

1st BEDFORDVIEW SCOUT TROOP

DISA ROAD, BEDFORDVIEW

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30 September 2016
Ref: Troop 2016/04

Dear scouts and parents

Spring Newsletter

The first purple blossoms of the Jacaranda trees are starting to peep out after their winter slumber and the year is rapidly drawing to a close. As can be seen below we have a busy couple of months ahead of us before the December break. I wish all scouts a successful exam period and lots of scouting fun over the few remaining weeks of 2016.

The troop made a big impression on voters at the recent municipal elections when Michael Omand led a team who constructed a two story tower at the scout hall grounds which loomed over the queuing voters. The tower was reported in the Bedfordview Edenvale News and the scouts who lent a hand and Sable Patrol in particular can hold their heads high over the very positive news coverage.



The troop also held a very successful cooking competition, where the patrols put their culinary skills to the test. I was particularly proud of all the patrols who took part, the standard was very high and I am confident that the troop will do very well in the upcoming district cooking competition as a result. What was particularly pleasing was the number of patrols who competed very well in the event despite their PLs being on holiday. With excellent seconds and thirds the future for the troop looks particularly bright. Well done to Springbok patrol on earning a first place in this event.

Display at the Municipal Elections

The troop also paid a visit to the inaugural Johannesburg Military Tattoo held outside the Apartheid Museum. The scouts were treated to four military brass bands, seven

be prepared....

Troop Scouter:
Assistant Troop Scouters:

Andrew Campbell 084 758 4189 (advcampbell@mwebbiz.co.za)
Stephen Westhoff 084 744 9100 (StephenW@cubicool.co.za)

pipe bands, cultural dancers and a military display. My personal favourite was the crash of howitzers firing during a rendition of “Star Wars” and listening to the theme from “Game of Thrones” being played by several hundred musicians.

The Wildebeest Patrol took part in the Kim Shield Competition close to Suikerbosrand in the south of Johannesburg, competing with patrols from around the province. At the time of writing results for the event were not available but Keanan Nunn tells me that the patrol had a great deal of fun, which in many ways is more important than a good placing. I would encourage all the patrols to have a look at this competition next year, by all accounts it seems to be well run and lots of fun.

Last week the troop raced around the sleepy streets of Greater-Bedfordview searching



for clues, collecting items and solving STA puzzles with a very successful Car Rally. My thanks to the moms and dads who provided transport and who made the whole thing possible. It was also great to have the Guides joining us for the event. Congratulations to Sable Patrol on a well-earned first place.

Ray, Mandla, Mike and Connor at the Cooking Compo

Congratulations must also be extended Mike Omand on earning his First Aid Scout Craft Badge and to Jason Bailie on earning his Model Engineer Badge. Keep up the good work!

Finally I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Bryce Von Auloch who was invested since the last newsletter. I wish you all the best on the scouting trail ahead and many happy years at 1st Bedfordview.

2017 Programme:

As the year draws to a close both the district and the troop have begun work on their year planners for 2017. Remember that scouts is a movement by scouts for scouts. If you particularly enjoyed an event, let us know so we can run it again. Conversely let us know if there is anything that we should not run again because you did not enjoy it. If you have ideas of events you would like to see included in either the troop or the district calendar, please let us know too! Feedback can be given to your PLs, who will pass on the information at the next Court of Honour.

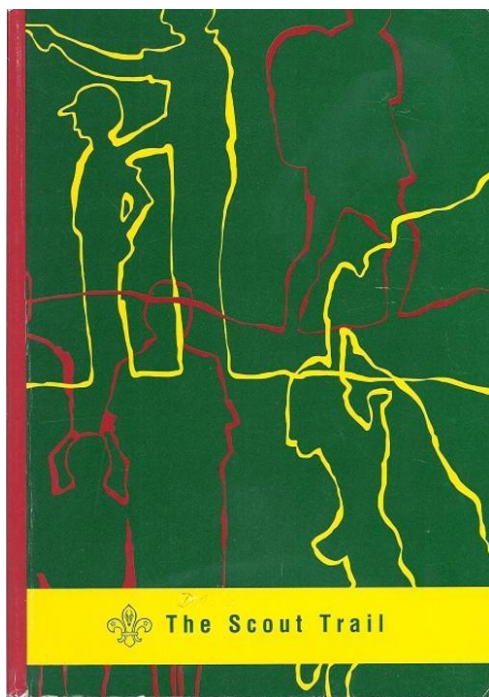
Farewell to Dave Nunn:

It is with great sadness that the troop bids farewell to Dave Nunn who for several years has helped run the troop as both a Troop Helper and as an Assistant Troop Scouter. Dave's work commitments are such that he can no longer give the time that he would like to to scouts, and we wish him all the best on his future endeavours. Dave will still be around as a parent and we trust that he will remain an active part of the troop in that capacity. We also trust that he will always have fond memories of his time as part of the scouter team.

Dave's cheerful manner and "can do" attitude will be missed and I would like to thank him on behalf of the troop for all that he has done for the troop. The troop will be looking at doing a proper farewell for Dave in the not-too-distant future.

Scout Trails:

The Gauteng Region is doing a limited printing run of "The Scout Trail", which has been out of print for over a year. Books will cost R90,00 a book. I need to provide numbers of books wanted to the region on Saturday morning, so all orders for books will have to be in by Friday evening.



