# BREWS

Official Publication Of The Boys' Brigade In Singapore

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#### THE BOYS' BRIGADE

The Boys' Brigade is an international movement with Companies in more than 60 territories. Founded by Sir William Alexander Smith in 1883, it is the pioneer of uniformed youth organisations. In Singapore, the movement is recognised by the Ministry of Education as an approved CCA and it is registered as a Charity under the Charities ACT 1982 (Registration No. 0067)

#### OBJECT

The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys; and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect and all that tends toward a true Christian Manliness.

#### **OUR VISION**

To be the Youth Organisation of Choice

To nurture youth, based on Christian values, to serve and lead.

#### **NUR RELIFES**

We are First for Youth

We provide fun, meaningful and challenging activities

We are committed to serve the community.

We are served and led by Volunteers.

We are enterprising, in tune with our changing world.

We actively engage our stakeholders.

We are a Christian organisation for all Youth.

#### **BB NEWS**

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isn't hanging on a rope off the side of a mountain. Adventure is an attitude that we must apply to the day-to-day obstacles in life." The adventurous spirit is about being curious, daring to try, having a can-do and never-say-die attitude, knowing that the outcome is not certain, and the journey is risky but still being hopeful of a favourable outcome. Having a spirit of adventure in every aspect of our lives would help us face challenges with resilience. The adventurous spirit engages the inner person and spurs an entrepreneurial and innovative spirit within oneself. Purposeful adventure experiences, therefore, will allow the BB to engage, equip and empower our Boys with the values, outlook and skills to navigate, thrive and succeed in a global, complex and uncertain environment and future.

Besides the opportunities provided by the BB, the opportunity for adventure is available to us daily. By doing small things every day, we can create space for adventure in our everyday life, nurturing an adventurous mind-set and developing the ability to see, take and create adventure opportunities. Here are some adventurous habits and practices we can try to adopt every day:



As I was writing this article, I was reminded of my own adventure not too long ago. I was at the MacRitchie Nature Park to run my usual two rounds. When I finished the first round, I felt a prompting within me, reminding me of this article on the adventurous spirit that I was writing. I felt challenged to walk my talk, to live out what I was writing. For the first time, after many years, I did my second round of run in the reverse direction. Though it was the same distance and the same area, it was uncomfortable as my brain and body had to adjust to a "new" environment. That experience, however, gave me a different perspective to an all too familiar surroundings and allowed me to experience the beauty of nature in a fresh way.

The spirit of adventure has a great effect on one's character. It makes a person courageous, resilient, and creative. It makes him master of his own goals and purpose. It teaches him to be vigilant and resourceful, bold yet careful, enterprising yet calculating, daring but not thoughtless. To prepare and ready our Boys for the Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous (VUCA) world, the BB must continue to nurture in them the adventurous spirit through meaningful and purposeful activities.

# CAN BE AN ENTURE IN A RIGHT WAY

REV MALCOLM T.H. TAN Associate Brigade Chaplain

Dear BB members,

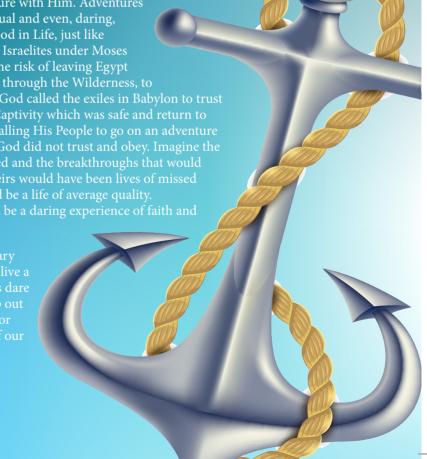
Greetings in Jesus' precious Name.

We have to make a choice. Life is full of choices. It's our God-given decisions every day that decide on the kind of lives we are going to live. Most of us may want to live ordinary lives where we take no risk and never leave our preferred comfort zones at all. We want to take the road of being normal and therefore, mediocre! But God invites us to take the risk of faith and step out in adventure with Him. 'Trust and Obey for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, than to trust and obey.'

