is open to scouts who will be 15 or older on 10 December 2016 although in exceptional circumstances scouts older than 14 ½ on that date will be considered. The adventure is run every two years though so younger scouts will get an opportunity to attend the adventure in two years' time. More information on the adventure is available at <http://www.scouting.org.za/adventure/>.



**Alexei learns about Semaphore**

This meeting is a “no obligation” Q & A session where you can find out a bit more about the adventure, what it entails, the cost and the advancement requirements for the adventure. I am quite keen on putting together a 1<sup>st</sup> Bedfordview patrol this year and would like to get a feel at this early stage as to who would like to attend. If you cannot attend but are interested in more information, please let me know and I will try and pass the information on to you.



## Patrol Points:

As at 1 February 2016 the patrol points stood as follows:

Kudu:	316
Sable:	304
Springbok:	310
Wildebeest:	388

Remember that patrol activities (camps, hikes and patrol meetings) are the easiest way to earn points quickly!

## **Upcoming Activities at a Glance:**

All of you should have received the 2016 year planner by now, which has dates for the entire year. If not, please let me know as a matter of urgency. The dates for the next few months are set out below:

### February:

5	Swimming Programme
12	Movie Evening
13	District White Stripe Dinner (by invitation only)
19	Dare Devil Run
21	BP Sunday and District Gala
26 – 27	Link Camp
28	Canoe Badge Testing

### March:

6	District Pioneering Competition
11	Cederberg Talk
13	Hall Cleanup
18 – 20	Hike
25	No Scouts

### April:

1 – 3	White Stripe Camp (by invitation only)
8 – 10	District Competition Weekend
29	No Scouts

Yours in scouting

  
Andrew Campbell



## REPLY SLIP

(Please choose the option that best suits you and submit by 12 February 2016)

Name of scout: \_\_\_\_\_

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I will / will not be taking part in the Daredevil run on 19 February 2016.

With regards the proposed troop dinner on the evening of 19 February 2016, I feel:

- a) That we should not have a dinner and rather have a regular troop meeting;
  - b) That we should have a troop dinner at a restaurant close to the daredevil run;
  - c) That we should have a troop dinner at a restaurant in Bedfordview;
  - d) That we should have a troop dinner at the scout hall, where we get to show off our culinary skills.
  - e) I cannot attend scouts on 19 February 2016.
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I intend / do not intend attending BP Sunday

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With regards the canoe session on 28 February:

- a) I will not be attending
- b) I would like to attend and be tested on the scoutcraft canoeing badge
- c) I would like to attend just for the fun of the day

If I am attending:

- a) I am available at any time during the day;
  - b) I can only attend between the following times: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_
- 

With regards Kontiki:

- a) I will definitely be attending
- b) I can only attend part of the Kontiki weekend
- c) I would like to attend but am not sure if I am available
- d) I will not be attending

If you are attending:

- a) I would like to be part of the raft crew
- b) I would like to be part of the land crew
- c) I don't really mind which crew I am part of