



## **CAPE WESTERN AREA HIKING REGULATIONS**



The following are regulations governing hiking by Scout parties in the Cape Western Area. Scouters are requested to keep these regulations for future reference. By listing most of the common hikes we hope to encourage an increase hiking by Scouts.

### **1. REGULATIONS FOR THE APPLICATION FOR A HIKE PERMIT :**

- 1.1 Applications for hike permits to headquarters are not required for day hikes of “A” or “B” standards anywhere in the Cape Peninsula. (However, this does not absolve the Scouter from obtaining the landowner’s permission where necessary. Your DC may also require to be notified of such a hike - please check the District procedure with him.)
- 1.2 Applications for day hikes outside the Cape Peninsula must reach Headquarters at least seven days before commencement of the proposed hike.
- 1.3 Applications for overnight hikes in the Cape Peninsula should reach Headquarters seven days before commencement of the proposed hike. However, they must reach Headquarters at least twenty-four hours before commencement. Scouters are reminded that City Council regulations permit overnighing on Table Mountain itself only within a hut, i.e. even the grounds of the hut are debarred. ( In practice, this means that a booking of the Scout Mountain Club Hut must be obtained for any overnight stay.)
- 1.4 Application for overnight hikes outside the Cape Peninsula must reach Headquarters at least fourteen days before commencement of the proposed hike.
- 1.5 Failure to allow the required time (including time for scrutiny by the Districts) will almost certainly result in inconvenience to the hiking party if their plans have to be changed.
- 1.6 All applications for hikes are required to be made to Headquarters Form F47B. With Troop Scouters consent on Form F47A (these two forms are found back to back of each other).

### **2. HIKING ROUTE LIST:**

#### **2.1 General :**

In order to encourage hiking, a list of the most common hikes and the standards of the party follow :

#### **2.2 Definitions and Explanatory Notes :**

##### **2.2.1 Recce - (Reconnaissance)**

This is defined as an occasion on which the prospective leader of the hike traverses the prospective route in the company of some more experienced hiker who has hiked the route before. This recce must precede, by a fortnight at least, the hike for which the permit is sought.

##### **The three grades used in the Route list are :-**

- recce not required
- recce recommended
- recce required



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### **2.2.2 LEADERSHIP:**

The three grades used in the Route are -

- 'responsible adult' (every Scouter is assumed to be of this grade at least).
- 'experienced adult' (a regular hiker, not necessarily a member of a climbing club).
- 'very experienced adult' (extensive experienced of hiking in all weathers in the Cape Mountains, and appreciation and experience of the particular problems of hiking with boys of Scout age, and have completed SMC Mountain Leadership Course).

### **2.2.3 GENERAL:**

Allowance will be made for Scouts' who live in country areas for example, restrictions on Hottentots-Holland would be eased for Somerset West Scouts, and conversely the restrictions on Table Mountain should be tightened for them.

The Route List is not a comprehensive list of every hike route. As a suggestion list, it will surely satisfy all but the most ambitious Scouts. Any proposal not on this list will be treated on its merits.

A hike undertaken as part of a Troop camp programme, for which permission has been granted to camp, will not require further hiking permits, unless the hike will traverse Forestry land, in which case Headquarters permission is required.

In respect of each hike, the remarks which follow are drawn up with parties carrying overnight gear in mind. Day-hikers over the same area, while less demanding physically, will normally be subject to the same remarks in respect of recesses, seasons and leaderships.

It must be stressed that age and weather recommendations refer to average circumstances. It is the Scouter's prerogative to judge whether a boy is above or below average for his age. Rain and low temperature conditions can occur unexpectedly even in summer; similarly, some winter days are mild enough to allow for 'summer' hikes.

### **2.2.4 ADDITIONAL HIKING RULES:**

- 1 The minimum number of hikers in any Scouts party is to be three, with a preference of four over difficult or country terrain.
- 2 No Scout or Leader of any Scout party may LEAD a hike on the mountains if he has not previously done the hike, in the same direction, as a member of a previous hiking group and is considered totally familiar with the route.



