

Scout Programme 2015 (SP2015) – What and Why?

Every five years WOSM requires and recommends that the Scouting bodies in the organisation to review and adjust the Scouting programmes being run within the various member countries to ensure that the aims and objectives are being met. South Africa is no exception to this.

Our current Scout Advancement programme came into effect in 2002 and has been in operation with small adjustments since then. The national executive across the years from 2009 has mandated the incumbent to start the process under which the programme is to be assessed and revised if required.

A number of draft programmes were prepared and distributed from 2009 until late 2013. The team working on SP2015 has taken all the information from these drafts and feedback received via e-mail and roadshows into consideration when putting together the current SP2015 working document.

One question asked by a number of people who gave us feedback was why do we need to change? What is wrong with the current system? As mentioned above we are obliged to assess and ensure that the Scout programme is meeting the needs of the youth of today. What we found was that the current programme had perceived problems in the following areas: being too linear, lacking in service, leadership training not being systematised, air –sea and rural scouts being marginalised in activity choice.

With SP2015 we set out to ensure that our Scouts understand the need to get back to basics of Scouting and service and to “make young people of worth” to their community and country. This achieves two goals – firstly providing opportunity for the youth to develop self-esteem from being valuable contributors to their community and secondly working to make them more effective citizens.

We looked long and had to ensure that in revising the programme that a lack of resources shouldn't hinder a scout from achieving their Springbok. The programme needed to work in rural and urban areas and ensure that underprivileged Scouts, with some effort could achieve the programme.

In developing the Skills theme we are looking to assist our Scouts in building a Scouting activity CV for themselves for when they started looking for vocational work and their CV assists them in advancing themselves.

From the RTC forum that was held in March, the RTC's present agreed that SP2015 will have the Troop Membership and four advancement levels in it. Each advancement level will have 6 theme sets which will result in a Scout achieving a badge per theme set once all items within the theme set have been completed. Once the Scout has achieved all 6 theme sets per advancement level they will be awarded the respective advancement level badge. Although it may take between one to two years for a Scout to achieve an advancement badge they should be achieving a theme badge every 3-4 months. This will ensure that the Scouts are receiving badges on a regular basis and hopefully pushing them to achieve more.

As per all other programmes before this one, the Scouter at the end of the day knows the Scout the best, and will have the opportunity to adjust the programme requirements to suit the resources and skill set of the Scouts to achieve the objective of the clause in point.

A prime example here would be where the clause revolves around safety and swimming but there is no water (river, dam, reservoir etc.) available to undertake this. Although we would love all our Scouts to be safe around water, having enough water to swim in in

the Northern [Cape this](#) may simply not be a reality. The Scouter should then look for another safety related activity that can get the objectives across to the scout. This could be achieved with an emphasis on water safety in the house or around school with water storage facilities or pit latrines etc.

In moving forward we will be publishing the second draft of SP2015 shortly and would appreciate any feedback that you have. Please ensure that your feedback is constructive with additional ideas for clause objectives if you don't like what you see. All these ideas will be used going forward inside the Troop Scouters handbook to give other Scouters ideas on how to complete clauses in a wide variety of ways.

YiS

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