

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR STAR DEN ASSESSMENT

(Guidelines)

The annual Star Award Assessment is used to recognise Dens who are meeting the aims of SCOUTS South Africa. They are an essential tool for Den Scouters, Scout Group Leaders, Region and National to identify challenges so that support can be given, and appropriate corrective action taken. The Star Award assessment period runs from 1 January to 31 December each year.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF MEERKATS IN THE DEN:

Ideally there should be between 4 and 16 Meerkats in the Den.

ADULTS IN THE DEN: All appointed Adult Leaders must be suitably trained and appropriately warranted. Additional assistance, as required, to maintain the ratio of at least one adult, not necessarily uniformed, to four Meerkats (one adult to 2 Meerkats on an outing). Dens are encouraged to have a Parent / Guardian for each Meerkats in attendance.

SCOUTS DIGITAL: SD is SSA's Membership Management tool. Den Scouters are encouraged to record programmes, attendance, advancements, and badges on the system, to make life simpler.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is one way to evaluate the success, or challenge of a Den. Clear, accurate attendance should be kept. 80% attendance per quarter may be recognised by an attendance tick. We are asking what percentage of your Den qualifies for this recognition. (i.e., 4 Meerkats attend 90% of each quarter and 1 attends half the time because she has a very active social life. 4 of the 5 Meerkats are then eligible for attendance ticks, and thus 80% should be entered in the field accordingly.)

CHALLENGE AND INTEREST BADGES: Badges covered as a Den should be recorded here per quarter. Although other badges may be covered at home, these should not be included in this assessment.

ADVANCEMENT LEVEL PROGRESS: Each Meerkat should have completed at least two Challenge Badges (Membership & Stars) during the period under review. Meerkats that have joined the Den within the last six months are to be included in the Advancement section as they would have earned the Membership badge.

LEADERSHIP IN THE DEN: Points are given for adults involved in the Den, for at least six months: 5 points for a Scouter who has a full Warrant (Warrant Course), 3 Points for a Scouter who has a Limited Warrant (IAL Course), 2 points for a Den Helper (AAM submitted), 1 point for Parents that attend & Meerkat Instructors.

OUTINGS: Outings should be encouraged, and where possible be in the public eye, as this raises awareness of Meerkats and the Movement as a whole. Be careful to ensure that there are sufficient adults on an outing for Safe Scouting, Meerkats can run off very easily.

ACTIVITIES: Meerkats should be encouraged to meet other Meerkats. Dens should engage in various events, with other Dens, Region and National so that they can explore and experience Scouting to the fullest.

The three questions at the end, help the Meerkat team to understand which games work, how parents are involved in meetings and to share in your experiences.

ASSESSMENTS: The assessment should be done in a friendly manner. The object of the assessment is to assist the Den Scouter in understanding what is required to run an effective Den and to establish if the Den Scouter is on the 'right track'. Should there be special circumstances, the RTC has the option to grade accordingly. i.e., if the Den has started through the year, etc.

DEADLINE: All completed assessment forms are to reach your RTC Meerkat Programme by no later than the deadline at the end of the application form.

AWARDS are made as follows:

GOLD STAR CERTIFICATE: Grand total of 40 (i.e. 40 – 55)

SILVER STAR CERTIFICATE: Grand total of 35 (i.e. 35 - 39)

BRONZE STAR CERTIFICATE: Grand total of 30 (i.e. 30 - 34)

PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE: Grand total is less than 30