



1st BEDFORDVIEW SCOUT TROOP

DISA ROAD, BEDFORDVIEW

www.1stbedfordviewscouts.co.za

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

GPS Co-Ordinates: 26° 10' 12" S 28° 08' 29" E

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1 November 2018

Ref: Troop 2018/04

Dear scouts and parents

SPRING NEWSLETTER

Members of the troop have been extremely busy since the last newsletter and I would in particular like to thank the patrol leaders for organising a range of patrol events and activities. Scouting is at its best at patrol level and your hard work means that there is a real possibility that some of the patrols will achieve a gold star award at the end of the year.

A number of badges have been awarded since the last newsletter: Gordon Grossett earned his Musician, Genealogy and Entertainer Badges, Jason Bailie and Keanan Nunn both earned their Map Reading Scoutcraft Badges, Michael Westhoff and Kyle Botes both earned their Backwoodsman Badges and Kyle also earned his Advanced Navigation and Handyman Badges.



Kyle Botes was also awarded his First Class Advancement Badge, which is a real achievement.

At the end of July the troop celebrated its 90th anniversary in style with a formal dinner hosted at St Benedict's college. A massive thanks must be extended to the school for the use of the venue, as well as to Backsberg Wines, Blue Bottles Liquors Eden Terrace, Eastleigh Fruit and Veg City, Glenvale Fruit and Veg City, the De Pontes Family, Definitive Edge Edenvale, Dowerglen Spar and Paul Hannsen for their sponsorship of the event.

The event was attended by current and past members of the group, as well as various friends of the group from the scouting and guiding fraternities. The troop is by far the oldest group in the Northrand District and will hopefully continue to serve the community for many decades to come.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF SCOUTING EXCELLENCE

be prepared.....

Troop Scouter:

Assistant Troop Scouters:

Troop Helper:

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The troop achieved a well-deserved second place in the District Pioneering Competition. The troop was one of the few groups that not only got its project up in the allotted time but also managed to complete all the small bases for extra points. Well done!

The Troop also made use of the facilities at the Modderfontein Conservancy to run a troop boot hike. Our friends from the Edenvale Girl Scout Troop and the Bedfordview Guide Company joined us for the event. Although several patrols got waylaid on the evening, a good time was had by all and the evening culminated with an informal campfire at the reserve's boma.

A small patrol also took part in the first aid competition and managed a fifth place. Many thanks to the Bedfordview Rovers for organising this event.



Jarod and Jamie renew their Promise at the 90th Anniversary Celebrations

Springbok patrol tried valiantly to defend the troop's title as the best cooks in the district, but lost out to Harmelia Gardens. Rumour has it that a pork belly that was left on a little too long was partially to blame, but the patrol had a great deal of fun and learnt a bit more about the intricacies of cooking.

The troop recently enjoyed the annual Dads and Lads weekend in the North-West Province. The scouts and their dads enjoyed a range of activities including archery, hiking, paddle-boarding, fishing and cycling. In this modern era it is often difficult to find time to take a minute and enjoy a blazing fire with friends and family, and I am sure that the attendees will agree that this camp was a much-needed break from the bustle of Johannesburg.

As mentioned above, the patrols have also been very busy. Kudu patrol recently had a patrol backwoodsman camp and a visit to the Cradle of Humankind. Earlier in the year they also braved the unseasonal rain to enjoy a hike near Machadadorp. Sable patrol enjoyed a meeting with Greek scouts from the 1st Hellenic Scout Group at Acrobranch near Huddle Park. Wildebeest Patrol also continued work at the Modderfontein Conservancy, helping to set up a scout campsite in the reserve.

An Inspirational Story

"The Mail and Guardian" recently published an article on the role of scouting in the war-ravaged Central African Republic (CAR). The article notes that there are more scouts than peace keepers in the CAR and said the following about the achievements of scouting in that country:

“He and his peers rattle off a list of accomplishments that makes it clear that the scout movement in this country is not just a recreational activity.

Some representative examples: when UNICEF, the UN Children’s Fund, wanted to roll out a nationwide vaccination programme, it was the boy scouts who knocked on village doors to tell sceptical citizens that the doctors were coming and that they could be trusted. When nervous villagers need to go to hospital in a distant town, they can request a scout to accompany them along unfamiliar roads and territory.

