

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

PO BOX 16117

DOWERGLEN

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7 October 2019

Ref: Troop 2019/05

Dear scouts and parents

SPRING NEWSLETTER

The calendar tells us that spring has arrived, but the weather does not seem to have got the memo! Last weekend there was a definite nip in the air and the newspapers advised that there was snow on the Maluti Mountains, yet a few days before temperatures were in the 30s. At any rate the end of the year is rapidly approaching and many of our scouts are starting to prepare for their final examinations of 2019.



I would like to apologise for the large time lapse since the last newsletter, the World Jamboree took up a huge amount of my time but this means that we have a bumper edition of this newsletter. Let me start by extending my congratulations to all the scouts who have busily been achieving badges since the last newsletter.

On the advancement front James Bartlett, Jarod Nunn, Simon Kleer and Michael Goncalves all completed their Discover Advancement Badges and Michael Westhoff achieved his Explorer Badge. Hayden Evans, Mogale Kgaswe, Ethan Patterson and Aragorn Young all completed the Living Outdoors section of their Traveller Badges and I expect several other scouts to get this signed off

Jason, Mogale, Adam, Ethan and Christian shortly.
at Kontiki 2019 with their raft

be prepared.....

Troop Scouter:

Assistant Troop Scouters:

Troop Helper:

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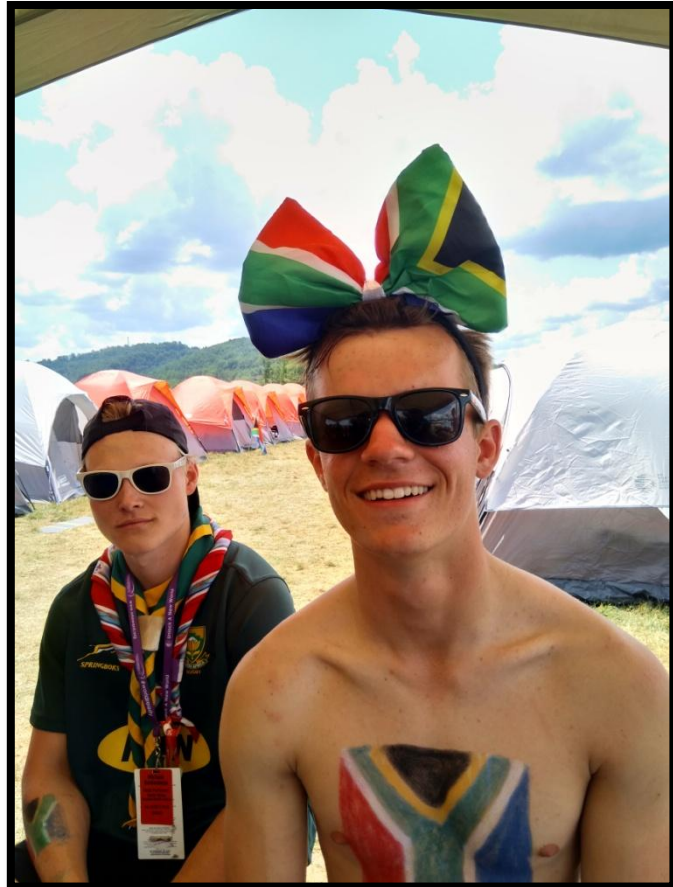
Kevin Botes 064 905 3196 (kevin.botes5@gmail.com)

Simon Kleer, Jarod Nunn, James Bartlett and Michael Goncalves were very busy in the lead-up to Jamboree. They all earned their Map Reading Scoutcraft Badges and Handyman Badges. Jarod and James earned their Food for Life (Starter) Scoutcraft Badges and Michael, James and Jarod earned their First Aid Badges. Jarod earned his Conservation Scoutcraft and Simon earned his First Aid Scoutcraft Badge.

