

1st BEDFORDVIEW SCOUT TROOP

DISA ROAD, BEDFORDVIEW

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Dear scouts and parents

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

The world really has been turned up-side down since the last newsletter. In February I wrote about the upcoming BP Sunday celebrations, the Hollard Daredevil Run and various upcoming District Competitions. A fun-filled, busy calendar loomed ahead of us and the troop looked set for an awesome 2020.

The advent of Covid-19 means that all contact scouting activities have been suspended for the foreseeable future and most of the activities referred to in the last newsletter

have been cancelled, including Kontiki. This breaks an unbroken run of Kontikis since 1985.



“Contact scouting” has been replaced with “Distance Scouting” and the importance of cellphones, WhatsApp Groups and the internet has been emphasised as the only way that patrols can keep in contact with one another.

I would like to start off this newsletter by saying how proud I am of all the members of this troop. Distance Scouting is not easy, but every single member of the troop has taken part in at least some of the Distance Scouting programmes and have shown that come what may scouting will continue at 1st Bedfordview.

Hayden cooks Focaccia under lockdown

be prepared.....

Troop Scouter:

Assistant Troop Scouters:

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This challenging time poses a real threat to many groups. In some Regions of South Africa scouting has all but ground to a halt due to Covid-19. Sadly, it is uncertain how many scout groups in these regions will reopen when the danger has passed. I can confidently state that there is no such danger posed to 1st Bedfordview and I would like to thank you for following the eighth part of the Scout Law and ensuring that “A Scout smiles and whistles under all difficulties.”

Indeed, it seems to me that the true scouting spirit demonstrated by the members of this troop means that the troop may in fact grow during this period. Just last week Kudu patrol had two potential recruits visiting their online patrol meeting. Sable patrol has planned a full patrol camp to be run after the lockdown ends, Springbok Patrol members have communicated with scouts from Portugal and Wildebeest has repeatedly come out tops in the inter-patrol rankings. Rockets have been launched from back gardens, rafts have floated on swimming pools, scouts have done one-handed handstands and “escaped” from a scout hall in Berkshire, England.



A scout smiles and whistles under all Difficulties – Christian Reib



I would particularly like to thank the Patrol Leaders during this time. They have all been under immense pressure from school and yet have encouraged you, arranged items and remained responsible for marking items off on advancement. This is a massive ask and please remember to thank your PL next time you see him.

I would encourage all of you to continue taking part in the online programmes. The programmes are designed to keep you advancing, keep you in touch with your patrols and hopefully keep you having fun. The lockdown will not last forever, and if you keep trying your best with Distance Scouting you should emerge stronger, more advanced and better positioned to take advantage of the fun and opportunities that scouting offers.

Until next we see one another face-to-face I wish you good health, good fortune and good scouting.

Past Events

Notwithstanding the lockdown, the troop has been very busy since the last newsletter.

The troop took part in the annual BP Sunday celebrations where three bronze star patrol awards and a silver star patrol award were received by our patrols. The troop received a gold star award. I am particularly proud of this achievement and would like to thank you all for your hard work in achieving this accolade.

Congratulations to Dylan and Ethan Hutton who won the competition for the best photo wearing scout uniform to school – your prize will be awarded to you once the lockdown ends.

BP Sunday was followed by the annual gala where the troop obtained a third place.



Congratulations to 1st Kengray who won the gala.

Just before the lockdown a few of the braver members of the troop shed their kit for a good cause and took part in the Hollard Daredevil Run. Running through Johannesburg in nothing but a purple speedo in aid of cancer research takes a great deal of gumption and courage, well done to all of those who took part.

BP Day at Leicester Road Primary – Dylan and Ethan Hutton.

The World Scout Bureau put together an International Jamboree on the Internet shortly after the European lockdowns began, and several scouts from the troop took part, communicating with scouts from other continents. Some attendees at last year's World Jamboree in West Virginia used the opportunity to catch up with old Jamboree pals.