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3. The leader of any Scout hike is to carry a map or guide book.
4. A Scout hike up to and down from the top of Table Mountain, led by Scouts, (under the age of 18 years) should be restricted to the following routes :-

Constantia Nek Road  
Nursery Ravine  
Skeleton Gorge  
Platteklip Gorge  
Kasteels Poort  
Wood Ravine  
Corridor

Unless a request for a permit is submitted to Headquarters at least 7 days before the hike and permission is granted.

5. A hiking Adviser should be appointed by the District Commissioner in every district to vet the planning of all hikes.

### **2.2.5 SCOUT HIKING REQUIREMENTS:**

- 1 It is a Cape Western Area ruling that Map Reading Scoutcraft Badge is achieved before any Scout undertakes his 1st Class Hike.
- 2 Candidates for the 1st Class Hike Requirement and their hiking companions must have gone on at least three Scout hikes before undertaking the hiking requirement.
- 3 The First Class hike requirements should be checked at one or more points along the route, if possible, by Adult Scouters or senior Patrol Leaders. At the discretion of the District Hiking Adviser such observers should be able to accompany a hiking party at a distance, should the candidates be very young or the terrain difficult.

(It should be noted that some of the Additional Hiking Rules contradict with the requirements for the Hiker Leader Badges. It is proposed that the examiners of these senior specialist badge have certain flexibility in applying these rules at their discretion, but also need not necessarily stick rigidly to the requirements of the Scout Interest Badge Book.)

### **2.3 ROUTES:**

It is important that Scouters ensure that all hikes adhere to the route regulations laid down here, both in the interests of safety and in ensuring that the hike has the sanction of Scout Headquarters for legal and insurance purposes.



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### **.3.1 National Hikes (Outside our Area)**

Applications should be made to Headquarters at least a month in advance so that the permission of the Area Commissioner in whose Area the hike is to take place can be requested.

1. Various National Hiking Way Trails: These applications will be treated on their merits, but as a guideline, Scouts should be at least 14 years of age, under an experienced adult leader.
2. Fish River Canyon: Open from May to September, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with a very experienced adult leader. Closed the rest of the year.
3. Drakensburg: At all times Scouts should be 14 and over with a very experienced adult leader.

### **2.3.2 Rock Climbs**

Climbs involving ropework above 'B' grade are suitable for Scouts 14 and over with the leadership of two experienced rock-climbers for every party of eight persons.

### **2.3.3 Cape Peninsula**

1. Ascent or descent of Table Mountain via Constantia Nek Road, Nursery Ravine, Skeleton Gorge, Platteklip Gorge, Kasteels Poort and Wood Ravine.

Suitable for any time of year, by Scouts 11 years and over, with the leadership of Patrol Leader or Scout 14 or over. Suitable (for day-hikes only) for 10-year old Cubs with responsible adult leadership.

2. Lower Contour paths of Table Mountain.

Suitable for any time of year by Scouts 11 years and over, with the leadership of a Patrol Leader or Scout 13 or over.

3. Any "A" route in the South Peninsula mountain chain.

Suitable for any time of year, by Scouts 11 years and over, with the leadership of Patrol Leader or Scout 14 or over. Suitable (for day-hikes) only, for 10-years old Cubs with responsible leadership.

4. Table Mountain by any other "A" or "B" route.

Suitable for any time of year, by 11 years and over, with responsible adult leadership.



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### **2.3.4 North of Bainskloof Pass and Hex River Pass**

1. **Steenbokberg and Bailey's Peak:** In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with responsible adult leadership. Recce not required.  
  
In winter, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with experienced adult leadership. Recce recommended.
  
2. **Porterville (Great Winterhoek), Plateau, Sneegat, from Tulbagh farms (Rooiland):**  
  
In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with responsible adult leadership. Recce not required.  
  
