



Pinebranch

First Pinelands



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LETTER FROM PINEBRANCH COMMITTEE

Dear Reader,

As another busy term comes to an end, we'd like to share some of the adventures, and memorable moments that our Troop has experienced over the past few months.

From camps and hikes to service projects and troop meetings, this term has been full of opportunities for Scouts to learn new skills, take on challenges, and grow in confidence. We've seen Scouts step into leadership roles, support one another, and continue to live out the values of Scouting.

In this edition of The Pinebranch, you'll find stories and highlights from the term's activities. We hope these articles give you a glimpse into the experiences, friendships, and achievements that have made this term such a rewarding one.

Thank you for your continued support. Your encouragement and commitment play an important role in making these opportunities possible.

Yours in Scouting,
Tiya (Malathi Mistry)

The Scouts of 1st Pinelands fully create this termly magazine. The Pinebranch committee consists of 7 Scouts, Anna-Grace "Sylver" Skead, Divya "Modzi" Jonnalagadda, Iyaad "Maverick" Pandie, Malathi "Tiya" Mistry, Malachi Burt, Josh "Endir" Botha, and Yameen "Deezil" Jheebay.

We thank everyone who has contributed to this magazine

If you are interested in joining or have any questions/requests for the Pinebranch Committee, please message Tiya (+27 72 415 2441)



PL INTERVIEWS

At the end of term one, Fiyat (Eklavya) left the Court of Honour to join our growing JATS team.
And so Tussan (Michaela) has taken over the Lions PL position.
Pinebranch decided to sit Tussan down for an interview to get to know her better. Let's dive in!

TUSSAN (LIONS)



1. WHAT ARE SOME THINGS YOU ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO ABOUT BEING A PL?

I'm looking forward to just being able to witness the growth in my patrol when it comes to advancement and overall skills and dynamics as they develop in scouts. I'm definitely excited just to aid them in their scout journeys and witness a new patrol of Lions begin

2. WHAT ARE SOME CHALLENGES YOU HAVE FACED?

I think it's challenging at times when you're a starting PL and have people who don't listen at times or just to keep everyone engaged to make sure everyone is both having fun and doing their part in the patrol.

3. WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR YOUR PATROL IN THE FUTURE?

My vision for the Lions would definitely be a well rounded patrol in terms of Advancement and People. More so a great patrol dynamic of both trust and support so that we can work well together and in order to have every member look forward to the next meeting as part of the Lions Patrol.

4. WHAT MAKES A STRONG PATROL IN YOUR OPINION

I'd definitely say it firstly should consist of a good PL and APL dynamic and secondly a good dynamic amongst the patrol regarding trust for one another and how they click for sure.

5. IF YOUR PATROL HAD A MOTTO WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Well for the Lion's motto the classic 'Lions Rock!' never fails but I would definitely have to discuss a new motto with the Patrol at our next Patrol meeting.

6. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A NEW PATROL LEADER?

Have some grace and don't be so hard on yourself, and use both the tools and skills given to you and that you've developed to get you in this position of Patrol Leader.

7. DO YOU THINK THE WAY PEOPLE ACT CAN INFLUENCE YOUR LEADERSHIP STYLE?

Absolutely, I think at scouts in particular you get to have experiences with so many different people and dependant on their attentiveness and background a PL should adjust their leadership to accommodate that for sure.

8. WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO ACHIEVE AS A PL AND WHY?

I'd like to achieve my First Class but more importantly develop a great Succession Plan for my patrol going forward in order for them to aspire and grow even after I am no longer PL.

9. HOW IS BEING A PL DIFFERENT FROM WHEN YOU WERE A SCOUT/P2?

The responsibility is a major aspect that's different from being a P2, as you're given that authority, but don't really have to think of the grand scheme of your actions and decisions and how that can impact others. In comparison to a PL however many things are still the same including the fun Friday evenings just now you're given a better position to represent your Patrol is all.

Malathi "Tiya" Mistry, Anna-grace "Sylver" Skead. Interviewee: Michaela "Tussan" Mistry

DEENOS SPRINGBOK SERVICE CAMP

This term, a group of our Scouts (Deeno, Tussan, Maverick, Deezil, Endir, Sylver, Viola, Nough, Parsons, Tiya and Athena *yoh that's a lot*) packed their bags and headed off to Luke "Deeno" Broadway's Springbok Service Camp, and I was fortunate enough to be among them.

