



The **117th**

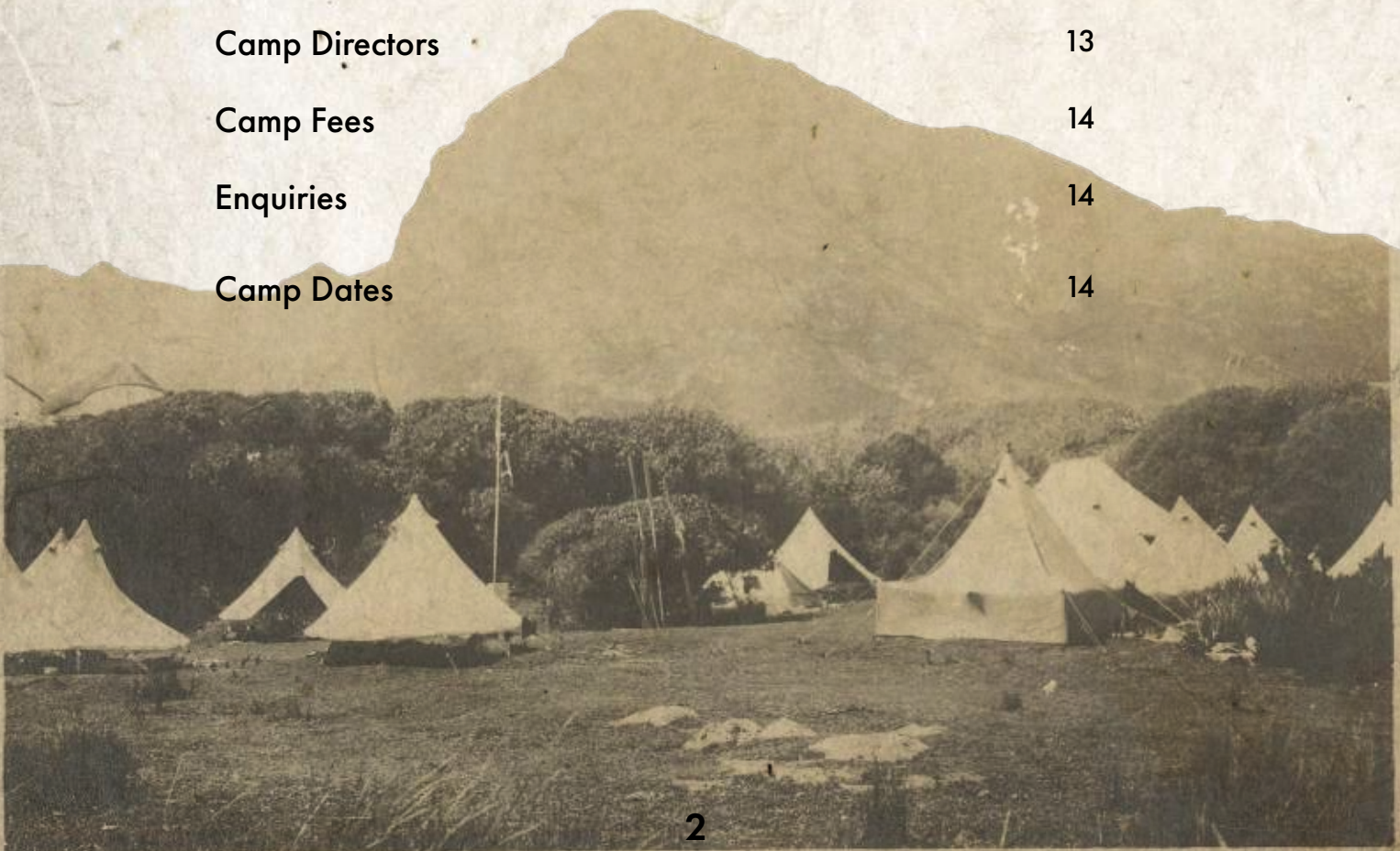
ANNUAL HERMANUS CAMP

29TH DECEMBER 2025 – 10TH JANUARY 2026

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 30 SEP 2025

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INTRODUCTION



The Annual Hermanus Camp is a summer camping adventure for boys that promotes an outward-bound philosophy. It is styled on scouting traditions with a Christian ethos. Campers are accommodated under canvas in a beautiful Milkwood glen on a grassy site between the lagoon and the mountains of Hermanus, with direct access to the beaches.

