

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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17 February 2020
Ref: Troop 2020/01

Dear scouts and parents

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

It seems ages since the last troop newsletter and we have plenty of news to share!

We ended off 2019 in style with two events, the first of which was the annual Carols by Campfire, hosted by our troop. I would like to extend a massive thanks to the Court of Honour for putting together the programme, it was great to see you putting the entire District into the festive cheer.

We then left for the annual Year-End Camp on Stonechat Farm near Machadadorp. We seemed to receive the entire year's allocation of rainfall during the camp, but this did not put a damper on the excellent programme put together by Michael Westhoff as part of his Springbok Scout Award.

Fishing, boating, hiking and shooting kept the scouts busy and entertained and it was great getting out of Joburg and into the great outdoors for a change. A massive thanks to Wendy Sorour from 3rd Kensington for her assistance with the boating, to Kevin Trollip for the use of the venue and to Wayne and his team from Stonechat for their assistance with the shooting and general help.



Mike Westhoff's Construction Project

be prepared.....

Troop Scouter:

Assistant Troop Scouters:

Troop Helper:

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

Jamie Cottrell 083 648 0232 (jamienicolascottrell@gmail.com)

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In early 2020 Jason Bailie attended a PLTU course. This intensive course provides



Patrol Leaders with the skills required to run a patrol and I am sure that Wildebeest Patrol has already seen the benefits of Jason's leadership training. The ten-day course saw Jason honing his pioneering, first aid, camping, cooking and leadership skills and the troop should see the benefit for years to come.

Michael Westhoff got the troop's 2020 programme off with a bang when he built a three-story tower, including a lift, as part of his Springbok Construction Project. It is not often that one gets to look down of the Scout Hall roof and the success of the project is a testament to Michael's planning and leadership. I think the project tested Michael to the limit and it was certainly worthy of a Springbok Scout.

Christian's Year-end catch of the day

In January six visitors to the troop attended our annual Link Camp at Arrowe Park in Benoni. This camp was a massive success and saw the attendees building a tower and mini-rafts (which successfully traversed the dam) as well as enjoying a roaring campfire, swinging into the river and completion of almost all the requirements for troop membership. A massive thanks to Michael Van Hatting and 1st Benoni Sea Scouts for their help with the water activities on the camp.

Three of the attendees (Ben Shen-Yu, Dylan Hutton and Ethan Hutton) have already been invested into the troop and I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all three of you and to wish you good scouting on the journey ahead. Chris Williams, Ben Riccardi and Nathan Grobbelaar also attended the camp and we look forward to seeing you join scouts in the months ahead, hopefully at 1st Bedfordview!

We have also had a visit to the St Benedict's indoor pool where the following scouts completed their Swimming Scoutcraft Badges: Ben Shen-Yu, Aragorn Young, Ethan Hutton, Dylan Hutton and Jian Lee. A couple of Swimmer Badges and a Snorkling Badge are also in the pipeline and should feature in the next newsletter. Thanks to the school for the use of their facilities and especially to Richard Wilson for his help.

Michael Westhoff also organised a visit for his patrol to the NSRI centre on the Vaal Dam. In addition to learning about water safety and the important work that the NSRI does on the dam and on waterways around South Africa, the patrol got to go out on a NSRI patrol boat and experience the exhilaration of life on the waves.

Whilst Sable Patrol was exploring the Vaal Dam, Wildebeest Patrol was taking on the rest of the District in the Paintball Competition. The patrol achieved a very respectable 3rd place and had a great deal of fun in the process, with a bruise or two to show for it.

Finally I would like to extend my congratulations as follows:

Firstly, to Mogale Kgaswe on achieving both his Canoeing Scoutcraft Badge as well as his Silver Recruiter's Badge. Well done Mogale!

Secondly, to the troop as a whole. At the end of last year we were assessed as a "gold" star troop, the highest possible level that the troop can achieve. Congratulations to Sable Patrol on being assessed for a silver patrol award and to Kudu, Springbok and Wildebeest on being assessed for bronze patrol awards.

Scouts Digital

A number of scouts have recently asked about where they sit on their advancement badges. The Scouts Digital system allows you to keep track of both your advancement and your work on your interest badges from anywhere around the world.



In order to access the Scouts Digital System, visit <https://www.scouts.digital/>. Click on the "logon" icon and enter your email and password. If you do not know what your password is, enter your email and click "forgot my password". Your password will then be emailed to you.

If your email is not on the system, please send me your email details and your cell number (if you are a parent – scouts do not need a cellphone number for the system) and I can add you to the system. Most younger scouts do not have their own email addresses, in which case you need to log on using your parent's logon details. Once you get your own email, let me know and we can add you in.

The system is an easy and readily accessible way to access your scout records and to keep track on your progress. If you have any problems with Scouts Digital, please let me know.

