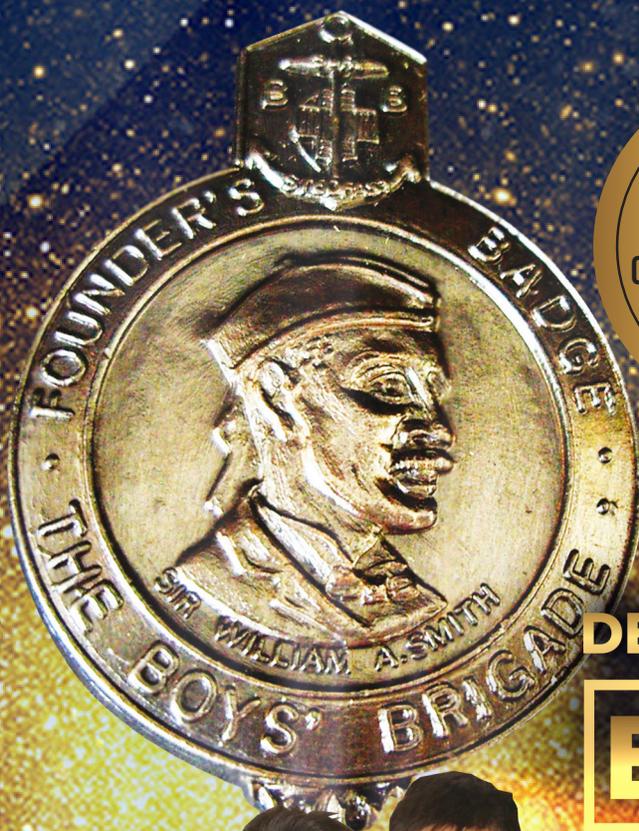


# BBNEWS

Official Publication Of The Boys' Brigade In Singapore

MCI (P) 045/08/2017



**ALSO  
AVAILABLE**  
ON OUR BB WEBSITE AT  
[www.bb.org.sg](http://www.bb.org.sg)

**DEVELOPING  
OUR  
BOYS**



# GENERAL INFORMATION



## THE BOYS' BRIGADE

### 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

### OUR MISSION

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

### OUR BELIEFS

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.

## 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)

## BB NEWS

The BB News is the official publication of The Boys' Brigade in Singapore. The opinions expressed in the articles are the personal view of the writers and do not necessarily represent the policies of The Boys' Brigade.

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Ms Diana Thio Chui Hwa (East 2)  
Mr Ho Yew Keong (West 1)  
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Mr Edwin Lim Shun Wei (West 3)

### Executive Director

Mr Desmond Koh

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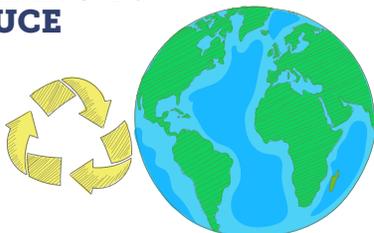
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# THE WISE LEARN SO BE WISE!

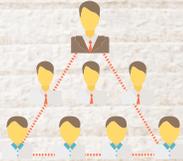
**LTA POH LEONG BERG**  
*Brigade President*

Lifelong learning and having the skills and knowledge needed for the future are critical. As an individual and as an organization, The Boys' Brigade must adopt the attitude of being lifelong learners so that we can continue to be relevant, improve the quality of programmes for the Boys and officers, and future-proof the organization to enable her to continue her mission.

Learning new skills and acquiring new knowledge are Important because



Founder's Award  
(Highest Award in Secondary School)



# 01

It helps us grow individually and corporately, developing our knowledge base and improving ourselves and the organisation for the better.

There is a saying in the book of Proverbs: "Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance". This tells us that to learn, the wise listen, seek advice and remain humble so that they will increase in learning and grow in knowledge and wisdom, thus enabling them to think better and do better.



# 02

It enables us to access new and different possibilities and opportunities.

Wisdom is acquired by listening, more than talking. We have two ears, but one mouth. We should be quick to hear and slow to speak. But we know that listening is hard because we are impatient and in self-deception, think we know more.



# 03

It will shape the way we think about things and enable us to act in ways that are more efficient, effective and productive.

Knowledge, Understanding, and Wisdom are often used interchangeably but they differ in the essence of their meanings and their applications in our life.

Those with knowledge are able to collect, remember, and access information and facts. But, it is possible to have knowledge and lack understanding and wisdom. Someone might have the facts, but not know what they mean or what to do next.



