

# 1<sup>st</sup> BEDFORDVIEW SCOUT TROOP

DISA ROAD, BEDFORDVIEW

[www.1stbedfordviewscouts.co.za](http://www.1stbedfordviewscouts.co.za)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/52684287286/>

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9 March 2018

Ref: Troop 2018/01

Dear scouts and parents

## AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

Although the weather remains hot and summery during the days, there is a definite chill in the evening air and leaves have started to change colour as we move into autumn.

The summer months have been fruitful ones for the troop. Michael Omand completed his Guide Badge, Mapping Badge and Explorer Badge and several members of the troop enjoyed an evening at the Edenvale High School Swimming Pool where the following badges were earned:

Swimming Scoutcraft Badge: Joshua Cook, Hayden Evans, Sabastian Limmer, Connor Odgers and Bryce Von Aulock.

Swimmers Badge: Adam Bartlett, Ryan Cubitt, Mogale Kgaswe, Brogan McEwan, Dylan Odgers, Dean Stones and Matthew Williams.

Lifesaver Badge: James Bartlett, Phakamani Msimang, Keanan Nunn and Michael Westhoff.



**Chief Scout Brendon Hausberger with DC Jean James-Smith – BP Sunday**

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CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF SCOUTING EXCELLENCE

be prepared.....

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**Troop Scouter:**

**Assistant Troop Scouters:**

**Troop Helper:**

Andrew Campbell 084 758 4189 ([Andrew.campbell@scouts.org.za](mailto:Andrew.campbell@scouts.org.za))

Stephen Westhoff 084 744 9100 ([StephenW@cubicool.co.za](mailto:StephenW@cubicool.co.za))

Caleb Du Plooy 071 255 0266 ([caleduplooy@gmail.com](mailto:caleduplooy@gmail.com))

Douglas Grossett 072 591 0668 ([wolffpotato@gmail.com](mailto:wolffpotato@gmail.com))

Brogan McEwan also earned his Silver Recruiters Badge and Michael Westhoff completed his Adventurer Badge. Finally, Keanan Nunn and Michael Westhoff



successfully completed a PLTU course during December. Well done to all of you!

Congratulations must also be extended to Sable Patrol for winning last year's inter-patrol competition. Sable is presently in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 2018 competition though and needs to work hard if it is going to defend the trophy.

### **Christian, James and Adam at Suikerbosrand**

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to Hayden Evans and Connor Odgers, who are due to be invested this evening. I hope that you will have a long and happy scouting career with 1<sup>st</sup> Bedfordview

The end of 2017 was particularly busy for the troop:

The troop ran a successful Carols by Campfire for the District in December, notwithstanding inclement weather! A large amount of food was collected for the local SPCA, which is fantastic.

Adam and James Bartlett attended SANJAMB in the Free State and kept the troop flag flying high at this event. In addition to interacting with scouts from around South Africa attendees were treated to some fantastic activities and had an absolute jol. SANJAMB was last run in 2001 and I am very glad to see its return. The plan is that SANJAMB will be run every four years from now on.



### **Joshua, Aragorn and Jason take a breather on camp**

Michael Omand also ran a very successful year-end camp as part of his Springbok Scout Award. The troop spent five nights camping on the banks of the Maretlwane River near Mooinooi in the Magaliesberg Mountains. Activities included tracking

giraffe and other game, hikes in the area including Castle Gorge, kloofing, pioneering, stalking and first aid.

Michael will be having his panel interview for his Springbok this Sunday and I hope to be able to announce his successful completion of scouting's top award in the next newsletter.

In January a successful link camp was held where several cubs completed the requirements for troop membership. The first two of these cubs are due to be invested later today.

The troop also hosted very successful BP Sunday Celebrations in February. The Bedfordview Rover Crew is the oldest continuously running crew in South Africa and as 2018 is both the centenary of worldwide roving and the Group's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary it was only fitting that we hosted this event. A particular treat was the attendance of the Chief Scout of South Africa at our celebrations. As far as I am aware this is the first time that the Chief Scout has ever attended the Northrand District's BP Sunday Celebrations.

My thanks to all for the fantastic support we have received for this event and for all your hard work. I think this was a real feather in both the Group's and the District's caps.

