welcome to 1st greenside cub pack

Welcome to the Group. This is the start of a long journey with your child through the Group and in order to help you understand your involvement in the process we have created this simple guide to introduce you to Scouting and explain your involvement in the Group. If you have never been involved in Scouting, you may be nervous about what this actually means for you and your child so this forms an introduction to Scouting and how it will impact you.

why scouting?

Scouting was started in 1907 by Lord Robert Baden-Powell. His vision was to create a better world. Scouting combines adventure with solid values that inspire you to leave the world a little better than you found it. B-P developed the Scout Promise and Law that Scouts still live by today.

Robert Baden Powell was stationed in South Africa during the Siege of Mafikeng. At this time he wrote a training manual called Aids to Scouting. On his return to the UK from South Africa in 1903, it had become a best-seller, and was being used by teachers and youth organizations. In 1907 B-P held a trail Scout camp on Brownsea Island. R. Wroughton, T. Evanslombe, G. Rodney and H. Emley were the youngsters who lead their patrols. Over eight days they the Scouts learnt various Scout skills. Based on the success of this camp, B-P wrote 'Scouting for Kids'. This was the spark that started the global spread of Scouting which has now grown into the world's biggest youth movement.

Less than a year after the Brownsea Island camp, scouting started in South Africa. Kids in the Cape and the Transvaal read B-P's book Scouting for Kids and were very eager to start a Troop of their own. The first meetings were held in 1908, and the first South African Scout Troops were born, being the oldest Troops outside of the UK. Today, some of them are still active such as 1st Claremont in the Western Cape. 1st Kengray BK in Gauteng's history also stretches back to 1st Belgravia, founded in 1908.

The first Jamboree in South Africa was held in 1936. B-P was present to observe how Scouting was spreading to youth across the country.

Due to the political climate in South Africa, four Scout Movements established themselves. In 1977 they united into one integrated organisation free for all, regardless of race or religion.

In 2000 the South African Scout Movement opened its doors to girls too, making the Movement open to all genders.

From 2010 to 2013 the Scouting Association of South Africa reviewed its structures, communication tools and programs in order to evolve and adapt to the needs of our members and modern day society. RevIt came into effect and the organisation changed its name to SCOUTS South Africa.

the uniform

All Cubs and Scouts will be obliged to wear a formal uniform for all formal events both at the hall and at outside events. In addition your child will have a Troop shirt for less formal occasions. The uniform is available online at http://shop.scouts.org.za/ or may be purchased at the Shop situated at 3 Glen Road, Bramley, Johannesburg (GPS: S 26° 7' 18.36" E 28° 4' 24.49") Open - Wednesday, Thursday - 08h30 to 15h30 and Friday - 08h30 to 15h00. Contact Details - Tel: 011 440 6491

First, the Scout uniform shirt is a traditional Scout item. Scouts have been wearing Scout uniforms for nearly a hundred years. You don't see anyone but Scouts wearing Scout uniforms. Second, each Scout shirt is a bit different. There is a standard starting place—a blank shirt that you can buy at any Scout shop—but then each child's shirt starts to look different. There are different sizes, different patches. All Scout shirts have the same basic shape, but beyond that there is endless variety. Third, Scout shirts are generally decorated on just one side—the outside, the part you show off.

The Scouting program itself is a lot like the Scout shirt.

First, it is a traditional program. Scouts today enjoy many of the same activities that Scouts enjoyed when Baden-Powell first created the program a century ago. There are many other things about Scouting that haven't changed much over time, including things like the Scout Law and the Scout Promise. The Scouting program has three aims or purposes that shape the program: character development, citizenship training, and physical and mental fitness.

Second, Scouts and Scouting adults each have unique experiences. Everybody's time in Scouting is different. Also, just like patches, Scouts and Scouting adults come in an almost endless variety of colours and shapes and personalities and skills and intelligence and even political persuasions but they are all Scouts, because they all strive toward those same three aims: character development, citizenship training, and physical and mental fitness.

Third, Scouting is like a Scout shirt because it has a "showy" side and a plain side. The showy side of the program is what attracts kids—the fun and outdoor adventure. That is the fun stuff, the colourful stuff, the stuff you look at and point at and say, "That's cool—I want to do that." But the adults like us are concerned about the other side. On that other side, our eyes are not distracted by the colours and designs, by the showy stuff. We look at what the Scout shirt—the Scouting program—is made of. We can feel the fabric. We see the three points clearly—character development, citizenship training, and physical and mental fitness. We're glad that the kids are drawn to the colourful stuff on the outside, but what really matters to us is on the inside.

the cub uniform & badges:



what's in it for my child?

Not every child or youth likes the same thing. Our award winning programmes and projects provide a wide range of activities for them to choose from. A number of challenges contribute to their growth and advancement through the Scouting programmes and others are specifically designed to appeal to their interests.