Consider Abraham of old, God called him to leave behind the familiar and the safe, and to also go on an adventure with Him. Adventures are when we dare to do what is unusual and even, daring, because we want to trust and obey God in Life, just like Abraham of old. God challenged the Israelites under Moses to also trust and obey Him, to take the risk of leaving Egypt and to go on an adventure with Him through the Wilderness, to the Promised Land! Likewise, when God called the exiles in Babylon to trust and obey Him to leave the Land of Captivity which was safe and return to the Land of their Fathers, God was calling His People to go on an adventure with Him. Imagine, if the People of God did not trust and obey. Imagine the opportunities they would have missed and the breakthroughs that would not have happened in their lives. Theirs would have been lives of missed opportunities. A mediocre life would be a life of average quality. An adventurous life with God would be a daring experience of faith and life in obedience to God!

May the BB teach us not to be ordinary people living ordinary lives. May we live a life that counts because God helps us dare to go on adventure with Him, to step out of our comfort zone. Jesus our Anchor in Life is the Author and Perfector of our Faith. May we be strong in the Lord!

Sure and Stedfast.



## COMMEMORATING BB DAY 2019!



The new BB teacher-in-charge for 10th Singapore Company in Beatty Secondary School, Mr Fu Si, read the BB Day Message to the school.





"As it was my first time raising the flag for the national anthem, I was anxious that I would not be able to keep up with the anthem due to my lack of experience. Despite that, the rehearsals conducted weeks before BB Day proved to be beneficial as I was able to smoothly execute my task of raising the national flag and the Boys who were part of the contingent executed their drills well. The BB message also made me reminisce on not only the tough trainings but also the fun I had experienced during the past 2 years. I felt proud on that day to be standing in front of the whole school as a member of The Boys' Brigade."

CPL Chua Yuheng, 63rd Singapore Company, Kranji Secondary School

For this BB Day, Boys from 43rd (Yishun Secondary School) and 51st (Mayflower Secondary School) Singapore Companies were at Bethesda Hall (Ang Mo Kio) to serve breakfast to the community.



"Our Boys from the 26th Singapore Company (Tanglin Secondary School) celebrated BB Day by putting up a fancy drill performance during the morning assembly. To prepare for the item, the Boys practiced over the December holidays to perfect their moves and co-ordination. They even got creative and ended their fancy drill with a 'bang' using party poppers! Well done, Boys!" Ms Valerie Chia, BB Teacher-in-charge



A CHAIN IS NO STRONGER THAN ITS WEAKEST LINK

MR STANLEY KHOR (LTA) / SCL DERIC ISAIAH LAU 9th Singapore Company, Westwood Secondary School

We chose to adopt the proverb by Thomas Reid, "A chain is no stronger than its weakest link.", as the motto for our annual Leadership Training Camp on 8 to 10 March 2019. This was in line with our goal for the camp: building up our Secondary Two Boys to be leaders who will show grace to others. We hope that our Boys would develop traits such as teamwork, caring for others, leading by example and not being afraid to take the initiative.



As preparation, the Boys worked together at the start of the camp to set up the flag pole and BB flag which signifies that a BB event in school is underway.

Over the course of the 3-day 2-night camp, the Boys had leadership and drill lessons, games and field cooking. They were tested for their resilience in starting a fire using only a set of flint and steel. Shouts of achievement reverberated across the parade ground when the first squad started a fire. And what truly warmed our hearts was how they demonstrated an act of grace by sharing their flame with other squads who were unsuccessful.



Lighting a fire using flint and steel for field cooking.



While it may have been a culture shock for the new recruits who were not from a uniformed group previously, the senior Boys did their best in helping them to assimilate to the new environment.

The highlight of the camp was the Passing Out segment as parents were invited to pin on new name tags for the Secondary One recruits. And they had the opportunity to witness their sons leaving the camp with a heightened sense of belonging after three fruitful days with the close knit family of the 9th Singapore Company.







"From this camp, I learnt that I should never leave my peers behind even if they are slower; and always to do things as a team. The most memorable part of the camp was when I was assigned to command the Passing Out segment. I truly enjoyed the Boys' looks of accomplishment on finishing the camp well." LCP Simon Thet (pictured, sixth from right in the last row)



up for activities such as abseiling, flying fox, high elements ropes course, orienteering, archery, ropes course for Juniors, artificial caving, basic lifesaving and 1-star kayaking.