Last weekend was the first (and hopefully only) QuaranTiki, an online quiz designed to give those scouts with Kontiki withdrawal symptoms something to do. Although there were some problems with the Discord system used by the organisers, the event was well attended by troops from around Gauteng, including 1st Bedfordview.

In uncertain times it gives me great pleasure to confirm that Michael Westhoff recently passed his panel interview and is officially a Springbok Scout. This is the highest award that a South Africa scout can achieve and the troop can be justifiably proud of the latest addition to its ranks of Springbok Scouts. Michael will be presented with his badge once lockdown has ended.

Earning a Springbok is a massive achievement and presently less than 1% of scouts who are invested end up with a Springbok on their arms. Will you join this elite band one day? If that is your aim, consider trying to do as much advancement as you can now whilst you are stuck at home. If you leave things too late you will make it almost impossible for you to complete your Springbok in time. Have a



look at the section on advancement below for more information on how to advance during lockdown.

In other news Hayden Evans has completed his Sports Fan Scoutcraft Badge, and is busy with two other badges at present. At present Hayden leads the troop in the Interest Badge Lockdown Challenge (more about that below). Can you topple Hayden from his pedestal? Jason Bailie (busy with his Artist Badge) seems to think so!

Finances

The Covid-19 lockdown has had a massive impact on many families. Some have lost loved ones. Many have been retrenched, had wages cut or cannot work due to restrictions. Many businesses have been ruined.

During this difficult time I would like to remind all members that 1st Bedfordview has a policy that, insofar as is possible, no-one should be denied the benefits of scouting due to financial circumstances.



Hollard Daredevil Run 2020

If any of you are experiencing financial difficulties I would encourage you to make contact with the Committee of the 1st Bedfordview Scout Group to see if any assistance can be rendered to you with regards the costs associated with scouting. All requests will be treated confidentially and should be made to 1stbedfordscouts@gmail.com.

Lockdown Competitions

A number of exciting competitions are taking place during the course of the lockdown:

Northrand District Lockdown Challenge:

The District is running a challenge to see who can earn the most Scoutcraft and Interest Badges during the lockdown. The winner will receive a prize to the value of approximately R150,00 and a certificate confirming their achievement.

Though we obviously don't know how well scouts in other troops are doing, we can keep track of scouts in this troop and every week an update will be sent out. With over 100 badges available to do, there is something for everyone. The badge requirements are available on Scouts Digital or you can visit the Scout Wiki page at [https://scoutwiki.scouts.org.za/index.php?title=Scout Interest Badges](https://scoutwiki.scouts.org.za/index.php?title=Scout_Interest_Badges). Good luck!

Inter-Patrol Lockdown Challenge:

Every year patrol points go towards the Patrol of the Year trophy at the end of the year. Although this will still happen, the highest-scoring patrol during the lockdown period will be receiving an added treat.

The best patrol during the lockdown period will receive an all-expenses paid patrol weekend camp or similar excursion. Full details of the excursion will be discussed with the winning PL at the end of the lockdown and, subject to financial constraints, we will try to accommodate the wishes of the patrol as to the form of the excursion or camp.

When it comes to earning points for the Inter-Patrol Lockdown Challenge, please note the following:



Jason has almost finished his Artist Badge

- Every programme counts for points. By doing any single activity on the programme you will be marked “present” for that programme (remember that there are attendance prizes at the end of the year). The more activities in a programme you do, the more points you earn. Doing your best at an activity is very important for earning points, simply by meaningfully trying an activity you will earn points.
- Bonus point items still exist and will be added to scores at the end of the lockdown. In summary, you can receive the following bonuses to your patrol points during lockdown:
 - Earn an interest or scoutcraft badge – 20 points
 - Earn a theme badge – 25 points
 - Bring a friend to scouts (get them to take part in an online programme) – 10 points. This applies to the first time the friend joins in with a programme. Each additional “visit” by that friend will earn you 2 points.
 - Earn a gold recruiter’s badge – 200 points
 - Attend a COH (PLs only) – 10 points
 - Run a virtual camp – 100 points
 - Run a patrol meeting – 20 points
 - Get a friend invested into scouts during the lockdown – 100 points