Other scouts have also been busy. Hayden Evans achieved his Religion and Life Scoutcraft Badge, Michael Westhoff earned his Hiking Scoutcraft Badge, his First Aid Badge and his Speakers Badge, Connor Odgers completed his Athlete Badge and his Fitness Scoutcraft Badge and Jason Bailie completed his First Aid Badge.

As a result of the recent MasterChef camp Aragorn Young, Jian Lee, Mogale Kgaswe, Ethan Patterson, Michael Westhoff, Simon Kleer and Andrew Kennedy all earned their Fires and Cooking Scoutcraft Badges, well done to all of you!

I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to Jian Lee, who came up to us from cubs since the last newsletter. I hope that you have many happy years at 1st Bedfordview Troop.



James and Jarod at the World Jamboree

We have been very busy indeed since our last newsletter.

Kontiki:

In May the Troop made their way to Arrowe Park for the annual Kontiki Competition, this year themed “The Minions are Coming”.

Jason Bailie took charge of the raft for the first time and produced an entirely new design aimed at shortening the building time and reducing weight on the raft. This strategy obviously worked as the troop obtained a second place for raft mobility and an eighth place for raft construction. Overall we placed lucky 13th for the overall raft competition.

Those scouts who were not on the water took part in the campsite competition, where we obtained another lucky 13th place for campsite, 20th place for the supporters’ meal

and 16th place for beaver challenge. Overall the troop placed 19th out of 60 teams, a very good result.

Quiz Evening:



A massive thanks to those of you who supported our quiz evening, which was a great success. A massive thanks must also be extended to St Benedict's College for once again allowing us the use of their venue for the evening and to Michelle Kleer and her team from the Committee for putting the entire evening together.

World Jamboree:

The World Scout Jamboree is a privilege that very few South African scouts are afforded. Four 1st Bedfordview Scouts and one Bedfordview Guide (Jarod Nunn, Michael Goncalves, James Bartlett, Simon Kleer and Tanner Mundy) joined me as part of the 143 strong South African Contingent to the 24th World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia.

Michael cooks up a Jamboree Storm in WV

The long flight via Dubai did little to dampen spirits and the adventure kicked off with a shakedown camp at Camp Alpine, New Jersey where the scouts got to meet their new troops and pick patrol leaders.

The scouts then used Camp Alpine as a base, visiting the Six Flags Adventure Park in New Jersey (which boasts the world's tallest roller coaster) and spending two days exploring New York City. New York has something for everyone, but most scouts managed to visit my personal favourite attraction – the USS Intrepid, a decommissioned aircraft carrier with a massive collection of historic aircraft on board. The wax museum, the 9/11 museum and memorial, the Rockefeller Centre and Central Park were also all firm favourites, and a boat trip around Manhattan Island and the Statue of Liberty was a good way to end off the visit to the City that Never Sleeps.

We then moved on to Washington DC, which is awash with monuments, memorials, museums and historic sites. On our first evening in DC we ate dinner opposite the theatre where Lincoln was assassinated and most of the scouts spent the next day on the Mall, taking in sights like the White House, Arlington Cemetery (across the Potomac in Virginia) and the world famous Smithsonian Museum. Standing meters

away from Kitty Hawk (the world's first aeroplane) and lunar modules was an experience that few will forget.

Our trip to Washington was concluded with a tour of the US Capitol Building before we settled down for a four-hour bus trip to the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia.

The Jamboree site was massive, over 700 times the size of Arrowe Park. For the duration of the Jamboree the campsite became the largest city in West Virginia. Our scouts were distributed between three South African Jamboree troops and each accordingly had a different Jamboree experience.

The diversity of activities on offer was amazing. From a mile-long zip line to clay pigeon shooting, from scuba diving to white water rafting, from mountain biking to an escape room experience, from archery to rock climbing the adventure side of the Jamboree was phenomenal. Then there was the educational side of things, everything from a mock-up of Brownsea Island where the original programme devised by BP was being run to a sustainable treehouse looking to the future of our planet. South African scouts were treated to a live linkup with an Eagle Scout astronaut in outer space, former UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon gave talks on sustainability, scouts learned about everything from forestry to electronics along with over 45 000 of their peers.



