

BB NEWS

2025 ISSUE 2

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THE BOYS' BRIGADE



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April-June Quarterly Highlights

This second quarter of 2025 saw some of our most anticipated events, including BB Blaze, which saw over 600 participants from 50 Companies. Other major highlights included the Primers Challenge and the Founder’s Award Presentation Ceremony.



67J Singapore Company’s Boys performing songs on their ukulele during their Enrolment Service

It was also an eventful one for our BB Companies! Many held their annual Enrolment and Dedication Ceremonies during this period, inducting new recruits and reaffirming the commitment of Officers, Primers, and Boys. The 67J Singapore Company from Queenstown Primary School added a special touch to their ceremony with a ukulele performance for their guests.



Boys from 21J Singapore Company at the Night Safari

The quarter concluded with the June holidays, during which many Companies held their training camps. The 21J Singapore Company from Geylang Methodist School (Primary) visited the Night Safari, while the 91st Singapore Company from Regent Secondary School enjoyed a trip to Universal Studios Singapore. The 5th Singapore Company in Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary School camped at Pulau Ubin, where Boys bonded through outdoor adventures in a rustic setting.



91st Singapore Company at Universal Studios Singapore



5th Singapore Company at their camp on Pulau Ubin

95th Anniversary Events



With our 95th Anniversary celebrations in full swing this year, do mark your calendars for the upcoming events to be a part of the festivities!

23 August 2025	95th Anniversary Family Carnival
10 October 2025	95th Anniversary Dinner & JMF Awards Presentation Ceremony

Staying True in Changing Times

by Brigade Vice-President (Innovation and Learning), LTA Oliver Loke



Can you name a famous corporation from the year 1930?

In the United States, millionaire Andrew Carnegie's U.S. Steel was an industrial giant, dominating global markets. It supplied steel for iconic structures like the Empire State Building and was a symbol of American economic might. Yet, in June 2025, 95 years later, President Donald Trump approved the sale of U.S. Steel to Nippon Steel, a Japanese company.

This moment marks more than just a business transaction. It's a reminder of how hard it is to stay the course and remain relevant, let alone do so for nearly a century.

Here in Singapore, The Boys' Brigade, founded in 1930, has not only remained relevant but has stayed true to its *Object* over the past 95 years. For us as young BB leaders, this is more important than ever in the complex world we live in.

So, how can we continue to live out the *BB Object—Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, and Self-respect*—in today's world? Here are three thoughts:

1. Remain Rooted



We must be rooted in our BB values, not just during parades or camps, but in our everyday lives. Take *obedience*, for example. It's not about blindly following orders, but honouring those placed in our lives, especially our parents, through our actions, words, and decisions.

2. Remain Polite



Politeness is an expression of *reverence*. Even when we disagree with others, we can choose to respond with calm and respect. Emotional maturity means being composed under pressure, not always easy, but always worth striving for.

3. Remain Resolute



To be resolute is to live out *discipline* and *self-respect* in action. It means living with purpose and conviction, even when it's inconvenient or unpopular. We need mentors, Officers, and role models to guide us, people who show us what wise, value-driven decisions look like in real life.

As we live out these values, our character is formed and strengthened. May you find joy in the journey of growing into a man. And in doing so, may you stand ready for whatever challenges lie ahead—*Sure & Stedfast*.



Boys celebrating with one another as they finish the BB Blaze

BB Blaze 2025

More than 600 participants from 50 Companies took part in BB Blaze 2025 across western Singapore on 5 April! Starting from Jurongville Secondary School and ending at Kent Ridge Secondary School. They braved a gruelling 20km race which included many different challenges such as archery, kayaking and an obstacle course. Continuing this year as well, there was the Open Category for Primers and Officers too.

We were honoured to have LG (Ret) Winston Choo, our Honorary Brigade President, present the awards to our winning teams and share some words of encouragement with the Boys.



LG (Ret) Winston Choo, sharing some congratulatory words to the winners.



BB Blaze 2025 Flag-Off by Brigade President, LTA Patrick Koh



Congratulations to all the teams for completing the race.

