

The following are regulations governing hiking by Scout parties in the Western Cape Region. Scouters are requested to keep these regulations for future reference. By listing most of the common hikes we hope to encourage hiking.

1. Regulations For The Application For A Hike Permit

- Applications for hike permits are made online at <http://www.wcpermits.org.za> and are required for all hikes.
- Applications are made at least fourteen days before the start date of the hike.
- Scouters are reminded that SANParks permits overnighting on Table Mountain in the Scout hut only. You may not camp outside the hut.
- Failure to allow the required time (including time for scrutiny by the Districts) may result in inconvenience to the hiking party if their plans have to be changed.

2. Hiking Route List

In order to encourage hiking, a list of the most common hikes and the standards of the party follow:

Definitions and Explanatory Notes:

Recce - (Reconnaissance)

This is defined as an occasion on which the prospective leader of the hike traverses the prospective route in the company of some more experienced hiker who has hiked the route before. This recce precedes, by a fortnight at least, the hike for which the permit is sought.

The three grades used in the Route list are:

- Recce not required.
- Recce recommended.
- Recce required.

3. Leadership

The three leadership grades used in the Route are:

- "Responsible adult" (every Scouter is assumed to be of this grade at least).
- "Experienced adult" (a regular hiker, not necessarily a member of a climbing club).
- "Very experienced adult" (extensive experienced of hiking in all weathers in the Cape Mountains, and appreciation and experience of the particular problems of hiking with Scouts).

4. General

Allowances are made for Scouts who live in the country for example, restrictions on Hottentots-Holland would be eased for Somerset West Scouts, and conversely the restrictions on Table Mountain should be tightened for them.

The Route List is not a comprehensive list of every hike route. As a suggestion list, it will surely satisfy all but the most ambitious Scouts. Any proposal not on this list will be treated on its merits.

A hike undertaken as part of a Troop camp programme requires a hiking permit in addition to the camping permit.

In respect of each hike, the remarks which follow are drawn up with parties carrying overnight gear in mind. Day-hikers over the same route, while less demanding physically, will normally be subject to the same remarks in respect of recce's, seasons and leaderships.

It must be stressed that age and weather recommendations refer to average circumstances. It is the Scouter's prerogative to judge whether a Scout is above or below average for his/her age. Rain and low temperature conditions can occur unexpectedly even in summer; similarly, some winter days are mild enough to allow for 'summer' hikes.

5. Additional Hiking Rules

The minimum number of hikers in any Scouts party is three, with a preference of four over difficult or country terrain.

No Scout or Leader of any Scout party may LEAD a hike on the mountains if he/she has not previously done the hike, in the same direction, as a member of a previous hiking group and is considered totally familiar with the route.

The leader of any Scout hike is to carry a map or guide book.

A Scout hike up up and down Table Mountain may be led by Scouts (under the age of 18 years) but is restricted to the following routes:

- Constantia Nek Road
- Nursery Ravine
- Skeleton Gorge
- Platteklip Gorge
- Kasteels Poort
- Wood Ravine
- Corridor

A hiking Adviser should be appointed by the District Commissioner in every district to vet the planning of all hikes.

6. Scout Hiking Requirements

It is a Western Cape Region ruling that Map Reading Scoutcraft Badge is achieved before any Scout undertakes his/her 1st Class Hike.

Candidates for the 1st Class Hike Requirement and their hiking companions must have gone on at least three Scout hikes before undertaking the hiking requirement.

The First Class hike requirements should be checked at one or more points along the route, if possible, by Adult Scouters or senior Patrol Leaders. At the discretion of the District Hiking Adviser such observers should be able to accompany a hiking party at a distance, should the candidates be very young or the terrain difficult.

(It should be noted that some of the Additional Hiking Rules contradict the requirements for the Hiker Leader Badge. It is proposed that the examiners of this senior specialist badge have certain flexibility in applying these rules at their discretion, but also need not necessarily stick rigidly to the requirements of the Scout Interest Badge Book.)

