



# 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

PO BOX 16117

DOWERGLEN

1612

31 January 2016

Ref: Troop 2017/01

Dear scouts and parents

## SUMMER NEWSLETTER

A very warm welcome back after what was, I hope, a restful festive season. I hope that you are all well rested and ready to take on the challenges of the New Year. The excellent rains auger well for 2017 and I hope that 2017 is a truly fantastic year for all of you.

### **Troop News**

Since the last newsletter three scouts have been invested as members of the troop: PJ Van Der Walt, Brendan Griffiths and Adam Bartlett. I hope that you spend many happy years with the troop and that you find a true "home away from home" at 1<sup>st</sup> Bedfordview!



**Matthew and Martin distribute food at Colonel Rowland Home for the Deaf Aged**

I would also like to extend congratulations Jason Bailie on obtaining his marksman badge and to Dylan Odgers on earning his scoutcraft fitness badge. Congratulations must also be extended to the recipients of the various prizes at the AGM: Keanan Nunn for best attendance (seniors), Jarod Nunn for best attendance (juniors and overall), Matthew Leishman for his special "tenacity" award, James Bartlett for most improved junior scout, Michael Omand for most improved senior scout, Simon Kleer for most improved overall scout, Matthew Adamson for junior scout of the year, Keanan Nunn for senior scout of the year, Martin Kleer for overall scout of the year and to Sable Patrol for winning the inter-patrol trophy for 2016. Well done to all of you!

The troop finished off 2016 with a bang at the District Cooking Competition – Springbok Patrol tied for first place on 745 points! A massive congratulations to you, you did the troop proud! Cooking has not traditionally been the troop's strongest skill, so it is great to see us doing so well against very strong cooking troops.

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))

The troop also held a very successful Dads and Lads event in the Waterberg towards the end of 2016. The weekend was full of fun – from a late-night rugby match, to a mud-fight in the local river and sitting around a blazing campfire. The wildlife in the area was also spectacular – a personal highlight for me was hiking alongside a herd of Sable antelope for the better part of a kilometre on the Sunday. Most importantly the weekend was a great time for dads and lads to get away from it all and spend some quality time together.



The last troop meeting for 2016 was the Carols by Campfire. I would like to extend a massive thanks to everyone who supported this event, which raised several thousand rand for the troop via food and drink sales. We also managed to collect packets upon packets of non-perishable food which was donated to the Colonel Rowland Home for the Deaf Aged in Pine Road.

### **Hiking in the Pristine Cederberg Mountains**

Stephen Westhoff then ran a very successful year end camp at Rosedale Farm near Van Reenen's Pass. Hiking in the Natal Drakensberg, swimming in the farm dam and scouting the farm for bushmen paintings were just some of the activities that the scouts undertook during the camp. I would like to make special mention of Franco Mordini and Luis Goncalves who volunteered their time as troop helpers to help make the camp a massive success. Without their help the camp would simply not have been possible.

While Stephen and two patrols of scouts were having fun in the Drakensberg I joined Martin Kler and Keanan Nunn on the National Senior Scout Adventure in the rugged Cederberg Mountains about 200km north of Cape Town. "Cederberg" as it is commonly known is a twelve day adventure for scouts older than 15 where scouts hike well over 100km over extremely difficult terrain between fantastic bases.

During the course of this adventure our patrol learnt how to swing on a trapeze, ran a commando course, learnt about handicapped awareness, took part in an i-spot competition, did diving in a crystal clear river, took out targets at the archery base, made fresh pizza and a full three-course dutch oven meal, learnt about the heavens at an astronomical observatory, panned for gold, geocached, made the best backwoods dinner in years and enjoyed learning about settler culture in a local village. Other bases on the adventure included rock climbing, paintball, parasailing, 4 x 4 adventure, water skiing and much more. If you are 13 or older you will be able to go on the next Adventure at the end of 2018. Start planning now!

The New Year got off to a good start with a very successful annual link camp. We had eleven recruits attend the camp and have another two recruits who are visiting the troop, so hopefully troop numbers will be growing considerably in 2017. The link camp attendees covered almost all the requirements for membership and should all make excellent scouts. I would like to give a massive thanks to the COH members who popped down during the weekend. It always helps when new scouts get to interact with their future PLs on a one-to-one basis.

Our final piece of good news concerns the new kitchen which has recently been installed thanks to a very generous Odgers family. The old kitchen is decades old (it had not changed much since I was a cub in the late 1980s) and the new fittings are literally a breath of fresh air and make the hall that much easier to hire out for functions.

