

FIRST KENGRAY

SCOUT GROUP



No one can pass through life, any more than he can pass through a bit of country, without leaving tracks behind, and those tracks may often be helpful to those coming after him in finding their way.

Robert Baden-Powell of Gilwell

The Adventure Begins...

By Ewen McAlpine

WELCOME TO FIRST KENGRAY

Many adventures lie ahead for your son as he journeys along the path towards manhood. With the great outdoors as his playground, he will learn skills that will stand him in good stead for the rest of his life and develop friendships that will endure long after his Scouting days have passed.



Scouting, and First Kengray, has stood the test of time and you can rest assured that your son will become a better person as a result of Scouting's unique approach to teaching life skills and citizenship.

As with anything in life; you get out what you put in—Scouting is no different and we look forward to guiding your son as he ventures on his way to becoming a man.

Don't be a stranger—participate in as much as you can—your son's Scouting career will be the better for it.

HOW SCOUTING BEGAN



Scouting began in 1907 when the founder of our movement, Lord Robert Baden-Powell, held the first Scout Camp on Brownsea Island, England. From its humble beginnings of just 20 boys the Scout movement has grown into the world's foremost youth movement with 16 million members. Over 250 million people have

had the honour of being Scouts since 1907, and today we welcome your son into this fellowship.

During the South African War, Lord Robert Baden-Powell was stationed at Mafikeng through its 217-day siege and it was during this siege that BP tested many of his Scouting skills, most notably among the boys of the corps of messengers, whose courage and resourcefulness made an indelible impression on BP. On his return home he found that a book he had written for soldiers was being used to train members of the Boys' Clubs and the Boys' Brigade and so he decided to rewrite the book for boys and it is to this book and its author that many young people owe much, for it was this that started the world's largest voluntary youth movement. Lord Robert Baden-Powell died in 1941, aged 83, and was laid to rest with full military honours in view of Mt. Kenya.

FIRST KENGRAY'S HERITAGE

First Kengray's history spans over a century, having started in 1908—less than a year after Scouting started in 1907—making us one of the oldest Troops in the world.

First Belgravia opened its doors in 1908 and Scouting has continued in an unbroken line ever since. Many other groups have merged with Belgravia over the years, the most recent being between First Belgravia Kensington and First Kengray Rhodes Park, forming the present First Kengray. The distinctive green and purple scarf may have been replaced by the current blue and yellow one, but Kengray is proud and mindful of its heritage.



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MORE ABOUT SCOUTING

Scouting aims to encourage your son's social, physical, mental and spiritual development so that he can play a constructive role in the community. In order to do this, Scouting makes use of the Scout Promise and Law as a simple code of living and the Patrol System—membership of small groups called Patrols, that are led by the boys themselves, where your son can learn leadership, group skills and individual responsibility. Scouting is about *learning by doing* and important skills, such as pioneering, camping, hiking and service to the community are taught as far as possible in nature.



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A belief in God is a prerequisite for becoming a Scout, but the movement is nondenominational and accepts people of all religions, encouraging boys to explore their own beliefs that will become a moral compass into their adulthood.

In a world where much is competing for their attention, we hope that Scouting may play a positive role in the lives of young men, using our unique approach.

THE SCOUT PROMISE AND LAW

The Scout Promise

On my honour I promise that I will do my best -
To do my duty to God, and my country;
To help other people at all times;
To obey the Scout Law.

The Scout Law

1. A Scout's honour is to be trusted.
2. A Scout is loyal.
3. A Scout's duty is to be useful and to help others.
4. A Scout is a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout.
5. A Scout is courteous.
6. A Scout is a friend to animals.
7. A Scout obeys orders.
8. A Scout smiles and whistles under all difficulties.
9. A Scout is thrifty.
10. A Scout is clean in thought, word, and deed.

WHAT ABOUT THE BADGES?

Advancement Badges

The Goal of all Scouts should be to one day achieve their Springbok Scout. This is the highest advancement badge in Scouting and takes a lot of effort and perseverance to attain. The advancement system in Scouting progresses as follows: Troop Membership, Pathfinder, Adventurer, First Class, Explorer and finally, Springbok, with the Scout having to take more responsibility both for themselves and others as he progresses towards Springbok.

