



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

PO BOX 16117

DOWERGLEN

1612

4 April 2017

Ref: Troop 2017/02

Dear scouts and parents

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

Though the days remain hot and sunny the cool evenings are a reminder that winter is on its way, and with it the cooler weather that makes hiking, blazing campfires and hot cooking that much more enjoyable.

Troop News

I would like to commence this newsletter by welcoming four new scouts to the group, Luca Damilano, Andrew Kennedy, Mogale Kgaswe and Sabastian Limmer. It is great to have you all on board and I wish you all the best with your scouting careers going forwards.

I would also like to congratulate the following scouts (and boys visiting the troop who are not yet scouts) on obtaining the following badges:

Swimming Scoutcraft Badge: Jason Bailie, Adam Bartlett, Ryan Cubitt, Luca Damilano, Mandla Green, Andrew Kennedy, Mogale Kgaswe, Brogan McEwan, Dylan Odgers, Dean Stones, PJ Van Der Walt and Matthew Williams.

Swimmer Interest Badge: James Bartlett

Backwoodsman Interest Badge: Martin Kleer and Michael Omand

Pioneering Scoutcraft Badge: Jason Bailie

Well done to all of you!

The first few months of the year have been particularly busy. The troop kicked off the year with the District Swimming Gala hosted by Kengray. A different format was adopted this year which saw scouts building puzzles and pulling comrades across the pool instead of the normal butterfly, breaststroke and backstroke races. Well done on a fourth place.



PJ celebrates BP Day at St John's College

be prepared.....

Troop Scouter:

Assistant Troop Scouters:

Junior Assistant Troop Scouter:

Andrew Campbell 084 758 4189 (Andrew.campbell@scouts.org.za)

Stephen Westhoff 084 744 9100 (StephenW@cubicool.co.za)

Caleb Du Plooy 071 255 0266 (caleduplooy@gmail.com)

Douglas Grossett 072 591 0668 (wolfopotato@gmail.com)

The troop also took part in the annual BP Sunday march in Harmelia Gardens, which ended with a blazing campfire. A highlight of this event was the presentation of the trophy for the best scout group in the Northrand District to 1st Bedfordview. This is the culmination of a great deal of hard work by the pack, troop and crew and is well-deserved.

I would also like to thank those scouts who took the trouble to wear uniform to school on BP Day, and a special congratulations to PJ Van Der Walt for winning the competition for the best photograph of a scout in uniform at school on BP Day. Photographs from the various scouts who took part in the competition can be found in this newsletter.



Jason at BP Day at Hurleyvale Primary

The troop has also had a number of programmes away from the hall. The large number of scouts who earned various swimming badges is thanks in no small part to Edenvale High School for allowing us the kind use of their swimming pool. The more senior scouts also set up an enjoyable orienteering course in Oriel Park.

Wilbeest Patrol took part in the District Boot Hike Competition in the Witwatersberg mountains close to Hartebeespoort. The terrain was particularly gruelling and I was particularly proud of how the younger members of the patrol handled the competition. The patrol managed a fifth place in the competition.

The troop then ran a very successful Pioneering Camp at Arrowe Park, where we built some mini-rafts, made a massive catapult and managed to dry-build our Kontiki raft before learning a bit about how pulleys can be used to pull a dead-weight raft over a field.

This stood us in good stead in the Pioneering Compo, where the troop managed a fourth place. A little more work should see the troop winning some District Competitions, so keep plugging away.

A Warm Welcome to our New Scouters

A lack of warranted scouters is probably one of the biggest challenges facing Scouts South Africa at present. Finding someone with both the time and the willingness to undertake the responsibility of helping to run a troop, plan programmes, attend training and do a myriad of other unseen tasks is not easy in the busy modern world. I am pleased to announce that we have found not one but two such individuals who will hopefully help take the troop to a new level.



Caleb Du Plooy

Caleb Du Plooy hails from the 1st Walmer Troop in Port Elizabeth where he was a cub, scout, rover and assistant troop scouter. Caleb also completed a PLTU Course whilst in PE and has a range of scouting skills and new ideas that he now brings to 1st Bedfordview.