Over the years we have had many parents who have made the scouters' job of running the pack and troop so much easier by their hard work and generosity. We have parents who give up time to transport scouts, help run programmes or become ATs, PSs, APSs, Guiders and helpers. We have parents who tirelessly sort out equipment, raise funds, run bingo evenings, sort out leases, do maintenance and serve on the committee. We have parents who source fantastic donations in the form of prizes, a new floor for the hall, materials to fix dens, a new kitchen, tents and equipment. We have parents (and ex-parents) who make their own facilities available to the troop, who are always there when we need them and who really go the extra mile. We have parents who are hopelessly snowed under at work but who still make time to lend a hand. The truth is that often the troop does not say "thank you" to you enough and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their fantastic support over the years which has helped make the 1<sup>st</sup> Bedfordview Group the success that it is.



**Attendees at the 2016 Dads and Lads in the Waterberg**

### **Swimming Programme**

On Friday 3 February the troop programme will be taking place at the Edenvale High School Pool in Linksfield Road, Edenvale. Scouts should meet there at 19h00 and we should be done by 21h00. **YOU SHOULD BE DROPPED AND COLLECTED AT THE POOL!** There will be no regular programme at the hall.

Please wear camp uniform (golf shirt, troop scarf and cap) on Friday and do not forget your swimming costume, towel and warm clothing. During the evening you will have an opportunity to be tested on various badges. I have attached the requirements for the badges (please note that you need to do the swimming scoutcraft badge before you can do the swimmers badge). Please also make sure that you have the equipment required for your badge:

### Swimming Scoutcraft Badge:

- Clothes for you to swim in, including shirt, jeans (or similar long pants) and socks.

### Swimmers Badge:

- No special equipment, but must first hold Swimming Scoutcraft Badge.

### Lifesavers Badge:

- Clothes for you to swim in, including shoes, socks, trousers, shorts, long-sleeved shirt and a jacket or sweater.
- A life-line (if you have one)
- Please let me know by Thursday morning if you are attempting this badge – there is other equipment we need to organise for this.
- You must hold the swimmers badge in order to attempt this badge.



### **Northrand District Gala**

The District Gala will be held on 17 February at the Sacred Heart College Pool at 15 Eckstein Street, Observatory, Johannesburg. This promises to be a great deal of fun and I hope to see a good turnout from the troop. Friends and families are welcome too and even if you don't swim please come along and support. Please take note of the following information:

**Time:** 18h00 to start at 18h30 sharp. The gala should end between 21h00 and 21h30.

**Fee:** An item of non-perishable food which will be donated to the Three2six Children's Refugee Education Project.

**Bring:** Your swimming costume and towel, as well as warm clothes (it can get chilly). Please wear your camp uniform (golf shirts, caps and scarves) on the evening. Do not forget a bag to carry it all in.

**Food:** Will be on sale. This will have to be pre-ordered. Order forms will be sent out by the organisers shortly.

**Rain:** The organisers have put a contingency plan in place so if there is rain the event will be replaced by an indoors relay event.

### **Mandla learns how to make boerewors**

relay event.

**Help:** There is a parent's race, so if we have one or two parents who are willing to swim a length or two for the troop that would be much appreciated.

## **BP Day Celebrations**

The most important day on the scouting calendar is BP Day, which falls on 22 February each year. I would encourage all of you to get involved in the BP Day celebrations and show the world that scouting is alive and well in South Africa.

There are two important items that you need to be aware of.

Firstly, permission is being obtained for all scouts to wear their scout uniform to school on Friday 17 February 2016. This is excellent advertising for scouting and there will be a chocolate prize for the best photograph of a scout in full scout uniform at school on this day.

Secondly on the District will be holding a celebration on the Sunday closest to BP day. This year Harmelia Gardens Air Scouts will be hosting the celebrations. Though details are yet to be confirmed the Group is looking at doing something a little different this year by having an afternoon service (around 16h00) to be followed by a campfire. Full details will be sent out as soon as they are available, but please pencil in Sunday 19 February into your diary in the interim.



**Archery at Cederberg**

## **Orienteering Programme**

On Friday 24 February we will be doing a programme at Oriel Park, Kloof Road, Bedfordview. We will be meeting at the scout hall at 19h00 and will have a regular opening before the scouts are transported to the park for an orienteering adventure. This is excellent practice for the upcoming boot hike. Scouts will then be transported back to the hall where they can be collected at 21h30.

For this programme please bring the following:

- A torch (if you have)
- A notebook and pen / pencil
- A compass (if you have)
- A water bottle
- Sensible walking shoes

Oriel Park is in a boomed-off area and should offer a safe and secure area for orienteering to take place in. If any parents have any queries about the activity please discuss these with me.

