



BB NEWS

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

Official Publication of The Boys' Brigade in Singapore

www.bb.org.sg

2024 Issue 1

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

JUNIORS PROGRAMME ADVENTURE QUEST 2024



Adventure Open House

Welcome 93rd Coy Recruits!

22J BB Day & NYAA Butterfly
Award Ceremony 2024

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Learning Beyond Classroom

By Brigade President, LTA Patrick Koh

The Ministry of Education (MOE) will be consolidating eight outdoor adventure education sites to four locations, which will allow all schools to conduct upper Primary and lower Secondary cohort camps at these sites. Together, these four locations are projected to fully meet the camping needs of some 100,000 students participating in cohort camps and Uniformed Group programmes each year, from 2032 onwards.

What this means to The Boys' Brigade in Singapore (BB) is that in the near future, we are expected to relocate our current Sembawang Campsite to another location that is purpose-built and is expected to be bigger.

Over the years, MOE has been emphasising outdoor adventures as a part of the holistic development of our students. More often than not, these developments are evident in many aspects of our Uniformed Group programming. This is especially so in the Boys' Brigade. Throughout the Boys' 4 years journey with the BB, they can be exposed to:

01

Confidence Building

Facing physical and mental challenges outdoors builds confidence. Students discover their capabilities, learn to trust themselves and develop a positive self-image. Whether it is conquering a climbing wall or navigating a forest trail, these achievements boost their self-esteem.

02

Appreciation for Diversity

In outdoor settings, students interact with diverse peers. They learn to appreciate different perspectives, collaborate, and celebrate individual strengths. These experiences foster empathy and understanding, essential qualities in an interconnected world.

03

Connection to Nature

Outdoor adventure learning encourages students to explore natural environments. They develop a greater affinity for nature and understand the importance of environmental conservation. This connection to the outdoors promotes sustainable living.

04

Physical Fitness and Well-Being

Engaging in outdoor activities keeps students physically active. It promotes a healthy lifestyle, reduces stress, and enhances overall well-being. Whether it is hiking, paddling, or climbing, these experiences contribute to active living.

In outdoor adventure, our learning is beyond textbooks and classrooms. It encourages students to explore, learn, and grow in various settings. Let us continue to embrace this powerful learning, and nurture resilient, adaptable, and nature-loving individuals.



Remember, adventure awaits beyond the classroom walls—let's step outside and learn!

Jan to Mar Quarterly Highlights

This quarter has been a fulfilling one for our Companies! Firstly, we commemorated BB Day on 12 January, with many of the Companies celebrating it by forming parades and even holding special performances. 33rd Singapore Company in Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary) led the school with the flag raising ceremony while 48th Singapore Company in Zhonghua Secondary School and 2nd Singapore Company in Victoria School formed parades during their morning assembly.

In addition to BB Day, the Companies were busy engaging the Secondary One juniors during BB Recruitment period. The 50th Singapore Company in Gan Eng Seng School interacted with the Secondary Ones at their CCA trials showcase while the 60th Singapore Company in Raffles Institution and 31st Singapore Company in Bowen Secondary School engaged their juniors through games such as archery. We warmly welcome the new recruits who are joining our BB Family this year and we hope that many of them will be enriched by the experience and make many new friends in BB!



33rd Singapore Company in Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary) led the school with the flag raising ceremony during BB Day

Our Companies were also active in the annual fundraising campaign of BB Week 2024 in March. Many Companies shared testimonials from their Boys and Officers, highlighting the significant impact that the BB has made in their lives.

Lastly, the March holidays provided Companies with the opportunity to organise camps! 36th Singapore Company in Compassvale Secondary School organised outdoor cooking and night hike while 93rd Singapore Company in Yuying Secondary School organised archery and cycling. Other Companies such as 87th Singapore Company in Northbrooks Secondary School even organised basha tent-making and kayaking activities! What an adventure for the Boys!



48th Singapore Company in Zhonghua Secondary School forming a parade during morning assembly during BB Day



50th Singapore Company in Gan Eng Seng School interacted with the Secondary Ones at their CCA trials for 2024 recruitment



31st Singapore Company in Bowen Secondary School engaging the Secondary Ones through indoor archery for 2024 recruitment



62nd Singapore Company in Orchard Park Secondary School sharing a testimonial in appeal for BB Week



93rd Singapore Company in Yuying Secondary School organised cycling as one of their March holiday camp activities



87th Singapore Company in Northbrooks Secondary School organised basha tent-making as one of their March holiday camp activities

Adventure Open House

The Adventure Open House was organised on 3 February and the Boys had an enjoyable time under the sun and being in the water! 80 Boys from 6 BB Companies participated in the Kayaking Star 1 and Stand-Up Paddling workshops at the BB/GB Campsite in Sembawang. It has certainly been an adventure and fun-filled day for these Boys!