7. Routes

It is important that Scouters ensure that all hikes adhere to the route regulations laid down here, both in the interests of safety and in ensuring that the hike has the sanction of Scout Headquarters for legal and liability purposes.

8. National Hikes (Outside Our Region)

Applications should be made to Headquarters at least a month in advance so that the permission of the Region Commissioner in whose Region the hike is to take place can be requested.

Various National Hiking Way Trails: These applications will be treated on their merits, but as a guideline, Scouts should be at least 14 years of age, under an experienced adult leader.

Fish River Canyon: Open from May to September, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with a very experienced adult leader. Closed the rest of the year.

Drakensberg: At all times Scouts should be 14 and over with a very experienced adult leader.

9. Rock Climbs

Climbs involving ropework above 'B' grade are suitable for Scouts 14 and over with the leadership of two experienced rock climbers for every party of eight persons.

10. Cape Peninsula

You should consult various watch groups for this area to determine the level of criminal activity. The Table Mountain Watch at <http://www.facebook.com/tablemountainwatch> is a useful resource. As always, it is important that the hiking party keeps together as a group.

Constantia Nek Road, Nursery Ravine, Skeleton Gorge, Platteklip Gorge, Kasteels Poort, Wood Ravine or Corridor.

- Suitable for any time of year, by Scouts 11 years and over, with the leadership of Patrol Leader or Scout 14 or over. Suitable (for day hikes only) for 10-year old Cubs with responsible adult leadership.

Lower Contour paths of Table Mountain

- Suitable for any time of year by Scouts 11 years and over, with the leadership of a Patrol Leader or Scout 13 or over.

Any "A" route in the South Peninsula mountain chain

- Suitable for any time of year, by Scouts 11 years and over, with the leadership of Patrol Leader or Scout 14 or over. Suitable (for day hikes) only, for 10-years old Cubs with responsible leadership.

Table Mountain by any other "A" or "B" route

- Suitable for any time of year, by 11 years and over, with responsible adult leadership.

11. North of Bainskloof Pass and Hex River Pass

Steenbokberg and Bailey's Peak

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with responsible adult leadership. Recce not required.
- In winter, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with experienced adult leadership. Recce recommended.

Porterville (Great Winterhoek), Plateau, Sneeuat, from Tulbagh farms (Roiland)

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with responsible adult leadership. Recce not required. NB! (route currently closed until further notice).

- In winter, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with experienced adult leadership. Recce recommended. NB! (route currently closed until further notice)

Twenty-four Rivers (Kloof) from Groot Winterhoek Farm to Dasbos

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with the leadership of an adult. Recce recommended. NB! (route currently closed for Scouts until further notice unless approved by Regional Hike Advisor).
- In winter, this trip is not advised for Scout parties.

Cederberg Wilderness Region (Various hikes)

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with the leadership of a Scout 16 or over. Recce recommended.
- In winter, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with responsible adult leadership. Recce required.

Jan Du Toitskloof

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with responsible adult leadership. Recce recommended.
- In winter, this trip is not advised for Scout parties.

Witels From Michell's Pass, as far as Third Swim

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 13 and over with responsible adult leadership. Recce not required.
- In winter, this trip is not advised for Scout parties.

Fisherman's route into Witels

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 15 and over with experienced adult leadership. Recce required. NB! (route currently closed until further notice).
- In winter, this trip is not advised for Scout parties.

Witels from Waaihoek

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 15 and over with experienced adult leader. Recce not required.
- In winter, not advised for Scout parties.

Visgat from weir to "S" Pools

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with adult leadership
- In winter, not advised for Scout parties.

Visgat from "S" Pools to Boskloof

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 15 and over with adult leadership.
- In winter, not advised for Scout parties.

West Coast - Saldanha to Silverstroom Strand

- In winter or summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with the leadership of a Scout 16 or over. Recce not required.