## **District Boot Hike**

The District Boot Hike will be taking place in the Witwatersberg Mountains near Hartebeespoort on the evening of 4 March 2017. Last year Sable Patrol convincingly won the event and it would be nice to have the trophy retained by the troop.

Please chat to your PL about your patrol taking part and pencil in the date in the interim. Full details will be sent to your PLs shortly.

### **Pioneering Camp**

You will notice from your year planners that a pioneering camp is planned for the long weekend of 17 – 21 March (Tuesday 21 March is a public holiday and Monday 20 March is a school holiday).



If you enjoy building bridges, towers and other man-sized projects then this is the camp for you. We are also hoping to dry-build a Kontiki raft. This will also be a good opportunity for scouts who need one or two small items of advancement to get them out of the way.

Some scouts will of course be away on holiday during this period but we would like to gauge the interest in the camp for planning purposes. Please fill out the reply slip at the end of this newsletter and return it by Friday 10 February 2017 to indicate your interest in the camp.

### **Kontiki 2017**

The Annual Kontiki event will be taking place from 12 – 14 May in Arrowe Park, Benoni. Though we still have many months before the event entries are now open and in order to ensure that we get a good campsite we need to enter sooner rather than later.

### **Martin on the Trapeze at Cederberg**

Due to the large number of new scouts it may be necessary to take a second campsite. This is a fairly large financial commitment (R1 350,00) and we only want to take the campsite if it is strictly necessary.

To this end could all scouts please indicate by no later than Friday 10 February 2017 on your reply slip whether or not they think they will be attending this year's Kontiki. I know that it is far to early to make a 100% commitment but an indication will be very useful for planning purposes.

Cubs and visitors who will be invested scouts by the Kontiki date must also please respond so we can include you in our planning. If you would like more information on Kontiki please visit <http://kontiki.scouts.co.za/>.

### **ATsS Wanted**

In order to ensure a quality scouting programme it is imperative that the ratio of scouts to scouters be kept as low as possible. In my opinion every troop should strive to have one warranted scouter to each patrol of scouts.

At present we have two warranted scouters and four patrols and as such we are two ATsS short. If there are any fathers, uncles, grandfathers or big brothers out there who are interested in finding out more about what it entails to be an ATsS (Assistant Troop Scouter) please chat to either Stephen or me.

In a nutshell ATsS help run camps and programmes for the scouts in a troop. A good ATsS should enjoy working in a team with youngsters, should enjoy the great outdoors and should be prepared to learn. A sense of fun and adventure are key. Previous scouting experience helps but is not a prerequisite.

The commitment is not for every camp or troop programme and training will be provided at the cost of the Group. If you would like to “try out” to see if being an ATsS appeals to you that is also a possibility. Please note though that as ATsS work directly with scouts a background check is required.

### **Annual Consent Forms**

The 2016 annual consent form is valid until the end of January 2017. As such it is imperative that scouts return their original 2017 consent form if you have not already done so. Regrettably scouts who have not returned their 2017 consent form will not be allowed to take part in any scout activities until this has been submitted.

I know that the forms are a pain but the forms allow us to start medical treatment in the event of an emergency and as such are vitally important.

### **Patrol Points**

The current points for the inter-patrol competition are as follows:

Kudu:	215
Sable:	225
Springbok:	252
Wildebeest:	253



**Martin and a friend at the diving base**

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

#### February:

3 Swimming Programme – Edenvale High school

- 10 Reply Slips to be returned
- 17 District Gala
- 19 BP Sunday
- 24 Orienteering Programme – Oriel Park



March:

- 4 District Boot Hike
- 17 – 21 Troop Pioneering Camp

April:

- 1 District Pioneering Competition
- 14 No Scouts
- 28 No Scouts

Yours in scouting

Andrew Campbell

**REPLY SLIP – 2017 SCOUT EVENTS:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Pioneering Camp:

With regards the pioneering camp we may alter the dates slightly. Please mark the all the days you can attend.

I cannot attend any of these days	Saturday 18 March	Sunday 19 March	Monday 20 March	Tuesday 21 March
-----------------------------------	-------------------	-----------------	-----------------	------------------

How likely are you to attend if the dates suit your choices above? Mark one box please.

I will definitely not be attending	I will probably not be attending	I probably will be attending	I definitely will be attending
------------------------------------	----------------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------------

Kontiki:

With regards overnight attendance at this year’s Kontiki please mark one box:

I will definitely not be staying overnight	I will probably not be staying overnight	I probably will be staying overnight	I definitely will be staying overnight
--	--	--------------------------------------	--