At BP Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Bedfordview was once again presented with the LA Shield for the Best Group in the Northrand District. This is no mean feat – there are ten scout groups in the Northrand District and it is certainly one of the strongest districts in Gauteng. This is a joint effort between the pack, the troop, the two rover crews, the committee and the parent body. This award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of all of you, well done!

Finally, a massive “well done” to James Bartlett of Springbok patrol for organising a patrol day hike at Suikerbosrand last weekend. Real scouting takes place at patrol level and I am thrilled to see patrols out and about doing real scouting.



**Christian takes a dip on the Year-end camp**

## **White Stripe Camp**

A reminder to those of you who have been invited to the White Stripe Camp that it will be taking place next weekend rather than this weekend as originally scheduled.

## **District Pioneering Competition**

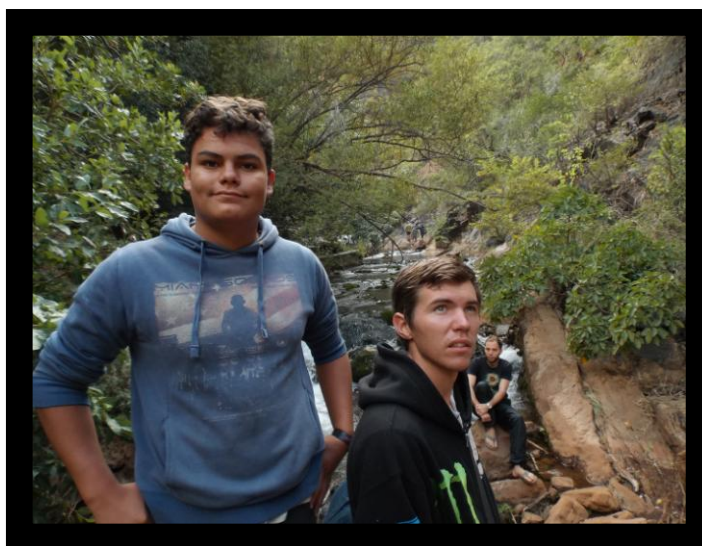
The District Pioneering Competition will be taking place on Saturday 24 March 2018 at the 1<sup>st</sup> Hellenic Scout Hall in SAHETI School, Civin Drive, Senderwood, Bedfordview from 09h00 to 14h00 and costs R40,00 per scout.

The Patrol Leaders have been provided with more information on the event. If you are keen on being considered as part of the team for this event, please advise your PL and indicate it in the reply slip below.

Please complete the reply slip at the end of this newsletter and return it to me by no later than 18 March 2018.

## **Wolkberg Hike**

The troop has been invited to join the 1<sup>st</sup> Honeydew Troop on a hike in one of the last great unspoilt wildernesses of South Africa – the Wolkberg. Located about 40 minutes east of Polokwane, this Eden is known for its steep, unspoilt valleys with gushing streams and hidden swimming holes.



**Bedfordview Rovers enjoying the Wolkberg**

This hike will be taking place from 29 March to 2 April 2018 and promises to be a great deal of fun. Participants will be expected to provide their own food and the cost of the hike should be limited to transportation and toll costs, estimated to be R200,00 per person.

If you are interested in the hike please fill in the reply slip below – space is limited. Further information will be provided to those who are interested in attending.

## **District Boot Hike**

At present no information is available on the Boot Hike other than that there is a possibility that the present date (7 – 8 April 2018 may change). Information will be provided as and when it becomes available.

## **Kontiki 2018**

The annual Kontiki weekend will be taking place from 18 to 20 May 2018 and planning is already underway. In order to plan properly, we need to have a rough estimate of numbers of scouts who want to attend. The estimated cost is R250,00 per person for the weekend (including food, camping fees and a badge) but this can only be confirmed once we have a better idea of who is attending. Please indicate this on the reply slip below.

Please note that if you would like to be considered for the raft team that you need to hold the Swimming Scoutcraft Badge.

A meeting will be held next Friday (16 March) after scouts for all senior scouts and parents interested in getting involved in the planning and organisation of this year's kontiki event.

## **Injasuti Hike**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Honeydew Scout Troop has invited us to join them on a massive adventure from 28 September to 3 October at Injasuti in the Natal Drakensberg.

The area caters for all levels of scouts, from beginners (who will do a series of day hikes) to an overnight hike for more advanced scouts and finally to a three day expedition in the High Drakensberg for the "manne". The three day expedition would be suitable for First Class or Springbok level hikes, though planning needs to be discussed.

