

alumni network

Good day fellow Alumni!

I joined Scouting as a lad and have fond memories of all the adventures that came my way. From my first camp, to that tough hike, to taking on my first adult volunteer position. Many moments have been life-defining and I look forward to hearing about yours too. I'm also honoured to share with you how Scouting navigated the trials of 2020, and how our programmes continue to inspire and empower the youth we serve.

Dave Osmond, Chair: Alumni Network

it's all about family

By Chief Scout Brendon Hausberger

What happens when a Scout or Scouter is no longer able to continue Scouting? For some it's because of a work change, for others it's study pressure or family responsibilities. As in all families one's role can shift, but you always remain a treasured member. We have created a place for members to remain in Scouting, whilst contributing time and expertise as they are able to. [Here's why you should join SSA's Alumni Network:](#)

Building Connections

Moving ahead depends on hard work and dedication, but knowing the right people helps too. Being a member of the alumni could provide networking opportunities. When you network, you can put your personality on display. It's less nerve-wracking than an interview. As Scout alumni you know you have something in common with the person you talk to.

Help Other Scouts and Scouters

Paying it forward by being a positive influence is a great way to help current members. You could advise Scouters who are now in the positions you once occupied, be on hand for a badge examination or mentor a less experienced Scouter. There are lots of ways your experience can help shape the future of Scouting.

Stay Informed

Want to stay in the know? Find out about the cool and impactful stuff we are busy with! Perhaps you might see an opportunity where you can help or a linkage you can establish to support our young people better.

Be an Ambassador

Supporting and talking about Scouting shows pride in the skills your learnt and friends you made. Are you proud you were a Scout? Alumni support is essential to keeping our Movement visible and alive. The story of your personal experience is probably the best marketing we could ask for. In fact, the more people hear about Scouting, the more its inclusion on your CV will mean in your next job application!

Alumni Recognition

By staying in touch we get to know what you are doing and we can celebrate and acknowledge your achievements. We can then also acknowledge and thank our alumni for their efforts and contributions to Scouting and the larger community. We would really cherish staying in touch with you and seeing you at our Scout Alumni family reunions. [SIGN-UP HERE.](#)



"I am now a confident person due to my Scouting training. My entire family is very proud of me, I'm their role model!"



a scout smiles & whistles under all circumstances

The Covid-19 pandemic had a huge impact on the implementation of our programmes. However, in line with the Scout ethos, our members recognised that the challenges created were also opportunities for growth. .

In March 2020 all face-to-face Scouting was stopped with immediate effect and a member-driven Scouting from Home online resource page was started on [SSA's Wiki](#). Programmes were developed that could be done at home. The WhatsApp lines and emails started to buzz as volunteers started to send out activities for members to do at home. Within a few weeks, some Groups were running Zoom and Discord meetings at the normal Scout meeting times. This brought some structure and social interaction to our youth and their families. Inter-Patrol competitions and fun days were run virtually, Rovers started online sessions where they learnt new skills from each other, and Cubs and Meerkats ran a recognition campaign where the kids made "thank you cards" which were then sent electronically to Essential Service providers in their neighbourhoods. When schools re-opened, a [Covid-19 Awareness resource](#) from the Namibian Scouts was adapted and launched as a SSA challenge badge. The Covid-19 Cub requirements were later repackaged by the UK-based online educational resource provider ASDAN. The resource was circulated worldwide and gave recognition to SSA and the Namibian Scouts. A [member info page](#) on the [national SSA website](#) continues to provide updated regulations and guidelines.

virtual meerkat camp-in



Our youngest branch held their first national event "The virtual Meerkat Camp-in". The Animal Fair theme and camp activities provided a lot of fun for the little Meerkats, their siblings and family members [CLICK HERE](#) to see what they got up to!

dr brendon hausberger, chief scout of south africa

Dr Hausberger was previously Chief Commissioner, Gauteng Provincial Commissioner and served on Exco. He has been an active and dedicated adult member for over 20 years and has worked to empower children and youth through Scouting. He was actively involved in the development and training of adult leaders.



When not at Scouting, he carries the pursuit of leadership and environmental awareness into his work environment. He is the CEO of Holland and Hausberger, a South African engineering firm with a particular focus on providing energy and fuel needs through renewable and energy efficient applications.



"it is not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves"

- Edmund Hillary



For some of you planning a Springbok hike brings back fond memories. For Maria Southey from 58th Durban Air Scouts, it will always attest to her perseverance and positive attitude! Here she recounts her experience. "We had to conquer multiple obstacles like Covid, the Level 3 lockdown, and the weight picked up from Christmas lunch and New Years" she quips. "After weeks of planning, changing routes, changing the duration of my Springbok hike, the tons of stress that came with it and postponing my hike multiple times because of Covid, trials and finals, we finally got to go on the hike from 16 – 18 January 2021!