Let me take you through the weekend.

Friday

On Friday morning, we arrived at the Scout Hall and quickly packed the cars with all our Scouty equipment. We then drove to Appleton Scout Camp, unloaded everything, and took a look around the campsite.

While some of the staff stayed behind to set up camp, Deeno and I headed off to Spar to collect the food supplies for the weekend. After filling Grumph's car with all our groceries (let's just say there was a *lot* of bread), we returned to camp and began preparing for the participants' arrival.

At around 3 o'clock, we welcomed the Yebo Scouter participants, who arrived full of energy and quickly filled up the bunk rooms.

After the opening parade, we jumped straight into base rotations, teaching the Yebo Scouters basic Scout skills such as first aid and pioneering. Before long, the bunk rooms were filled with happy (and hungry) Scouters, so we got to work making dinner.

We finished the evening with hot chocolate, which was especially appreciated as the temperature on top of Signal Hill was really cold.

Saturday

Day two began with an early start for the staff as we woke up to prepare breakfast for everyone. Once breakfast was finished and the washing up was done, the camp headed off on a hike around Lion's Head.

Along the route, participants completed several bases while working in patrols. After a busy morning, the tired hikers returned to Appleton for lunch and some well-earned rest. We then played a few games while everyone had a chance to recuperate.

Following another round of bases, we began preparing dinner. This evening's challenge was cooking over open fires. Don't worry, we didn't burn Appleton down! (yet)

While the staff planned a simple menu of twisties and pressure packs, the participants had other ideas. The two patrols turned dinner into a MasterChef competition, each making their own different meals over the fire.

After dinner, the campfire was an obvious next step. This was probably my favourite part of the weekend. We learnt plenty of new songs (*if you wanna be a penguin, A PENGUIN YOU CAN BE*) from the Yebo Scouters. They were amazed by our flour tricks.

Sunday

Day three also began bright and early. (-_-)

We started the morning with a Scouts' Own, giving everyone an opportunity to reflect on the weekend. It was inspiring to hear how much we had all learned from one another throughout the camp.

While the staff prepared lunch, the participants prepared for a short walk. Once everything was ready, we packed our lunch into two giant pots (trust, it actually worked) and made our way to the Signal Hill viewpoint.

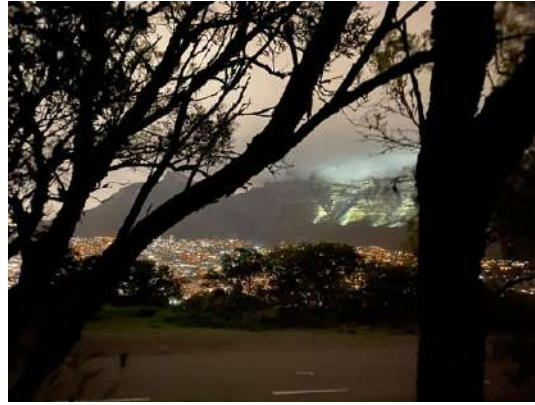
Unfortunately, there wasn't much of a view, we were basically inside a cloud!

We spent the afternoon fending off a few guinea fowl that had their eyes on our food, and the Yebo Scouters filmed a thank-you video for our sponsors before we headed back.

Overall, this camp was an incredibly rewarding experience. I learnt a great deal about teaching and working with adults, and I hope the participants learnt just as much from us as we did from them.

Here are a few photos from the weekend.

Tiya (Malathi Mistry)



DEENOS SPRINGBOK SERVICE CAMP



DAIAHS SPRINGBOK SERVICE PROJECT

Over the course of 7 days, many Scouts worked in the back of Pinelands High's field to restore a corner and create a fynbos garden for Daiah's Springbok service project. Hours were spent doing garden restoration: cutting down trees, digging holes, constructing pathways and planting fynbos.

With each day the garden grew. Here is a breakdown of the days:

Day 1 of the project saw the chopping down and chopping up of a tree. Lots of time was spent cutting down the tree but everyone had fun. After the wood had been removed, the ground was cleared, and the site was ready to have its path made.