Gold Award  
(Highest Award in Primary School)



President's Award  
(Highest Award in Primers Programme)

Those with understanding are able to extract the meaning out of the knowledge. They “see through” the facts to the dynamics of what, how, and why. Understanding is a lens which brings the facts into focus and produces principles.

Those with wisdom know what actions to take next. They do the right thing in the given situation using the best means at the best time to achieve the best ends. In contrast, there are many who have great knowledge and understanding but who consistently do the wrong thing.

It is important for us, with the vision ‘to be the youth organization of choice’, to continuously develop and learn new skills and attain new knowledge. Much more importantly, we need understanding and godly wisdom to make the best use of those new skills and knowledge to better the organization and become a youth organization known to make a positive difference to the youths during their time with the BB.

**Wisdom**

Invest time in the lives of the Boys to nurture and shape their character



**Understanding**

Badgework is a means for officers to mentor and develop Boys

**Knowledge**

How to do badgework

**An example of knowledge, understanding and wisdom**

# ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW

REV DANIEL TONG WEE HWA  
*Brigade Chaplain*

Can anyone say that he or she knows it all and can do it all? If you answer, "Yes," then might I ask if you can fly an aeroplane AND pilot a submarine – and I don't mean in a computer game, but the real thing! It is probably not impossible to find someone who can do both, but would this person be equally well versed in bio-engineering, computer coding, rock climbing, astronomy, poetry, statistics, surgery, speed racing, ..... ad infinitum?

Our world is full of wonder and knowledge for which we can spend our whole lifetime exploring and discovering, and just barely scratch the surface. In the face of this, we can choose simply to declare such endeavours an impossibility, or choose each and every day to seek to experience and learn something new. The Brigade encourages all in its ranks to opt for the latter so to constantly learn and grow in knowledge, wisdom and grace.

For each of us to achieve this, I suggest the importance of the qualities of Humility, Teachability and Courage (HTC).

First, we must be Humble to acknowledge that there are things we do not know and cannot do;

and seek help in these areas. Second, we need to be Teachable so to receive instruction from others, be they strangers, competitors or those we are not particularly fond of. Third, we need Courage to stick our necks out to try new things and take on challenges – even though we might fail – and to keep persevering even in the face of difficulty and failure. There will always be something

new for us to learn. Let us purpose to experience and learn something new daily, praying that in the process we may grow in appreciation of this wonderful world our Heavenly Father has created, along with grace and wisdom to deal with all the challenges that will befall us in life. This do, ever grateful that we need not face these alone, but have by our side a loving and faithful God, and a mighty Band of Brothers.

Proverbs 2:1-6



# PLANTING ROOTS

**MAE YANG YUMEI**

*Teacher-in-charge, 42J Singapore Company  
Nanyang Primary School*

On 12 May 2018, 43 Boys from the 42J Singapore Company spent their Saturday morning learning all about how terrariums work. They gathered excitedly at the school canteen to put their knowledge about plants and the hydrological or water cycle to good use. They answered the instructor enthusiastically as he quizzed them on how a self-sustaining environment could be created within the terrarium. They brought home their own creations and were taught how to care for them.



“It was fun and I enjoyed putting the plants in the most as it’s the first time I’ve planted anything. I gave my terrarium to my mum and she loved it!”

**Junior Dexter Yune Wei Yih**



“My favourite part is when I get to decorate my terrarium with beautiful colourful stones. I placed my terrarium on our dining room table and my parents thought that it was very nice.”

**Junior Shi Ze**





# CONQUERING JOHOR'S HIGHEST PEAK: MOUNT OPHIR

LTA BAY QINYAO

*Captain, 45th Singapore Company, Xinmin Secondary School*

Twenty Boys and 10 Primers, Teachers and Officers from 45th Singapore Company embarked on a gruelling trek to conquer Mount Ophir for our recent Company Training Camp during the school holidays from 10 to 14 June. At 1,276m, this mountain in Johor is listed as Malaysia's 6th most difficult to climb! Its summit is located between the border of Muar and Malacca.



River scrambling



The day before our actual hike began, we had the opportunity to try both river scrambling and waterfall abseiling. We had to use all our limbs to climb upstream during river scrambling! We then set up abseiling lines and walked down the waterfall with safety harnesses. It was refreshing to have chilling water gushing past us as we manoeuvred downwards.



Waterfall abseiling



Our real adventure began on the second day of camp from the Gunung Ledang National Park Headquarters. We managed to reach our first checkpoint after climbing some 700 steps from the foot of the mountain.