Caleb has moved to Johannesburg to study mechanical engineering at Damelin and has already been invested as a member of the Bedfordview Rover Crew. In his spare time he

plays water polo and enjoys the art of judo. Caleb was invested as an ATS on 31 March 2017 and will be undertaking training shortly in order to allow him to take up a warrant for this position.



Douglas Grossett

Douglas Grossett needs little introduction. He completed his cubbing at 1st Hellenic before transferring to 1st Bedfordview where he was invested as a scout. Douglas completed a PLTU course and represented South Africa at the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Japan before being made troop leader of the troop last year. Douglas is presently completing matric at St Benedict's College and has indicated that he does not want to continue working through the scout programme due to his busy schedule. Instead he would like to join the scouter team and to visit the Bedfordview Rover Crew with a view to possibly starting rovers.

In his spare time Douglas is an avid air-soft enthusiast and enjoys playing the great highland bagpipe and other musical instruments. Douglas was invested as a JATS on 24 March 2017 and will be making application to join the troop as a full ATS once he turns 18 in May.

I would like to wish both Caleb and Douglas all the best with their time on the scouter team and much happiness, joy and many fond memories. Your hard work can only benefit the troop and the sacrifice of your time is much appreciated.

Scouts Digital

Hopefully you are all now aware that the troop has migrated to the Scouts Digital management system. Though it is impossible to run through the entire system in this Newsletter, here are a couple of key points that you should be aware of:

- Every parent of a scout and scouts themselves can get a logon password for the system. In order to get a logon password I need certain information, so chat to me if you do not have a logon password but want one.
- If parents want close family members to have access to the system, I can add them too, please chat to me about this if you are interested.
- The system allows scouts and their parents to view their advancement and interest badge progress online at any time. Included in the system are the requirements for each badge, so if you can see you are 95% done with your Pathfinder for example, click on the badge and you can see what items are not yet completed and what the requirements are for those items.
- The system allows for individual items of interest badges to be signed off one at a time. This means the days of having sheets of papers with individual items signed off which keep getting lost are in the past. Your progress towards each individual interest badge can be viewed online and the system will tell you how far you are towards achieving any particular interest badge.



- Scouters can sign off items immediately on the on-line system using a smart phone, which then immediately updates. PLs can also sign off certain items. This means that the capturing of advancement should be much quicker and green cards are no longer required and will no longer be issued.
- The system allows for the ready production of various reports, advancement charts, attendance registers and other items, which should make the admin of running a troop or a patrol a breeze.
- The Group Committee is still exploring the system, which has financial tools that can be used too. If the Committee decided to use the system, parents will be able to access account information online too.
- There should be weekly emails generated by the system advising parents of upcoming programmes and when the troop is on holiday.
- The system is constantly under development and if all goes well consent forms for items should be automatically generated, meaning the days of filling in reams of information are past (unless the information has changed) and a simple signature is all that will be required.
- Cubs visiting the troop will be transferred onto the troop database once they join the troop. Until that time you will not be able to access your scout information. If you are in a pack that uses Scouts Digital though you will be able to see your cub advancement, including work on your link badge.
- Recruits will be added to the system once you have indicated a desire to join the troop and on receipt of a completed Application for Youth Membership Form. You will then be able to see your work towards troop membership.
- Depending on your position in the troop you will be able to see and do different things on the system. A scout can see his advancement but not sign anything off, a PL can manage his patrol and sign certain items off. A parent can see their child's progress, a committee member can access admin functions and a treasurer can use financial functions. Scouters and Committee Members with children in the group should please ensure that those children have their own logon passwords so that they will not have access to functions they should not be able to access.
- I am assured that the system is POPI compliant and that your personal information is safe.



Bryce, Dylan and Brogan with some friends at St Benedict's College

I would encourage all scouts to run over their advancement and interest badge work to check that all your progress has been captured. In particular those scouts who helped with the den revamp should chat to Steve Westhoff about signing off items for the handyman badge and those scouts who attended the mapping course last year should chat to me about that progress. If you have any badge sheets that have been partially signed off please bring them in so we can add them to the system.

