



1st BEDFORDVIEW SCOUT TROOP

DISA ROAD, BEDFORDVIEW

www.1stbedfordview.org.za

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15 July 2016

Ref: Troop 2016/03

Dear scouts and parents

Winter Newsletter

I trust that you all had a well-deserved break over the recent holidays and that you are drinking plenty of hot chocolate and coca!

News:

The troop has, as always, been quite busy since the last newsletter and I would like to thank the scouters, PLs and scouts for making time for scouts. We all have busy lives and it is appreciated.

The troop experienced the wettest Kontiki in years as we moved forward to do battle with the Dark Side of the Force as Kontiki visited Star Wars. The raft went up in record time, testimony to the hard work of the PLs in planning Kontiki and to the efforts of the scouts in making sure they had all the requisite skills to make the raft happen.



Matthew Adamson at Kontiki

The troop achieved a 30th place overall and did particularly well in the raft pioneering competition, achieving a 7th place overall. More importantly there was an excellent spirit in the camp despite the inclement weather and I would like to congratulate all the scouts on adhering to the 8th scout law. Well done everyone!

Several members of the troop also attended a mapping course run by the troop and 1st Honeydew Troop. This course clearly had massive benefits as I noticed a vast improvement in the navigational abilities of the scouts involved in both the District Boot Hike and at the recent Survival Bash. I look forward to handing out some mapping badges in the not-too-distant future. I would also like to thank Roald Kvevli (TS of 1st Honeydew and a former Bedfordview scout) for his invaluable work on the Mapping Course.



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)

The troop ran two bases at the recent District Cub Night Hike. It was great to see the scouts giving something back to the movement and both bases seemed to be very popular with the cubs.



Matthew with a snouted cobra at a troop meeting

The troop hosted the District Boot Hike at the Stonechat resort near Lydenburg. Sable patrol represented the troop and in spectacular fashion won the event. I think that a huge amount of credit needs to go to Michael Omand for his leadership given to the patrol and for organising transport to the event despite massive school commitments.

Three Bedfordview scouts also joined six other troops at the bi-annual Survival Bash organised by 2nd Boksburg on the banks of the Pongola River. The week-long camp was in a very rustic setting (one morning we woke up to elephant droppings 40m from the campsite) and was certainly very tough. Bathing in an icy-cold river, building shelters every night, relying on survival rations (and the odd chicken), navigating by the sun and stars and hiking through mountainous country without a compass is not easy, but all three scouts did the troop proud. I was particularly proud of the leadership abilities of all three scouts as well as their scouting skills which were of a very high standard.

Michael Omand and Michael Westhoff both earned their scoutcraft survival badges and all three scouts have almost completed a plethora of other badges which I hope to award in the next couple of weeks. Congratulations must also be extended to Michael Omand on being awarded his cub instructor badge and to Jason Bailie on earning his food for life starter scoutcraft badge.



Winners of the 2016 Boot Hike Competition

I would also like to congratulate Douglas Grossett on his appointment as Troop Leader and Martin Kleer on being made Acting PL of Springbok Patrol. Well done to both of you!

Finally I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the following scouts who have been invested since the last troop newsletter: Mandla Green, Callum Hooker, Brogan McEwan and Dylan Odgers. I wish you all the best on the scouting trail ahead and many happy years at 1st Bedfordview.

Scoutcraft and Interest Badges:

Over the past couple of months the troop has run a series of activities designed to allow scouts to earn certain badges. These include the Mapping Course (scoutcraft map reading and mapping badges), the Olympics Evening (scoutcraft fitness badge and physical fitness badge) and the Survival Bash (scoutcraft conservation, scoutcraft fires and cooking, scoutcraft hiking, scoutcraft map reading, scoutcraft observation, scoutcraft survival, advanced navigation, backwoodsman, mapping, marksmanship, veldcraft and water biologist badges).



Michael, Michael and Martin set off on a navigation hike

Many of you have passed many of the requirements of these badges and I would urge you to complete the final requirements so that you can be awarded your badges. It is up to you to approach the scouter team with a view to testing the remaining requirements asap.

A date for the practical testing of the mapping and scoutcraft map reading badges will be sent out shortly. The theory can be tested at any time.

Troop Camp in August

You will notice that there is a five-day camp scheduled in August. This was because of Cederberg which makes running the annual year-end-camp rather difficult.