On day 2 and 3, the group levelled out a pathway and made stairs to the garden.

Day 4, and a bench was made and ready to be put in the garden.

Day 5 was spent making and varnishing labels in anticipation for the fynbos that were yet to be planted.

On day 6, the path was laid, the compost heap completed, the signs were installed, and all the finishing touches done. The site was ready for the plants.

Day 7 dawned warm and sunny. The plants were brought out and positioned, and then planted. Finally the service project was complete!

Of course it wasn't all work and no play. When they weren't working on the garden, the team was playing games (especially poker), sharing jokes and eating snacks. But that doesn't mean that while they were working it was all serious! Most of the fun happened while they worked. Many skills were learnt, such as learning how to build a bench, and varnishing labels. There were many jokes about the names of plants, and making the site look like a graveyard before the plants arrived. "It was really fun" was a comment from pretty much everyone I asked.

After 7 days of hard but rewarding work, a beautiful garden was planted. From having to postpone work days because of rain, to planting a plant for the first time, the experiences shared by the people who worked in the garden are something I'm sure they won't forget. Even through challenges, they persevered and that resulted in a garden that will be enjoyed by generations to come. Daiah and her team can be very proud of the work they've done, and what they accomplished.

Some comments from participants (they were asked what they enjoyed most, what was done well and what could've been improved on, if the project inspired them, what they would do if they could do their own service project, and if there was anything they found difficult):

"Power tools and working with friends. It was done really well and I can't really see any issues. I now want to finish first class by the end of the year. I'd probably clear the weeds from around Gilpine." ~ James Hofmann

"I enjoyed helping make the bench and signs, and seeing what we had accomplished by the end each day. I think on a whole we worked pretty well as a team. Yes, I think it did inspire me, because it showed me that we can actually make nice looking things (the signs). Yes, I would do my own service project, and if I had the chance I think it would be re-doing a space (either a jungle gym, or garden). I did find sawing some of the bigger logs difficult, but I found if I just took small breaks and then carried on it was easier." ~ Clara Lugt

By Sylver (Anna-Grace Skead)

DAIAHS SPRINGBOK SERVICE PROJECT



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SCOUT

At A Day in the Life of a Scout this year, the night consisted of three bases: First Aid, a scavenger hunt/wide game, and Duster hockey. We were split into three groups, and sent off for base rotations.

At the First Aid base, we were given a scenario and tested on finding out what happened, what we must do and how to do it. The Scouts helped the parents and Cubs learn how to properly bandage a broken leg and arm, and make a stretcher. Then there was an obstacle course which had to be navigated while carrying someone on the stretcher. After a quick debrief, we went on to the next base.

In Central Square Park, we were split into groups of three. We were then given a sheet of paper with a pigpen code on it, and told that to figure out the code, we needed to find the symbols in the park and use them to find the letter and decipher the code. And it was a race. So off we went, running around the park, searching for the symbols. In the end, the deciphered code read "Be Prepared"; the Scout motto.

The last base was Duster hockey: a classic Scout game. Everyone was involved and put in their best effort. It was a competitive game, enjoyed by parents, Scouts and Cubs alike. Cheers filled the hall; each team encouraged their players and congratulated them whether they scored or not. Players raced for the ball, fighting until the dying seconds of the game to score. In the end, the score was close, but of course there could only be one victor. However, it was a fun time for everyone.

Everyone enjoyed the bases and learnt something new. Some perhaps left with a few extra bruises. But that is Scouts. A Day in the Life of a Scout was a success.

By Sylver (Anna-Grace Skead)



A Day in the Life of a Scout is an evening where Cubs and parents can see what being a Scout is like. Bases of activities that we do at Scouts are run to give everyone an idea of what our weekly Friday night meetings are like. It is always enjoyed by everyone who attend.