Cubs (7-10) follow the Cub trail where they learn new skills, play games, complete creative crafts, enjoy fun camps and community projects, Along their journey they make new friends and acquire a number of badges.

Scouts (11-17) are guided by the Scout Trail. This adventure trail includes a wide range of activities such as hiking, camping, abseiling, swimming, survival skills,

first aid or even flying! Scouting is an awesome and creative way to have fun, meet new people and active outdoors while exploring the world around you!

Rovers (18-30) get the opportunity to indulge in their love for the outdoors while being of service to others.

what's in it for me?

Have you ever asked yourself: "What would I like my Child to grow up to be?" Maybe you think in terms of his career: a doctor, a sportsman, a teacher, president of the South Africa. Maybe you think in terms of what you want him to have: lots of money, a nice wife and beautiful children, happiness.

Those are all wonderful hopes for your Childs. But have you ever thought about the kind of person you want him to be?
Imagine your Child walking down the street 30 years from now. When people see him, they say things like: "There goes Andy—he's really been a good friend"; "There's James—you can always count on him"; "There's Bill—you'll never find a better man."
I'd like to read a list of words. Please raise your hand if you would like a particular word to describe your Child when he grows up:

Trustworthy	Obedient
Loyal	Cheerful
Helpful	Thrifty
Friendly	Brave
Courteous	Clean
Kind	Reverent

You've probably heard that list before. It is the Scout Law. If you are asking yourself, "Why should we get involved with Scouts?" think about what you'd like your Child to be when he grows up—and those 12 words.

the scouting program

You may recall that the Scouting program has three aims or purposes: character development, citizenship training, and physical and mental fitness. What makes Scouting unique is that it has eight methods it uses to achieve those aims. Those eight methods define Scouting and show how it is different from other programs.

Ideals—the ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Promise, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan. The Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve.

Patrol Method—Patrols are small groups of Scouts who camp together, cook together, play together, and learn together. Patrols are where Scouts learn citizenship at the most basic level. They also take on responsibilities within the patrol, and learn teamwork and leadership.

Outdoor Programs—Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. We camp. We hike. We get dirty. We get up close and personal with bugs and spiders. There's no way around it. Our program is largely built around outdoor activities. So, expect to have more laundry after a campout and to hear some interesting stories about wild things.

Advancement—Scouting has a system of ranks in which Scouts learn progressively more difficult skills and take on progressively greater responsibilities. The highest of these ranks is Springbok Scout. Becoming a Springbok Scout is an important achievement that your Child can be proud of his entire life. But turning out Springbok Scouts is not what the Scouting program is all about. Advancement is probably the most visible of the Scouting methods, and the easiest to understand, but it is only one of eight methods. We strongly encourage advancement, but we never force it—advancement is the Scout's choice, and he sets his own pace. We don't do "lock-step" advancement. And many great Scouts, and great men, never became Springbok Scouts.

Associations with Adults—Kids learn a great deal by watching how adults conduct themselves. Scout leaders can be positive role models for the members of the troop. In many cases, a Scoutmaster, a merit badge counsellor, or one of the troop parents who is willing to listen to kids, encourage them, and take a

sincere interest in them can make a profound difference in their lives. Adult association is also part of what we call a youth-led troop. Adults understand that their role is to create a safe place where kids can learn and grow and explore and play and take on responsibilities—and fail, and get up and try again. If you were involved with Cub Scouting, this is a very different role that can take some time getting used to.

Personal Growth—as Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Kids grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. Probably no device is as successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn. Frequent personal conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Scout to determine his growth toward Scouting's aims.

Leadership Development—the Scout program encourages kids to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has the opportunity to lead in some way, whether as part of a team, or as the leader of his patrol or as the senior patrol leader of the troop. Leadership development is another component of the youth-led troop.

Uniform—like most sports teams, Scouts wear a uniform. Like most sports teams, we expect our Scouts to wear the uniform when they are doing Scouting, and to wear it properly. It is a symbol of who we are and what we do.

As mentioned before, Scouting is different from the way a lot of youth activities are run, where the adults decide what to do and the youth do it. Scouting is different, and it is sometimes difficult for adults to realize that we have a different role and a different goal. In Scouting, the role of the kids is to have fun activities and generate achievements. The role of the adults is not the destination, but the journey. That is, our responsibility as adults is to promote the "process" of Scouting. What is important for us is

Not the food on the campout, but that the kids cooked it.

Not a sharp-looking flag ceremony, but that the kids put it together.

Not who would make the best patrol leader, but that the kids elect one.

Not that Johnny learns first aid, but that Billy teaches him.
Not that we cover everything on the meeting agenda, but that the senior patrol leader is in charge.