Testimonial by SGT Kin Zhong Liang from 86th Singapore Company in Jurongville Secondary School:



Kayaking has opened up a world of new skills for me to pick up. These skills include drawing stroke, lifting and carrying a kayak. Through this activity, I gained resilience by learning not to give up when I am tempted to give in to exhaustion. Kayaking has always been a venture to go beyond, both as an individual and as a team, especially when we are experiencing a strong wave or trying to gain a new skill.



Juniors Programme Conference

A total of 45 Captains, Officers and Teachers from 39 Companies attended the Juniors Programme Conference at the BB Headquarters on 29 February. Among the list of items briefed were the Juniors Programme Adventure Quest (JPAQ), updates on the application and criteria for the Gold Award and the standardisation of uniform for Officers.





Welcome 93rd Coy Recruits!

By LTA Freddy Tan, 93rd Singapore Company in Yuying Secondary School

2024 is a new season for the 93rd Singapore Company in Yuying Secondary School as we officially moved our Co-Curricular Activity (CCA) to Fridays. We first welcomed our new batch of Secondary Ones on 19 January. Three weeks later, we have a total of 15 Secondary Ones and two new Secondary Twos who decided to switch CCA to join us. We are thankful for a good number of Boys this year.

In the past three weeks, we started off with some Target Badge lessons to help them to integrate well and learn more about the Boys' Brigade. The new Boys had the chance to learn some drills and even took part in an inter-level Captain's Ball game where they played against their seniors. We created opportunities for our Secondary Ones to feel at home in the BB. On 2 February, we continued with our Target and Drill Lessons as usual, but we knew that the Boys were all excited because they knew there was going to be a Pizza Party. True enough, the Boys had a good time with some great pizza and drinks. Just look at their smiles!

We hope that they will continue to bond well together, build meaningful friendships and be part of the brotherhood here, and grow up to be gentlemen who will love and bless the people around them. We also hope they will exhibit all the habits that tend towards true manliness and are thankful for the opportunity to nurture them.



COME AND SEE

By Brigade Chaplain, Rev Daniel Tong

What comes to mind when considering an adventure? Camping. Canoeing. Trekking. Backpacking. Hot Air Ballooning. Overnight Cycling. Bouldering. Sailing. Bungee Jumping, plus much more.

The Cambridge Dictionary defines "adventure" as "an unusual, exciting, and possibly dangerous activity, such as a trip or experience, or the excitement produced by such an activity"; and without a doubt most if not all of the above stated activities would stir within us a sense of excitement. How about trepidation?

Take another look at the Cambridge definition. Which part of it captures your attention? Without a doubt, I am sure the phrase "possibly dangerous activity" would be high on many people's list.

Every adventure – be it an outing, a camp, an obstacle course, a swim session, etc. – carries an element of jeopardy and risk. This explains the necessity of parental consent, safety regulations, insurance cover, and coaching for our various BB activities; not to curb our participation in a "possibly dangerous activity," but safeguards to ensure we get the most out of these adventures.

Adventures are "unusual" in that it is not something we would normally engage in, and "exciting" in that it stretches our credibility, capability and capacity, and yes, "possibly dangerous."

We should not allow a fear of the unknown to turn us away from adventures, however, because new experiences challenge our perspectives and expand our horizons, which aids the building of character. The Brigade has, from its inception, practiced the philosophy of learning through adventure, a philosophy which has benefitted many Boys.

What is required of our Boys – and their parents – is a little step of faith to try something new, to explore other possibilities.

In John chapter 1, a new disciple of Jesus Christ, Philip, shared his new found faith with Nathanael. Nathanael, however, was sceptical and replied Philip saying, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" to which Philip simply replied, "Come and see" (John 1:46). This is the invitation of the Brigade: come join us on an adventure of a life-time, and see for yourself its eternal worth.





A 64th Coy Yearly Tradition

By SSG Supachai Sombat, 64th Singapore Company in Ang Mo Kio Secondary School

Annually, during Chinese New Year, along with invited alumni, we hold a Company Lohei for the Boys. This year, we ordered pizza, along with a set of Lohei for each Squad. It was a very delightful activity, and we enjoyed reciting all the prosperous and lucky phrases, tossing up a good fortune. I can still vividly remember the Boys, all excited, restless, and ready to start with the Lohei. It was a very heartwarming sight to see the Boys so jovial. At the end of the day, the Boys left school happily with wonderful memories and full stomachs. The event was very entertaining, and everyone had a good time interacting and bonding with each other. I was overjoyed to see everyone's hard work and commitment pay off. Special mention goes to the Officers, Primers and especially the In-Charge(s), whose hard work made this activity a success!