12. Bainskloof Pass to Du Toits Kloof Pass

Bainskloof Pass to Du Toitskloof Pass or reverse

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 12 and over with responsible adult leadership, or 13 and over with leadership of a Scout 16 or over. Recce not required.
- In winter, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with very experienced adult leadership only. Recce recommended.

Bainskloof Hotel to Hugo's House and Junction Pool. Du Toitskloof Pass (highest Point) to Suurvlakte

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 11 and over with leadership of a Scout 15 and over.
- In winter, suitable for Scouts 11 and over with the leadership of an Adult. Recce recommended.

Bainskloof - The Kloof (Witrivier)

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 12 and over with the leadership of a Scout 16 or over. Recce not required.
- In winter, not advised for Scout parties.

Baviaanskloof Path as far as the waterfalls

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 12 and over with the leadership of a Scout 16 and over. Recce required.
- In winter, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with responsible adult leadership of a Scouter. Recce not required.

Klein or Groot Wellington Sneekop from Baviaanskloof, Tierkloof or Witrivier, Observation Peak, Kromrivier Peak, Kromrivier Hut, down the ridge to Nuweland

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with the leadership of a Scout 16 and over. Recce recommended.
- In winter, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with very experienced adult leadership. Recce required.

Slanghoek Pile, Needle or Peak. Grassy Dome, Witteberge

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with experienced adult leadership. Recce recommended.
- In winter, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with very experienced adult leadership. Recce not required.

Kromrivier Dome, New Year Peak

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with leadership of a Scout 16 and over. Recce not required.
- In winter, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with experienced adult leadership. Recce required.

13. Route Du Toit's Kloof to Franschoek Pass and Villiersdorp

Franschhoek Pass to the gate on the road from Worcester to Stettynskloof Dam, or via Agertafelberg and the jeep track to Du Toits Kloof

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with the leadership of a Scout 16 and over. Recce recommended.
- In winter, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with very experienced adult leadership only. Recce required.

Du Toit's Kloof, up the jeep track to Agtertafelberg, and down Stettynskloof past the dam to the gate on the road to Worcester

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with the leadership of a Scout 16 or over.
- In winter, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with responsible adult leadership. Recce not required.

Donkerkloof, to Saddle. Also Du Toitskloof Pass to Agertafelberg by Jeep track

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with the leadership of a Scout 16 or over.
- In winter, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with responsible adult leadership. Recce not required.

Hugenotskop from Miaspoort

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with responsible adult leadership. Recce not required.
- In winter, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with experienced adult leadership. Recce required.

Agtertafelberg to Du Toitskloof Pass, down Elandsrivier

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with responsible adult leadership. Recce required.
- In winter, not advised for Scout parties.

14. Franschhoek Pass to Sir Lowry's Pass

Hottentots-Holland Section of the Boland Hiking Trail

- In summer, the main trail and also the Nuweberg - Jonkershoek alternative, are suitable for Scouts 14 and over with the leadership of a Scout 16 or over. Recce not required.
- In winter, these portions are suitable for Scouts 14 and over with responsible adult leadership. Recce not required.

The high-level traverse between Landdrooskop Hut and Kruktrekkerne Lanndrooskop

- In summer, the main trail and also the Nuweberg - Jonkershoek alternative, are suitable for Scouts 14 and over with the leadership of a Scout 16 or over. Recce not required.
- In winter, this portion is suitable for Scouts 16 or over with very experienced adult leadership. Recce not required.
- Day-hike in all portions are subject to the same conditions.

Banhoekrivier (day-hike)

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 12 and over with the leadership of a Scout 14 or over.
- In winter, not advised for Scout parties.

Kurktrekkerne to Robertsvlei, Coetzenburg or Vergenoeg or Jonkershoek to Stellenbosch or Haelkop (Guardian Peak). Helderberg to Jonkershoek

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with the leadership of an adult. Recce not required.
- In winter, suitable for Scouts 14 and over with experienced adult leadership. Recce required.

