



1st BEDFORDVIEW SCOUT TROOP

DISA ROAD, BEDFORDVIEW

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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7 April 2016

Ref: Troop 2016/02

Dear scouts and parents

Autumn Newsletter

I trust that you all had a well-deserved break over the Easter holidays and that you successfully hunted down various chocolate bunnies and eggs!

News:

I would like to start this feedback by congratulating the huge number of scouts who have earned badges in the two months since the last newsletter.

Bradley Petersen and Connor Petersen completed their scoutcraft swimming badges, Stuart Omand, Matthew Adamson, Phakamani Msimang, Ethan Smith and Jarod Nunn completed their swimmers badges, Michael Westhoff and Martin Kleer completed their cyclist badges and Matthew Adamson, Martin Kleer, Simon Kleer, Matthew Leishman, Phakamani Msimang and Stuart Omand completed their scoutcraft canoeing badges. Well done to all of you and a massive thanks to the Eastleigh Sea Scouts for helping with the testing of the canoeing badges and to Edenvale High School for kindly allowing us the use of their swimming pool.



Jason at Hurleyvale Primary

Every member of the troop also deserves a massive pat on the back after the troop was awarded the Jack Barford Trophy for the best troop in the Northrand District at the recent BP Sunday celebrations. This award is the culmination of a huge amount of work last year by all members of the troop. Well done! Congratulations must also be extended to Springbok patrol as the best patrol in the 2015 District Challenge and to the troop for obtaining an overall second place in the 2015 District Challenge.



Troop Scouter:
Assistant Troop Scouters:

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A number of activities have taken place since the last newsletter. Early this year the leadership of the troop attended the District White-stripe dinner where they feasted on pizza, learnt how to load an aeroplane and found about how scouts contributed to World War I.

A very successful link camp was held in February where eight potential recruits completed most of the requirements for troop membership. This augurs well for 2016 and we will hopefully see most of these recruits in the ranks of the troop in the not-too-distant future. A special thanks must be extended to Douglas Grossett and Michael Omand for giving of their time to help train the new recruits, their example is something that all scouts should strive to emulate.

The troop also held a very successful dinner at the Vini's Restaurant where we got to put our feet up and take a breather for a while. That weekend we also took part in the annual BP Sunday parade and had a great deal of fun at the annual scout gala at Saheti School.

My thanks must also be extended to Stephen Westhoff for organising a hall clean-up and to all the scouts and family members who attended the clean-up. Those who attended earned five points for their patrols, but more importantly we erected some much-needed shelving, laid genesis strips and generally cleaned out the patrol dens.



Michael at Bishop Bavin with friends

The troop also did well in the recent district pioneering competition at Arrowe Park, where Keanan Nunn led a team of scouts in building a suspension bridge. At the end of the competition all the bridges were linked together and a claim for the longest pioneered bridge has been suspended to the Guinness Book of World Records. We will let you know if this claim has been favourably received.

A handful of scouts also took part in a gruelling hike near Van Reenen over the Human Rights Day weekend. The trail was very poorly marked, which made for tough and slow hiking, but also meant that the stretches of indigenous forest that we hiked through were absolutely pristine. Everyone agreed that the trail was tough but absolutely beautiful.

BP Day Photo Contest:

Every year the District arranges for scouts to wear their uniforms to school a day or two before BP Sunday, and this year the troop decided to run a competition for the best photograph of a scout in uniform at school.

My thanks to all the scouts who submitted photographs, it was great to see you all acting as ambassadors for the troop and for scouting in general. Some of the photos have been included in this newsletter and you can see that it was no easy task picking a winner.

At the end of the day though Michael Goncalves put in the best photograph and will be presented with a prize at the next troop meeting. Well done to all the participants!



Recruitment Drive:

The “Flavours of the World Festival” will be taking place on 1 May in Edenvale and the troop has been offered a stall which can be used for fund-raising and recruiting. Martin Kleer is interested in running the stall provided there are sufficient scouts to help him. If you are available to help please let us know on the reply slip at the end of this newsletter.

Preparing to hike up Rensburgkop (background)

Finances:

We are in a very tough economic climate and many South African families are struggling to make ends meet. The Group Committee would like to remind scouts that if there is any scouting activity that you would like to attend but cannot afford to attend that the Committee can be approached to see if a plan can be made to afford you financial relief. The same holds true for annual subscriptions and indeed with any costs associated with scouting.

Such requests will be treated with utmost confidentiality and sensitivity and will be dealt with on a case-to-case basis.

Insofar as is possible Scouts South Africa and 1st Bedfordview Scout Group have a policy that no child should be denied the benefits of scouting for financial reasons and we would like to make sure that keen scouts are able to enjoy the full scouting programme without having to worry about the impact this may have on the family finances.

Programme on 8 April 2016:

This Friday the troop will be taking part in a wide-game run in the vicinity of the hall. Patrols will be accompanied by members of the scouter team as a safety precaution. The programme will be run in the normal time-slot and will start and end with a formal flag ceremony. You will be having a light meal during the programme, so do not have a massive dinner before scouts!