The Camp aims to provide an opportunity for young boys and men to develop physically,

socially and spiritually through a variety of enjoyable and challenging outdoor activities: sailing, canoeing, abseiling, hiking, swimming, games, competitions, beach games, archery and over-night hiking adventures.

Leadership and teambuilding life skills are developed in a friendly, fun and exciting natural environment, under the guidance of experienced, adult campers. Established in 1908, the Camp is a non-profit organisation, managed by a volunteer committee of former Campers.

The Camp accepts a maximum of **36** boys between the ages of **11-15** each summer. Additionally, **16** junior leaders ("Back-Streeters", aged **16-21**) are recruited from returning campers, who help the core of adult "Main-Streeters" organise and lead the Camp. Typically, 60% of our campers return each summer.

Due to the physicality of the camp, no exceptions will be made for boys who are younger than 11.



"Our small size means that every camper gets to know everyone else, and our leaders are able to give each boy the attention he deserves."

Perhaps most important of all, at the Annual Hermanus Camp, boys form strong, meaningful friendships that last years after camping days have passed. Our alumni tell us these friendships are the most significant, enduring part of their Camp experience.

It is often repeated:

"You don't join Camp for just one summer... You join for a lifetime!"

ACTIVITIES AND EXPEDITIONS



All our activities are challenging and exciting, combining aspects of adventure at a pace set to enhance exploration and appreciation of the natural world. Our activities teach outdoor skills and aim to build self-confidence.

Sailing & Canoeing

The Camp owns three sailing boats, a sailing dinghy, and various canoes that are used daily for sailing and paddling on the Hermanus Vlei. We launched our new boat, "The Star of the South III" in 2008.

Sailors journey to the south side of the Vlei to the "Haunted House" and the isolated beach called "The Cliffs". Learning to sail forms an important part of these expeditions. The high point of all boating expeditions is to reach the far end of the Vlei, but only after numerous "sea battles" and attacks from ruthless "pirates". Crossing the sand bar, the sailors continue up the tranquil Klein River that winds through quiet farmlands to the village of Stanford.

Hiking

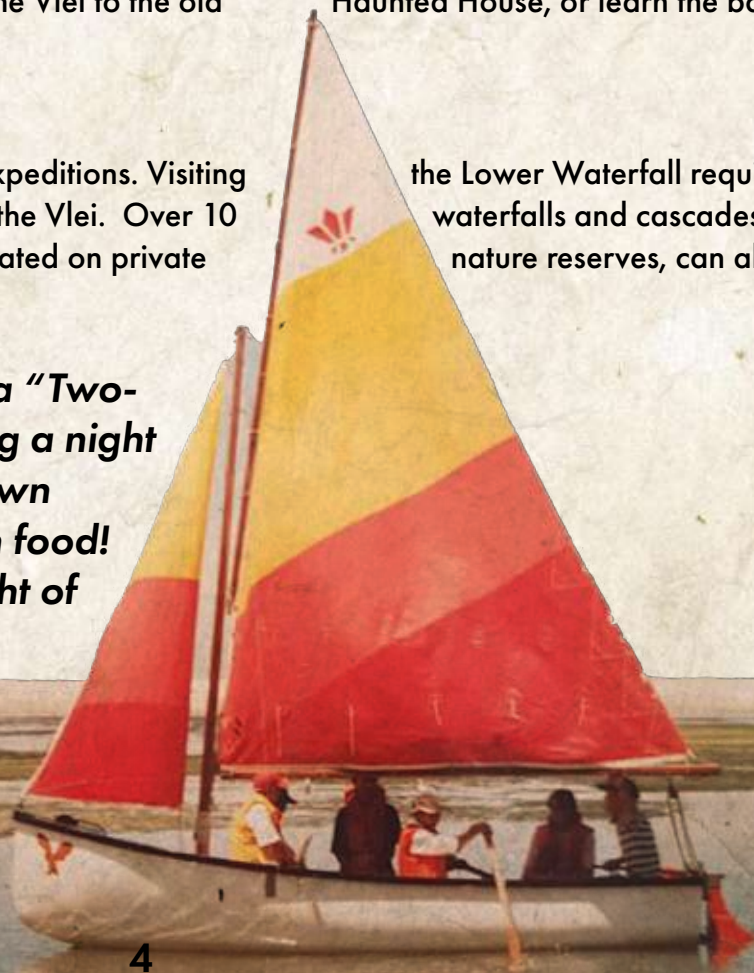
The variety of scenic mountain and coastal walks are endless. There are beautiful paths in the Maanskynekop and Vogelgat Nature Reserves. There is the challenge of the peaks – Mosselberg, Aasvoëlkop and Rocklands - and the river gorge in the Silvermijn Valley. The ultimate challenge for the older boys is the 64km beach-hike to the Dangerpoint lighthouse, Gansbaai, and back in a day. Others may prefer to walk the Hermanus cliff-top whale route and abseil off the sea-cliffs, to walk around the Vlei to the old Haunted House, or learn the basics of archery.