Jonkershoek, from end of the motor road to Tweede Waterval (Day-hikes)

- This Region is closed to the public in summer.
- In winter, suitable for Scouts 11 and over with leadership of a Scout 14 or over. Recce required.

Gantouwpas (upper section) from Sir Lowry's Pass or Steenbras Station (day-hike)

- In summer or winter, suitable for Scouts 11 and over or Cubs 10 and over. No leadership conditions. Recce not required.

Klipdrifrivier

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 12 and over with responsible adult leadership or 13 and over with leadership of a Scout 16 or over. Recce recommended.
- In winter, not advised for Scout parties.

Vergelegen farm to Nuweberg

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 12 and over with responsible adult leadership or 13 and over with leadership of a Scout 16 or over. Recce not required.
- In winter, suitable for Scouts 13 and over with responsible adult leadership. Recce recommended.

15. Sir Lowry's Pass to South Coast

Steenbrasrivierskloof, from Benning Bridge to Dam (day-hike)

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 12 and over with leadership of a Scout 16 or over. Recce required.
- In winter, not advised for Scout parties.

Koelbaai to Steenbras (through catchment - permit required from City Council)

- In summer, suitable for Scouts 13 and over with leadership of a Scout 16 or over. Recce recommended.
- In winter, suitable for Scout 13 and over with responsible adult leadership. Recce recommended.

16. The Hiking Advisor

All applications for hikes will be assessed and approved by one or more "Hiking Advisers" appointed by the Region. If the Hiking Adviser has any qualms about the hike application, he/she negotiates conditions which must be complied with before the application can be approved. For example, he/she could insist that the leadership be strengthened by the addition of a more experienced hiker.

It could be that a Troop wishes to undertake a hike, and the circumstances are such that less than the minimum notice can be given to Headquarters. (For example snowfalls lead to the decision to organise a hike before the snow melts). The Hiking Adviser could be contacted by telephone and the application would be considered on its merits. This dispensation should not however be abused.

The Hiking Adviser would also be used to vet distress calls from anxious Scouters or parents who are waiting for overdue Scout hiking parties, should the need ever arise.

17. Permission

Most of the mountain and unspoiled land in the Cape is owned or controlled by the Cape Nature Conservation, Regional Service Council, Municipalities, or private owners. It is therefore ESSENTIAL that permission be obtained from the owner BEFORE entering the property.

No MOUNTAIN HUTS may be used unless permission has been granted by the owners.

18. CapeNature

In the case of CapeNature reserves, a written CapeNature permit must always be obtained from the relevant authority before entering the reserve.

The conditions of the PERMIT granted MUST be strictly obeyed e.g. the lighting of fires, camping, no firearms, no destruction of vegetation, no dogs, etc. Failure to observe these rules and to maintain a high standard of behaviour could jeopardise the granting of permits or permission to future Scout parties. CONTRAVENTION of these rules are regarded in a serious light and disciplinary action against offenders will be taken.

19. Private Land

Permission must be obtained to cross or camp on privately owned land. Consideration is to be shown at all times.

Here are some of the basic rules:

- Obtain PERMISSION from the farmer/owner personally on arrival, or by telephone, BEFORE your party enters the property. If you do not have permission do not enter the lands.
- Courtesy requires that, if possible, you thank the owner when you leave his property.
- Take stringent precautions against VELD FIRES.
- When travelling in summer through orchards or vineyards by vehicle, travel SLOWLY to minimise DUST which damages fruit and grapes - at 5 km per hour.
- Ensure that all GATES are left as you found them.
- Avoid damaging FENCES by not climbing over them.
- Do not leave or bury any litter - take tins/bottles/plastics etc. home with you.
- Do not cut VEGETATION for gadgets unless you have permission.
- ON NO ACCOUNT may FRUIT be picked in farmer's orchards without permission.

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