

alumni network

from our chair: alumni

Good day fellow alumni! It's been a while since we last communicated. Bill Sewell stepped down and I, Dave Osmond, am determined to strengthen and expand our Alumni Network. We have simplified our alumni sign-up and welcome you back home at no cost. However, should you wish to identify yourself as a Scout Alumni member, we have specific Alumni Network scarves and pins that can be purchased from the online or national Scout shop. Follow us on Facebook and stay updated!

Yours in Scouting, Dave Osmond.



"Lots of children beat each other but we don't do that because we are Cubs. We learn lots of things and because of Cubs my English is good, so now I understand my maths and do better at school."

the importance of our scouting values



Scout Alumni Professor Brian Figaji is renowned for embodying the Scout values and for his drive to ensure that Scouting stays relevant and accessible to young people in South Africa. He has held many Scouting positions ranging from Assistant Scoutmaster to Chairman of the Scout Board. We sat down with Prof Figaji and spoke about the impact Scouting has had on a lad from Elsie's River in the Western Cape.

"After a lifetime of Scouting I still believe that the Patrol system is one of the most powerful methods of teaching leadership. You learn by doing under careful supervision, receive real responsibility at an early age, and are held accountable for the progress of each individual in the Patrol. Patrol Leaders highly influence and shape the lives of the young people they lead.

As a young adult I was determined to be the best leader I could be and completed all the training required to achieve this objective, including my Woodbadge. I think that people often underestimate the impact that activities, team work, hands-on training and the Scout values have on the skillset of adult volunteers. The organisational skills and team leadership abilities I acquired during those years, helped me greatly in my professional career outside of Scouting", he explains. Full story here.



scouts rally to assist communities amidst covid-19 lockdown

For decades Scouts have stepped up in times of a crisis. Throughout the Covid-19 lockdowns SA Scouts rallied to help community members in need. Projects have included among others essential service provision for the elderly, making masks, building local sanitising stations and providing food parcels to needy families. Here are some of the initiatives:

“people were hungry and we needed to help”

Over 300 families in rural communities in Mpumalanga received food parcels through a partnership with the German DPSG Fulda Scouts, former SSA volunteer Marvin Raussen, SA Rovers and Deputy Chief Scout Khonzaphi Mdaka. “It quickly became clear that people were hungry and that we needed to help where we could to provide food to vulnerable families. We received a list from local authorities of families in dire need, looked where they resided and what their cultural food requirements were so we could pack food parcels that would sustain their families for a month”, explains Deputy Chief Scout Khonzaphi. “With the financial aid we received over 60 Rovers in 6 different Districts – ranging from the East and Hazy Districts to Nsikazi, Nyamazane and the greater Nkomazi communities were able to deliver food to families who were not able to pick up food aid. We met a grandmother with 6 children who cried out of relief. At that moment I felt humbled and honoured to be part of the Scout Movement which has allowed me the privilege to be of service and assist.” [Full story here.](#)



jars of hope



Every year Scouts partake in Mandela Day initiatives. This year we asked members to fill 'Jars of Hope' (recycled glass containers with dry soup ingredients) to provide warm meals to the hungry. Scouting families embraced the feeding initiative as it gave them the opportunity to actually make a difference in people's lives. Over 3000 jars, feeding +12000 people, were filled and distributed. [Find a few of the stories here.](#)

rovers provide essential services to the elderly

Rovers and Scouters throughout the Gauteng and Western Cape Regions took their duty to be of service to new heights as they ensured that the elderly and vulnerable members in their communities received groceries and medical necessities throughout the national lockdown.





help a child experience the scouting adventure

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. You may have up to 3 beneficiaries per card.

With Christmas around the corner, you could substantially contribute to our sustainability by adding us and swiping your card.

To register or to add SSA as a beneficiary, [click here](#).

help us change lives, become a friend of scouting

A study commissioned by WOSM measuring the effects of Scouting on the personal development of youth found that Scouts outperformed their non-Scout peers in nearly every category of personal development measured, across Africa, Asia and Europe. If you look back at your own experience and take this research into account, it's clear that Scouting changes lives by providing youth with education, skills, mentorship, values, opportunities, and safe places to be kids, so they can build a better future for themselves. However, given our current societal challenges many families can't afford to participate. But you can change that. You can change the life of a child by becoming a Friend of Scouting for as little as R500.

As a Friend of Scouting we share a common interest in helping children and young people thrive and make positive life choices. Helping them learn the value of their own worth, whilst inculcating sound morals, is the greatest gift we can share. To continue to enrich the lives of our volunteers, youth and children we need a little help. Your gift, both small and big, is meaningful and can aid in offering and sustaining Scouting in SA. Depending on your support you could become a bronze, silver, gold or platinum [Find out more here](#).

welcome meerkats!

For decades SCOUTS SA served children and youth between 7 - 30 years old. In a country where adequate education is lacking, we identified the need for an ECD programme to address the developmental requirements of children aged 5-6 years old. A new branch was introduced, namely the Meerkats. The tailor-made programme encourages our little members to partake in community service, explore the outdoors, and complete interest and advancement badges. During lockdown virtual camps and activities saw the children have fun from home. The Meerkat programme also engages parents as they are required to be present at all meetings.