Checkpoint 1: Secondary 1 Boys at Bukit Sempit



Checkpoint 2: Secondary 2 Boys at Hentian Meranti

And we managed to reach the campsite, which is situated between Checkpoints 4 and 5, in a timely manner. Before the sun set, we went for a rewarding dip in the river beside the campsite. The cool water refreshed us after all that walking that made us sweaty! We then prepared a appetizing dinner of macaroni soup with fish balls and vegetables. The cool breeze at night served as natural air conditioning for all of us as we had never experienced this chilly temperature outdoors.



Checkpoint 3: Secondary 3 Boys at Batu Orkid





We continued with the trek the next day after a night of rest. We encountered KFC, not Kentucky Fried Chicken, but Killing Fitness Centre instead! It is the steepest part of the trail and comprises of a stretch of ladders, boulders and ropes along the pathway to the summit.



Our next challenge is the famous 'Batu Hampar' (rock face) section which comprised of 3 rocks with smooth faces tilted at between 40 to 60 degrees! The first two were quite easy and could be climbed using the tree roots. For the last rock, we had to pull ourselves up using ropes.



Once we were done scaling the big rocks, we prepared ourselves for the summit attack! The last part of the trail requires us to trek across a narrow ridge. As it was nearing the Hari Raya Puasa festive period, we found ourselves to be the only hikers at the summit. We could not see Malacca and the Straits of Malacca from the summit as it was a foggy afternoon that day. But we experienced walking amidst the clouds!

Although the hike was physically demanding, we were constantly filled with awe as we spotted interesting plants, birds and insects. As we were descending from the summit, I observed how the Boys encouraged each other to finish what they had set out to do. The encouragement was contagious and none of the Boys gave up hiking halfway!

Commenting on the trip, SGT Hiew Zheng Han said, "Reaching the summit as a Company was definitely something wonderful. Even though many of us struggled due to different reasons, we still pushed ourselves and cheered each other on until we reached the summit. I hope this never-give-up spirit could be applied to our normal drill parades, learning first-aid and going on adventures."



# FOUNDER'S AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY



SSG Brandon Mok from 2nd Singapore Company in Victoria School receiving his Founder's Badge.



The Founder's Award Presentation Ceremony was held at the Grand Ballroom of Orchid Country Club on 30 June 2018. A total of 136 Boys from 33 Companies received the highest award in the Seniors Programme, the Founder's Award. The ceremony was graced by Guest-of-Honour Er Dr Lee Bee Wah, Member of Parliament for Nee Soon GRC, who arrived to a symphony of bagpipes playing in the background.

Congratulating the Boys on their achievements, Dr Lee shared that one of the many things she finds of great value is that the uniformed group experience brings people from different backgrounds, beliefs and attitudes together.



During dinner, WO Chua Yi Dao of the 5th Singapore Company in Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary School, shared the poignant testimony of his Founder's Badge journey that moved the hearts of those present. He expressed his appreciation to his BB Company and family for guiding and encouraging him, especially after the passing of his father two years ago. He said, "I am proud to say that it is here in the Boys' Brigade where I experienced such strong comradeship and support."



The Principal of 10th Singapore Company in Beatty Secondary School, Mr Ling Khoon Chow, was there to support the Founder's Men. He said, "The Boys' Brigade is an organisation that develops good character in students. They hone the leadership skills of Boys and engage them in wide-ranging activities such as adventure and community service."

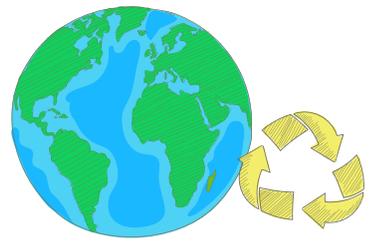


Ms Rachel Eng, mother of WO Emmanuel Low Jun Ee, 32nd Singapore Company, Damai Secondary School said, "I am proud that he completed the BB journey and attained the Founder's Award. Initially, I was worried about whether he could cope with the adventure activities. I am appreciative that the BB Teachers are responsive in providing me with regular updates on his progress."

WO Nixen Samuel Gozali, 61st Singapore Company in Queensway Secondary School said, "The most challenging aspect of attaining the Founder's Badge was that I needed to complete all the Brigade-level assessments, especially Adventure Stage 3. I practised with my friends together after school and sought the help of my Officer as well.



