



Spring - 2003

SA SCOUTING ABOUT

News from the South African Scout Association.

SAHQ ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are you aware of the new uniform options for Scouts and Cubs? It seems that in some areas that members are unaware that the National Scout Council adopted a more flexible uniform policy. This was prompted by being identified as a critical priority in the Review of the Association. Reasons for this was that the Association required a more flexible approach to the wearing of uniforms to accommodate those who are unable to afford uniforms and those (mostly teenage) Scouts who see the uniform as "uncool". Ultimately the community, more precisely the Court of Honour themselves and Group Committee, have the final say. As such we have seen a move by many Groups opting for the school uniform option or alternative (golf shirt) option. The baseball cap as an alternative headdress also seems very popular. And yes, jeans are allowed! I think we are all agreed that it is all about uniformity and not necessarily a uniform in the traditional sense.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic, without question, impacts heavily on the Association. Not only in terms of our responsibility to educate the youth in and outside the Movement, but also in terms of the threat it poses to many of our adult volunteers. It is a fallacy to think that it's effect is limited to others. Advanced training in this regard has been made available to our training teams throughout South Africa. What is disconcerting is that many of our adult participants across all communities are resistant to addressing this matter or are very unaware of the facts. We appeal to all leaders in this regard to strongly encourage participation in these courses. It includes very valuable techniques in how to optimize PEER EDUCATION and with these make a difference!

The Chief Scout of South Africa, Nkwenkwe Nkomo's term comes to an end in 2005. The National Scout Council invites nominations for the next Chief Scout to be submitted, in confidence, to SAHQ for the attention of the Chief Executive, P.O. Box 2434, Clareinch, 7740. You are strongly urged to take up this invitation.

Finally, we enter the last quarter of 2003 and wish all our Cubs, Scouts and Rovers the very best in their upcoming examinations. We know you will 'do your best' and as such make us all proud.

PROUDLY SOUTH AFRICAN

We trust that all South African Scouters, Cubs and Scouts are aware that the movement is part of the PROUDLY SOUTH AFRICAN campaign. We were asked to participate in the Proudly South African Week in September and suggested ways your Pack or Troop could participate. Fortunately, if you missed the celebration, we can be Proudly South African every or any day we choose.



Some suggestions include:

- ☞ Identify a local hero/ role model to speak on being proudly South African at a local meeting or event.
- ☞ Serve a proudly South African meal or have a camp fire with a SA theme.
- ☞ Construct a Proudly South African structure (pioneering) and fly the South African flag.
- ☞ Sing South African songs.
- ☞ Buy, as prizes, Proudly South African badges at the local Nedbank branch (R3).
- ☞ Present activities around indigenous flora and fauna.
- ☞ Bake and ice a proudly South African cake.
- ☞ Invent / play a Proudly South African game.
- ☞ Invite the local media to provide coverage on your Proudly South African activities.
- ☞ Do a good turn for a local school, old age home, etc. or organise a litter cleanup of your community.

If the above activities are arranged it would be a wonderful opportunity to get the press to cover these. Let's get Scouting into the papers!

Visit <http://www.proudlysa.co.za/> for more information.



PROUDLY SOUTH AFRICAN – MAFIKENG SCENE

An unidentified scout who took part in the MAFIKENG - SCENE in September.

See report over...



PROUDLY SOUTH AFRICAN – MAKIKENG SCENE

Theo Mothlabane, the SA Scout SCENE manager, reports that on Friday, 26th September, 30 Scouts had their faces painted with the SA Flag colours, which attracted the attention of the crowds. About 80 Scouts first cleaned up behind the Victoria Hospital then moved on to clean the Taxi rank which is alongside the Game Complex, Mafikeng. The community really appreciated what the youth and older scouters were doing on that day.



In the afternoon the scouts tackled their traditional Pioneering activities and with the South African Flag flying proudly, sending out the message that South Africans should support and buy local products.

After a conference and game trails, in the afternoon, the SCENE closed with a traditional South African Campfire, with singing and dancing. By midnight everyone crept off to bed. Theo thanks everyone who helped to make the event a truly Proudly South African event.



DUTY TO GOD

Here is a short prayer by courtesy of Scouting Australia. You might like to use it at your next camp.