L to R: Lin Han, Fiern Tan, Officer Aaron Tan, Wessley Ng and Jericho Lim

"Despite the fact that the Boys were frightened, they put on a brave front to overcome their fear of heights. It was heartening to see them encouraging one another." Mr Aaron Tan, BB Teacher-in-charge, 106J Singapore Company, Gan Eng Seng Primary School

"Although we did high elements last year at the P5 Camp, I was still afraid of heights. With every step forward, my legs were shaking like jelly. I kept telling myself "I can do it" and I completed the high elements course!"

#### Junior Jericho Lim

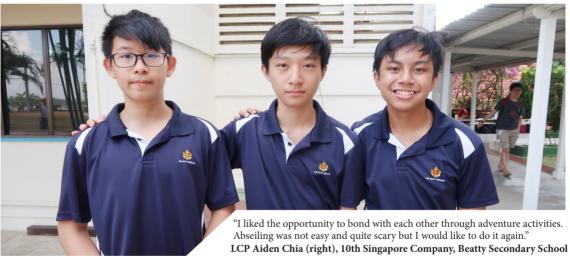
"Being more experienced in putting on the safety harness, I was tasked to assist the juniors. Instantly, I felt like a 'big brother."

Junior Wessley Ng











Orienteering at BB/GB Campsite



Archery at BB/GB Campsite



Ropes course for Junior Boys at BB HQ

# CONTRACTING (LTA)

Captain, 61st Singapore Company, Queensway Secondary School



As part of the Company's long-term commitment to bless the senior citizens in St. Andrew's Nursing Home, the Boys partnered Church of Our Saviour's Community Services Ministry to put up a Chinese New Year celebration for more than 200 residents, their families and staff. The Company was privileged to have some of the Boys' parents join in as well.





With a team of more than 30 Officers, Primers, senior Boys and Secondary One recruits, the Company helped to set up the venue, planned and facilitated a game of Bingo. They also worked as motivators during the dance and song performances and distributed over 200 servings of refreshments.





The Boys blessed the residents with mandarin oranges and gave each staff a sunflower as a token of encouragement.

LCP Poon Jun Xin recounted of his experience, "The CNY celebration was fun as we interacted with the elderly and brought happiness to them as well as the staff at the nursing home. What I have learnt from this experience is that we must be patient with the elderly and not get mad at them easily even if they asked the same questions repeatedly."

## EXPANDING THE EXPLORERS PROGRAMME





Elder Gan Kim Yong handing badges to Explorers from Chen Li Presbyterian Kindergarten (Explorers Programme Company 02) during their Enrolment Ceremony.





Explorers Programme Company 05 at Edelweiss Kindergarten on 15 February, their first day of the programme!





Explorers Programme Company 06 (Kiddy Ark Childcare & Development Centre) gearing up for their first day on 28 March. BB President's Man SCL Eugene Ho was also present to share more about The Boys' Brigade.



### A Ques FOR ADVENTURE

Stretching their physical and mental capabilities, over 300 Boys from 41 Companies formed 73 teams to compete in this year's BB Adventure Quest (Juniors Programme)! "The Spartan Race" theme was developed to encourage Boys to stay anchored in their values and finish their race in life despite challenges and obstacles. They were joined by five Boys and 10 family members who made up four teams for the Family edition of the race.

The competition was flagged off at Mayflower Secondary School and the Boys raced off to attempt the different stations in the *Fun, Physical, Teamwork and Skills Zones* located in Bishan – Ang Mo Kio Park.



Skills Zone - Where Am I?



Teamwork Zone - Score Three



Fun Zone - Drive like a pro!



Fun Zone - Kiap the Object



Fun Zone – Aim for it!





Physical Zone - Archery

Fun Zone - Aim for it!

Team 032 from 33J Singapore Company in Fairfield Methodist School (Primary) emerged Champions of the race. Following close behind was Team 021 from 21J Singapore Company in Geylang Methodist School (Primary) and 2nd Runner Up was Team 029 from 33J Singapore Company. The winning teams received trophies from our Guest-of-Honour, Dr Lim Wee Kiak, Member of Parliament for Sembawang GRC and Chairperson, Culture, Community and Youth GPC.