In winter, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with experienced adult leadership. Recce recommend.
  
3. **Twenty-four Rivers (Kloof) from Groot Winterhoek Farm to Dasbos:**  
  
In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with the leadership of an adult.  
Recce recommended.  
  
This trip is not advised for Scout Parties in winter.
  
4. **Cedarberg Wilderness Area (Various hikes):**  
  
In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with the leadership of a Scout 16 or over.  
Recce recommended.  
  
In winter, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with responsible adult leadership. Recce required.
  
5. **Jan Du Toitskloof:** In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with responsible adult leadership. Recce recommended.  
  
This trip is not advised for Scout parties in winter.
  
6. **Witels From Michell's Pass, as far as Third Swim:** In summer, suitable for Scouts 13 and over with responsible adult leadership. Recce not required.  
  
This trip is not advised for Scout parties in winter.
  
7. **Fisherman's route into Witels:** In summer, suitable for Scouts 15 and over with experienced adult leadership. Recce required. NB! (route closed until further notice)  
  
This trip is not advised for Scout parties in winter.
  
8. **Witels from Waaihoek:** In summer, suitable for Scouts 15 and over with experienced adult leader. Recce not required.  
  
In winter, not advised for Scout Parties.



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9. Visgat: From weir to “S” Pools : In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with adult leadership

In winter, not advised for Scout Parties.

Visgat: From ”S”Pools to Boskloof: In summer suitable for Scouts 15 and over with adult leadership.

In winter, not advised for Scout Parties.

10. West Coast - Saldanha to Silverstroom Strand:

In winter or summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with the leadership of a Scout 16 or over. Recce not required.

9. Visgat: From weir to “S” Pools : In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with adult leadership

In winter, not advised for Scout Parties.

Visgat: From ”S”Pools to Boskloof: In summer suitable for Scouts 15 and over with adult leadership.

In winter, not advised for Scout Parties.

10. West Coast - Saldanha to Silverstroom Strand:

In winter or summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with the leadership of a Scout 16 or over. Recce not required.

**2.3.5 Bainskloof Pass to Du Toits Kloof Pass**

1. Bainskloof Pass to Du Toitskloof Pass or reverse:

In summer, suitable for Scouts 12 and over with responsible adult leadership, or 13 and over with leadership of a Scout 16 or over. Recce not required.

In winter, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with very experienced adult leadership only. Recce recommended.



2. Bainskloof Hotel to Hugo’s House and Junction Pool. Du Toitskloof Pass (highest Point) to Suurvlaakte:

In summer, suitable for Scouts 11 and over with leadership of a Scout 15 and over.

In winter, suitable for Scouts 11 and over with the leadership of an Adult. Recce recommended.

3. Bainskloof - The Kloof (Witrivier): In summer, suitable for Scouts 12 and over with the leadership of a Scout 16 or over. Recce not required.

This trip is not advised for Scouts parties in winter.



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4.

Baviaanskloof Path as far as the waterfalls:

In summer, suitable for Scouts 12 and over with the leadership of a Scout 16 and over.  
Recce required.

In winter, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with responsible adult leadership of a Scouter.  
Recce not required.

5. Klein or Groot Wellington Sneekop from Baviaanskloof, Tierkloof or Witrivier, Observation Peak, Kromrivier Peak, Kromrivier Hut, down the ridge to Nuweland:

In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with the leadership of a Scout 16 and over.  
Recce recommended.

In winter, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with very experienced adult leadership.  
Recce required.

6. Slanghoek Pile, Needle or Peak. Grassy Dome, Witteberge:

In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with experienced adult leadership.  
Recce recommended.

In winter, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with very experienced adult leadership.  
Recce not required.

7. Kromrivier Dome, New Year Peak:

In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with leadership of a Scout 16 and over.  
Recce not required.

In winter, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with experienced adult leadership.  
Recce required.