There is very limited place on the trail and we need to book out campsites sooner rather than later. I do not have an estimate on cost yet but if you are in principle interested please indicate your interest in the reply slip so the necessary bookings can take place.

For photos of the area visit <https://www.facebook.com/1sthoneydewscouts/>



**Pioneering at Maretlwane – Year-end camp**

## **Cederberg 2018**

It is with great regret that I advise that the organisers of the National Senior Scout Adventure have been unable to get permission to run the event this year. Although no reasons have been provided for this, I suspect that this is due to the severe drought currently impacting on the Western Cape.

The troop is planning on running a year-end camp from 13 to 17 December 2018 instead, please pencil this date into your diaries.

### **World Jamboree 2019 – 22 July to 2 August 2019 (plus a pre-tour)**

The cost of the 24<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree has been reduced to a maximum of R55 000,00 (excluding visa fees). If the current strength of the rand continues this is expected to drop further.



At present only two entries forms for members of the troop have been received – Jarod Nunn and James Bartlett. Several other scouts have indicated an interest in the event but I have not received your forms yet and time is running out. Entries close on 30 April 2018 however applications received before 20 March 2018 will be given preference and I would urge you to get your forms in before this date.

Entry forms for this event can be found at [www.scouts.org.za/2017/07/26/apply-attend-usa-24wsj/](http://www.scouts.org.za/2017/07/26/apply-attend-usa-24wsj/). The event is open to scouts and adult leaders born before 21 July 2005 and will take place in West Virginia, USA. The event will also include a pre-tour of New York and Washington DC.

Please note that any applications need to be approved by the Court of Honour and signed by me, so do not leave this until the last minute. Get your forms in sooner rather than later to ensure that the necessary approval is obtained timelessly. This will also assist the organisers with planning and keeping the cost of the Jamboree to a minimum.

### **BP Day Competition**

A reminder that the troop is running a competition for the best photograph of you in scout uniform at school this year! Please send in your photos by 18 March 2018. In addition, scouts who wore their uniform to school will each earn ten points for their patrol. Please indicate if you wore your uniform to school in the reply-slip below.

### **Cell phone policy**

To avoid any confusion, in the last newsletter the troop's policy concerning the use of cellphones was set out in detail. Notwithstanding this, on the year-end camp several scouts were again caught using cellphones.



This matter has been discussed both at a Troop Scouter's Council and at a Court of Honour and is

viewed in a very serious light. Part of the Scout Law is that “A Scout’s Honour is to be Trusted” and I expect all scouts in the troop to adhere to the cellphone policy.

I have been advised that some parents are encouraging their children to bring cellphones on scout events despite the cellphone policy. This undermines both the scoutmasters and the very ethos of what we are trying to teach scouts. If parents are insistent that their children have cellphones at scouts then please contact me so that arrangements can be made to transfer your son(s) to a troop which accepts cellphones at troop events.

To avoid any uncertainty, please note that the cellphone policy is as follows:

- As a general rule of departure, cellphones are banned at all scout events. This includes all camps, hikes, excursions and Friday evening programmes. Cellphones should be left at home and should not be “put away” in bags or in pockets during the scout event. When in doubt, leave your cellphone behind!
- On occasion an exception to this rule will be made where safety concerns warrant the use of cell phones (for example on hikes where scouters will not be present). These exceptions are generally only made for Patrol Leaders. On these rare occasions individual scouts will be contacted by one of the scouters (normally the Troop Scouter) and advised that that individual may bring his cellphone for a specific activity for safety reasons. Once the activity is over, the cellphone will be taken in and locked away until the scout event is over, when it will be returned to the scouter.

For example, if there is a hike as part of a camp (as frequently happens on year-end camps), the leaders of the hike will be asked to bring their cellphones on camp. The phones will be locked away until the hike. They will then be handed out when the hike begins (to be used only for emergencies) and will be taken in when the hike is over. The cellphones will be returned to the scouts at the end of the camp.

- Patrol Activities are slightly different to most scout events as the PL takes responsibility for his patrol without direct adult supervision. For safety reasons the PL running a patrol activity where no scouters are present is expected to bring his cellphone on the activity. The PL need not ask permission from scouters to bring his cellphone on such occasions. If the PL deems it necessary, he may contact his second prior to the patrol activity and ask him to bring his cellphone along for safety purposes.