Michael takes five in the Wolkberg Mountains

I think most scouts will say that they had two highlights of the actual Jamboree. The first was the experience of camping with scouts from over 150 different countries and territories. The scouts learnt that sharing your Walmart pool with the Swedes, having dinner with the Egyptians, braving the dubious pleasure of British cooking (yes, water can burn!) and swapping stories with a Brazilian is a unique to experience the world and to meet new friends. A World Jamboree is truly an ethnic and cultural melting pot that allows scouts to experience the world in twelve short days. The second highlight was the opening ceremony, where our small contingent joined up with Lebo M (of "the Lion King" fame) to wow the rest of the Jamboree at the Opening Ceremony.

Several scouts also got to chat to the UK's Chief Scout, Bear Grylls, who came on after the South Africans' stint, which was a real treat.

All too soon the Jamboree was over and, after spending another evening in Washington, taking in the beautiful monuments lit up at night, the scouts made their way home, all the richer for the experience.

Each scout only gets one chance to attend a World Jamboree as a scout, so if you will be between the ages of 14 and 18 in 2023 start saving up for the 25th World Scout Jamboree in South Korea.

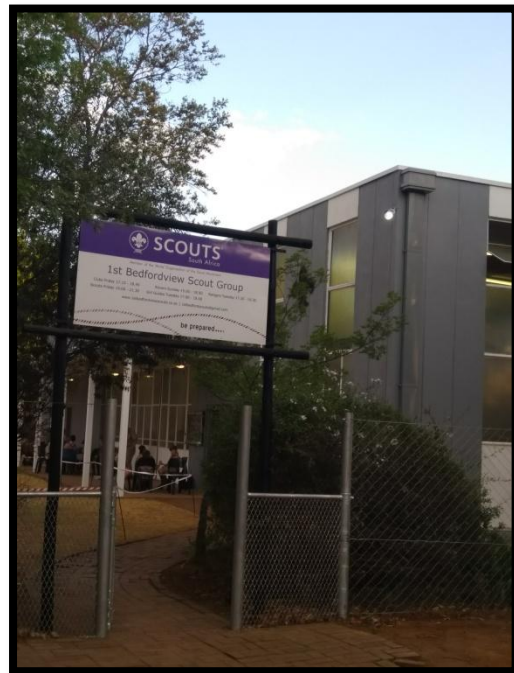
Community Service:

Next time you visit the hall take a look in the field behind the hall and you will see a brand new swing and jungle gym installed by Michael Westhoff and his team of scouts as part of his Springbok Community Service Project.

Our thanks must go to the Disa Road Closure Committee, who provided the funds for the project and who hosted a grand opening for the project with the advent of spring. Scouting is a community based organisation and it has given me a great deal of pleasure to see children, both from the road closure and from other parts of Bedfordview, enjoying the new equipment.

Michael planned the project, sourced material for it, put together a team, creosoted the poles to protect them from insects, dug holes for the structure and concreted it into the ground and then put the entire structure together, taking more than the required 40 hours as the requirement for this part of his Springbok.

This is a project that will keep giving back to the community for years and which will hopefully help cement the troop in the fabric of Bedfordview society for decades to come. Well done Michael and your team!



Newly painted and revamped

Hall Renewal:

Our Committee has also been very busy. You will have noticed that our scout hall has been freshly painted, there is new signage with updated contact details, the out-of-control Cyprus trees have been removed and a new fence is being erected around the hall as we speak. Sections of the lawn are being treated to ensure we have a lush grass for summer and the committee continues to liaise with the Disa Road Closure Committee to develop the field behind the hall for the mutual benefit of the scouts and the greater community.