Interest Badges

These badges are designed to broaden the Scouts' outside interests and can be earned at any stage. Topics range from sports and hobbies to useful skills and a whole lot more.

Challenge Awards

These awards are not essential for a Scout to achieve in order to gain their Springbok but are nonetheless worthwhile attempting. They are often far more challenging than either the Advancement or Interest badges and few Scouts receive such awards.

THE TROOP'S LEADERSHIP

A Scout Group is made up of a Cub Pack (for boys between 7 and 11), a Scout Troop (for those between 11 and 18) and a Rover Crew (for adults between 18 and 35). Your son has joined the Scout Troop.

Patrol Leaders

Each Scout belongs to a small group called a Patrol. The Patrol System is what makes Scouting unique and the Patrol Leader (or PL) will be your son's mentor as he progresses through Scouting.

Scouters

The Troop has numerous adult leaders, all of whom have many years of experience and training behind them.

The Troop Scouter, Dylan Smith, is in charge of the Troop and he is supported by a number of Assistant Troop Scouters.

The Scout Group Leader, Paul Diessel, is in charge of all three branches of the Group—the Cub Pack, the Scout Troop and the Rover Crew.

Parent Committee

As a parent you automatically become a member of the Parents' Association. At the Annual General Meeting the Parents' Association elects a Parent Committee who's responsibility it is, with the other parents, to support the uniformed members of the Group. We hope that you will become involved and share in the fun...

Important contact details can be found in the information pack.

SCOUT UNIFORM

Scouting is a uniformed movement and as such all Scouts are required to wear correct uniform. In our Troop the uniform is as follows:

Scarf

Blue and yellow (supplied by the Troop)

Woggle

Standard brown leather woggle

Shirt

Short sleeved khaki shirt

Belt

Standard Scout belt

Pants

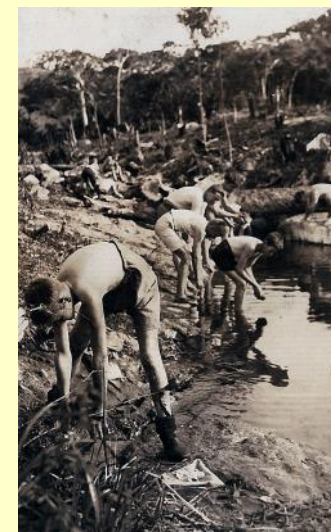
Navy blue longs

Socks

Long navy blue socks

Shoes

Black school shoes



All items are available from the Scout Shop. Directions to the Scout Shop can be found in the information pack.

NOW FOR THE FORMALITIES

Consent Forms

Legally we require an annual consent form from each Scout. This covers all activities run at our own Scout Hall. Because we try to get away from our hall as often as possible, we will ask you to sign additional consent forms from time to time. We understand that this is tedious but it is for your son's safety as well as ours and we would appreciate it if all forms could be completed correctly and without addition or deletion.

No Scout may participate in any events unless we have a valid consent form signed by his parent or legal guardian.

Annual Subscriptions

Scouting is a non-profit organisation, but that doesn't mean we don't need money to function. We try to keep your annual subscriptions as low as possible. Money should not stop anyone being a Scout and if this is an issue, please contact our committee so that your son can still experience the adventure of a lifetime.

Up-to-date forms can be found in the information pack.

AND FINALLY...

We meet on Friday evenings from 19h30 to 21h30. There is usually a Scouter at the hall from 17h30 to assist Scouts with badge work and your son is most welcome to come along and start on the trail to Springbok.

We would appreciate it if you could ensure that your son is on time for all meetings and events as it is very disruptive when people are late—we understand that there will be problems from time to time, just let us know. Please also get your son to phone his PL if he is going to miss a meeting—courtesy never goes wrong.



Many adventures await you and your son in the years to come. Getting outdoors is an important aspect of Scouting - whether it is camping, hiking, pioneering or any of the other exciting activities we offer, we hope that you will encourage your son to participate in as much as possible and give him the support he needs to do so.

We hope that this pamphlet has helped to orientate you to First Kengray and to Scouting in general. Please feel free to contact any of the Scouters or Committee Members if you have any queries—there is no need to be a stranger... Get Involved!