A SCOUT'S PRAYER

*This is the beginning of a new day.
God has given me this day to use as
I will.*

*I can waste it or use it for good.
What I do today is very important
Because I am exchanging a day of my
life for it.*

*When tomorrow comes, this day will be
gone forever, leaving something in its
place I have traded for it. I want it to be a
gain, not a loss . . . good not evil . . .
success, not failure . . . in order that I
shall not forget the price I paid for it.*

Veld Lore

SUMMER PROGRAMME 2003

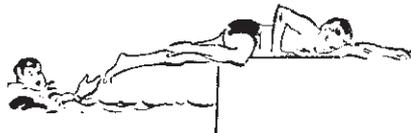
LEARN TO SWIM – MANAGE A BOAT. Make it your Group target, this summer!
Every Cub and every Scout a swimmer!

WATER SAFETY SHOW

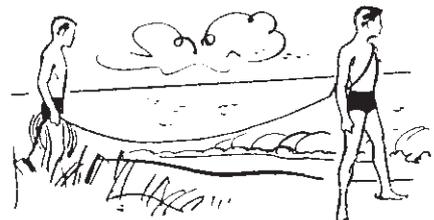
Every year, especially during holiday seasons and weekends, more and more people in Southern Africa are drowned. Many drownings might have been prevented had the victims received even elementary information on water safety. A Water Safety Show put on by Scouts at a community pool or other suitable swimming area is a Community Good Turn that could pay dividends in lives saved and demonstrate Scouting skills in action at the same time.

The following ideas and illustrations for a Water Safety Show are by kind courtesy of "New Zealand Scout News". Being a public demonstration plans will need to be made with local authorities, and for advance publicity, invitations, spectator comfort, media coverage, and other essentials.

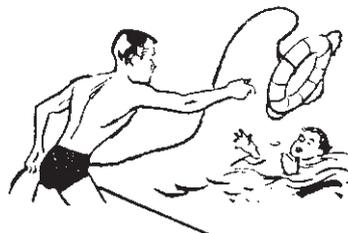
There are four key words to rescuing someone from the water: Reach! Throw! Row! Go!



REACH — Most accidents happen close to land or a dock. You may be able to REACH the victim with your hand, foot, branch or pole.

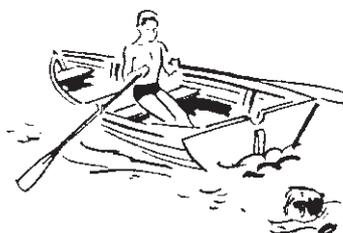


GO — No equipment round? Then, and only then, you GO.

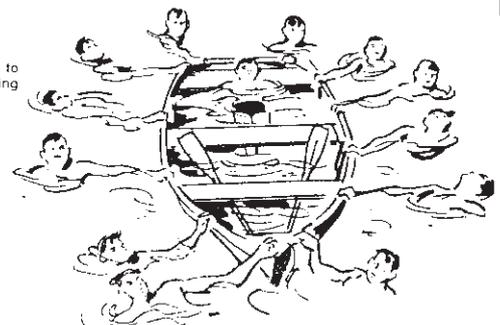


THROW — If the victim is further out, look for something to THROW him. A properly equipped waterfront will have a ring buoy prominently displayed. A rope can also be thrown.

Here are a few ideas for Troop and Patrol demonstrations:



ROW — Too far to throw? Then get in a boat and ROW!



• Don't leave the boat — show how many Scouts a capsized boat filled with water will support if they hang on to the sides in the water.

MEXICO CITY - Scouts collected over 400,000 aluminium cans and created a 90 x 95 metre emblem of the Scout Badge. This beats their own Guinness Book of Records achievement in the year 2000. Money from recycling the cans was donated to UNICEF and the Coca-Cola Foundation for projects to help Mexican children.

SERVICE FOR OUR COUNTRY

Many years ago Lord Baden Powell wrote a letter in his own handwriting, to grown-ups, under the heading:

“ABOUT THOSE BOY SCOUTS. Has it ever struck you that you should be connected with them?”