Sailing & Hiking

Sailing can be combined with walking expeditions. Visiting one to beach a boat near the far end of the Vlei. Over 10 magnificent pools, most of which are situated on private reached on foot from the Campsite.

the Lower Waterfall requires waterfalls and cascades, with nature reserves, can also be

"All campers get to go out on a "Two-Day" adventure hike: spending a night out in the bush, making their own shelters and cooking their own food! Most regard this as the highlight of the Camp."



FACILITIES & AMENITIES

The Camp is pitched amongst ancient Milkwood trees on a large grassy site where the Hermanus Vlei meets the beach. All campers sleep in large canvas bell-tents. The Camp has flush toilets, an open-air bush shower and refrigeration facilities. Our site fronts both the Vlei and the beach.



The Marquee

All hot meals are served in a large marquee tent equipped with tables and benches. Our cooking and washing are done by our experienced chef and his assistants.

Medical Facilities

We have a doctor on site and medical-tent supported by trained First-aiders for treating any minor ailments and injuries. Our leaders are trained in basic first-aid and CPR. Hermanus has a public and private hospital within a fifteen-minute drive. While the Camp may pay for minor medical expenses, parents are expected to cover medical costs in the event of an accident.

Camp is an active, physical environment and may not be able to accommodate specific physical disabilities. Please contact us if you have an enquiry in this regard.

DAILY PROGRAMME

All awake to cocoa and biscuits. Each day starts with a few minutes thinking about the Christian faith. The Camp flags are raised, and then it's off for a refreshing swim in the sea.



Tent inspection follows soon after breakfast. The rest of the day is devoted to a choice of expeditions. Each boy is free to choose an expedition to go on from those offered daily.

Most expeditions end with time for a game of stump cricket, a swim or quiet relaxation after a day well spent.

After supper, the evenings include the inter-tent Puddox played on the beach, finished off with an evening activity over cocoa and a few moments of Christian reflection.



MAIN EVENTS

Our Camp is one of the oldest, continuously running youth groups in the world. We're a year younger than the UK Scout Movement and started at the same time as the SA Scouts. In 2018 we celebrated our 110th anniversary with Campers returning from all over the world.

We are always excited to have old Campers return to join us for a few nights, or for a favourite expedition. Their memories and stories of adventures had on camp in their time, support the traditions of camp and are always welcome.

Here are the dates of some of this year's special events:

- **DANGERPOINT HIKE**

This blister making, cramp inducing hike is the Camp's toughest expedition. Only older boys who have proven their fitness on earlier hikes will be allowed to participate.



- **ROCKLANDS OLD YEAR'S CHAMPAGNE BREAKFAST (WED 31ST DEC).**

Mainstreet will be leading a **06h00** full-frontal charge up Rocklands for a sumptuous Champagne breakfast near the summit (juices for boys). Weather dependent!

- **EPIC PIRATE BATTLES**

Arrrrrr me maties! Bring your wacky hat and water pistol, it's gonna be chaos out there!!!

- **VISITORS' DAY – SUNDAY 4TH JANUARY**



Family and guests are encouraged to join the Camp for tent inspection at **10h30** followed by the Flag-raising Ceremony and **short Family Service at 11h00** (compulsory for all circle.) Thereafter all visitors are invited to an American-style hotdog and ice-cream feast, though they are also welcome to bring their own picnic and relax under the Milkwoods.

Lunch will be followed by the Sports events starting promptly at **14h00**. These will include the hotly contested Brothers and Sisters Tug-of-War, Fathers & Sons Canoe Races and of course, the Land and Water race for the boys. Visitors' Day closes after tea at **16h00**.



- **CAMP CONCERT – FRIDAY 9TH JANUARY**

At the end of Camp, the Circle tents and other bands of daring actors will present an evening of drama and music. And of course, 'King Shaka' may pay a royal visit!

