

1st Rivertrail Scouts Group

44 The River Road
Bryanston

GROUP INTRODUCTORY LETTER

Welcome as visitors to the 1st Rivertrail Scout Group. We are very excited about having your son/daughter and your family join our Group.

The 1st Rivertrail Scout Group has been in existence since the late 1970s and has a proud heritage in the Bryanston area. We are a member of Scouts South Africa (SSA) and of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM). There are over 30 million members of WOSM worldwide in 161 countries. The headquarters of WOSM are in Geneva, Switzerland. The Scouts South Africa national headquarters are in Cape Town and Gauteng Regional headquarters are in Bramley. Regions consist of various Districts, which in turn, consist of various Groups. Our Group forms part of the Sandton District in the Gauteng Region. Our group currently has two branches, namely a Scout Troop and a Cub Pack.

The mission of Scouting is to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society.

This is achieved by:

- involving them throughout their formative years in a non-formal educational process,
- using a specific method that makes each individual the principal agent of his or her development as a self-reliant, supportive, responsible and committed person,
- and assisting them to establish a value system based upon spiritual, social and personal principles as expressed in the Promise and Law.

- The **1st RIVERTRAIL SCOUT GROUP** consists of:
 1. Scouters (Troop & Pack): adult members who have been vetted and trained by Scouts South Africa, on specialised courses. The Scouters are there to ensure that the Scout Method is followed. Scouters provide the weekly program of activities, and provide the necessary guidance when organising camps, hikes and activities. They are volunteers, not employees, and are not remunerated in any way whatsoever. Pack and Troop Scouters report to the Scout Group Leader, who is responsible for the co-ordination of the Group and the integration of the members and parents.
 2. The Cub Pack: a Pack is made up of a number of "sixes", these are a group of up to 6 Cubs led by a Sixer (a Cub leader) and a Second (assistant to the leader).
 3. The Scout Troop: a Troop consists of "patrols". A patrol, which is a group of 6-8 Scouts and is led by a PL (patrol leader), assisted by an APL (assistant patrol leader). The patrol is very important to the organization, as all activities are undertaken within the patrol and each person has a particular function in the patrol. We currently have 4 patrols, Buffalo, Kingfisher, Kudu and Leopards.
 4. Parents of the Group: Our Group prides itself in that there is very good parental support at all the Group activities and functions. This is very important, as without parent support the volunteer Scouters cannot give your son/daughter the full benefit of Scouting. All parents of the Scouts and Cubs AUTOMATICALLY become members of the Parent Association, which is represented by the Parent Committee. The Parent Committee is responsible for providing the necessary funds, equipment and facilities, so that the Scouters can train and educate your son/daughter to do their best in Scouting. The Parent Committee meets once a month to discuss the affairs of the Group and all parents are encouraged to join or assist the committee. An AGM is held in November where portfolio holders are elected.

ADVANCEMENTS:

The Scout Movement aims to develop your child, through play and fun. They will as a result go through levels of advancement. These are detailed and laid out in the Scout or Cub Trail which they will receive at their Investiture.

In summary:

- a. CUBS (7-10 Years): Your son/daughter, upon joining, will first have to complete the following tests before he/she is invested: 1. The Cub Law; 2. The Cub Promise; 3. The Cub Motto; 4. The Left Handshake; 5. the Salute; 6. The Grand Howl; 7. the Story of Lord Baden-Powell and how Cubbing started and the story of Mowgli's Brothers

Thereafter there are Advancements (one per annum) and Interest Badges to keep him/her involved until he/she hopefully completes his/her Leaping Wolf Badge and Link Badge and "goes up" to the Troop

- b. SCOUTS (11-17 years): Your son/daughter upon joining, will first have to complete the following tests, before he/she is invested: 1. The Scout Law; 2. The Scout Promise; 3. The Left handshake; 4. The Scout Salute; 5. The Scout Sign; 6. The Scout Motto; 7. a General knowledge of the life of Lord Baden-Powell and the spread of Scouting worldwide; 8. The Rights and Responsibilities of the Child.

Thereafter, there are enough Advancement, Scoutcraft and Interest badges to keep him/her involved until his/her 18th birthday, by which time he/she hopefully achieves his/her Springbok Scout Badge.