After saying how much fun there is to be got out of Scouting he went on to say this:

“Are you, in a general way, efficient? Of course you are, you can read and write and

so on and – Yes, well, for instance – can you swim? If you cannot do little things of this kind you ought to join the Boy Scouts ...”

Our aim, through the Scout training, is individual efficiency for the better service of others – that is, true citizenship

It is brought about by the personal example of the Scoutmaster himself and in encouraging the boy to develop through activities which appeal to him, the

attributes of Character, Health, Handcraft and service for others.

It does a great deal of good for the youngster, a greater good for the country and, incidentally – since it brings you close to God.”

Robert Baden Powell

“CAN YOU SWIM?”

Lord Baden Powell's question in the above letter should give us our main activity for this summer's programme. Maybe, you personally, may not be a strong swimmer, or not be able to swim at all. That does not mean that your scouts never get the opportunity to swim well. With being unable to swim your scouts miss out on all the character building opportunities that water activities can impart. It's been my experience that swimming clubs and even the Lifesavers at Municipal pools are willing to give of their time to scouts to make them water safe. Swimming Instructors are in business and so, using their services, does cost money, but by arranging a bulk rate maybe your troop can afford it. So many of

our schools have swimming programmes, make use of these.

Once scouts can swim well they can so easily become LIFESAVERS. What a wonderful word – be able to save another human being's life from drowning. Along our coastline, so many of our former scouts have become voluntary lifesavers with the beach lifesaving clubs – in fact have gone on to become Captains and even Presidents of these clubs and their National body. Some of them have become Springbok Lifesavers, representing their country overseas, this, all because of the encouragement of their scouters when they were a cub or an eleven year old scout.



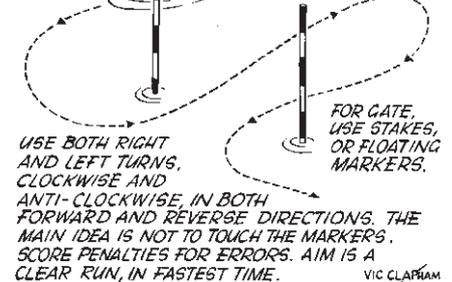
A PAST GAUTENG KON TIKI

Look at the fun these scouts are having – because they can swim!

- Never swim alone — show how the buddy system works, and how it can be used in a family swim.
- Go rescue — demonstrate lifesaving entry into water, and use of shirt or branch to rescue person in the water without coming in contact with him. Show how to tend line attached to a rescuer.
- Throw rescue — demonstrate throwing a line and a ring buoy.
- Disrobing — two Scouts fully clothed stand on shore. On signal, one Scout jumps into water fully clothed and swims towards a struggling victim. Second Scout quickly disrobes down to bathing trunks and swims to same victim. Be sure victims far enough out that advantage of disrobing for rescue becomes apparent.
- Save yourself with buoyancy — demonstrate how wet clothing will hold air. A shirt or pair of trousers will act as water wings. Use several Scouts showing different methods.
- Save a life — demonstrate latest methods of artificial respiration.
- Reach rescue — show how objects such as branches and poles can be used to avoid entering the water in making a rescue.

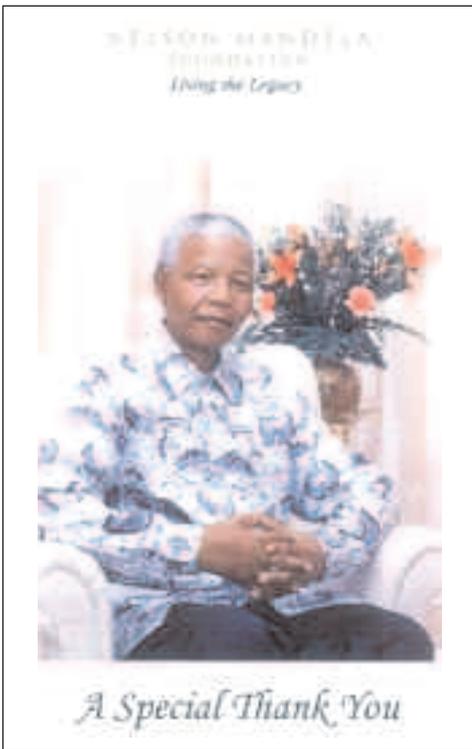
THE WIGGLE

TESTS THE STROKES USED FOR TURNING! FOR SINGLE OR DOUBLE CANOES, IN STILL WATER.