ORGANISATION

The 36 '**Circle**' boys (ages 11-15 years) form the nucleus of the Camp. They are supervised by '**Back-Streeters**' (16 - 21 years) and adult '**Main Streeters**'. 6 to 7 Circle boys form a '**Tent**' and they share a spacious bell-tent. Tents compete against each other for various trophies.

Two Back-Streeters and a Main-Streeter guide each Tent. 16 Back-Streeters are chosen for their leadership promise, dedication and rapport with the Circle. These are mostly returning campers, but boys with suitable enthusiasm, camping and leadership experience may apply.

Main-Streeters provide the leadership, supervision and logistic support. A core of Main-Streeters is complimented by visiting adults who contribute with their diverse talents and experiences.

The Camp is a non-profit association, organised by a voluntary committee of Main-Streeters.



COMPETITIONS

Camp competitions blend learning, action and fun; with everybody participating in a relaxed environment. Several historic floating trophies are awarded to individuals and tents.

Puddox Cup - peculiar to Camp, Puddox is a combination of cricket and baseball, characterised by a vast amount of noise, dubious umpiring decisions and frenetic activity. The hotly disputed scorecard is scratched in the sand where it is subject to the vagaries of the wind, lagoon and bare feet.



Tent Inspection - Judged daily after breakfast.

Rob Hawke Two-Day Shield - The Camp favourite and most hotly contested competition. Mid-Camp, each Tent spends one night out in the bush - around the Vlei or in the mountains - making their own shelters and cooking their own food.

Canoe Races and Tug-of-War - Held between Tents on Visitors' day. The father and son canoe race is always fanatically contested, but often ends up as an entertaining exercise in balance, co-ordination and sabotage.

The Victor Ludorum - The entire Circle competes in this premier running and swimming race held on Visitors' Day. The Victor Ludorum is awarded to the champion of the 'Land-and-Water' race.

Pixton Orderly Cup – Every Tent serves for a day as an Orderly – serving the meals and other small tasks, a vital service to ensure the smooth running of Camp. Creativity often wins this Cup!

Flag Raising - On the morning of the day a Tent is on Orderly duty, it is required to perform the traditional ceremony of raising the Camp flags.

Griffiths Archery Shield – Recognises the most promising Camp archer.

Camp Concert - Takes the form of a fun variety show of skits or songs held at the end of the Camp. Tents are judged for acting ability and entertainment value.



Andrew Hurst Award

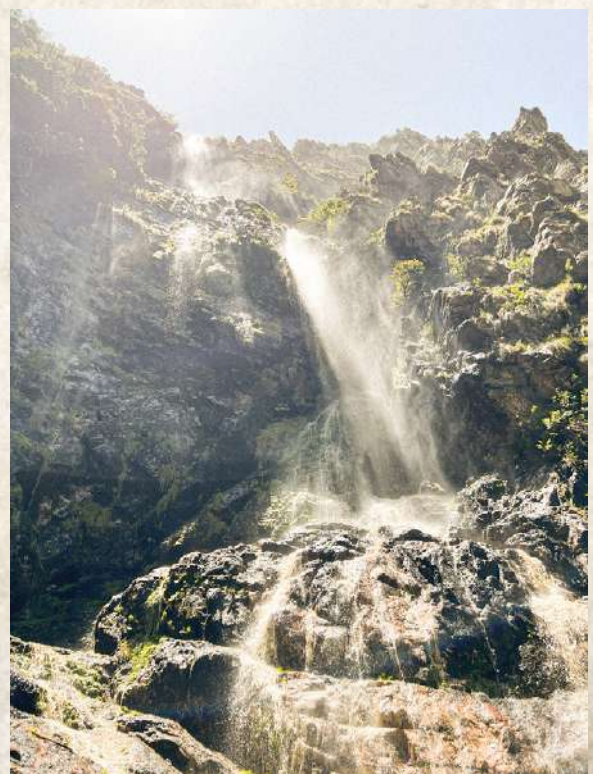
This award recognises the Back-Streeter who contributed most to the Camp and its ethos, as voted on by his peers.

Camp Spirit Award

This rare award commends a camper who has distinguished himself in some heroic feat, that epitomises the Camp's spirit and ethos. Last awarded in 2000, to Trevor Ohlssen, for his brave rescue of some floundering sailors caught in a gale storm on the Vlei.