Our committee members are all parent volunteers and their work is often not appreciated to the extent that it should be. I think you will all agree that the hall is looking much better and that our committee deserves a round of applause.

Thanks must also be given to the Bedfordview Rover Crew for their assistance in removing the Cyprus trees.

Kim Shield:

Kim Shield is one of the most popular events on the Gauteng scouting calendar, with over 60 teams entering. This year Sable patrol braved the nippy weather to take up the challenge at Mogale's Gate north of Johannesburg.

The day was spent hiking between various bases in the area. The bases ranged from pioneering to first aid and every scout skill in-between. A respectable 34th place was obtained by Sable, with a little more work on navigation this can only improve in years to come. Well done!

MasterChef Camp:

During September we held our first ever MasterChef Camp at the hall. I think that all the participants will agree that they learned a great deal and that the food was excellent.



Alex, Jian, Andrew, Mogale, Ethan and Aragorn at MasterChef

From simple meals like porridge and stew all the way to learning how to make hollandaise sauce and the principal joints of beef, pork and lamb, participants learnt their way around not only cooking but also how to plan meals, including budgets, setting up ambiance and how to serve food properly. This camp will stand the entire troop in good stead from a cooking perspective for years to come and I am personally looking forward to a marked improvement in the standard of cooking on camps.

UK visit:

One of the main advantages of being located relatively close to the airport is that scouts from all over the world like to pop in and say "hello" when they are in Johannesburg. Sue and Stephen are two district commissioners from near Manchester

in the UK and they popped in to help run a programme and to see how South African scouting differs from UK scouting.

In the UK, Scouts finishes at 14 and there is a branch called Ventures that caters for 14 to 18-year-olds. This meant that our scout programme was something completely different for them, but they swiftly got into the swing of things and a grand time was had by all.

In recent years we have had Swiss, British, Australian, New Zealander and American scouts visit the troop and earlier this year the rovers hooked up with French rovers who were staying in the area. Who knows who will visit next?



Sue and Stephen joined from England recently visited the troop

Wolkberg Hike:

As part of his Springbok Award Michael Westhoff recently led a patrol to the untamed wilderness of the Wolkberg Mountains between Polokwane and Tzaneen. The route Michael picked followed one of the many rivers in the area that wind their way through pristine indigenous forest and steep gorges on their way to the Indian Ocean.

The Springbok hike is a true test of any scout. Not only are planning abilities tested, but map reading, cooking, camping, first aid and leadership skills all come into play. The Wolkberg's rugged terrain makes it one of the few places left in South Africa that are almost completely untouched by man and this adds to the challenge.

The patrol did well under Michael's leadership and will hopefully use the lessons learned when they plan their own First Class and Springbok hikes in the not-too-distant future.

Last Weekend:

On Friday 4 October 2019 the troops from around the Northrand District met at the Hellenic hall to do battle on the field of first aid. This year the competition was themed around the majestic Cederberg mountains in the Western Cape and the scouts had to deal with a variety of scenarios that could take place whilst on the National Senior Scout Adventure which takes place in those mountains.

Two patrols were entered from 1st Bedfordview and they achieved 3rd and 2nd place respectively, a particularly good result. Congratulations to the eleven scouts who took part, keeping the Bedfordview flag flying high.

On Saturday and Sunday Jason Bailie, Mogale Kgaswe and Adam Bartlett went off to Hartebeespoort Dam where they experienced a weekend of hiking, cooking, boating and camping as part of the Northrand District's White Stripe Camp.

The weekend was organised by various rover crews in the districts and, judging by the photographs, was a great deal of fun. This event will hopefully become a permanent fixture on the District calendar.

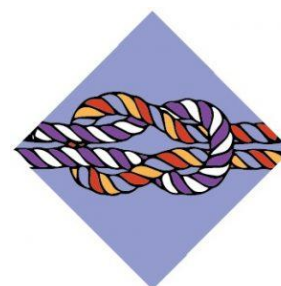


First Aid success for two Bedfordview patrols

Diversity Badge

Xenophobia recently reared its ugly head again, with attacks on foreigners being extensively documented both by local and foreign media. There can be no doubt that something has to be done and the education of our youth is perhaps the best place to start.