When a Muslim community was trapped in the forest near Boda, in 2017, it was the scouts who mediated with the armed groups holding them hostage to secure their release. When the Pope came to visit in 2015, it was the scouts who managed the delirious crowds that lined his route from the airport.

And, this year, when humanitarian aid workers received those jumbled reports about a potential Ebola outbreak in a remote, treacherous part of the country, it was the scouts who were consulted as the first line of inquiry. Scouts were already there, of course. Fortunately for all concerned, there was no sign of the deadly virus.”

The CAR is divided along ethnic and religious lines. Scouting is one of the few organisations that cut across these divides, as shown by this picture of two scout leaders, one Catholic, the other Muslim.



The full article can be read at <http://atavist.mg.co.za/boy-scouts-in-a-war-zone>.

It is quite inspiring to see what our brother scouts in the CAR have achieved and how they are making a difference despite massive challenges. South Africa of course faces its own set of unique challenges, challenges which South African scouts can help address.

What difference can you and your patrol make to the many challenges facing South Africa? Are you a “recreational scout” or are you a scout who is there to make a difference?

I would like to issue a challenge to each 1st Bedfordview patrol to come up with and implement a meaningful community service project before the end of 2019 which would make our brothers in the CAR proud. We are fortunate to have a well-resourced troop whose members generally come from fairly stable, well-off backgrounds and who have skills that could make a real difference.

If you have an idea chat to your Patrol Leader and LET’S MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Remembrance Day 2018

Every year on 11 November people from around the world pause to think about the futility of war and the sacrifices of those who were killed in war. You will probably notice many people also wear a red poppy during this time as a sign of respect.

This year is a particularly important year as it marks 100 years since the end of World War I. Is your patrol doing anything to take a stand against war and to remember its victims?



Why not attend one of the two public functions to commemorate remembrance day?

The first is run by the Mayor of Johannesburg at the Cenotaph in the CBD and includes a march-past by troops and members of the civil defence units in the early afternoon. There are traditionally several troops present from

Southern District so your patrol will not be alone.

The second is the “Shadow March” which takes place at sunset (normally at the War Memorial next to the zoo). This is run by the MOTHS (a veterans’ association) who recall their lost comrades when they see the long shadows cast on the ground by the setting sun.

If a patrol attends either function it will count as a patrol meeting for the purposes of star patrol certificates and each patrol attending will get 50 points towards the year-end trophy.

Patrol Leaders are welcome to contact me for more information on either function.

Group AGM

The Group AGM has been moved from 2 November 2018 to 23 November 2018 at 19h00. The AGM will kick off with a prize giving and a group photograph, so please ensure that you are in proper uniform.

The prize giving should not take more than 20 minutes and the AGM itself is seldom more than 40 minutes long. Please note that the fees for the new year will be set at the AGM. I would ask that each family send along at least one representative.

If you have any queries for the committee or if you would like to stand for the group committee please let me know timeously – this tends to speed up the AGM.

The AGM will be followed by a bring and braai. A formal notice of the AGM will be sent out by the committee shortly.

District Gala

The District Gala was recently postponed due to a school function. The gala has been provisionally moved to Saturday 1 December 2018 at the Sacred Heart School pool in Ecksteen Road, Observatory, Johannesburg. I will advise you all as soon as the date and venue have been confirmed.

This is a very popular event and I would encourage as many of you to attend as possible. Even if you are not the strongest swimmer every bit of support is valued! Please pencil this into your diary.

Carols by Campfire

This year Kengray will be hosting the Carols by Campfire service. This is scheduled to take place on 7 December 2018. The venue is yet to be confirmed and further information will be provided closer to the time.

This is a great way to unwind after a stressful year in front of a blazing campfire. This will also be our last official meeting of 2018.



Hayden cools off at the Dads and Lads

Year End Camp

Traditionally the year-end camp is held before 16 December when many families leave for holiday. The difficulty with this is that government school holidays are only due to start on 13 December 2018, making it very difficult to fit in a full-sized year end camp that accommodates our government school members. Private school holidays are due to start on 7 December 2018.