Juniors Programme Adventure Quest

391 Boys from 40 Primary Schools competed in the Juniors Programme Adventure Quest at West Coast Park! The competition tested the Boys in many domains - from core adventure knowledge and skills acquired along the BB journey like first aid and knot-tying, to activities that challenged Boys to apply their abilities and learning in sports such as Archery Target Shoot and Obstacle Course stations. We were honoured to have Honorary President of The Boys' Brigade, Lieutenant General (Ret) Winston Choo, present the awards to our winning teams and to give a word of encouragement to our Boys. We also thank Kent Ridge Secondary School for kindly hosting this event.

Congratulations to:

Champion – Team 24 from 49J Singapore Company in St Hilda's Primary School

1st Runner-Up – Team 48 from 80J Singapore Company in Farrer Park Primary School

2nd Runner-Up – Team 65 from 42J Singapore Company in Nanyang Primary School

We congratulate all Boys for stepping up to this challenge and completing this milestone event in the final year of their Primary School!



Winning Team 24 (Champion) from 49J Singapore Company in St Hilda's Primary School with GOH Honorary President, Lieutenant General (Ret) Winston Choo



Winning Team 48 (2nd place) from 80J Singapore Company in Farrer Park Primary School



Winning Team 65 (3rd Place) from 42J Singapore Company in Nanyang Primary School

Testimonial by Junior Nathaniel Tan from 12BR (J) Singapore Company in Anglo-Chinese School (Primary):

“

We trained for a few weeks for the competition. We had to complete a minimum of 8 stations around West Coast Park. We had to work together and persevere throughout all the game stations. Although it was scorching hot, we had fun. There was this game where we had to start a flint and use it to light a cotton ball. It was very hard but we affirmed each other and succeeded! We learnt a lot of important things like teamwork and leadership.

”



Boys participating in the Trolley station where they were challenged to bring all the scattered balls back to the starting line while ensuring that their feet were on the plank



Boys participating in the Archery Target Shoot station



Boys applying their first aid knowledge and skills at one of the stations



Boys participating in Tent-Pitching station



Boys participating in Bridge Too Far station where they were challenged to transport all team members from point A to point B, using only wooden planks and bricks without touching the ground



Boys participating in the Bicycle Challenge Course

22J BB Day & NYAA Butterfly Award Ceremony 2024

By LTA William Ho, 22J Singapore Company in Anderson Primary School

The 22J Singapore Company in Anderson Primary School commemorated BB Day on 12 January. It was a proud moment as they put on their full uniform to form a contingent for this occasion.

The Lead Boy, Jayden Tan, gave the commands together with Squad Leader Arjjun who read the BB Message. It was also an opportune time for our Principal, Mdm Delia Hoo, to give out National Youth Achievement Award (NYAA) Butterfly Awards to our Boys. It was the first time Anderson Primary School submitted the entry for this inaugural award. Here are what the Boys felt about their experiences.

"When I was on the stage, I felt nervous as I was facing more than a thousand students in the school hall. I overcame my fears and was glad to read out the messages smoothly. I am very happy and excited to receive the NYAA Butterfly award. It was a rewarding experience to achieve the hours required to serve the school community. I was involved in lending out game sets to the students during recess. I am grateful for the opportunity to help my fellow schoolmates."

Lead Boy Jayden Tan

"I found it challenging to fulfill the requirements set out in NYAA Award. But it was worth the effort."

**Chief Lead Boy Xavier Phua,
Contingent Commander**



Boys reciting the National Pledge with the school



Squad Leader G. Arjjun and Lead Boy Jayden Tan sharing their experiences in BB



Xavier Phua, our Chief Lead Boy, receiving the Inaugural National Youth Achievement Award (Butterfly Award) from Mdm Delia Hoo, Principal, Anderson Primary School



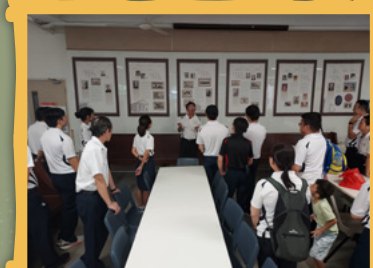
22J Singapore Company with the School Leaders and BB teachers

Officer Cadet Orientation

39 Officers from 22 Companies attended the Officer Cadet Orientation at Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church on 2 March. They were briefed on the BB tradition, BB history and reasons for serving, beliefs and method, roles and responsibilities of an Officer. They also went on the BB Founder's Trail to trace the steps of our BB Founder, J M Fraser, to understand how our BB heritage leads to our present. May these new Officers appreciate the heart of being an Officer and may they grow in their service in the BB!

Testimonial by OCT Angelyn Tan from 69J Singapore Company in Xinghua Primary School:

"OCO is an eye opener for me to experience the depth and rich history of the Boys' Brigade. I get to understand the need for discipline in simple things like wearing the uniform properly. I am inspired by the commitment of the Officers; some serving as long as 30 years. I am humbled to know that there is so much more to learn and to embrace to be a good role model for the Boys. I am thankful to all the Officers and the staff involved to keep the passion burning for this mission to nurture youths."