# BUILDING TO REDUCE



**LTA GERARD SU**  
*Captain, 5J Singapore Company*  
*Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Primary School*

In April, 70 Boys from 5J Singapore Company made their way to Ground-Up Initiative at ORTO (near Khatib MRT) for a hands-on activity that would teach them life skills in a unique way.



With a goal to increase the Boys' awareness of reducing their carbon footprint, they were provided recycled wood to build toy cars. The Boys learnt how to use handy tools such as hammers, screwdrivers and drills for the assembly work.



The fun didn't stop there! The Boys were also given coloured markers to paint their toy cars and proceeded thereafter to race their newly created toys on ramps built from recycled cardboards.



# PIPES EXPERIENCE WORKSHOP



Every Monday and Thursday during the June holidays, 20 Boys from five BB Companies would make their way to the Brigade headquarters. They are from Companies without Pipe Bands; attending the Pipes Experience Workshop. Each two-hour session saw them getting a first-hand experience of the tradition which hails back to our Scottish roots. A number of the Boys even managed to obtain a Stage 1 Piping badge after proving their proficiency by the last of eight sessions.



Thaddeus said that his teacher had encouraged him to play the bagpipes and he hopes to perform for his school. Chiming in, Wei Hao said that the lessons were fun and that pipes were quite easy to learn.

**LCP Yeo Wei Hao, LCP Lee Jian Quan,  
LCP Thaddeus Lim (L to R)**  
32nd Singapore Company, Damai Secondary School



Shaniel said that he had enjoyed learning a new skill and earning a new badge.

**PTE Shaniel Udonwa**  
99th Singapore Company,  
Canberra Secondary School





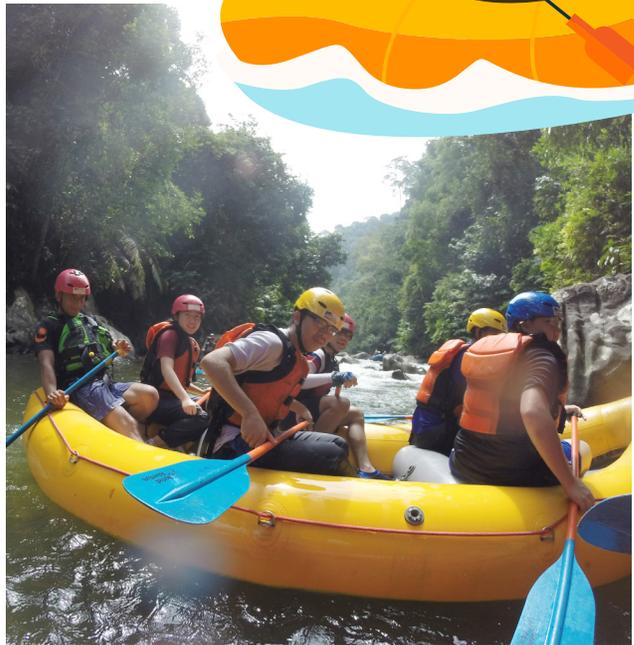
Our biggest group as yet, 72 Primers and 8 Officers from 14 BB Companies headed to Gopeng, Perak for a 4-day/3-night adventure trip from 11 to 14 June. One of the objectives for this annual Primers Challenge is to forge camaraderie and teamwork amongst members of different Companies in Singapore. Given the natural environment that Perak provided the Primers, they were also exposed to new thrilling adventure activities.

After arriving at Earth Camp, the Primers rested and settled into their home away from home for the next couple of days. On the second day, the Primers readied themselves for an exhilarating day ahead of them as they participated in white-water rafting and waterfall abseiling. These activities are adrenaline pumping as our Primers conquered their fears; surrounded by the amazing scenery as they made their way down the rocky slope of the waterfall and also navigated rapid rushes.





# CHALLENGES TOGETHER



On the third day, an adventure race was organised to assess the Primers' teamwork. They participated in the high elements activity and explored the beautiful surroundings perched above ground.





It was a short trip, but the Primers treasured the opportunities to rise up to the adventure and team challenges in an unfamiliar environment.

“For me, the defining moments were the kindness showered by my team mates. As someone who had not done much physically challenging activities, I found myself falling behind often. But there would always be someone beside me encouraging me to push on. During the 5km Adventure Race trek, my team mate saw that I was struggling to hold my helmet whilst running and immediately helped me with it for most of the race. And at the high elements course, he was always turning back to check on me for most of the time.”