As at the end of Distance Programme 10, excluding bonus points, the points standing was as follows:

Kudu	280
Sable	158
Springbok	204
Wilbebest	427

The Amazing Race:

The present Distance Programme includes an item called “The Amazing Race”. To compete you need to time yourself running 3km as fast as possible. You can score bonus points if you do this in public in a manner that clearly identifies you as a scout. Which patrol will have the best average time? Who will be the fastest scout in the troop?

Advancement under Lockdown

Are you keen on advancing under lockdown? Here are a couple of key things you need to know:



- Although it is impossible to complete all the sections of the advancement programme under lockdown, it is certainly possible to complete many of them.
- Certain items are theoretical in nature and can easily be done at home. Remember that you can take photographs or videos of your efforts to help have your advancement signed off.
- If you are uncertain on how to get tested on an item, contact one of the scouters!
- If you can't physically do an item, plan it. For example, you need to plan and run an overnight hike for your First Class. 70% of the work involved is planning, so if you can do your planning now then it will be simple to run the hike when the lockdown is over.
- If you are really worried about running out of time to finish your Springbok then you can under certain circumstances seek an extension. In order to qualify for an extension you will need to show that you could not complete the requirements due to circumstances beyond your control. For example if your Springbok expedition is your last outstanding item on your Springbok and you are turning 18 in a month's time, plan fully for your expedition. All you then need to do is run it, which is impossible due to the lockdown. You would then seek an extension to allow you to run the actual expedition when lockdown ends. As long as you have done everything else that you can possibly do whilst under lockdown an extension should not be a problem.
- Remember that the advancement programme builds on itself. You need to finish lower levels first in order to move on to higher levels. If a lower-level item is impossible to complete under lockdown and is holding you back, please contact the scouters to see if there is a way to work around it.

- Interest badges now form an integral part of your advancement. This is a great chance to get these out of the way. Look at what interest badges you require and try to finish these whilst under lockdown.
- The Distance Scouting programmes are specifically designed to help you advance. If you have missed items you can still do them (they just won't count for points) but they will help you advance. Taking part of the programme will keep your advancement ticking over.
- To keep abreast with both your advancement and your interest badge work, you must be familiar with how to use Scouts Digital, which allows you to view your progress at any time. The Inspection Item for this week's programme is specifically designed to test if you know how to use Scouts Digital, please all try to complete it and contact your PL if you are struggling with Scouts Digital.



Ideas for Lockdown

Do you have any ideas for activities that either your patrol or the troop can do during lockdown? Let your PL know and we can implement them! Ideas from other troops include:

- Joint troop or patrol meetings with scouts from outside South Africa;
- An online quiz evening;
- A troop social meeting where you get to chat with other members of the troop online on platforms like Zoom or Discord;
- A virtual troop camp where you follow a camp programme at home;
- Service projects collecting food, making facemasks or helping the vulnerable;
- Online visits to the Smithsonian Museum in Washington DC.

If you would like us to run these or other ideas, please say so on your patrol WhatsApp group!



Andrew enjoys fresh focaccia

Joint Meeting with 1st Kengray

This coming Friday (5 June 2020) we will be joining 1st Kengray for a joint troop meeting at 19h00. Parents and friends are welcome to join us, there will be points for attendance and you can earn bonus points if you bring a potential recruit along.

At the meeting you will be meeting Robby Kojetin, a former 1st Germiston scout who has summited five of the worlds “Seven Summits”, including Mt Everest. Robby is now a motivational speaker and author.

The meeting will take place via Zoom and details of the meeting, including a meeting invite, will be sent out later this week. If you need help setting up Zoom, please chat to your PL or one of the scouters.