Officers learning more about the history of BB at Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church



Officers brainstorming on the group discussion activity where they were given case studies to explore



Officers visiting the old Elections Department of Singapore which was one of the stations in the BB Founder's Trail



Sharing from 33J Chief Lead Boy

By Chief Lead Boy Ian Tay, 33J Singapore Company in Fairfield Methodist School (Primary)

The 33J Singapore Company's vision is to nurture servant leaders who embody the values of confidence, resilience, responsibility, discipline and drivenness. At the BB, we are given opportunities to develop these values. The annual camp is one event that allowed us to actively practice our Company's vision to our friends and fellow teachers, Officers, and seniors. The camp involved all three Uniformed organisations: The Girls' Brigade, Red Cross Youth and The Boys' Brigade. Managing a big group that includes members from various organisations can be a challenge but the leaders remained calm, composed, firm, and disciplined. One example of how teamwork is utilised at the camp is in the planning of games. The leaders and older Boys take on the responsibility of brainstorming, organising, and delegating tasks to ensure that the games run smoothly and that everyone is involved. Other than the annual camp, weekly activities such as comic drawing, archery, and fencing are also organised.

Last year, I attended the Juniors Programme Character Quest where I had the opportunity to participate in a competition, showcasing my leadership skills and teamwork. Looking ahead, my aspirations are deeply rooted in my desire to continue serving my school, friends, and the Boys' Brigade using the leadership skills I have developed. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my BB teachers, seniors and Officers for guiding and imparting great values to me, and to my fellow peers for their friendship.



Chief Lead Boy Ian Tay standing in the center together with the 2024 cohort of leading Boys



Chief Lead Boy Ian Tay participated in the Junior Programme Character Quest 2023 and their team won 2nd place in the competition



Chief Lead Boy Ian Tay sharing at the 2024 Enrolment Service on 2 March

A Time To Remember @ 44th Coy

By LTA Goh Ser Guan, 44th Singapore Company in Fuchun Secondary School



VR (Virtual Reality) gameplay sessions

The 44th Singapore Company decided to kick off the year with a bang by planning a variety of captivating activities to inject new energy into our parades. From the heart-pounding excitement of Virtual Reality Gaming to the collaborative delight of Art Jamming, there is truly something for the Boys to enjoy and participate in.

Our parades signify more than just regular parades. They are lively showcases of camaraderie and continuous growth. Consider our Escape Room challenges, for instance. They are not simply about cracking the problems but about fostering teamwork and sharpening problem-solving skills within one hour. It's truly inspiring to witness our Boys, Primers, helpers, and Officers band together, leveraging their strengths to conquer each challenge head-on.

Then there is Laser Tag. It is not merely about running around and tagging opponents; it is about strategic planning and lightning-fast reflexes. It provides a holistic workout for both the body and mind. However, let us not overlook the quieter, more contemplative activities like Pottery and Art Jamming. These sessions allow Boys to unleash their creativity and express themselves freely. There is an indescribable therapeutic quality to moulding clay or painting on a canvas.



Laser Tag adventures



Pottery-making class



Art-jamming session



Bowling session



Prawning session

Prawning provides a hands-on, serene escape into the great outdoors where participants armed with patience and determination try to catch prawns. Finally, no sequence of events would be truly fulfilling without a touch of friendly rivalry. Bowling presents itself as a timeless pastime, offering members a chance to engage in lighthearted amusement and build camaraderie, thereby nurturing stronger bonds within the company.

In summary, we aim to provide a diverse range of activities that entertain, educate, and inspire. Whether it be exciting adventures or peaceful nature outings, there is something for everyone to enjoy and grow from and create lasting memories together!

Primers Summit

79 Primers from 25 Companies participated in the Primers Summit on 24 February at the BB Headquarters. They learned more about Money Management for Youth from the Institute of Financial Literacy and Introduction to Coaching by Bryden Group.

Testimonial by CLT Nathaniel Asher Ong from 33rd Singapore Company in Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary):



Today I learned the different methods to be a facilitator and what being a mentor means. I enjoyed the opportunity to interact with Primers from other Companies as we discussed how we can be better mentors to the Boys. I will use the knowledge from this session to reflect on how I should go about mentoring the Boys.

Testimonial by CLT Andric Goh from 91st Singapore Company in Regent Secondary School:

The Primers Summit was a valuable opportunity for our personal and professional growth. Throughout the workshop, the facilitator provided insights and practical techniques such as understanding the importance of active listening and fostering a supportive environment for growth. This interactive nature allowed hands-on application of coaching principles, leaving me feeling inspired and equipped with new tools that I could use in my Company!



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