**CLT Chen Si Ru, Ashley**  
60th Singapore Company,  
Raffles Institution



“I managed to befriend not only Primers, but even Officers from different Companies. The camaraderie grew stronger as we overcame different challenges as a team. It certainly was not an easy task to live and sleep in an environment with mosquitos and other lifeforms crawling everywhere. However, we learn to live with the discomfort, started appreciating nature and focused on the fellowship.”

**CLT Muthukumaran Yogeewaran**  
11th Singapore Company in Christ Church Secondary School,  
Studying at Jurong-Pioneer Junior College

# JM Fraser Awards Presentation Ceremony

The annual JM Fraser Awards Presentation Ceremony was held at ITE College West on 26 May. Over 400 Principals, Teachers, Chaplains, Officers and Boys celebrated the achievements of 97 BB Companies in delivering programmes and activities as well as for operational excellence.



Our Guest-of-Honour Mr Desmond Lee, Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for National Development, arrived amidst a delightful bagpipes performance. After the colours march in, Boys from the 94th Singapore Company in Nan Hua High School entertained the audience with a performance drill.



The **Best Company (Juniors Programme)** was awarded to 33J Singapore Company in Fairfield Methodist School (Primary) and the **Best Company (Seniors Programme)** was awarded to 2nd Singapore Company in Victoria School.



33J Singapore Company



2nd Singapore Company

Niche Awards were also presented to BB Companies that have excelled in their field of specialisation. It also serves to inspire other Companies to emulate their examples. The winner for the **Overseas Community Development Excellence Award** is 2nd Singapore Company in Victoria School. They are lauded for their continued efforts in engaging and contributing to an adopted overseas community. Their Boys participated in overseas Values-In-Action programmes in Chiang Mai, Thailand that helped them to cultivate service-minded attitudes, organisational skills and compassion for others.



“During my trip, I had to lead my juniors and had many responsibilities to fulfil. This opportunity allowed me to lead by example and to motivate my team. I certainly look forward to future trips.”

**SSG Kong Chee Yang**

The **Niche Award for Family Involvement Excellence** was presented to 57J Singapore Company in Pei Hwa Presbyterian Primary School. The Company had started their family involvement programme as they acknowledged the need to nurture Boys by providing opportunities for their families to bond over shared experiences and spend precious time together. The activities that they organised included prawning outing, tag archery competition, Parents’ Appreciation Day, parental talks and camps.





“The family camp at RWS S.E.A. Aquarium was a good opportunity for me to spend quality time with my Boys. It allowed me to observe their interactions with their teachers and friends which helped me understand them better.”

**Mrs Wong, mother of Joel and Joseph Wong**



# TRANSFORMING LEADERSHIP

The inaugural Anchor Conference with the theme Transformational Leadership was held on 5 May at Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre. Our Guest-of-Honour Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker of Parliament of Singapore, presented his opening speech to over 100 Officers in attendance. He shared his personal thoughts on transformational leadership and said that trust and respect are important factors. He asked the audience, “What does it take for you to engender that trust? I think it’s about values. It’s about who you are as a person. Your values matter. Your values will be manifested in the little things that you do.”



Keynote speaker Mr Lim Siong Guan, founding Chairman of Honour (Singapore) shared a quote by Maya Angelou, “Courage is the most important of all the virtues, because without courage you can’t practise any other virtue consistently.” A key message from Mr Lim was, “Leadership is making good things happen that on their own will not happen. In other words, the whole point of leadership is to transform and if we fail to transform, that’s not leadership at all.”

A panel session was conducted where Officers had the opportunity to engage at a deeper level with the Guest-of-Honour, Keynote Speaker as well as Distinguished Speaker, Mr Leslie Wong, President of Young Men’s Christian Association.



The Conference featured workshops for the afternoon session such as 'Leading into the Future with Honour', 'Connecting Youths to Nature & Community', 'Meeting Real Needs, Developing Real Leaders' and more.



Facilitated by Honour (Singapore), 'Leading into the Future with Honour' focused on the importance of a culture of honour that is embraced by Singaporeans as a fundamental value in guiding Singapore's success in the future.



The aim of the workshop on 'Meeting Real Needs, Developing Real Leaders' was to explore service-learning/ values in action / community service as a powerful platform for nurturing servant leadership in BB Boys. Beyond serving in the BB, the Boys must be groomed to impact the Singapore society.



The Ground-Up Initiative facilitated the 'Connecting Youths to Nature & Community' workshop and they focused on shaping people and nurturing all-rounded leaders for the future by overcoming inhibitions, developing empathy and building resilience.

A fruitful day of activities and engaging dialogue left the Officers with renewed energy to continue leading and running programmes in their BB Companies.



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