If you are attending, please bring the following items in addition to your normal scout uniform, pocket content and change of clothing:

- Sturdy walking shoes
- A small water bottle
- R50,00

Kontiki 2016:

We are rapidly approaching the annual Kontiki weekend and would like to finalise arrangements in the next couple of weeks. In order to do this we have to know how many scouts will be attending in order to arrange catering, transport and badges.



Rock climbing on the Bald Ibis Hiking Trail

At present the following scouts have confirmed their attendance at Kontiki: Jason Bailie, James Bartlett, Michael Goncalves, Jarod Nunn, Keanan Nunn, Michael Omand, Stuart Omand and Michael Westhoff. If you would like to attend Kontiki but have not yet rsvp'd please do so by no later than Friday 15 April 2016. Visitors to the troop are welcome to join us for the Kontiki weekend. Cubs can attend Kontiki as day visitors only.

For those who don't know, the Gauteng Kontiki is the largest scout event in South Africa. Over 3 000 scouts and guides will be camping at Arrowe Park just off Atlas Road in Benoni. Each group builds a raft which up to eight scouts sleep on for the duration of the weekend. The rest of the troop will be camping on the lake-shore. More information on Kontiki can be found at <http://kontiki.scouts.co.za/>.

The cost of Kontiki will depend on the number of scouts attending but is estimated to be no more than R300,00 per person, which will include food, camping fees, all activities and a badge for the weekend. Day visitors will not pay this cost but will not be catered for and will have to pay for a badge.

Parents, siblings and friends are welcome to visit Kontiki as day visitors but will require a badge in order to enter the premises. These are available through the troop (R45,00 per badge) or at the entrance of the event (R50,00 per badge, stock is limited).

Two of the programmes (15 April and 22 April) will be “prep” programmes where the



programme will be dedicated to making sure we have a sea-worthy raft. These “prep” sessions will continue on the Saturday and scouts who want to may sleep at the hall on the Friday evening. There is no cost to “prep” weekends but you will need to provide your own food. Timings of these weekends will be emailed out in the week before the prep weekend.

Best troop in the District – BP Sunday 2016

Space on the raft is limited and the COH will decide who forms part of the raft team. Attendance at prep weekends will obviously be factored into this decision. Raft team members must hold the scoutcraft swimming badge and must be available for the entire weekend.

If you have other commitments during the weekend it will be possible for you to come and go during the weekend, but you will not be able to be part of the raft team.

A reply slip is found at the end of this newsletter to assist with the Kontiki planning. Please submit the slip by no later than 15 April 2016 so we can finalise our planning. If you do not submit a slip it will be assumed that you are not attending.

Mapping Badges:

At the request of the Court of Honour the troop will be running two sessions to train and then test members of the troop on the scoutcraft map reading badge and the mapping badge. The training session will take place on 22 May and the testing session on 5 June. Full details on these sessions will be sent out over the next week or so.

The Mapping Badge is compulsory if you want to complete your “regular” Explorer on the path to Springbok so I would encourage all of you (and especially senior scouts) to make a note of these dates in your diary and to do your best to attend.

District Boot Hike:

The District Boot Hike will be taking place near Lydenburg in Mpumalanga from 25 to 26 June 2016. Information on the hike has been provided to your patrol leaders.

The closing date for patrols to enter this event is 16 April 2016, so please let your PLs know asap whether or not you will be attending so they can ascertain whether their patrol is going to enter.

The hike is taking place on a 200 ha farm in the Transvaal Drakensberg. There are two large dams on the farm, plenty of small antelope species, a commando course, zip line and top-notch facilities.

A boot hike is a short hike normally undertaken in the evening where you hike between bases, competing against other patrols in the district as you go. At stake is “The Boot” trophy. 1st

Bedfordview is hosting the boot hike this year and it would be great to see the troop well-represented at this event.



Bedfordview at the 2016 Pioneering Compo

Survival Bash:

A reminder that information was recently sent out on the upcoming Survival Bash. This will take place in July near Pongola in northern KZN.

This week-long camp is tough, but if you enjoy a challenge you will enjoy this! I would not encourage very junior scouts to attend this camp unless you really enjoy “roughing it”. For the older scouts this is a golden opportunity to earn your backwoodsman badge.

Please submit your entry forms to me before the cut-off date (30 April), I have arranged to pass these on to Brian in one batch. Please also do not forget that there are two compulsory briefing sessions in Boksburg for those of you attending the Bash.

If you have lost the information on the Bash please let me know and I will resend it to you.

Cederberg 2016:

Entries for the 2016 National Senior Scout Adventure are now open and it is important that we get our entry in as quickly as possible if we are to secure a place. If you are 15 or older this December and are keen on attending the Adventure please let me know by 15 April 2016 so that we can submit an entry. More information on the adventure is available at <http://www.scouting.org.za/adventure/>.