I am quite excited about the new system and think it will make advancement and troop administration much easier. If there are scouts or parents who would like a session on how to run the system please let me know, if there is sufficient demand I will put such a session together.

Cooking Programme (7 April 2017)

Scouts will be starting early this Friday (18h30 unless your PL has arranged for an earlier start). Have a light supper before scouts as you will be enjoying your own meal at 20h30. Scouts will finish at 21h30.

Kontiki 2017 (12 - 14 May 2017)

Kontiki is the largest annual scouting event in South Africa and will see thousands of scouts, guides, rangers, rovers and adults camping at Arrowe Park in Benoni. This highlight of the event is the launching of 60-odd rafts on the Saturday morning. The crews of the raft will spend 24 hours on the water before returning to shore on the Sunday.

Kontiki preparations are well under-way and it is particularly satisfying to see younger members of the troop taking an active part in the preparations.

In order to complete our final planning it is important that we know exactly who will be at Kontiki. Once we know this information we will be able to give an accurate cost for the event, which is estimated to be R280 for the weekend. This includes all food, an event badge and camping fees for the weekend.



Preparing to fire – Catapults at the Northrand District Pioneering Competition

Could all scouts please complete the reply slip at the end of this newsletter and return it (via email if necessary) by Friday 14 April 2017? Please note that based on this return badges will be ordered and you will be invoiced. If you anticipate problems with the cost of Kontiki please contact the Committee to see if they can render assistance to you.

When deciding whether you want to be land crew or raft crew please note the following:

- Anyone on the raft crew has to hold the swimming scoutcraft badge (use Scouts Digital to check if you hold this badge).
- Anyone on raft crew **MUST** be available from 10h30 on the Saturday until the 11h30 on the Sunday. It is a requirement that you must spend at least 24 hours on the raft so if you are not available during this time you cannot be on the raft team.
- There is limited space on the raft team and you are not guaranteed a place on the raft. Anyone who does not make it onto the raft team will be put on the land team.
- The COH will announce who will be on the raft team at Kontiki. This will be based on your attendance at prep events and at scouts in general, the amount of work you put into helping prepare for Kontiki, your experience and your ability to work well as part of the raft team as well as your age and whether or not as an older scout you have had a chance to be on the raft team before. There are no guarantees and who is on the raft team lies solely within the discretion of the COH.

Scouts and parents who want to simply visit the event can order an event badge from the troop at R50,00 per badge. The badge gives you access to the site during the weekend, but obviously food will not be provided. There are also day passes available at the gate at R30,00 a pass.

Visitors to the troop who are of scout-going age can attend Kontiki. Invested cubs who are visiting the troop can regrettably not camp over, you will need to be invested as a scout first. You can visit Kontiki as a day visitor though.

If you would like more information on Kontiki please visit <http://kontiki.scouts.co.za/>. A newsletter with final information such as meeting times, a kit list, how to get to Arrowe Park and final costings will be sent out once we have final numbers.



Boating on the recent Pioneering Camp

Patrol Camps and Hike

A glance at the year planner will show that both patrol camps and patrol hikes are just around the corner. These are the most important events on the calendar after BP Sunday and I would ask everyone to make a concerted effort to attend them. If your patrol has not yet started planning these events, chat to your PL now!

Bingo Evening

The annual group bingo evening will be taking place on Friday 9 June at the hall. This is an evening of fun for the entire family and everyone, including friends, are welcome. This is a major fund raiser for the group and I would ask you to support it if at all possible.

More information will be sent out by the committee closer to the date.

Recruiters Badge

Did you know that there is a badge for recruiting friends into scouts? It is called the recruiters badge and you get a silver badge (one to four friends) and a gold badge (five friends or more) if your friends become fully invested scouts.



The LA Shield – Group of the Year

Looking at all the friendly faces in the BP Day photographs makes it clear that a number of you could earn this badge with very little effort on your part, why not give it a go?