PL'S NIGHT TERM 2

This term's PL Night was amazing. The Court of Honour and I put together a really fun programme consisting of fun games, a banquet, traveller advancement with some piratey spice to it. The evening began as usual, with us all falling in and soon the Scouters handed the Troop over to us PL's. Standing in front of a group of excited Scouts, We kicked things off with a long-lost opening game, so long-lost, in fact, that I've forgotten its name. I think it was called "Keep the Ball Out of Your Section?..." Before long, we decided it was time to let our inner pirates take over, and so Matey Deeziel will take over this next section ;)

As the evening progressed, we found ourselves running slightly behind schedule. "Your 10 minutes start now," Maverick announced. Hearing this, I sprinted down the hallway and locked myself in the bathroom to change into my pirate-themed attire. As I hurriedly adjusted my headscarf and grabbed my tog bag, a voice shouted from outside, "Two more minutes!"

I rushed out and made my way to the parade ground, only to be met by rows of unimpressed faces. "Nah, there's no way. You said there would be plenty of time," I complained. "Five or ten minutes, it's all the same," Maverick replied with a grin. Before anyone could argue further, we were called to begin preparations for the banquet.

We headed to the loft, collected our cookware from the patrol boxes, and split into stations to make the cooking process more efficient. The menu for the evening was pasta with a red sauce, and Iris and I were put on sauce duty. After chopping onions and garnish at record speed, we had the sauce ready in no time.

Not everything went according to plan, however. While some of our fellow chefs were busy chatting, part of the pasta was left unattended and ended up slightly "crispy". Fortunately, enough survived for the banquet to continue.

While the chefs slaved away in the kitchen, the rest of the Troop was busy with other tasks. All the Scouts who had not completed their Traveller "Living Outdoors" theme badge were tasked with constructing their own survival shelters out of recycled materials. The Scouts worked incredibly hard to set up their shelters while receiving minimal but effective assistance from Captain Deeno and Captain Parsons.

At the same time, the others were responsible for sorting, whipping, and splicing the many damaged ropes in storage. These Scouts arguably had the most boring task of the evening, but their boredom was somewhat diminished by Captain Maverick's so-called elite playlist.

The work eventually ceased (or was put on hold), and the banquet was ready to begin.

The pirate banquet came with a set of rules. Scouts were to address one another as "mateys" and Patrol Leaders as "captains." Pirate vocabulary was strongly encouraged, and anyone caught breaking the rules would be sentenced to walk the plank.

The hungry mates lined up and helped themselves to grub until a loud voice suddenly rang across the room. "Matey Deeziel has committed treason!" Immediately, the room erupted into chants of "Walk the plank! Walk the plank!" As I nervously stepped forward to face my punishment however a far greater crisis captured everyone's attention.

The grub had run out...

PL“S NIGHT TERM 2

A side quest had appeared, and Captain Maverick and Matey Deezil were assigned to get it done. The goal: get to the Pick n Pay Express and buy extra ingredients to feed the troop. It all came down to this; 1st Pinelands and the entirety of the evening were relying on us. However, the most pressing issue arose due to the urgent nature of the mission. We had no time to change and were required to go out in public in our pirate costumes!

As we walked to the shop, we felt immense pressure and brainstormed potential explanations for the workers to relieve us of our shame. We eventually settled on a story: we had "lost a bet."

Captain Maverick and Matey Deezil entered the Pick n Pay, grabbed the necessary items, and headed to the front, feeling immensely embarrassed. At the checkout, the store clerk said nothing, but the two felt her deep confusion. "We lost a bet," said Captain Maverick, seemingly out of the blue.

The store clerk saw past the ruse and replied with a simple question: "What was the bet?"

Sweat ran down Captain Maverick's neck. He had failed to come up with a response and looked to Matey Deezil for help. "Some things are better left forgotten," chirped Matey Deezil. The lie was obvious, and the store clerk knew it. The two quickly grabbed their items and rushed back to the hall. Despite the embarrassment, they had completed the mission, and the banquet was saved.

The two then realised they had forgotten a pivotal item and had to go back and do it all again.

We all woke up early, with some of the juniors feeling a little frosty after the cold night, but overall it was worth it. The sunrise was gorgeous, and before long, the hall was cleaned and packed away. Everyone left a little tired, but definitely content.

I hope you are all excited for next term

Yameen "Deezil" Jeebhay, Malathi "Tiya" Mistry, Iyaad "Maverick" Pandie