To this end Scouts South Africa has launched a new Diversity Badge, which is available for cubs, scouts, rovers and scouters. I would encourage all of our scouts to consider obtaining this badge as your personal contribution to the fight against xenophobia and other social ills based on intolerance. Who knows, if you get started now you may be the **first person in the country** to earn this badge!



The requirements for the badge can be found at <https://www.scouts.org.za/wp-content/uploads/Diversity-Awareness-Badge-2019F.pdf>. This document has the requirements for all four versions of the badge, so make sure you look at the scout section.

Entsha Programme Move

1st Bedfordview Troop successfully made move to the Entsha Programme on 30 June 2019. Scouts and parents can now access their advancement on the Entsha Programme on scouts.digital. Although there are some small glitches in the Scouts Digital programme, these are in the process of being sorted out and I anticipate that these teething issues will have been resolved by the end of the year.

I would encourage everyone to carefully go through your advancement on Scouts Digital, there are certain items that you may have done which would not have been captured on the old programme but which you can have passed off on the Entsha

Programme. For example, most of you will have attended a Scout's Own during your time at 1st Bedfordview. Under the old programme this did not count towards advancement and accordingly no records were kept of who attended Scout's Owns. Under the Entsha Programme attending a Scout's Own is a requirement for the Traveller Badge. If you have attended a Scout's Own and this has not been captured, please chat to me and we can make a plan to sign it off.

If you are having difficulty accessing Scouts Digital have a look at the Notice Board, a copy of the advancement as per the Entsha Programme was recently printed out and you can see your advancement there.

I am quite excited about certain aspects of the Entsha Programme. Under the old programme it took months or even years to get recognition for your advancement. Under the Entsha Programme each advancement badge is divided into six smaller theme badges, and already several scouts who had nothing on their sleeves now have "Living Outdoors" theme badges from their Traveller badge on their arms. The six theme badges are worn beneath the advancement badges and should be worn in the order indicated on this diagram.



One thing that all scouts should be aware of with regards the Entsha programme is that you are now required to keep a personal log book of your journey through scouts. This does not need to be detailed, a simple hard copy A6 notebook should be more than sufficient for your entire scout career. All that is required is a simple entry for every activity other than a normal troop meeting (though you are welcome to record those if you want to). An entry will comprise of a date, a brief description of the activity and who attended. You can add more detail if you want, though this is not required. You should also record your attendances at patrols-in-council as attendances at these meetings counts towards your advancement.

Scouts can back-date their log book if they want, and scouts who have been "around" for some time are encouraged to do so. For more information on the log book requirement look at item 1(i) of the Personal Development theme of the Traveller Badge.



Meerkats

Scout African scouting traditionally comprised of three branches: cubs, scouts and rovers. Children under the age of seven have, up until now, not been catered for by the Scouts South Africa programme.

Overseas younger children have been catered for by various programmes, such as Keas (New Zealand), Beavers (UK) and Joeys (Australia). After many years of research and the successful running of pilot

programmes the fourth branch of South African scouting, Meerkats, was officially launched on 1 October 2019.

Meerkats caters for children aged of 5 to 6. At age 7 Meerkats will be able to go up to the cub pack and become cubs. A badge book and advancement programme have already been developed, badges and uniforms are available at Scout Shop and training material and courses are available for aspirant Meerkat Leaders. More information on Meerkats can be found at <https://www.scouts.org.za/members/meerkats/>.

So will 1st Bedfordview be starting up a Meerkat den in the near future? This will depend on the demand for a Meerkat programme at 1st Bedfordview, the availability of a suitable adult prepared to become a Den Scouter and the ability of the Committee to support a Meerkat Den.