MEETING TIMES:

The Group follows the private school calendar and meeting times during School Terms are as follows:

- (a) Pack Meetings: Fridays 16h30 to 18h30 @ 1st Rivertrail Hall
- (b) Troop Meetings: Fridays 18h30 to 21h00 @ 1st Rivertrail Hall

If you are unable to attend these meetings, please advise the Pack Scouter or Patrol Leader.

In addition to this, there are a number of camps, hikes and other events, which take place during the course of the year. A yearly program (YATAG) is made available to all Cubs and Scouts on the 1st Rivertrail Group website. Parents are expected to keep themselves informed of forthcoming events. The program is updated on a termly basis.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND LEVIES:

The Group levies an Annual Fee of R3000.00 for each invested Cub/Scout. This includes the initial Investiture costs (a 1st Rivertrail Group scarf, various badges and a copy of the Cub workbook/ Scout Trail presented to him/her at the Investiture Ceremony). The annual fee is billed from the date of Investiture for the balance of the year. Fees are billed annually in January every year and are payable upon presentation of invoice.

Fees are set annually by the Parents Committee at the AGM and you therefore you have a say in the amount that is charged per year.

The Fees consist of:

1. Capitation fees: these are payable to Scouts South Africa (SSA) and are currently R600 per uniformed member per year (incl. Scouts Digital Subscription).

2. Annual fees: these make up the balance, being R 2400 per year.

These funds are used by the Parents Committee for the maintenance of our hall, grounds and equipment as well as covering the costs of water; electricity; insurance on property and equipment; alarm system and emergency armed response. Our Scouters are not remunerated in any way.

NOTE: If a Cub or Scout is invested during any part of the year, he/she will be charged the capitation and only a pro rata share of the annual fee for the remainder of the year.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS:

Each Cub or Scout, upon being invested requires a Scout/Cub uniform. This is an official uniform consisting of:

1. Scouts: khaki trousers, Cubs: khaki shorts
2. Khaki "Scout" shirt with epaulettes;
3. 1st Rivertrail cap(Scouts) or Cub Cap;
4. Brown hiking boots/ walking shoes;
5. Khaki Scout webbing belt and buckle.

All items (except shoes and 1st Rivertrail Cap) are obtainable from The Scout Shop situated in Bramley @ cnr. 3 Glen Rd and Junction Rd, Bramley, Tel. (011) 440-6490. Opening hours are currently Wed./Thu. 0830 – 1530, Fri. 0830 – 1500.

Additional Equipment required:

1. Camp Uniform: this is to change into at meetings and is worn when camping and consists of a black 1stRivertrail Group golf shirt and 1st Rivertrail cap.

These are available at a cost of:

- Cub shirt
- Scout and Adult shirt
- Caps

These are worn with jeans or shorts, depending on the season/ occasion.

These are sold by a volunteer parent on Friday evenings.

2. When he/she participates in hikes or camps he/she will need a daypack/ backpack; a sleeping bag; and a mess kit (bag with a plate, bowl and mug and a knife, fork and spoon) all clearly marked with their names.
3. Badges: If you require additional, or replacement badges, woggles etc., please ask the Scouter for these as we do keep a supply of these at the hall for purchase.

COMMUNICATION:

The Group has a presence on the internet and social media via our website (www.rivertrail.co.za) and a closed Facebook page, which you will be admitted to on application. Parents are encouraged to visit these regularly in order to keep up with the various activities, events and happenings in the Group. In addition to these, both the Pack and Troop have a weekly newsletter, which is emailed to all parents, and a WhatsApp group to communicate any last minute updates.

TUCKSHOP:

A tuck shop is held every other Friday in the time between the Pack and Troop meetings. The tuck shop provides snack type meals (e.g. hot dogs) and soft drinks, in order to assist our parents with supper. It is a convenient service provided by the Parents Committee and it also serves as a very valuable, continuous fundraiser. We are always looking for volunteer parents to help manage this service. Please support it!

The Scouters and the Group Committee at 1st Rivertrail Scout Group believe that the Scouting experience provided to both Cubs and Scouts, will be beneficial to your son/daughter, both now and in his/her future and it is well worth the commitment required by both you, as a parent, and your son/daughter.

We look forward to a long and happy association with your family.

Yours in Scouting

The Scouters and Group Committee
1st Rivertrail Scout Group.