World Scout Jamboree 2019:

The World Scout Jamboree will be held in West Virginia, USA in July and August of 2019. Though details of eligibility are not yet available, I am fairly certain that the Jamboree will be open to scouts born between 21 July 2001 and 22 July 2005 to attend as participants and for scouts, rovers and scouters born before 21 July 2001 to attend as staff.



If you are interested in finding out more about the Jamboree the troop will be holding an information session at 21h35 on Friday 6 May 2016 at the scout hall. This session is open to parents as well as cubs, guides and scouts who may have an interest in attending.

As you can well imagine raising money for the Jamboree is a daunting task and if you are interested in attending it is best to start raising money as soon as possible. Last year six members of the 1st Bedfordview Family attended the Jamboree in Japan and we would like to ensure that attending the Jamboree remains an option for all members of the troop who are eligible to attend.

Cellphones:

I would like to remind scouts and parents that unless specifically stated otherwise in the information sent out on an activity that cellphones are not welcome at any scout activity and that scouts are banned from carrying them. Cellphones provide an unwelcome distraction to scouts, risk getting damaged or lost and can make the running of a programme very difficult for the scouters. At camp scouters are meant to be running the camp and looking after the scouts, not providing updates to parents as to how their children are doing when nothing is amiss.



(many of which are undertaken in areas beyond cellphone range in any event).

If there is an emergency at any scout activity the scouters will immediately make arrangements to contact the parents or legal guardians of the scout concerned and keep them fully apprised of the situation. The old maxim “No news is good news” is particularly relevant for scout activities

The same rule applies to tablets, i-pads, i-pods and similar electronic devices.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation on this subject.

Tuck shop:

The Court of Honour is running a tuckshop to raise troop funds. Cooldrinks and snacks will be available before and after scout programmes. The tuck shop will be closed during the actual programme.

Patrol Points:

As at 30 March 2016 the patrol points stood as follows:

Kudu: 490
Sable: 494
Springbok: 487
Wildebeest: 542,5

Upcoming Activities at a Glance:

April:

8 Wide Game
15 – 17 Kontiki Prep Weekend
15 Reply Slips due
16 Entries for Boot Hike Close
22 – 24 Kontiki Prep Weekend
29 No Scouts
30 Entries for Survival Bash Close

May:

1 Scout Recruitment Drive
6 World Jamboree Info Session
13 – 15 Kontiki
22 Mapping Training Session
24 Briefing Session for Survival Bash
27 – 29 Patrol Camps
31 Briefing Session for Survival Bash

June:

3 Group Campfire
5 Mapping Testing Session
10 Cub Night Hike
17 No Scouts
25 – 26 District Boot Hike
26 – 1 July Winter Camp

July:

3 – 10 Survival Bash
8 No Scouts
16 Recruitment Day

Yours in scouting


Andrew Campbell

The World Scout Emblem
Its Meaning http://16thbermondsey.com



- Left of fleur-de-lys:** Service to others
- Middle of fleur-de-lys:** Duty to God
- Right of fleur-de-lys:** Obedience to the Scout Law
- Bond of fleur-de-lys:** The family of Scouting
- Encircling Rope:** The unity and family of the World Scout Movement
- Reef Knot:** Cannot be undone however hard it is pulled. Symbolic of the strength of world scouting's unity and family
- Two five point stars:** Truth & knowledge, ten points of the original Scout Law

Heraldic Colours: White or silver **Baden Powell:** "Our badge we for purity, Royal Purple denotes Leadership & Service. took from the 'Northpoint' used on maps"

Source: <http://members.scouts.org.uk/factsheets/FS260016.pdf>

REPLY SLIP

(Please choose the option that best suits you and submit by 15 April 2016)

Name of scout: _____

Recruitment Drive

I will / will not be able to assist with the “Flavours of the World” function on 1 May 2016.

Kontiki

I will / will not be sleeping at the hall on 15 April 2016

I will / will not be sleeping at the hall on 22 April 2016

With regards Kontiki itself:

- a) I will not be attending at all
- b) I will attend part of the weekend only
- c) I will attend as a day visitor / Friday evening only (no catering)
- d) I will be available for the entire weekend

If you are attending Kontiki:

- a) I would like to be part of the raft crew (must hold scoutcraft swimming badge)
- b) I would like to be part of the land crew
- c) I don't really mind which crew I am part of

If you are attending Kontiki please tick which meals you will require catering for:

Meal	Cater (Y/N)
Friday dinner	
Saturday breakfast	
Saturday lunch	
Saturday dinner	
Sunday breakfast	
Sunday lunch	

I need _____ badges FOR MY FAMILY (include yourself) (If you have a sibling in the troop please do not “double order” badges. One sibling should mark “0” badges on his form, the other should mark the number of badges for the entire family.)

Boot Hike:

I will / will not be attending the District Boot Hike on 25 and 26 June 2016

Cederberg:

I would / would not like to attend Cederberg 2016