At this stage the idea of starting a Meerkat Den at 1st Bedfordview has not even been discussed, however if you know of people are interested in Meerkats or know parents of people outside the group who are interested, please let me know and we will have a short meeting after the AGM to gauge the interest in this fourth branch of scouting.



Part of Michael's team in front of his project

Dads and Lads

The annual Dads and Lads event will be taking place at the Rooikrans Hiking Trail near the Loskop Dam in Mpumalanga on the weekend of 18 to 20 October 2019. The hike takes place in a conservancy and various species of game can be found in the area, there is swimming close to the base camp and the views are absolutely spectacular. This should be an awesome weekend.

The trail is a base camp trail, which means that you can leave your heavy equipment behind and hike with a day pack. As such, you do not need to be superman to enjoy the weekend.

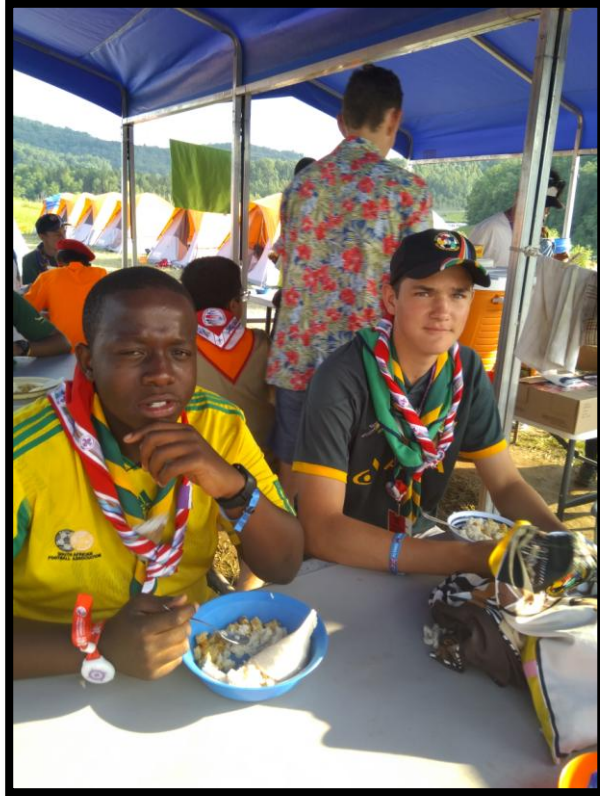
The Dads and Lads is always a highlight on the calendar and is a great way for dads to spend some quality time away from the rat race with your sons. Please take note of the following:

- The event is open to potential recruits, so if you have male friends who are between the ages of 11 and 18 who are interested in joining scouts they can apply to attend the event;
- If your dad cannot attend you are welcome to attend with a grandfather, uncle, “big brother”.

- Scouts do not have to be accompanied by a “dad” to attend, join in the fun even if your dad or substitute dad cannot make it.
- This is a scout event, so adults are requested to respect Scouts South Africa’s “No alcohol” policy.
- There is an opportunity to do advancement on the camp.

There are hot showers and flushing toilets at the base camp and a basic fridge. Basic bunk beds and mattresses are supplied, but you need your own sleeping bag and pillows. You are responsible for your own food and transport to the venue, but once we know who is attending we will try set up for carpooling.

The cost of the weekend is R320,00 per person over twelve and R240,00 per person under twelve for the weekend. This covers accommodation and trail fees only, as mentioned above you need to provide your own food and transport. Indigent families who are keen on attending but who require financial assistance should let me know so that I can approach the committee for assistance. Payment can be made directly into the Group bank account, details of which are:



Simon grabs a bit to eat on the WSJ

1st Bedfordview Scout Group

Standard Bank Eastgate (Branch code: 018595)

Account No: 022646221

Ref: Dads & Lads + your surname (please email proof of payment to 1stbedfordscouts@gmail.com)

More information on the trail can be found at <https://www.anviewventures.co.za/rooikrans.html>. A letter with more details will be sent to those who rsvp closer to the time.