Champion - Team 021 from 12I Singapore Company in Anglo-Chinese School (Independent)
1st Runner-Up - Team 071 from 53rd Singapore Company in Bukit Batok Secondary School
2nd Runner-Up - Team 024 from 14th Singapore Company in Anglican High School



NDP 2025 Selection Exercise

A total of 64 Boys and 9 Primers from 19 Companies gathered at BB Headquarters for the highly anticipated drill contingent selection exercise for the National Day Parade (NDP) 2025. This marks the start of their journey toward representing the Brigade in the prestigious Parade and Ceremony segment on Singapore's birthday, 9 August.

The selection exercise was conducted under the keen eyes of trainers from the Republic of Singapore Air Force, who assessed the Boys' drill standards and guided them in refining their movements. Their professional input helped sharpen precision and discipline—key elements for any national parade.

The session was further uplifted by a visit from Parade Regimental Sergeant Major, MWO Lim Jie Hui, who took time to engage the Boys and offer motivating words of encouragement. His presence and support left a lasting impression on the participants as they prepare for the demanding weeks ahead.



Cluster Consultation Sessions

Across the months of April and May, BB Officers from across Singapore came together at BB Headquarters for a series of meaningful Cluster Consultation Sessions aimed at strengthening our shared mission.

Led by LTA Oliver Loke, Vice-President for Innovation and Learning, each session addressed current challenges faced by Companies and explored possibilities for future growth. He shared valuable insights and outlined the expectations for the year ahead, encouraging thoughtful reflection and active discussion.

Across the three sessions, a total of 83 Officers representing 76 Companies engaged in open dialogue, exchanged ideas, and found encouragement in one another's experiences. It was a fruitful time of connection and collaboration, reaffirming our shared commitment to the Boys' Brigade's values and purpose.

Together, we move forward with renewed vision, committed to building stronger Companies and making a lasting impact in the lives of our Boys.



NDP 2025 Trainings

Following the selection exercise, 45 Boys and 2 Primers from 16 Companies were selected and have been undergoing rigorous trainings to represent the Brigade at the National Day Parade (NDP).

Trainings began at Seletar Camp, where participants learned the expectations of national-level parade standards and interacted with other uniformed groups. These early sessions laid the foundation in discipline, drill precision, and teamwork.

Since June, the contingent has moved to weekly rehearsals at the Padang, where the actual Parade and Ceremony segment will be held. Every Saturday, the Boys have committed themselves to the demanding training sessions, rain or shine. Their hard work includes mastering drill movements, building coordination, and learning to perform as a cohesive unit. Each practice reflects the values of commitment, excellence, and perseverance.

The Boys' efforts have been supported by visits from members of the Brigade Executive, who offered encouragement and affirmed their progress. These visits have reminded the Boys of the greater purpose behind their participation — to represent not just their Companies, but the entire BB community with honour and pride.

As the Nation's 60th birthday approaches, these Boys continue to train with discipline and heart. Their journey stands as a powerful example of youth stepping up with courage and responsibility to serve on Singapore's biggest stage.



Inspired by stories from my grandfather and father, I've always dreamed of being part of the NDP. Marching with The Boys' Brigade contingent and hearing the crowd cheer, reminds me of the purpose behind my decision to join. It's a surreal and grand experience to celebrate Singapore's birthday. Despite early mornings and the heat during rehearsals, I embraced every moment, from umbrella drills to the friendships I've forged along the way. This is truly an unforgettable experience.

**SGT Daniel Yap from
86th Singapore Company in
Jurongville Secondary School**

13th Company's 40th Anniversary

BY SCL SION SILVESTER FROM 13TH SINGAPORE COMPANY IN SEMBAWANG SECONDARY SCHOOL

On 12 April 2025, the 13th Singapore Company from Sembawang Secondary School joyfully celebrated its 40th Anniversary, a meaningful milestone in our Boys' Brigade journey.

It was a night filled with nostalgia, warmth, and gratitude as many former Boys, Primers, Officers and Boys who had faithfully served the Company returned to celebrate. We were especially honoured by the presence of Minister for Health, Mr Ong Ye Kung, who graciously took time to grace this special occasion. He expressed how heart-warming it was to witness the cheers and applause of the Boys as they saw their seniors take the stage, a true reflection of the spirit that binds our 13th Company family together.