**Mike Omand after plunging into a deep pool**

- In the event that a scout has a cellphone on a scout event then this is to be used for emergency and organisational purposes only. For example, a PL on a patrol event may use his cellphone to call for help in an emergency or to confirm items like transport arrangements for the end of the event, but may not use the phone for surfing the internet, playing games, watching videos or similar activities.
- Scouters will have cellphones with them on scout events and will contact the parents concerned in the event of an emergency. If an event is running drastically off time parents will similarly be contacted. Generally parents should expect no contact from scouters during scout events – no news is good news and means that everything is on track and that the event is expected to run more or less on schedule.
- In the event of an emergency parents may contact the scouter or PL running an event in order to chat to their son. For example, if there is a death of a close relative during a scout camp parents are welcome to contact the scouter or PL in charge to speak to the scout in question (bearing in mind that many camps and hikes are run at venues beyond cellphone reception).  
Finding out if your son is “OK” is not an emergency, such calls are highly disruptive to the programme and it is not fair on the scouters and PLs to expect them to field telephone calls from 30 different parents checking up on their sons. Contact with scouts during scout events should be limited to emergencies only.

I trust that this removes any confusion that there may be around the use of cellphones at scouts and look forward to enjoying good scouting in a cellphone-free environment.

### 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations

On 26 July 2018 the troop will be turning 90. A celebratory dinner is being planned for Saturday 28 July 2018, please pencil this date into your diaries.



A massive congratulations to Gordon Grossett, who won the prize for the best design for a celebratory badge commemorating this event. The badges will be manufactured shortly and will be available for purchase.

### Patrol Attendance

Remember that each patrol should be striving for a 75% aggregate attendance over the year. Are you doing your bit? Why not check out the attendance register on the notice board to see your personal attendance?

	<b>Kudu</b>	<b>Sable</b>	<b>Springbok</b>	<b>Wildebeest</b>
<b>January</b>	75%	71,43%	71,43%	71,43%
<b>February</b>	66,67%	58,33%	64,29%	85,71%
<b>Average for Year</b>	66,67%	63,27%	63,27%	77,55%



## Patrol Points

The patrol points presently stand as follows:

Kudu: 374,5  
Sable: 379  
Springbok: 393  
Wildebeest: 406



There is plenty of time to earn more points for your patrol before the AGM. Remember that you can get bonus points for the following:

Earning an interest or scoutcraft badge:	20 points
Earning and advancement badge:	50 points
Bringing a someone new to their first scout meeting: (Not an existing member of Scouts SA)	10 points
Earning a gold recruiters badge:	200 points
Having your patrol represented at a COH meeting:	10 points
Running a patrol overnight activity:	100 points
Running a patrol day hike:	50 points
Running a patrol meeting:	20 points

## Upcoming Activities at a Glance

### March:

16	Kontiki Meeting after scouts
16- 18	White Stripe Camp
24	District Pioneering Competition
29 – 31	Wolkberg Hike Starts
30	No regular scout programme

### April:

1 – 2	Wolkberg Hike Continues
7 – 8	District Boot Hike
27	No regular scout programme

### May:

18 - 20	Kontiki
26	Group Bingo Evening

Yours in scouting

Andrew Campbell

## REPLY SLIP

Please return the attached reply slip by no later than 18 March 2018 to [andrew.campbell@scouts.org.za](mailto:andrew.campbell@scouts.org.za).

Name of scout: \_\_\_\_\_

I did / did not wear my scout uniform to school this year as part of the BP Day celebrations (delete as appropriate)

I am / am not interested in attending the Wolkberg hike (delete as appropriate)

In respect of Kontiki 2018 (please tick the most appropriate box), I anticipate that:

I will not be attending	I will visit on my own steam as a day visitor only	I will be there most of the weekend, but need to pop out for sport or a similar activity	I will be there the entire weekend
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In respect of Kontiki 2018 (please tick the most appropriate box):

I will not be attending or will only be a day visitor	I would like to be part of the raft crew	I would like to be part of the land crew	I do not mind if I am on the raft or on land
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In respect of the Injasuti Hike I am / am not interested in attending (delete as applicable)



**All good things come to an end – Year-end Camp 2017 in Maretlwane**