



# the meerkat trail





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# 1. introduction

The Meerkat Programme comprises:

- Membership
- Three Advancement levels
- Seven themes, of which six comprise of several Challenge badges.
- Interest badges

There is also a "Burrowing Up badge" and there are three "Special badges" which are explained in this Trail.



## 1.1. the meerkat promise:

*I will love my God, be kind and stand tall.*

## 1.2. the meerkat law:

*A Meerkat always stands tall.*

## 1.3. the meerkat prayer:

*Help us to be kind,  
Help us to be good,  
Help us to stand tall,  
And do the things we should. Amen.*

## 1.4. meerkat song:



*We are Meerkats,  
We stand tall.  
It doesn't really matter,  
That we are still small.  
We try our best,  
Just like the rest,  
Cause we are the  
Meerkats!*

## 2. membership badge

A Meerkat has to know their own:

1. Name (including surname)
2. Date of birth
3. Parent's or Guardian's name and surname
4. Street address
5. Parent's or Guardian's telephone or cell number
6. Say the Meerkat Promise and Law

## 3. advancement badges

bronze star	silver star	gold star
		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Earn one Challenge badge from four of the six themes.</li><li>2. Earn two Interest badges.</li><li>3. Attend two different outings, one of which must be with your Den.</li><li>4. Say the Meerkat Prayer with others.</li><li>5. Show that you are keeping the Meerkat Promise.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Earn the Bronze Star.</li><li>2. In addition to the four challenge badges earned in the Bronze Star, earn another 6 challenge badges, one from each theme.</li><li>3. Earn three additional Interest badges.</li><li>4. Attend two additional, different outings, one of which must be with your Den.</li><li>5. Lead the Meerkat Prayer.</li><li>6. Show that you are living by your Meerkat Promise.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Earn the Silver Star.</li><li>2. In addition to the ten challenge badges earned to get the Silver Star, earn another 6 challenge badges, one from each theme.</li><li>3. Earn three additional Interest badges.</li><li>4. Earn the Standing Tall badge.</li><li>5. Attend two additional, different outings, one of which must be with your Den.</li><li>6. Teach a new Meerkat the Meerkat Prayer.</li><li>7. Help a new Meerkat to live by the Meerkat Promise.</li></ol>

## 4. challenge badges

There are seven themes in the Meerkat Trail. The Challenge badges for six of the themes are listed below. Additional badges may be added to a theme, without requiring an update of this Trail.

The requirements for the seventh theme, "Spiritual" are incorporated into the Advancement badges through the Meerkat Promise and Prayer.



The current Challenge badges and their requirements can be found in the "Meerkat Badge Book" on the SCOUTS South Africa website: [www.scouts.org.za](http://www.scouts.org.za)

<p><b>theme: body and mind</b></p> <p>Outcome: <i>To introduce the Meerkat to living a healthy and active life.</i></p>	<p><b>theme: life skills</b></p> <p>Outcome: <i>To encourage the Meerkat to gain self-confidence and learn some life skills.</i></p>
<p>Challenge badges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy Eating</li> <li>• Keep Fit</li> <li>• Puzzles</li> </ul>	<p>Challenge badges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Aid</li> <li>• Handcraft</li> <li>• Safety</li> </ul>
<p><b>theme: living with nature</b></p> <p>Outcome: <i>To encourage the Meerkat to find out about and take part in improving the environment.</i></p>	<p><b>scOUTcraft:</b></p> <p>Outcome: <i>To introduce the Meerkat to ScOUTcraft skills.</i></p>
<p>Challenge badges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gardening</li> <li>• Nature</li> <li>• Recycling</li> </ul>	<p>Challenge badges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adventure</li> <li>• Hiking</li> <li>• Observer</li> </ul>

<p><b>theme: service</b></p> <p>Outcome: <i>To encourage the Meerkat to be helpful and take responsibility.</i></p>	<p><b>theme: social</b></p> <p>Outcome: <i>To build the Meerkat's self-confidence and sense of belonging to their family and community.</i></p>
<p>Challenge badges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community</li> <li>• Little Helper</li> <li>• Standing Tall</li> <li>• </li> </ul>	<p>Challenge badges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entertaining</li> <li>• Proudly South African</li> <li>• World Around Us</li> <li>• </li> </ul>
<p><b>theme: spiritual</b></p> <p>Outcome: <i>To reinforce their efforts to Stand Tall.</i></p>	
<p>Know and understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Meerkat Promise and Law</li> <li>• The Meerkat Prayer</li> </ul>	

## 5. burrowing up badge

(Responsibility of the Pack Scouter)



Six weeks before their seventh birthday, the Meerkat can start working on their "Burrowing Up" badge. As soon as possible, after their seventh Birthday, but at most three months after turning seven years old, they should go up to Cubs.

In extenuating cases when, and at the sole discretion of the Pack Scouter in consultation with the Den Scouter and SGL, a Meerkat is not ready for the Cubbing Adventure, a Meerkat may be allowed to stay in the Den until they are seven and a half, after which they must leave the Den and progress to the Cub Pack.

Under the situation considered above, a Meerkat may continue to work on interest and challenge badges only until they are 7 years and 6 months old, but they may not earn any Meerkat programme advancement badges after 7 years and 3 months.

If they do not complete the Burrowing Up badge before going up to Cubs, they will have to complete the Cub Membership badge before they can be invested as a Cub

<p>Outcome:</p> <p><i>To prepare the Meerkat for the next step in their Scouting Adventure.</i></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attend at least three formal Pack meetings.</li> <li>2. Be introduced to your future Sixer and Second.</li> <li>3. Know and understand the Cub Law, Promise and Motto.</li> <li>4. Listen to the story of Mowgli's brothers.</li> <li>5. Listen to the story of Lord Baden-Powell and how Cubbing started.</li> <li>6. Demonstrate the Cub Salute, Left Handshake and Grand Howl and know when they are used.</li> </ol>

**Note:** The Burrowing Up badge will be included in the next revision of the Cub Trail and will then no longer be part of the Meerkat Trail.

## 6. interest badges

**Note:** These are the Interest badges as of March 2019. Other Interest badges may be added without updating the Meerkat Trail. The current "Meerkat Badge Book" on the SCOUTS South Africa website ([www.scouts.org.za](http://www.scouts.org.za)) lists all the present-day badges and their requirements.

<p>Outcome:</p> <p><i>To help the Meerkat develop and practice skills in specific areas and to explore and develop new hobbies.</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bling</li> <li>• Collector</li> <li>• Cooking</li> <li>• Hobbies</li> <li>• Horse-riding</li> <li>• Inventor:</li> <li>• Little Camper</li> <li>• Little Frog Blue</li> <li>• Little Frog Silver</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little Frog Gold</li> <li>• Musician</li> <li>• My Animals and Pets</li> <li>• Out of the Box</li> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• Religion</li> <li>• Scientist</li> <li>• Sewing</li> <li>• Technology</li> </ul>

## 7. special badges

The requirements for the following Special badges can be found in the "Meerkat Badge Book" on [www.scouts.org.za](http://www.scouts.org.za).



- Attendance
- Recruiter
- Champion