Tuckshop

The COH will be selling cokes after scouts on a Friday evening at R10,00 a coke. This will be used as a fund raiser for the COH, so if you enjoy an ice-cold beverage after scouts bring along some money to scouts from now on.

Troop Scouter Warrant

My warrant as Troop Scouter will be expiring on 30 September 2017. Although I intend to apply for the position as TS again there may well be someone who would also like to run the troop or who is better qualified to do so and they obviously must be afforded an opportunity to apply for the position. The TS job description can be found at <http://scouts.org.za/wp-content/uploads/Troop-Scouter-F-June-2016.pdf>.

Accordingly all interested parties are invited to complete the necessary application form (available at <http://scouts.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Application-form-for-SSA-positions.pdf> and submit this to the Committee for consideration.)

Applicants who are not presently adult members of Scouts SA will also need to complete and submit an Application for Adult Membership Form available at <http://scouts.org.za/wp-content/uploads/Application-for-Adult-Membership-May-2016v1.pdf>.

Could all interested applicants submit their application forms by no later than 2 May 2017 to allow for the speedy processing of the application? If anyone would like to discuss what the position entails or if they have any other queries they are welcome to chat to me.

Patrol Attendance

One of the weaknesses identified by the scouters and the Court of Honour is the poor attendance of certain scouts. Ideally each scout should be attending at least 75% of troop activities, as an average of 75% is required for a gold star award.

To help address the question of attendance the COH has implemented a new monthly competition. Each month the patrol with the best attendance in that month will receive a chocolate for each patrol member in attendance on the last day of that month (when the results are announced.) So don't miss the last Friday of the month if at all possible! The competition has been running for two and there has been an improvement in the attendance of all four patrols from the first month to the second:

	Kudu	Sable	Springbok	Wildebeest
February	51,67%	48,21%	58,33%	70,83%
March	63,33%	65%	64,76%	78,57%
Average for Year	58,81%	58,99%	59,76%	70%

Well done to all four patrols on your improvement! A special congratulations to Wildebeest on getting the best attendance for both months and for presently qualifying for silver (70% - 74,99%) attendance for Star Patrol.

Patrol Points

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

Kudu: 355
 Sable: 396
 Springbok: 416
 Wildebeest: 418

Upcoming Activities at a Glance

April:

7 Cooking Programme
 14 No Scouts
 28 No Scouts
 Springbok Patrol Meeting

May:

12 – 14 Kontiki
 26 – 28 Patrol Hikes

June:

9 Bingo Evening
 15 – 18 Patrol Camps
 30 No Scouts

July:

1 Springbok Patrol Community Service
 15 Recruitment Day
 23 Mapping Training Day

Yours in scouting

A Campbell
 Andrew Campbell



BP Day at Jeppe High School for Boys



REPLY SLIP – KONTIKI 2017:

Name: _____

I will / will not be attending Kontiki 2017 (If “not”, please do not fill out the rest of this form).

I would like to:

Be a day visitor only (no meals catered – R50)	Be part of land crew (Est. cost of R280)	Be part of the raft crew (Est. cost of R280)
---	---	---

I require catering for the following meals (Mark “no meals” if you are a day visitor or “all meals” if you are there for the entire weekend. If you are there for part of the weekend only mark only those meals you need to be catered.)

Friday dinner	Saturday breakfast	Saturday lunch	Saturday dinner
Sunday breakfast	Sunday lunch	NO MEALS	ALL MEALS

My family requires the following number of extra badges at R50,00 per badge: (The scout filling out this form has been counted as needing one badge, if he has a brother attending as a scout, he will submit his own form and his badge will be counted on that form. This is for badges over and above scouts attending, ie badges for parents, cubs and supporters. If more than one form is being submitted per family only put the number of extra badges you need on one of the forms. If you are a cub you can either submit a form or order through Akela, do not do both!)

Number of extra badges: _____

Anything else you need us to be aware of (eg: times when you will not be at Kontiki, etc):