### **2.3.6 Route Du Toit's Kloof to Franschoek Pass and Villiersdorp**

1. Franschoek Pass to the gate on the road from Worcester to Stettynskloof Dam, or via Agertafelberg and the jeep track to Du Toits Kloof:

In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with the leadership of a Scout 16 and over.  
Recce recommended.

In winter, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with very experienced adult leadership only.  
Recce required.

2. Du Toit's Kloof, up the jeep track to Agertafelberg, and down Stettynskloof past the dam to the gate on the road to Worcester:

In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with the leadership of a Scout 16 or over.

In winter, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with responsible adult leadership.  
Recce not required.



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### 3. Donkerkloof, to Saddle. Also Du Toitskloof Pass to Agertafelberg by Jeep track:

In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with the leadership of a Scout 16 or over.

In winter, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with responsible adult leadership.  
Recce not required.

### 4. Hugenotskop from Miaspoort:

In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with responsible adult leadership.  
Recce not required.

In winter, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with experienced adult leadership.  
Recce required.

### 5. Agtertafelberg to Du Toitskloof Pass, down Elandsrivier:

In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with responsible adult leadership.  
Recce required.

This trip is not advised for Scouts parties in winter.

#### 2.3.7 **Franschhoek Pass to Sir Lowry's Pass:**

##### 1. Hottentots-Holland Section of the Boland Hiking Trail:

In summer, the main trail and also the Nuweberg - Jonkershoek alternative, are suitable for Scouts 14 and over with the leadership of a Scout 16 or over. Recce not required.

In winter, these portions are suitable for Scouts 14 and over with responsible adult leadership.  
Recce not required.

The high-level traverse between Landdrooskop Hut and Kruktrekkernek Lannddrooskop, is subject in summer to the same remarks.

In winter, this portion is suitable for Scouts 16 or over with very experienced adult leadership.  
Recce not required.

Day-hike in all portions are subject to the same conditions. (But see 5 Below).

##### 2. Banhoekrivier (day-hike):

In summer, suitable for Scouts 12 and over with the leadership of a Scout 14 or over.

This trip is not advised for Scout parties in winter.

##### 3. Kurktrekkernek to Robertsvlei, Coetzenburg or Vergenoeg or Jonkershoek to Stellenbosch or Haelkop (Guardian Peak). Helderberg; Helderberg to Jonkershoek:

In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with the leadership of an adult. Recce not required.

In winter, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with experienced adult leadership. Recce required.



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4.

Jonkershoek, from end of the motor road to Tweede Waterval (Day-hikes):

This area is closed to the public in summer.

In winter, suitable for Scouts 11 and over with leadership of a Scout 14 or over.

Recce required.

5. Gantouwpas (upper section) from Sir Lowry's Pass or Steenbras Station (day-hike):

In summer or winter, suitable for Scouts 11 and over or Cubs 10 and over. No leadership conditions.

Recce not required.

6. Klipdrifrivier:

In summer, suitable for Scouts 12 and over with responsible adult leadership or 13 and over the leadership of a Scout 16 or over.

Recce recommended.

This trip is not advised for Scout parties in winter.

7. Vergelegen farm to Nuweberg:

In summer, suitable for Scouts 12 and over with responsible adult leadership or 13 and over with leadership of a Scout 16 or over.

Recce not required.

In winter, suitable for Scouts 13 and over with responsible adult leadership.

Recce recommended.

### **2.3.8 Sir Lowry's Pass to South Coast**

1. Steenbrasrivierskloof, from Benning Bridge to Dam (day-hike):

In summer, suitable for Scouts 12 and over with leadership of a Scout 16 or over.  
Recce required.

This trip is not advised for Scouts parties in winter.

2. Koeelbaai to Steenbras (through catchment - permit required from City Council):

In summer, suitable for Scouts 13 and over with leadership of a Scout 16 or over.  
Recce recommended.