Not every Scout Group has access to boats, so approach a Sea Scout Group in your District or Region who should be able to help you. Before you do, every scout going on the water, must hold, at least the Scoutcraft Swimmers Badge.

OUR PATRON'S THANK YOU TO SCOUTING SOUTH AFRICA



*Thank you for sharing my
85th Birthday with me.*

*Your birthday messages, gifts,
telephone calls, and emails
have all been greatly
appreciated and noted.*

Nelson Mandela
N R Mandela

5th AFRICA JAMBOREE – MOZAMBIQUE

This Jamboree takes place in our neighbouring country. December 2004/January 2005 in Catembe.

As one of the leading Scouting Nations in Africa – Scouting South Africa intends to have a sizeable contingent present. Start planning - lets aim for at least 100 scouts attending from each Area!!

Compared to the cost of attending an overseas Jamboree, this one should be minimal. Contact SAHQ or go to www.scouting.org.za/africa/jamboree



Visit the United States of America and Serve as a Boy Scouts of America Camp Staff Member - 2004

The Boy Scouts of America invites Scout Leaders ages 18 to 30 from around the world to come to the United States and spend a summer as an International Camp Staff Member of a BSA summer camp or Cub Scout day camp. The days are long and hard, but the trip and what you see and do can be an exciting time of your life. All applications must be approved by SAHQ and be forwarded to the States to arrive before 31 January 2004. Information can be obtained from SAHQ or go to www.bsa.scouting.org/international or email: intnldiv@netbsa.org

“SCOUT’S HONOUR”

In the Grand Passion series, in the Natal Witness, SUE SEGAR talks to Labour Minister Membathisi Mdladlana about why he’s crazy about the Scout Movement”

Labour Minister Membathisi Mdladlana remembers being teased mercilessly about the shorts he used to wear as a boy Scout when he was a younger man. But, he was, and remains, so committed to the movement that he didn't care.

Mdladlana, who has been involved in the movement since becoming a cub as a young schoolboy, believes the movement could do much to uplift the youth of South Africa. Mdladlana ascribes much of his success in life to the skills, confidence and discipline he acquired as a scout. “My morning starts at 5 am and by 5.30 am, I am at the gym”, he declares. “Making an early start is never a problem. It is programmed into me. It all started when we were very young. My father used to catch the 6 am train at Nyanga Station every morning and he woke us up to make tea. I can't sleep beyond 5 am.”

Mdladlana was born in the former Ciskei. The closest big town to his village, Ezingcuka, was King William's Town. “When I was 11, in 1963, my father took us to live in Cape Town, as the school in our village did not go beyond Standard 2. My father was an elder in the Presbyterian Church and came from a strong culture of educating your children”.

It was at primary school in Cape Town that Mdladlana's interest in the scout movement began. “I started off as a cub. My main interest was the drums in the scout band. We had a scout band in our school and I really wanted to beat those drums. I was told that the only way I would be able to do this was if I became a scout.” Mdladlana remained a scout throughout high school.

“There was a layoff period when I went to train as a teacher in Lovedale. But after that, I became a scoutmaster and opened a troop at my old school.”

According to Mdladlana, a basic tenet of the scout movement is to be a good citizen. “Some of the concepts we learnt are concepts that I continued to use when I became a teacher and then as school principal, and which I continue to apply as a minister. It taught me how to allocate authority to people so that they can lead their own 'patrols' and keep in touch with their problems and difficulties. I believe in making the boys feel as if they are running the troop. That philosophy is still with me. You cannot run a school if the principal wants to do everything. As labour minister, I encourage the people in my department to get on and take control of their own areas”.

INTERNATIONAL RANGER/ROVER CAMP “4U”



Luxembourg Guiding and Scouting invites South African Rangers and Rovers aged 17 to 23 years to Camp 4U from July 22nd to August 1st 2004, at Differdange Luxembourg. Information available from SAHQ or go to <http://4u.lgs.lu/> or email info@lgs.lu

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