

scout programme (2019) - introduction



be prepared

so why the new programme?

It is vital for an organisation like the Scouting Movement to have a programme that is relevant and addresses the needs of youth and children within a specific society. Therefore, much like other Scout Associations, SSA had a thorough look at its programmes.

The current South African Scout Programme is 15 years old. It was also noted that the number of Springbok Scout Awards was slowly diminishing, and the question was asked why? It was established that the pressures on youth have consistently been changing and that the cost to attain a Springbok was unacceptably high. It was also noted that the number of Scouts attaining First Class also declined. SCOUTS South Africa EXCO commissioned a new programme which addresses the needs of all Scouts in South Africa.

To avoid confusion the new programme was named the Entsha Programme. In November 2015, several Troops around the country were selected to pilot the new programme. Their specific mandate was to comment on the programme, highlight any anomalies and make suggestions on improving it. In 2016, these Troops were consulted on how the programme was accepted, and to date all gave it the 'thumbs-up'. Apart from the selected Troops, other third parties not affiliated to the pilot Troops were selected by their respective Regional Commissioners to pass comment too. These comments were considered and incorporated where relevant.

what does the new scout programme (2019) entail?

There are five advancement levels:

1. Membership/Link
2. Traveller
3. Discoverer
4. First Class and
5. Springbok.

For each advancement level, there are six theme badges that must be attained. These theme badges are:

1. Adventure
2. Safety Awareness
3. Living Outdoors
4. Service
5. ScOUT Skills and
6. Personal Development.

Once a Scout has obtained a theme badge within an advancement, they can have the opportunity to move on to the next level theme badge without having to complete the entire advancement level. This allows the Scout to pursue the educational activities they enjoy. However, there are limits as to how far a Scout may advance with theme badges.

There are now four cords that a Scout can attain:

1. Bushman's Thong
2. Airman Cord
3. Seaman's cord and
4. Service cord.

comparison of the old and new advancement levels