Our goal is not to get things done, but to create a safe and healthy environment with the training and resources that the Scouts need, and then let them do it. It can be a very messy business, and painful to watch. Meetings where the scouts are in charge can be very chaotic. And it can be very tempting for adults to jump in and sort things out, because that is what adults do. But we have to remember that that is the process of Scouting. That is how they learn—even from disorganization and failure. We just have to remember that our business as adults is not the same as the business of the kids. It is up to them to get things done. It is up to us to make sure they have what they need, but (within the bounds of health and safety) not what they do with it.

Now, a word about Youth Protection. The Scouts South Africa has had a very strong program in place for many years to protect our youth from abuse of all kinds. We require all of our leaders to be trained in Youth Protection, and to refresh that training at regular intervals. There are some rules we follow that you will hear about, such as two-deep leadership and no one-on-ones. That means that there should not be a situation where a Scout leader is alone with a single Scout. There are other rules and policies as well, and we encourage you to take the training and learn about Scout Youth Protection. A copy of the Youth Protection Policy is included in this booklet for ease of reference.

what you need to know about our troop

You may be wondering—even a little nervous—about what your role is in Scouting. Well, your first role in Scouting is simply to continue what you are doing: Be a parent. Help your Child succeed. Be supportive. Follow through. You're here because you see value in the Scouting program. Help that value come through. There will always be times when your Child doesn't want to go the weekly meeting or seems to be losing interest in advancing and doing his best in Scouting. That's when he needs a parent's encouragement. Scouting works best when the whole family is behind it.

And you're probably dreading the standard call for volunteers that you hear from school and every other organization you are associated with. Well, don't get me wrong — Scouting operates only because we have great volunteers. And yes, we hope that you will offer to help out the troop in some way. We have volunteer roles of every size and every type. Even if you only have a few minutes a month to help us out, we can use you. But being a Scouting volunteer isn't just another chore you take on because you have to. Regardless of your skills or interests, there is something you share with all Scouting volunteers that makes your involvement priceless—your interest in having your Child in the best possible Scouting program. You may be asked to help with fixing the hall, fund raising initiatives and occasionally assistance with transport to Scouting Activities.

camping & hiking:

Your child will be taking part in various Camps and Hiking adventures during their scouting adventure and you will need to know what equipment is necessary for these adventures. A kit list for these events should include:

1. **Sleeping Kit:**
   - 1.1. sleeping bag (& inner)
   - 1.2. closed-cell-foam mattress
   - 1.3. small foam pillow (if desired)
2. **Clothing:**
   - 2.1. shorts
   - 2.2. T-shirts (at least 2)
   - 2.3. long-sleeve shirt
   - 2.4. underwear & socks (at least 2 pairs of each)
   - 2.5. boots or strong walking shoes
   - 2.6. sunhat
   - 2.7. tracksuit
   - 2.8. woolen cap
   - 2.9. windproof jacket
   - 2.10. raincoat or poncho
   - 2.11. swimming costume
   - 2.12. small towel
   - 2.13. handkerchief
   - 2.14. tackies or flip-flops (to wear in evening)
   - 2.15. Pyjamas
3. **Eating Utensils:**
   - 3.1. plastic plate, bowl & mug
   - 3.2. plastic knife, fork & spoon
   - 3.3. dish-towel

4. **Toiletries:**
    4.1. biodegradable soap (e.g. Sunlight)
    4.2. facecloth
    4.3. comb
    4.4. toothbrush
    4.5. toothpaste

5. **General:**
    5.1. suntan lotion
    5.2. small torch
    5.3. 1-litre water bottle
    5.4. pocket-knife
    5.5. camera
    5.6. whistle

consent forms

The parent consent form is something that every parent of a cub or scout should have handy on their computer desktop. There are 2 main areas where consent forms are required.

1. When a cub or scout first joins a cub pack or scout troop it is important that a consent form is filled out and given to the Pack or Troop scouter. This then means that there is a record of personal and medical details always on hand for cub or scout meetings.
2. Every January an annual consent form needs to be completed and submitted to the Scouters. This consent form covers all meetings held at the Hall.
3. Whenever there is an activity that your cub or scout takes part in away from the scout hall a consent form must be filled out and given to the scouter in charge; be it camp, hike, competition, course or any other activity away from the general scout meeting place. In some cases, the consent form must go to a senior scout should that scout be running that particular activity.

The Group is fully POPI compliant and has a POPI policy in place which is available on request.

All activities outside of the Hall must have a duly completed and signed consent form available before your child can participate. This is to both protect you as a parent and to protect the group as a whole. In addition, the medical details, allergies and special dietary requirement of your child help us in providing for all your child's needs while participating in Scouting activities. We have included a

digital consent form to this booklet which can be completed and saved on your computer ready to be provided when required.

conclusion

Hopefully this booklet has answered some of your questions but should you need any additional information please feel free to approach any of the Scouters before a meeting to discuss any concerns that you may have.