Recruiters Badge



At a recent Court of Honour it was decided that in order to ensure that long-term health of the troop that we need to recruit at least eight 11 to 12 year-olds into the troop this year. We have got off to a flying start with this, with three new members invested before the end of February, but need to work hard to get in another five.

Did you know that there is a badge for recruiting friends into scouts? In order to earn a silver recruiter's badge, you need to bring one friend from outside the movement into scouts and get him invested. In order to earn a gold recruiter's badge (worth 200 pts) you need to get five friends invested into the troop.

Have you got friends between the ages of 10 ½ and 17 ½ who you think will make good scouts? Why not try earn your recruiter's badge and help put your patrol into the lead in the inter-patrol competition?

BP Day - Wearing Scout Uniform to School

Every year Scouts South Africa obtains permission from local schools for cubs and scouts to wear their uniforms to school on the Friday closest to BP Sunday. This year this will take place on Friday 21 February 2020 and I would encourage as many of you as possible to wear your uniforms to school on this day.

This is an excellent way of promoting the movement and lets people know that scouting is still going strong. Scouts who wear their uniform to school and who take a photo of this will earn twenty-five points for their patrol. There will be a small prize for the best photograph.

Please submit your photographs to me by Friday 28 February 2020.

BP Sunday

This year BP Sunday will be hosted by the 1st Edenvale Scout Group at Shanahan Park, Adjutant Road, Elma Park, Edenvale. We will be meeting at 08h30 on Sunday 23 February 2020 and will walk to the start of the march from Shanahan Park. Please do not be late or you may not find the start of the march! At 09h00 we will be marching through the streets of Edenvale before returning to Shanahan Park for a short service. **PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO ARRIVE IN FULL SCOUT UNIFORM!**



The BP Sunday service will be over at approximately 10h30. At 11h00 the District Gala will commence at the Shanahan Park swimming pool. This should be over by approximately 13h30. We need as much support as possible for this, so please bring along your swimming costume and towel. If you are not a “swimmer”, bring along your enthusiasm and bring along a costume anyhow, some of the races involve being pushed in a tube and it is nice to have a dip afterwards. It is not clear at this stage whether the ever-popular “sabotage” race will be run, if it is numbers count so please support us!

There is also a parents' race, so if any parents are keen swimmers please bring along your costume!

There will be food on sale and there will also be badges on sale at R30,00 a pop. Please post on your whatsapp group how many badges you would like by 17h00 on Wednesday so the organisers can try ensure they make enough badges. Badges and food should be paid for cash on the day.

All scouts need to complete a consent form for BP Sunday and the gala, please do not forget this!

Hollard Daredevil Run

Every year Hollard runs a “Daredevil Run” in support of testicular cancer. This involves a 5km run through Joburg rush-hour traffic in a purple speedo! This year Kengray have challenged the entire Gauteng Region to take part in this initiative and the Court of Honour have decided to take up the challenge. Do you have the guts to join your PLs?

The run will be taking place on Friday 13 March 2020 at Zoo Lake in Johannesburg. More information on the run is available at <https://www.daredevilrun.com>. It starts at 15h00 but we would recommend meeting at 14h30. Details of where the scouts will be meeting will be emailed to you closer to the time. Do not forget sun cream!

The cost is R110 for runners under 18 and R160 for adults. Tickets are available on the Daredevil website and proceeds go towards supporting cancer research. This race is open to any “boys” brave enough, so bring your dad, brothers etc along if they are keen.

If you take up the challenge please let us know on your patrol WhatsApp Groups and either enter yourself on the website (make sure you do this timeously) OR provide me with your name, ID number, emergency contact details and speedo size (quite important!) and school by Sunday 23 February 2020. If you choose the latter option please pay your entry fee into the group account, details of which are:



1st Bedfordview Scout Group
Standard Bank Eastgate (Branch code: 018595)
Account No: 022646221
Ref: Daredevil + your name (please email PoP to 1stbedfordscouts@gmail.com)

This is a really worthy initiative and I would encourage you all to take part.

Amazing Race

The cubs will be running an Amazing Race on Saturday 21 March 2020 in the greater Bedfordview-Edenvale Area. Details are scant at this stage, but it looks like scouts will be able to take part.

More information will be provided closer to the event, but please pencil this into your diaries in the interim!

District Competition Camp

The District competition camp has moved a week later than was advertised on the year planner to the weekend of 27 to 29 March 2020 at Arrowe Park, Benoni.

This is the premier District Competition of the year, where you get to put on show your camping, pioneering and cooking skills. This year we will be travelling back to the Ancient Spartan civilization. Are you prepared to meet the other troops in open battle?

If you are keen on this event please pencil it into your diaries.

Dads and Lads

The ever-popular Dads and Lads event will be taking place from 3 -5 April 2020 at LDYC (Lake Deney's Yacht Club) on the shores of the Vaal Dam. This is a great opportunity for dads to spend quality time with their sons and to experience a little bit of scouting themselves.