The book is available online for those who would like to save their money, but I do not think there will be another printing run of the book and as such this is a "last chance" to order the book in hard copy. I must mention that there is a programme review which is currently underway which will see a new programme replace the present one. We have been promised this new programme for over six years now though and it is unclear when it will finally come in. I think that the present edition of "The Scout Trail" will remain a useful reference work even after the new programme comes into effect though, so I do

not think buying a copy will be a waste of money.

First Aid:

As set out in an email earlier this week, there is a free level 1 first aid course for scouts and scouters who are older than 14 at the Florida Lake Sea Scout Hall in Roodepoort on 1 and 2 October 2016 from 09h00 to 16h00 on both days.

If you would like to obtain a formal level 1 certificate and a textbook there will be a charge of R200,00. If you are interested in attending, please rsvp to Jill at 082 852 8194 or jill.dickinson@azochem.co.za asap.

Programme on 30 September 2016:

A reminder that scouts will be taking place at the Sharks / Lions rugby match at Ellis Park this Friday. There will be no regular programme at the hall. A reminder that we are meeting at the hall at 15h30 in camp uniform. I would imagine that we will be back at around 20h00 depending on the traffic.

There is food on sale at the venue.

Dads 'n Lads (7 - 9 October 2016):

At present we have 25 people attending the Dads and Lads, which promises to be a fantastic weekend away from the hustle and bustle of Johannesburg. At present we are awaiting final details from the booking agent, after which detailed information on the hike will be sent out.



Pioneering at a recent troop programme

There have been a couple of general questions about the hike:

- The hike is long enough for scouts to complete their Pathfinder Hikes. If you would like to log the hike please make sure you bring along an A6 hardcover notebook and a pencil for this purpose.
- It makes no sense for every family to take a vehicle to the hiking venue. We will be meeting at the hall before the hike with a view to car pooling. If you like you can still travel independently to the venue.
- For your food a light, ready to eat lunch is recommended for the trail. We will be cooking at a base camp and so a more substantial meal can be brought for breakfast and dinner, as you will not have to carry this around. Traditionally we have a braai on the Friday night and there is certainly no law against a braai on both evenings!

Once the trail organisers have provided us with the full information on the trail this will be sent out, together with the times for meeting. We would like to leave as early as possible on the Friday, please let Stephen know what time you can realistically meet at the scout hall so that we can try and accommodate as many people as possible.

We may be able to squeeze one or two more people onto the hike if you are still keen. Please contact Stephen (StephenW@cubicool.co.za or 084 7449100) asap if you are keen on joining us.

JOTA / JOTI:

Every year thousands of scouts from around the world take to the airways and the world wide web and have a Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). If this event appeals to you

have a chat to your PL, who has been provided with information on this year's JOTA / JOTI and how to get involved.

Mapping Testing:

Earlier this year a mapping course was run by the troop. A number of scouts could not attend the testing session run earlier this year and a second session will accordingly be run on Sunday 16 October 2016 at a farm near Broederstroom from 09h00 to 18h00. The cost of the day is R20,00, which will cover maps and other materials needed to test the various mapping badges.

You can either do the Map Reading Scoutcraft Badge or the Mapping Scoutcraft Badge at the testing session.

If you are keen on attending please let me know by Sunday 9 October. Further information will then be provided.

District Cooking Compo:

The District Cooking Competition will be taking place at our scout hall on Friday 21 October 2016. Your patrol leaders have been provided with all the information required for this event, which is largely based on the troop cooking competition run earlier this year. As such all our patrols should be in a position to do really well in this event.

Please let your PL know asap whether or not you will be taking part in this event to help them plan.



James and Mike make a conservation stove

Group AGM:

The Group AGM will be taking place on Friday 4 November 2016. Please pencil this date into your diaries. Various awards, including the scout of the year and the patrol of the year will be made at this event, so please make sure you are in attendance in case your son wins one or other award.

More information on this event will be sent out by the committee shortly.

Scouters Wanted:

We are looking for enthusiastic people who are keen on joining the scouter team, (either as Troop Helpers or as Assistant Troop Scouters) to help ensure that quality scouting is provided to members of the 1st Bedfordview Troop. If you enjoy the great outdoors, enjoy helping others and helping young men reach their full potential then drop me a line to discuss what joining the team would entail.

A scouting background obviously helps but is not a prerequisite. Applicants should be adults who are prepared to live by the Scout Promise and Law and to undergo a background check as part of the process. This is an ideal opportunity for fathers to spend some quality time with their sons, for ex-scouts to give back to the movement and for enthusiastic individuals to give back to their community and have a great deal of fun in the process.

Patrol Points:

At the end of September the patrol points close for the year. The results will be announced at the Group AGM and for this reason the latest points are not set out in this newsletter, though there have been big changes in the standings since the last newsletter.

From 1 October 2016 a new year begins, so if your patrol has not done that well in the inter-patrol competition thus far why not plan ahead so that you can do well in the 2016 / 2017 competition. Remember that there are bonus points for doing things like earning badges, organising patrol activities and recruiting new scouts.

Upcoming Activities at a Glance:

October:

1 – 2	First Aid Course
7 – 9	Dads 'n Lads
15 – 16	JOTA / JOTI
16	Mapping Testing Day
21	Northrand District Cooking Compo

November:

4	Group AGM
13	Memorial Parade

December:

2	Carols by Campfire (last programme for the year)
10 – 22	National Senior Scout Adventure



Chef PJ at the Cooking Compo

Yours in scouting

Andrew Campbell