Please rsvp by no later than Sunday 13 October 2019 and make payment on or before this date too. We need to pay for accommodation before the hike so prompt payment is important.

Group AGM

The Group AGM will be taking place on Friday 8 November 2019 at 19h00 at the hall. The evening will kick off with a prize giving, including presentation of the

coveted Scout of the Year and Patrol of the Year trophies. Cameras and family are welcome.

The AGM itself should only take about half an hour, whereafter there will be a bring and braai (fires, salads and rolls will be supplied. Please bring your own meat and drink, remembering that this is a family activity).

A Group photograph is traditionally taken at the AGM, so please take special care with your uniform on the evening.

Carols by Campfire

This event will be taking place on Friday 6 December 2019 and will be the last troop meeting of the year. Full details will be made available closer to the time, but in the interim please pencil this date in.

Year-End Camp

The year-end camp is always a highlight on the troop calendar and this year should be no exception. Michael Westhoff will be taking control of the planning of the camp as part of his Springbok Scout Award and has some fantastic plans up his sleeve.



3 of the 4 scouters running the Taung Troop at the Jamboree had Bedfordview backgrounds: Wendy Sorour (Protea Ranger Guide), Warren Kilfoil (Springbok Scout, former TS) and Roald Kveli (Springbok Scout, former RS)

On the year planner the camp is scheduled for 7 to 11 December 2019. Michael has asked me to check whether these dates still suit the majority of the troop and to this end a questionnaire is attached to the end of the newsletter. There is also a section on activities that you would like to see run so that he can better plan the programme.

The Year-End Camp is traditionally open to potential recruits who are prepared to follow the Scout Promise and Law on the camp, so if you have friends who are interested in the camp please get them to fill in the form too! Full details on the camp, including the dates and venue, will be provided in due course. Please ensure that you submit your reply slip by 18 October 2019 to allow for proper planning.

Patrol Points

This is the last time before the AGM that the patrol points will be published. There is still time to push your patrol into the lead with a bit of effort. Who will lift the trophy at the end of the year? The best way to earn points is to run an overnight patrol activity, earn an advancement badge or earn a recruiter's badge (get one of your friends to get invested as a scout from outside the movement). Several of you brought friends to the recent recruitment drive, see if you can get them invested to earn your recruiter's badge.

Kudu	1018
Sable	1279
Springbok	926
Wildebeest	747

Upcoming Activities at a Glance

October

13 RSVP for Dads and Lads
 18 Return Reply Slips
 18 – 20 Dads and Lads

November

8 Group AGM

December:

6 Carols by Campfire (last meeting for the year)
 ?7 – 11? Year-end camp (dates may change)



If you have any other queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in scouting

Andrew Campbell

Andrew Campbell

YEAR-END CAMP REPLY SLIP

(Please return to andrew.campbell@scouts.org.za by Friday 18 October 2019)

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 2019. Thus, if you can only attend from 6 to 9 December, you will only tick the first four boxes.

Friday 6 th	Saturday 7 th	Sunday 8 th	Monday 9 th	Tuesday 10 th
Wednesday 11 th	Thursday 12 th	Friday 13 th	Saturday 14 th	Sunday 15 th
Monday 16 th (public holiday)	Tuesday 17 th	Wednesday 18 th	Thursday 19 th	Friday 20 st

Any special comments (eg: I am available on Friday the 6th but only if we leave after 14h00 in the afternoon):

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

R450	R500	R550	R600	R650
R700	R750	R800	R850	R900

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	Boating	Astronomy	Kloofing	Cycling
Orienteering	Fishing	Stalking	Tracking	Abeiling
Visits to interesting places	Pioneering	Nature Study	Commando course	Other (add details).....

Do you want advancement / badges to be covered on the camp? (Y/N)

Details of items you want covered: _____