We are looking at running a series of water activities on the weekend and if any dads have access to boats and are happy to bring them down for the weekend please let us know.

If your dad is not available, please feel free to bring along a grandpa, uncle or big brother or even just come by yourself.

Kontiki

Kontiki is the largest scout event in South Africa and sees upwards of 3 000 scouts and guides building rafts on the shore of Homestead Dam and spending a weekend on the water. Though space on the rafts is limited, there is a supporters campsite too and plenty of fun on the land.



This year Kontiki takes place on 15 to 17 May 2020 will be going “Back the Past” and visiting past Kontiki Themes. This means that a myriad of themes exist, from “Star Trek” to “007”, “Out of Africa” and everything in-between. More info on Kontiki, including past themes (look at the “gallery” section) can be found at <http://kontiki.scouts.co.za/>.

Raft Building – Link Camp 2020

Places on the raft are limited and will be allocated by the Court of Honour based in a variety of factors. All raft participants must hold the Swimming Scoutcraft Badge and

must be available for the entire weekend. The COH will consider your age, dedication to Kontiki Prep sessions, whether you have been on the raft before, your maturity and contribution to the troop in deciding who will be on the raft.

Prep sessions have not been scheduled yet but please note that there will be a prep camp on the weekend of 17 – 20 April 2020.

Farewell

Jean James-Smith, our current District Commissioner, has racked up over 50 years of adult service to scouts. After decades of hard work Jean has decided to call it a day and will be stepping down as DC at the end of February. Jean has certainly earned her rest and the group owes her a huge debt of gratitude for her hard work and guidance over the years.

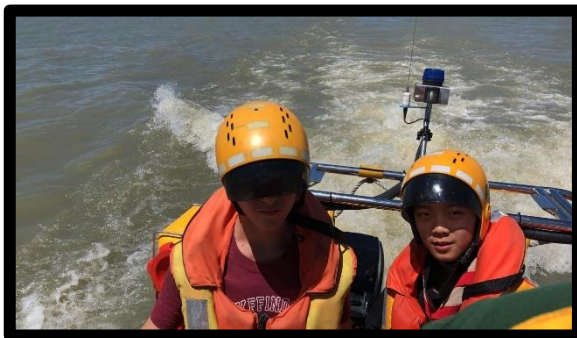
It is with mixed emotions that I announce that I will be taking over as District Commissioner from 1 March 2020 and that accordingly I have tendered my resignation as Troop Scouter. I have been actively involved as a scouter in the troop since 1998 so this is going to be a massive change for me, though I will certainly be visiting the troop in my capacity as DC and will remain involved in the group in my capacity as Rover Scouter.



Jamie will be taking over as TS in May

I can state confidently that I am going to miss the fun and excitement of running troop programmes, but hope that I will be able to benefit the troop (and other dens, packs, troops and crews in the District) as DC. I will miss you all.

James Cottrell will be taking over as TS and has already been visiting the troop in order to learn the ins and outs of scouting at 1st Bedfordview. James has been serving as an ATS with the 1st Hellenic Troop for the past five years and I must thank Hellenic for allowing me to “poach” him for the troop.



Sable patrol visiting the NSRI

James holds a Springbok Scout award which he obtained at Hellenic, has attended PLTU both as a participant and as staff and brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience which will benefit the troop. James is no stranger to 1st Bedfordview and has been a member of the Bedfordview Rover Crew for several years, two of which he spent as Chairman of the Crew.

James will be “phasing in” over the next couple of months but has already committed to assist Hellenic at Kontiki, so it is envisaged that he will be formally take over as TS from me shortly after Kontiki.

I wish James all the best with his new role and I hope that he has as much fun and gathers as many good memories as I have.

Patrol Points

Each year the Patrol of the Year trophy is awarded to the patrol with the most points. Points are earned for everything from activities on Friday nights, attendance (including excusing yourself if you cannot attend) and inspection.

Extra points are earned every time you earn a badge, for running patrol camps and outings and there are massive points up for grabs for earning a recruiters badge! This early in the year the trophy could be won by any patrol. The points currently stand thus:

Kudu	195
Sable	326
Springbok	145
Wildebeest	192

Upcoming Activities at a Glance

February:

- 21 Wear Uniform to School
- 23 BP Sunday and Gala

March:

- 13 Hollard Daredevil Run
- 21 Amazing Race
- 27 - 29 District Competition Camp

April:

- 3 – 5 Dads and Lads Camp
- 10 NO SCOUTS. Happy Easter!
- 17 – 20 Kontiki Prep Camp

May:

- 1 NO SCOUTS. Happy Workers Day!
- 15 – 17 Kontiki
- 31 District Pioneering Competition

Yours in scouting

A Campbell
Andrew Campbell



Prepare to set sail! Link Camp '20