Throughout the evening, Boys, Primers, Officers, and alumni reconnected with their fellow batchmates, reminiscing about their shared experiences in the BB. They reflected on the *Object* that shaped them, *Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-respect, and all that tends toward true Christian Manliness*. It was a moment to cherish deeply, a reminder of how the BB journey builds men of character and faith.

This celebration was the fruit of nearly a year of planning, volunteering, and heartfelt contributions. From the fellowship and reunion to the award presentations, every detail was a testament to the dedication of those who have served and continue to serve in the 13th Company.

As we look to the future, may the 13th Singapore Company continue to grow, nurture, and inspire the next generation of Boys to become men, fathers, and leaders grounded in BB values. Here's to many more years of faithful service and brotherhood!



This celebration brings us all back together as one Company. As the appointed chairman of this celebration, I am deeply grateful and honoured for the opportunity to witness such a significant occasion, seeing both familiar faces and new generations come together in unity. I firmly believe that the 13th Company will continue to thrive for the next 50 years and beyond.

**Mr Malcolm Tan Jun Xi from
13th Singapore Company in
Sembawang Secondary School**



Basic Officer Training Course 01/25

A total of 16 Officers from 11 Companies came together over three weekends for the Basic Officer Training Course (BOTC) 01/25.

Day 1

Officers participated in the Intentional Mentoring Programme where they gained deep insights into BB's mentoring model. This was followed by Games That Teach, where Officers experienced how interactive games can be powerful tools for learning and reflection.

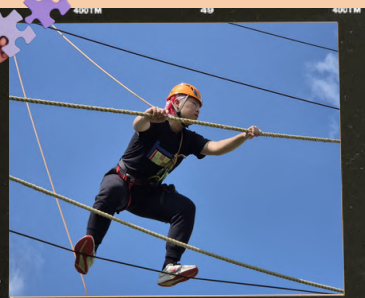


Day 2

Officers took part in Company Operations Training, tailored to the Juniors and Seniors Programmes. The day concluded with an Adversity Quotient workshop, offering tools to build personal resilience and nurture it in the Boys they lead.



The course culminated in an Adventure Weekend at the BB/GB Campsite. Officers honed their facilitation and planning skills through a RAMS assessment and a 5.4KM hike. Officers also had hands-on challenges with the Challenge Ropes Course and kayaking, building teamwork, confidence, and camaraderie.



Officers' Enrolment Ceremony 01/25

On 9 June, we officially welcomed 16 new Officers from 10 Companies at the Officers' Enrolment Ceremony (OEC) held at BB Headquarters. Congratulations to all who have taken this meaningful step in their BB journey and a warm welcome to the BB family!

The ceremony was graced by our Brigade President, LTA Patrick Koh, who opened with an inspiring address, reminding all present of the importance of staying relevant to the evolving needs of our Boys. Associate Brigade Chaplain, Rev Benjamin Fong, followed with an exhortation, leading into the heartfelt dedication and formal enrolment of our new Officers.

The event also celebrated the outstanding efforts of our Companies during BB Week 2025, held in March and April.



BB Week 2025 Award winners for Juniors Programme



Emotional Intelligence in Leadership

by Associate Brigade Chaplain, Rev Benjamin Fong



Most of us in the BB would be familiar enough with our *Object*, and its desire for the promotion of *Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-respect, and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness*. Yet even after years in the BB, many of us would admit that we still have a long way to go in embodying these habits.

This is not the result of a lack of knowledge or teaching – we generally teach these things well. But knowledge alone is not enough to cultivate such habits. If that were the case, there would be no smokers left in the world, given the overwhelming consensus on the harmful effects of smoking. What is needed is not just a change of mind, but also a change of heart – and this is where our emotions come into play. Blaise Pascal once remarked, “The heart has its reasons that reason does not know.”

Understanding our emotions will go a long way to helping what is in our head descend to our heart. Christians have understood this throughout history, but in recent times society has been catching up. The concept of “emotional intelligence” was coined to such an end, emphasising the importance of knowing not just the empirical world around us, but to also understand what is inside ourselves and those around us. This is not a passing fad, although many of the ways in which the world tries to address them will be. Understanding ourselves and our emotions are an essential part of growing in maturity, so important that it is almost assumed within Scripture to be a given.