A number of scouts have indicated that, notwithstanding the “official” close of school, they will have finished exams long before 13 December and will be able to attend a camp before 13 December. In addition, the 16th is a Sunday, which means that many families will be looking at going on holiday from the evening of Friday 14 December.

For these reasons I would like to see if our provisional dates of 13 to 17 December are still the best dates for the majority of scouts.

In order to enable us to plan a decent year-end camp that accommodates as many scouts as possible, it would be appreciated if scouts would complete the reply form at

the end of this newsletter and to return it by no later than Wednesday 7 November 2018 (I know this is not much time, but extensive planning still needs to take place).

For the new members of the troop, the year end camp is an extended camp traditionally held early in the December holidays. This is a fantastic opportunity for advancement but it normally includes a whole range of fun activities. In years past activities have included hiking, cycling, game drives, marksmanship, canoeing, visits to battlefields and the Sudwala caves, kloofing and abseiling. The activities will obviously depend on the venue of the camp, which will in turn depend on how long the camp is and the budget for the camp. Venues in years past have included the Natal Drakensberg, the Transvaal Drakensberg, the Magaliesberg and the Vaal River.

The budget is normally all inclusive (transport, accommodation and food for the duration of the camp) and the camp is normally open to potential recruits to the troop (boys between the ages of 10 ½ and 17 ½). The camp is normally 4 - 5 days long and the budget would be for a camp of that duration.

One of the major costs is the cost of using the venue. If you would like to suggest a venue (which ideally should be close to some decent hiking as most scouts need to do a hike for advancement) please note this on the reply slip.



Dave tries his hand at archery – Dads and Lads 2018

More information will be provided on the camp after 7 November.

Scouts Digital

Scouts Digital has now moved to version 2, so please do not be alarmed if the interface has changed somewhat. The new version has dealt with a number of glitches in the old system and should hopefully be easier to use. You should be directed to an information page when you first log into the new system which will tell you more about the changes.

All invested members of the troop have been loaded onto Scouts Digital. The platform allows you to access your advancement and interest badge information anywhere in

the world. Visit <https://www.scouts.digital/> to log into Scouts Digital and find out more. Non-invested members will be loaded onto the system when you are invested into the troop.

Patrol Points

The final patrol points for the year will be announced at the AGM. It is still too close to call, so see if you can earn few last minute points to put your patrol in first place and to let them lift the coveted trophy!

Upcoming Activities at a Glance

November:

11 Remembrance Day – 100 years since end of World War I
23 Group AGM

December:

1 District Gala
7 Carols by Campfire
13 – 17 Year End Camp (provisional dates)

Yours in scouting

A Campbell
Andrew Campbell



Kyle, Connor, Hayen and Dylan at the Kudu Patrol Hike at Elangeni

YEAR END CAMP REPLY SLIP

(Please return to andrew.campbell@scouts.org.za by Wednesday 7 November 2018)

Name: _____

I am interested in the camp (Y/N) (If no, please do not fill out the remainder of the form)

Please mark which days you would potentially be able to attend a year end camp by ticking those boxes which are available to you. All dates are in December 2018. Thus, if you can only attend from 7 to 10 December, you will only tick the first four boxes.

Friday 7 th	Saturday 8 th	Sunday 9 th	Monday 10 th	Tuesday 11 th
Wednesday 12 th	Thursday 13 th	Friday 14 th	Saturday 15 th	Sunday 16 th (public holiday)
Monday 17 th (public holiday)	Tuesday 18 th	Wednesday 19 th	Thursday 20 th	Friday 21 st

Any special comments (eg: I am available on Friday the 7th but only if we leave after 14h00 in the afternoon):

Please indicate your maximum budget for the camp per person (tick one box):

R400	R450	R500	R550	R600
R650	R700	R750	R800	R850

If you have any suggestions for a venue of the camp please set this out here, including a brief description of the venue:

What sort of activities most interest you (tick as many boxes as you want):

Hiking	Canoeing	Astronomy	Kloofing	Sailing
Orienteering	Fishing	Stalking	Tracking	Abeiling
Visits to interesting places	Pioneering	Nature Study	Cycling	Commando course