We started hiking from Giants Castle to Bannermans Hut on the first day (12.5km). We then continued to Centenary Hut the second day (14km) and completed our journey at Injushuti Base Camp (12km) on the third day. Due to the Covid safety regulations the hike was a little tougher than anticipated. We each had to sleep in our own separate tents so we could not share the tent weight among ourselves. We also couldn't hike close to each other which took some time, and we were not able to share things. Yet, we had a blast on this hike!

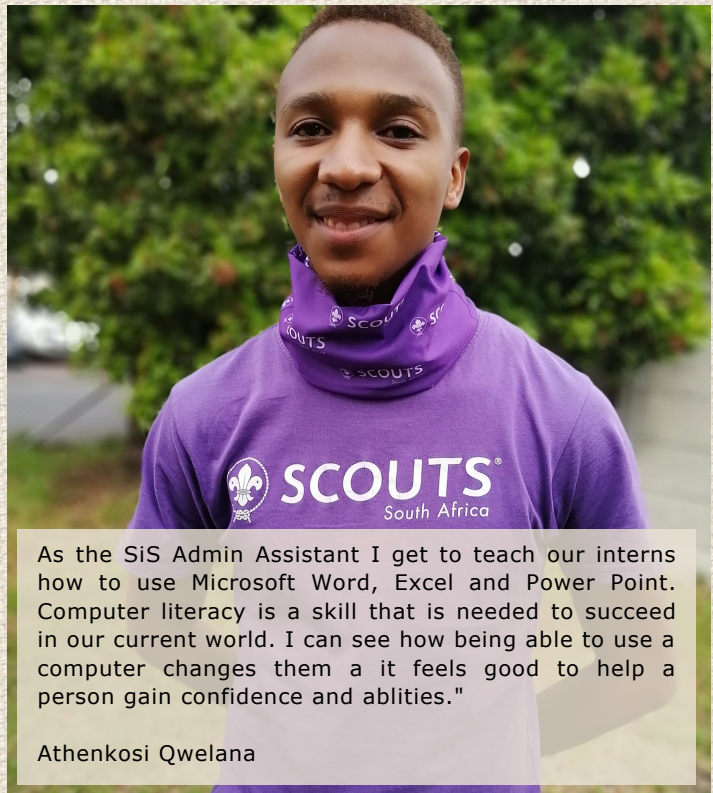
My team members were the absolute best to hike with! To think to hike 38,5km in three days was hectic. As a team we overcame obstacles and grew an unforgettable bond. While passing my Springbok hike, I could also tick off another challenge which was The Senior Scout Hike Challenge!

scouting-in-schools (sis)

For 4 years SSA has been offering Scouting in low and no fee paying schools through a partnership with the after school Game Changer initiative and the Western Cape Government. In 2020 29 schools and more than 1,200 children benefitted from the Scout programme. In 2021 this will be increased to 80 schools.

The initiative includes the training of unemployed youth from the serviced school's community as intern leaders to run the Scout Group activities. They receive various forms of training such as formal courses, integration with host Groups, individual skills training, and being part of Regional events.

Learning to manage life-work realities and developing various communication and time management skills prepares these youths for the employment markets. Many have gone on to find employment or have started to study after the SSA training.



As the SiS Admin Assistant I get to teach our interns how to use Microsoft Word, Excel and Power Point. Computer literacy is a skill that is needed to succeed in our current world. I can see how being able to use a computer changes them as it feels good to help a person gain confidence and abilities."

Athenkosi Qwelana





"The Rover advancement system has been very beneficial to me. It helped me find out what I wanted to do and who I wanted to be as a person."

swipe for scouting



SCOUTS SA is a member of the MySchool programme. Every time you swipe your card at a participating outlet, you are raising funds for Scouting at no additional cost to yourself.

By swiping for Scouting you could substantially contribute to our sustainability. All you need to do is add us as a beneficiary. You can still support your church and (grand)child's school as you may have up to 3 beneficiaries per card. To register or to add SSA as a beneficiary, [click here](#).

scouting has made me a better version of myself

23 year old Jabu Hlangane doesn't let hardship or adversity get in his way of personal growth and service to others. Despite being differently abled due to childhood Polio, Jabu embraced being a 2020 Scouting-in-Schools (SiS) intern and serving the learners at Ikhwezi Le Siswe Primary School close to his home in Khayelitsha.

"I am happiest when I am able to help children learn", says Jabu with a smile. "During the intake interview I was asked if I am able to work with others. It made me think about how I operate and I noticed that I used to do things on my own. Through SiS I have learnt to work with others and to share ideas. Now I'm able to solve many things with the help of others. I have also learnt how to communicate better and feel that I can now help children with these skills too. I use games and play to teach children skills. They have fun and learn by doing how to solve problems and gain confidence in themselves. By being prepared they can tackle any challenge coming their way from exams to situations in life."

"Even though I am differently abled, that has not stopped me from achieving my goals. We were all created equal by God and just need to push ourselves to get through tough situations. With a positive "I can do it!" attitude and willingness to do your best, you can do anything you want in life! I believe that Scouting builds this confidence and encourage all young people to join this movement as it really does change your life." [Full story here](#).