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God;
for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.
(Psalm 42:5)



Boys helping one another with their uniforms while training for NDP 25

It's a rhetorical question, and yet the Psalmist could only come to this point by recognising a deep disquiet within. Recognising our emotions enables us to respond to the circumstances around us in constructive (and not destructive) ways. For the Psalmist in Ps 42, awareness of his inner sorrow drew the Psalmist closer towards God, awakening a deep yearning for God “as a deer pants for water”.

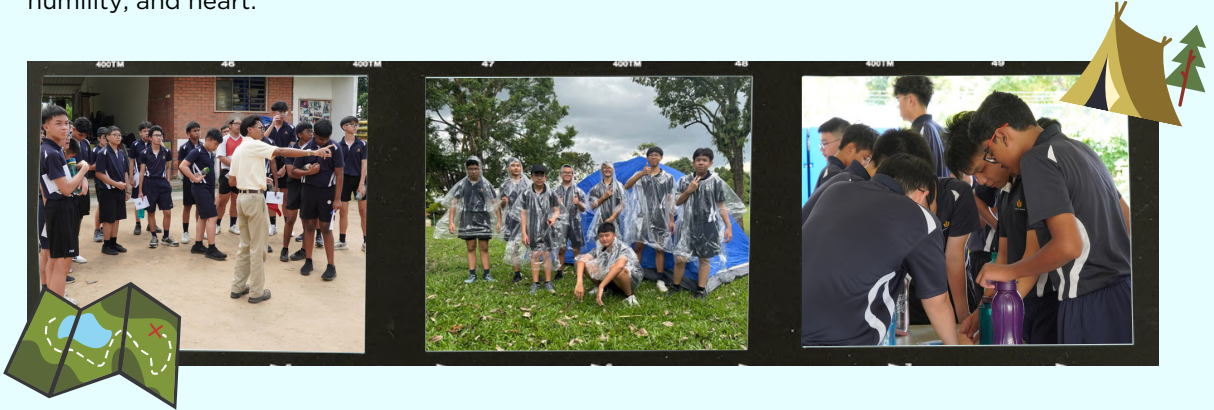
In the same way, growing to understand our emotions, and that of others, enables us to rightly interpret and respond to the circumstances around us. That is what sets strong leaders apart from the mediocre. Strong leaders go beyond compelling people towards a certain end. Rather, strong leaders see beyond the surface, recognising the emotions that spurred a person's actions, even unveiling these motivations if they have been hidden. Strong leaders help others lead themselves, in other words.

My prayer is that we will grow to reflect the Kingdom of God by being a Brigade with a deeper awareness of our emotions, that our soul may prosper as we respond to the storms and joys of life.

58 Boys from 9 Seniors Programme Companies took part in the first run of the BB National Leadership Assessment Camp (NLAC) from 14-15 June at the BB/GB Campsite!

Through team-based challenges, missions, and real-time disruptions, the Boys tested their leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving skills in unfamiliar settings. From planning under pressure to making quick decisions, they rose to each challenge together.

Beyond the skills gained, the Boys left camp with new friendships, valuable insights, and a deeper sense of purpose. May they return to their Companies ready to lead with courage, humility, and heart.



Primers Summit 02/25

55 Primers from 22 Companies came together for an exciting and enriching time at Primers Summit 02/25!

This edition featured two impactful workshops:

- Impactful Presentations
- Navigating National Service

Through these sessions, our Primers gained valuable skills in confident public speaking and practical guidance for their NS journey, while also learning the importance of building strong, meaningful friendships.



"Joining the Impactful Presentations workshop at the Primers Summit, I learned useful communication skills and techniques for effective presentations. One activity had us present on a topic of our choice, giving us the chance to apply what we learned and discover more about each other. Through this workshop, I not only improved my presentation skills but also made new friends as we learned together and shared our past experiences."

**CLT Daniel Mah from
17th Singapore Company in
Loyang View Secondary School**



Workshop

Primers Challenge 2025

From 19-22 June, 48 Primers from 19 Companies came together for the Primers Challenge — a camp designed to build leadership, teamwork, and lasting friendships.

