



To Whom It May Concern:

This serves to certify that members of Mpumalanga West Region of the Girl Guides Association of South Africa have camped at Buffalo Gorge on two occasions.

Accommodation: On both occasions, the large army tent was used and proved quite adequate. On the second occasion, a number of two to six man tents were also pitched in naturally demarcated areas in the gorge.

Ablution: Although the second camp was a combined Scouting and Guiding camp, the limited number of twenty persons did not prove to be a problem for the two showers and two flush toilets available. Indeed, the donkey fired boilers were an eye opener to some of the children who are used to getting water at the turn of a tap!

Food preparation: Although the army tent pitched for this purpose is of adequate proportions, the facilities and equipment are lacking a little, although this is bush camping and not a five star hotel!

Other facilities: The area set aside for fire cooking is excellent; the hiking trails provide breathtaking scenery; the permanent abseiling point is properly maintained with particular attention to safety; Mr. Diepraam has in-depth knowledge of the flora and fauna of the area and his staff are always on hand to assist when necessary.

Without doubt, the members of the Region will again make use of these facilities in the future.

Dudzile Masuku

Regional Commissioner  
Mpumalanga West

To: Troop Scouter's of the South African Scout Association

The farm known as Buffalo Gorge, which is situated on the Middleburg -Groblersdal road in Mpumalanga has a number of features, which accommodate the scouting program.

It is a large farm which transverse between bushveld , wetlands and highveld giving a varied habitat in which to hold a over night camp.

The camp site is large and very primitive with a 16 man tent or small sites for pitching your own tents (Camping) There is a donkey system for hot water and a basic fire area. (Laying and lighting fires) There are basic flush toilets, a basic kitchen with a gas stove and fridge.

As a small stream divides the site, any Pioneering project will have a small waterway to cross. A few pathfinders did the filtering of water from this stream. There is also a small artificial pool, used for swimming, on which a raft can be "floated".

The hiking trails are well marked of different lengths and are situated in areas where there is no concern for the safety of the patrols. Even night hikes can be accommodated on Buffalo Gorge as there are open grasslands and no large game.

As this is an old farm there are the usual exotic plants, erosion sites as well as areas which are badly littered and could be used for Community services etc.

The majority of the camping, hiking, backwoodsman and pioneering clauses could be completed at Buffalo Gorge.

During the Summer Camp we held at Buffalo Gorge, which was Guides and Scouts combined, the patrols also went absailing which benefited the rangers in marking off one of their clauses.

Please feel free to contact me should you require any more details.

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