A number of scouts have indicated that this is inconvenient though. Please complete the reply slip at the end of this newsletter and return it by next week Friday so we can see whether or not it is viable to run this event or not and whether or not there is interest in moving the camp to the December holidays.

Kim Shield:

The PLs have been provided with the information on Kim Shield, which is scheduled to take place from 26 to 28 August 2016.



Kim Shield is a Regional Competition where scouts from around Gauteng gather to complete a series of incident-type bases. As this is a patrol activity patrols who enter can count the activity for an overnight patrol activity, which counts towards the Star Patrol Awards.

If you are interested in attending Kim Shield please chat to your PL as a matter of urgency so he can give you more information and decide whether or not to enter as a patrol. If your patrol is not entering your PL can pass on your information to the PL of a patrol that does want to enter.

The Scout Law in Practice

As scouts we have all promised to do our best to do certain things, including obeying the scout law. Though it is impossible to keep the law all the time, we should all strive to do so.

One of the parts of the scout law that causes a great deal of confusion in younger scouts is the fifth part (“A scout is Courteous”). Generally this is because younger scouts do not know the meaning of the word “courteous”.

“Courteous” is an old-fashioned word that means “polite” and so as a scout you should be doing your best to be well-mannered and polite. This covers a whole range of things, from saying “please” and “thank you” to respecting all other people and their view and beliefs.

A number of Patrol Leaders have complained that when they ask for responses from their scouts about upcoming events that they are generally ignored. Many scouts also do not excuse themselves when they do not attend scouts.

Although we all lead busy lives I would ask every scout to make a special effort to be “courteous” and let their PLs know what is going on. If you cannot make scouts please try and make an effort to let your PL know as early as possible so he can plan for an evening without you.

If your PL asks for a response, please give him one, even if you simply tell him that you are busy checking on your availability with your parents. To say absolutely nothing is not courteous and can make planning very difficult.

The nice thing about politeness is that once you get into the habit of courteous behaviour it becomes almost second nature and you don’t even need to think about it.

See if you can develop a “courteous” nature and become a better scout and a better person!

First Aid:

The COH and several individual scouts have asked about the possibility of getting some quality first aid training. Many scouts require this to complete some of their advancement and a number of scouts have their eyes on the various first aid badges. In addition, the District First Aid Competition is being run in September and it would be great to do well there.

To this end the next couple of weeks are going to be dedicated to first aid. Scouts who attend scouts regularly for the next month or so will receive training in all elements of the scout first aid programme. This will culminate in an inter-patrol first aid compo where scouts will have an opportunity to be tested on various items for their first aid badges.



Michael Westhoff makes a “survival” pizza

If you need some element of first aid tested (be it an item on your Pathfinder or the First Aid interest badge) I would urge you to make sure that you do not miss scouts for the next couple of weeks.

Star Patrol:

A reminder to all the patrols that the final Star Patrol assessments will be taking place in October. Patrols have until the end of September to complete the requirements for Star Patrol. Don’t leave it too late!

Cederberg:

A reminder to the senior scouts that we have until the end of July to enter Cederberg. Please indicate if you are attending or not on the reply slip.

Patrol Points:

As at 15 July 2016 the patrol points stood as follows:

Kudu: 603
Sable: 709
Springbok: 594
Wildebceest: 674,5

Upcoming Activities at a Glance:

August:

5 – 9 Troop Camp
26 – 28 Kim’s Shield

September:

9 – 11 District Compo Camp
10 District First Aid Compo
16 – 18 Troop Water Camp

October:

7 – 9 Dads ‘n Lads
15 – 16 JOTA / JOTI

Yours in scouting

Andrew Campbell
Andrew Campbell



**Mike, Mike and Martin with their chickens
“Dinner” and “Lunch”**

REPLY SLIP

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

Name of scout: _____

Camp in August

I am / am not available for a troop camp from 5 to 9 August.

If the camp is not run in August, I would /would not be interested in attending a troop camp run at the end of the year (depending on the exact dates).

I would prefer a long camp run:

- a) At the Vaal River or Vaal Dam
- b) In the Drakensberg
- c) At the Scout SCENE in Mafekeng
- d) At the coast
- e) Not fussy

First Aid Compo:

If the inter-patrol first aid compo is run on 9 August 2016 (a public holiday) I would / would not be able to attend.

Cederberg:

I would / would not like to attend Cederberg 2016