We thank the kind landowners that allow us access to their land:

Vogelgat, Mosaic, Volmoed, Wortelgat and Fernkloof Nature Reserves, Dangerpoint Lighthouse, Walshacres and Crystal Kloof Farms, Mr Hoogie van Hoogstraten, Mrs E Ivey; Dr. Grant and Mr Charles & Elmiën de Kok



THE JOURNEY TO CAMP

Camp will be pitched on Saturday 27th December at 10h00 by the Advance Party of Main-Streeters, Back-Streeters & Tent Leaders. Transport and lifts will be arranged for them. They also undertake various training, leadership and teambuilding exercises.

Circle boys arrive on Monday 29th December between 9.00 and 9.30. If you require a lift up to camp please indicate so on the application form, also if you will be able to offer lifts so we can ensure that all campers have transport.

We strike Camp on Saturday the 10th January, finishing at 12h00. Campers are to be collected by parents; boys may share lifts back to Cape Town.

Directions to the Campsite

Drive through Hermanus and through the traffic circle. At the end of town where the road narrows, take the last right (17th Ave). At the T-junction, which leads left into the Die Mond Caravan Park, turn right and then take the first left. This lane banks down hard left into the Campsite parking-lot.



INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT LIST

All equipment & clothes (which **MUST** be marked **CLEARLY!!**) must be packed into one suitcase/tog bag and one rucksack/large daypack - hiking through the mountains carrying a suitcase for 2 days is not comfortable! The following items are essential:

- • Sleeping bag, water-proof groundsheet & pillow.
- • Thin foam mattress is recommended, but must be able to be rolled or folded up. Back-Streeters & Main-Streeters may bring stretchers.
- • Hiking boots/walking shoes & slippers/sandals,
- • Socks, underwear, shirts & shorts,
- • Hat, towel, costume.
- • Water-proof wind breaker, sweatshirt/jersey & long pants/tracksuit.
- • 2 white shirts & 1 pair khaki/brown shorts (for when on Orderly duty).
- • Toiletries (NB: SUN CREAM).
- • Water bottle, torch, plate, mug, knife, fork & spoon.
- • Suggest bringing some Omo and pegs for a mid-Camp clothes wash.
- • Lifejacket – only if you have your own that you prefer to use, Camp have many of our own
- • Optional extras: binoculars, cards, games, rope, etc.

REPEAT NB – ALL CLOTHES AND BELONGINGS TO BE LABELLED OR MARKED!!



CODE OF CONDUCT

We expect all campers to uphold this Code of Conduct, in the interest of the safety, well-being and enjoyment of all. Attending camp is a privilege that parents have chosen for their sons:

1. All campers must obey all lawful instructions of the Camp authorities, covering any aspect of the Camp, at all times. The Camp reserves the right, if necessary, to reprimand any camper.
2. Circle campers may not:
 - Drink alcohol or smoke and/or be in possession of such;
 - Leave the Camp area without the permission of the Adjutant or duty Main-Streeter;
 - Absent themselves from Camp between 'Lights Out' and the 'Morning Bell' without the express permission of the Adjutant or the Commandant.

Circle campers will be sent home if found to have contravened these regulations, as will ANY camper found to be in possession of any illegal substance or a dangerous weapon. In the interests of the safety and security of all the campers, the Camp reserves the right to search any camper and their belongings should there be reasonable cause.

3. The Camp reserves the right to send any camper home, without a refund, whose behaviour is disobedient, undesirable or anti-social.

4. No boat or canoe shall be taken beyond Dutchie Point unless accompanied by a senior camper. Campers must wear lifejackets at all times when boating.

5. Campers can hand in their pocket money, and any other valuables to the Adjutant for safekeeping. Cellphones, smartphones, tablets and other electrical toys must be left at home. Camp is a time away from all these distractions. The Camp cannot accept liability for any lost, stolen or damaged property.



6. Back-Streeters will be expected to:
Be fully involved with the Camp, from the early morning swim to lights-out; Fulfil their duties at Camp; Return to Camp before 01h00 (camp time) after having been granted leave-out by the Adjutant; and will not be allowed to drink alcohol or smoke while at Camp or on expeditions.
7. All campers will be expected to involve themselves enthusiastically in all activities and will at all times show consideration, tolerance, helpfulness and respect towards their fellow campers.