"Every day before the competition, my batch mates would drill and test each other on our Adventure Quest skills and knowledge. Without the help of peers and Officers, my team would not have come so far in the competition and in the BB."

Junior Ayden Cheong (pictured third from right), Champion Team



"It was exciting and memorable. I hope that rock climbing would be included in future as well!"

#### Junior Shasi Shekhran S/O Lethumanan (pictured left), 80J Singapore Company, Farrer Park Primary School

"It was great joining my nephews today! We had been wanting to run an adventure race together. The obstacle course was our favourite station as my role was to not leave anyone behind as we moved forward and finished the race together."

Mr Ramanathan S/O Thurairajoo (pictured centre), uncle of Junior Shasi Shekhran



"The longkang station was my favourite as it was fun for my child and I to work as a team. It helped us in bonding and I learnt more about what my Boy likes and dislikes. I will definitely participate in the family race again in future."

Mdm Mary Kaw (pictured in green top) with her son Junior Marcus Wei from 78J Singapore Company, Yew Tee Primary School



The 10th edition of BB Blaze saw new technological enhancements to the race! The 21km multi-disciplinary competition had Boys pass through 40 checkpoints/ activities and attempt eight challenges. They utilised the District phone application to clock points and to guide them towards the next checkpoint. The checkpoints were automatically logged in for viewing on their phones based on GPS signal. Teams were shown the distance to the checkpoints and the number of points awarded there. Some checkpoints were OR codes which teams had to scan in order to collect points. And there was also a Sprint Challenge where a pop-up screen would prompt users to start sprinting once they were in radius. The application also provided a Leader Board that was updated live as teams complete each checkpoint and the positioning of all teams could be viewed!

In preparation for the race, some Companies from the North 2 Cluster organised a mock BB Blaze on 23 March, where they invited other BB Companies as well.





BB Mock Race participants: 11th (Christ Church Sec), 13th (Sembawang Sec), 33rd (Fairfield Methodist School (Sec)), 34th (Marsiling Sec), 47th (Serangoon Garden Sec) and 66th Singapore Companies (Woodlands Sec).

On the day of the competition, a total of 501 Boys formed 118 teams and powered through activities such as abseiling, archery, bicycle maintenance/course, kayaking, map reading, orienteering, obstacle course, net casting and rock climbing.







Team A177 from 60th Singapore Company, Raffles Institution emerged as Champions. The 1st Runner Up was Team A126 from 14th Singapore Company, Anglican High School and the 2nd Runner Up was Team A106 from 5th Singapore Company, Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary School. (Teams pictured below) The winning teams received their trophies from our Guest-of-Honour, Dr Lily Neo, Member of Parliament for Jalan Besar GRC.





achieved through the teamwork, hardships and challenges. We are happy that our hard work had paid off as this is our last year before we graduate."

Champion teammates SSG Jed Lim, SSG Joel Tan, SSG Seth Ong, and SSG Daniel Chee (L to R)

### SINGAPORE OUR HOME SG75 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Singapore Our Home SG75 (https://www.sg75.sg/) is an annual competition organised to encourage youths to dream and articulate their vision of Singapore in the year 2040, with this year's theme being Sustainability: Land and Development. 145 students from 17 secondary schools made their way to National University of Singapore on 30 March as part of the secondary school students engagement process.

Ten Boys from the 11th Singapore Company (Christ Church Secondary School) as well as 11 Boys and two Primers from the 50th Singapore Company (Gan Eng Seng School) represented The Boys' Brigade (BB) in this event.















Our BB Boys engaging in discussion through Lego® Serious Play® and with the panel!

After a nourishing lunch, the participants joined a panel discussion with industry experts from Urban Redevelopment Authority, PSA Singapore, KPMG Singapore and DP Architects together with Ms Indranee Thurai Rajah, Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Finance and Education.

The panellists shared about Singapore's land and port development, the role of manpower and sustainability. Organising Chairman Professor Ho Yew Kee, who is also BB's Honorary President, said, "Minister Indranee Rajah's sharing is always encouraging and informative. In going around to ask the students for their opinions, I believe it brought a great sense of personal engagement and involvement."