In winter, suitable for Scout 13 and over with responsible adult leadership.  
recce recommended.



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2.4 THE

### HIKING ADVISOR

All applications for hikes will be assessed and approved by one or more “Hiking Advisers” appointed by the Area. If the Hiking Adviser has any qualms with the hike application, he will negotiate conditions which must be complied with before the application can be approved. For example, he could insist that the leadership be strengthened by the addition of a more experienced hiker.

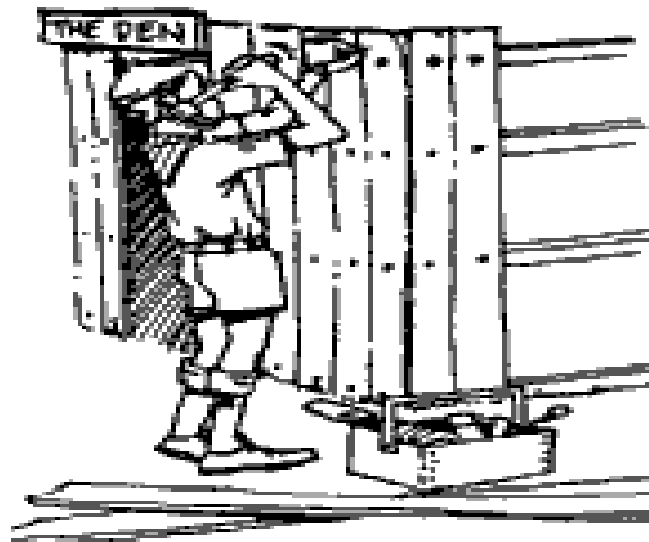
It could be that a Troop wishes to undertake a hike, and the circumstances are such that less than the minimum notice can be given to Headquarters. (For example snowfalls lead to the decision to organise a hike before the snow melts). The Hiking Adviser could be contacted by telephone via the Area Secretary and the application would be considered on its merits. This dispensation should not however be abused.

The Hiking Adviser would also be used to vet distress calls from anxious Scouters or parents who are waiting for overdue Scout hiking parties, should the need ever arise.

### PERMISSION

Most of the mountain and unspoiled land in the Cape is owned or controlled by the Cape Nature Conservation, Regional Service Council, Municipalities, or private owners. It is therefore ESSENTIAL that permission be obtained from the owner BEFORE entering the property.

No MOUNTAIN HUTS may be used unless permission has been granted by the owners.





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### **FORESTRY RESERVES:**

In the case of Forestry Reserves, a written PERMIT must always be obtained from the relevant authority before entering the Reserve.

The conditions of the PERMIT granted MUST be strictly obeyed e.g. the lighting of fires, camping, no firearms, no destruction of vegetation, no dogs, etc. Failure to observe these rules and to maintain a high standard of behaviour could jeopardise the granting of permits or permission to ALL future Scout parties. CONTRAVENTION of these rules will be regarded in a very serious light and disciplinary action against offenders will be taken.

### **PRIVATE LAND:**

Permission must be obtained to cross or camp on privately-owned land. Consideration must be shown at all times.

Here are some of the basic rules:-

- i) Obtain PERMISSION from the farmer/owner personally on arrival, or by telephone, BEFORE your party enters the property. If you do not have permission do not enter the lands.  
  
Courtesy requires that, if possible, you thank the owner when you leave his property.
- ii) Take stringent precautions against VELD FIRES.
- iii) When travelling in summer through orchards or vineyards by vehicle, travel SLOWLY to minimise DUST which damages fruit and grapes - at 5 km per hour..
- iv) Ensure that all GATES are left as you found them.
- v) Avoid damaging FENCES by not climbing over them.
- vi) Do not leave or bury any litter - carry tins/bottles/plastics etc. home with you.
- vii) Do not cut VEGETATION for gadgets unless you have permission.
- viii) ON NO ACCOUNT may FRUIT be picked in farmers' orchards etc. without his permission.