Every camper must sign the Enrolment and Indemnity Form indicating that they will abide by this Code of Conduct. The Camp accepts no liability, whether the indemnity form is signed or not, For many boys this is the first time they will sign a commitment and will be a good opportunity for parents and boys to discuss their good behaviour at Camp.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can campers be contacted while at Camp or phone home?

As part of the ethos of the camp, circle boys are encouraged not to make contact with their families until the family day. This is to both give them a complete "digital detox" as well as to allow them to focus fully on camp activities. For EMERGENCIES, the Commandant, Nigel Gwynne-Evans may be contacted at 083 641 5173. Full time Camper, Graham Duk can also be contacted on 082 483 4879

Can friends or brothers be in the same tent together?

We generally try to put friends together. But sometimes are placed separately so as not to cause imbalances in ages and sizes between tents. We tend to place brothers in different tents but do indicate your preference on the Enrolment Form.

What if I don't know anybody else going to Camp?

Making new friends isn't all that hard. At the Annual Hermanus Camp, everyone is immediately part of a tent group. New friends are made easily this way, and those friends can last a lifetime!

I have never done outdoor stuff before.

That's no problem; everybody learns the basics at Camp. It's a great place to learn new skills and sports. For some Campers these have turned into passions, leading them to become professional sailors, others extending their hikes to conquer Kilimanjaro.

Can I bring my cellphone, tablet or other electrical devices to Camp?

We believe that this Camp period is a good time to get away from electronic distractions. Too often these devices act to exclude you from your peers, and get damaged and lost. So, please leave them at home!

What about fishing rods, boogie-boards, sports gear or pocket-knives?

You are welcome to bring your cameras, binoculars, frisbees, fishing rods, sketchpads, musical instruments and boogie-boards. We have our own soccer, rugby, volleyball and cricket balls for your use. Small, folding camping-knives/pocket-knives are allowed.

Can boys attend a portion of camp?

We get many requests from parents who, due to holiday plans or to sporting events towards the end would like their sons to only attend a part of camp. Unfortunately, this is too disruptive for the flow of camp, so boys need to commit to the full camp.



CAMP DIRECTORS

President	~	Alec McDonald
Chairman	~	Anthony van Hoogstraten
Commandant	~	Nigel Gwynne-Evans
Adjutant	~	Cameron de Kock
Sub-Adjutant	~	Tom Moss
Quartermaster	~	Dylan de Kock & Yasien Hartley
Padre	~	Pete Kantor
Treasurer	~	Richard Ferguson
Fiscal Shrike	~	Cameron de Kock
Camp Doctor	~	Tom Raynham
Webmaster	~	Aidan Horn
Training	~	Morgan Griffiths & Geoff du Toit

Other Members: James & Peter Day, Rory Latimer, Grant & Murray Bridgman, Greg Mills, Tim Morris, Charles Pohl, Peter Penny, Peter Kantor, Mark, Richard, Greg & Charles Simpson; Luke Pemberton; Dirk Hoffman, David Gwynne-Evans; Aidan & Matt Morton; Simon Caro; Jonathan Steytler; Keith Richardson; Theo & Derek Moss; Ben Wiley; Graham Duk; Jeremy Jansen; Andrew and Richard Mandy; Maarten Turkstra; Trevor Ohlson; Siphiwo Salakhuphatwa; & Josh Raynham.



CAMP FEES

Campers – **R3500** (This is all-inclusive!)

Only **R3200** for a 2nd & **R2900** for a 3rd brother

Main-Streeters – Full camp fee or **R300/day**

CAMP DATES

Monday 29th December 2025 to Saturday 10th January 2026

Advance Party – Saturday 27th December @ 10:00

Boys Arrive – Monday 29th December: 9:30 and 10:00

Visitors' Day – Sunday 4th January

Strike Camp – Saturday 10th January

The application and indemnity may be
emailed to annualhermanuscamp@gmail.com
by the 30th September 2025 for consideration to be accepted onto the camp.

Please note that only 36 boys Circle Boys will be selected

ENQUIRIES

Please direct any enquiries to:

annualhermanuscamp@gmail.com

The Commandant, Nigel Gwynne-Evans (+27 83 641 5173).

Please note that only **36** Circle-aged boys will be accepted based on criteria relating to age and attendance. Application must be received by the 30th September but will be on a first come, first serve basis. Young campers are encouraged to invite their friends, brothers and cousins, to join in the fun. We rely on past campers to recruit new campers.

Updated details can be found at:

www.hermanuscamp.co.za