Robby was the guest speaker at one of the Bedfordview Rover Dinners a few years ago and he was absolutely amazing. The evening should be informative and interesting so come along and join in!

Cederberg 2020 (10 – 21 December 2020)



One of the few scouting events that has not yet been cancelled is the 2020 National Senior Scout Adventure.

“Cederberg” as it is fondly known is an eleven-day adventure in the Cederberg mountains. Gruelling hiking in pristine country is the a treat in itself, but Cederberg combines this with amazing bases, such as astronomy, diving, flying, archery, paintball, electronics, skeet shooting, pizza making, geocaching, boating and much, much more. It is truly an amazing

experience.

The Adventure is open to scouts who are 15 or older during the adventure. You will need to hold your Discoverer Badge in order to attend, which means that some potential attendees will need to do some work during the lockdown if they are going to qualify to attend. The Adventure is presently scheduled to take place from 10 to 21 December 2020.

Due to the possibility of an extended lockdown the organisers have specifically asked that no money be paid to them yet, but they are taking entries and places are filling up quickly. The all-inclusive cost for youth participants is R6 000,00 per person, which includes:

- All meals whilst on adventure;
- All camping, conservation and permit fees associated with hiking in the area;
- Transport to and from Cape Town to the Adventure site. You will still need to get yourself to Cape Town;
- All activities whilst on the adventure;
- An adventure scarf and t-shirt.



Alexio – BP Day at school

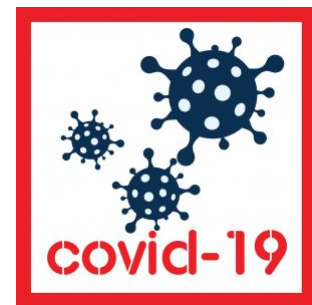
You will need to register to secure a place on the adventure. Visit <https://cederbergadventure.co.za/> to register and for more information.

If you are going to be over the age of 18 when the adventure takes place and still want to hike as a participant, not all is lost. The Bedfordview Rover Crew is looking at entering a team. If you are of rover age and are keen on getting involved please contact the chairman, Gavin Butler on 083 459 1641 or chat to Jamie.

An information session will be set up shortly, but in the interim if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Jamie.

New Covid-19 Badge

Scouts SA has designed a new Covid-19 awareness badge. I would encourage as many of you as possible to complete this badge, it will help make sure that you know what to do to keep yourself, your families and others safe. Visit <https://www.scouts.org.za/2020/05/26/covid-19-awareness-badge/> for information on the requirements. Who will be the first to complete this badge?



More senior scouts might also want to consider looking at the Disaster Management Badge. Not only does this count towards advancement, it can also help ensure that you are properly equipped to help out. Remember, “A Scout’s Duty is to be Useful and to Help Others”.

New TS

Jamie Cottrell was to take over as TS shortly after Kontiki, which should have happened in mid-May. This has obviously been interrupted by Covid-19, although the process of handing over the troop to him is well-underway. Though I would like to run a final contact programme as a farewell, I would like you to start thinking of Jamie as your “go to” man going forward and that you contact him with any questions or queries that you may have.

In the spirit of handing-over this will be my last newsletter, Jamie should make his debut in a few months’ time with his own newsletter. I have been actively involved in running the troop as a scouter since 1998 and would like to thank you and the many scouts before you who have given me many fond memories and happy adventures. Though I will be popping in to visit the troop in my capacity as DC I am sad to be closing this chapter of my life and will miss getting directly involved in helping you all become better scouts.

I have every confidence in Jamie and am sure that you will join me in wishing him well with his new endeavour as TS.

Jamie will be officially invested as TS as soon as lockdown regulations permit this.

Upcoming Activities at a Glance

June:

5 Joint meeting with 1st Kengray (Meet Robby Kojetin)

December:

10 – 21 National Senior Scout Adventure (Cederberg)

Yours in scouting

A Campbell
Andrew Campbell



BP Day at Founder's Hill – Aragorn and Anakin