"I thought that the event was very meaningful as we learnt about land use and the development of Singapore and how it will be our responsibility in the future. One thing that I learnt was that when considering what we will do with the land in the future, we have to take into consideration the needs of the people too."

WO Poh Shao Zhe Ean, 11th Singapore Company, Christ Church Secondary School



Minister Indranee Rajah

"The event was fun and insightful for me. The idea of using Lego bricks to present our ideas was different from the usual classroom setting and kept me engrossed in the activities. I learnt that Singapore needs to use land efficiently and there are many interesting ideas on how to do so. If there are similar opportunities to learn about these issues, I would be interested to do my part."

WO Xavier Ang Yan Jun, 11th Singapore Company, Christ Church Secondary School

### BB THAILAND VISIT

We welcomed our friends from BB Thailand on 2 to 5 April! The 4-day 3-night trip in Singapore was part of their annual International Exchange Programme.



Twenty-six participants comprising of seven BB Officers, 11 Senior members and 8 Junior members from seven different BB Thailand Companies spent the first day learning more about BB Singapore, touring the Heritage Gallery (pictured left) and purchasing souvenirs from BB Shop.

During the trip, the BB Thailand contingent visited 12BR Singapore Company at Anglo-Chinese School (Barker Road) and 36th Singapore Company at Compassvale Secondary School.



They were treated to a sumptuous buffet dinner hosted by some members of the Brigade Executive.



BB Thailand delegation with 12BR Singapore Company.



Creating keychains in a Design and Technology class demonstration during an exchange at Compassvale Secondary School.



Gearing up for some archery tag activity organised by 36th Singapore Company!



BB Thailand's Executive Director Mr Lam Kien Ann receiving a certificate of appreciation from Compassvale Secondary School's Principal, Mr Chia Chor Yann.



BB Thailand and 36th Singapore Company exchanging small gifts!

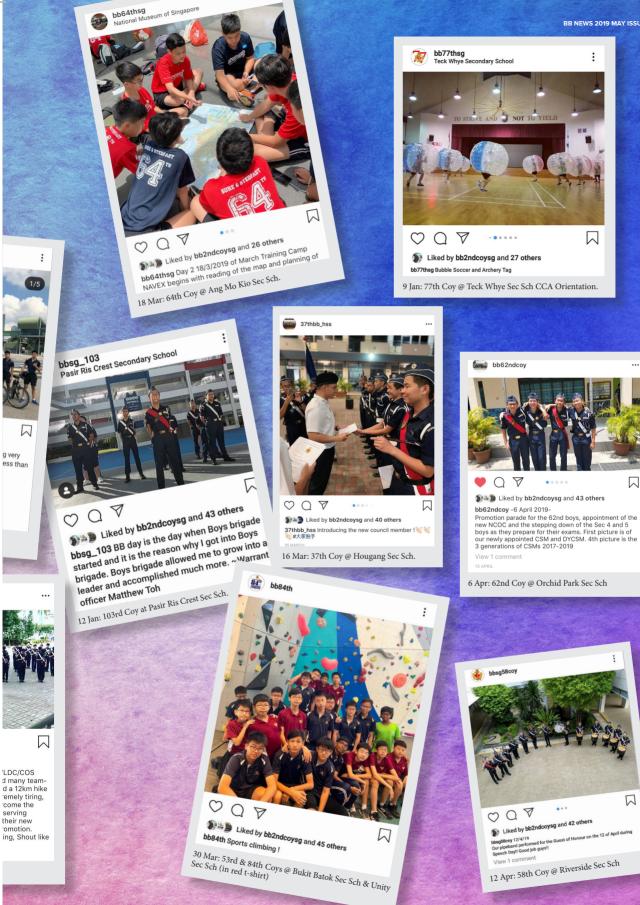




Ms Wanida Neerapon (pictured at table) from the 2nd Pathum Thani Company shared, "I was very excited when I found out that I had a chance to go for IEP. When we went to the schools for cultural exchange with BB Singapore Boys and Officers, I learnt how to communicate better with foreigners over meals and games. One thing I learnt from the Mummy ride in Universal Studios Singapore is that even though we may not always know what is ahead, we still need to face our fears and carry on. Finally, I would also like to bring my family to visit BB Singapore one day, hopefully through another IEP."



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