Primers took on exciting activities like kayaking, rafting, abseiling, tag archery, and team-building games, all leading up to an intense Amazing Race. The race tested everything they had learned, from teamwork and strategy to communication under pressure. Each day, Primers were given leadership roles, allowing them to plan, guide, and support their groups. These opportunities helped grow their confidence and skills in leading others.

The camp ended with a meaningful campfire night, where groups bonded over songs, dance, and performances that celebrated the friendships and memories made over four enriching days.

It was a weekend of growth, challenge, and connection — one that will surely leave a lasting impact on our young leaders.

“Participating in the annual Primers Challenge was a truly memorable experience. The theme, “Luv Wins All,” captured the spirit of the camp. Throughout the challenge, we set aside our differences and motives to genuinely care for one another. In Team Storge, I witnessed this when we supported a teammate who sprained his ankle, many stepped up without hesitation. We also encouraged one another during the high elements course and other activities. Leaders across squads, whether camp commandants or members, prioritised others’ welfare, showing what it means to let love lead.”

**CLT George Amadeus Hah from
12I Singapore Company in
Anglo-Chinese School (Independent)**



Founders' Award Presentation Ceremony



The Founder's Award Presentation Ceremony was held on Saturday, 28 June, at SAFRA Toa Payoh, honouring 133 Boys from 31 Companies with the highest accolade in the Seniors Programme (SP) — The Founder's Award.

We were privileged to have Mr Eric Chua, Senior Parliamentary Secretary (Ministry of Social and Family Development & Ministry of Law), as our Guest of Honour, presenting the awards to these outstanding young men.

To achieve this Award, the Boys would have to complete the core badgework curriculum of the SP, as well as participate in key events such as the NLAC and BB Blaze. This commitment would take each Boy on a journey throughout their secondary school life.

Joined by over 350 guests, proud parents, teachers, Officers, Chaplains, and school leaders — the ceremony celebrated the hard work, perseverance, and character development of each recipient.

As many of these Boys move on to the Primers Programme, we look forward to seeing them lead and inspire the next generation.



BB Beyond Borders - ITECC Primers & 1st Kluang

BY LTA ELIJAH TAN FROM ITECC PRIMERS COMPANY IN ITE COLLEGE CENTRAL

Begun as an initiative to provide community service beyond Singapore, the ITECC Primers initially set out to bless the community in Kluang, Malaysia. However, then-Captain Simon Lee carried with him a greater vision, to advance the *BB Object* further in Kluang. This vision laid the foundation for a meaningful collaboration with the 1st Kluang Company.

Recognising that Pipes and Drums are not only a significant part of our BB heritage but also a unique and powerful tool to engage youths, we saw the potential to attract more young people to the BB programme. Our counterparts in Malaysia shared this passion and vision, and from that alignment, a unique partnership was born.

Together with Beyond the Octave, we launched a special collaboration with 1st Kluang Company to build a functional Pipes and Drums Band. Over the years, our strong alliance has impacted many youths in Kluang, and it's provided us the opportunity to advance the BB beyond Singapore's borders.

Testimonies:

"Pipes and Drums has made BB life more meaningful. It has taught us discipline, patience, and teamwork. Performing at events gives us a sense of pride and connection. Being in the band has shown us the value of practice and perseverance. We've built strong friendships and a sense of unity and purpose."

- CPL Ong Bo Yuan, 1st Kluang Company

"I had the unique opportunity to bring the sound of the Pipe Band beyond Singapore—teaching and performing for the students of Seri Jubli International. Many had never seen or heard bagpipes before, so it was truly heartening to witness their curiosity and excitement. This experience reminded me that music transcends borders. I'm deeply grateful for the chance to share our BB heritage and connect with others through the universal language of music, especially using the bagpipes to further its awareness."

- SCL Li Zebin, ITECC Primers Company

"Our Pipes and Drums journey has been going really well. Everyone is learning new skills and growing together. I feel grateful to have learned the bagpipes through BB activities. It has given me a goal, earning the Piper's Badge, and a way to connect with others and make new friends. I believe that with more practice time, we can continue to grow and improve as a band."

- LCP Corporal Chong Jing Xuan, 1st Kluang Company

This initiative hasn't just impacted the youths in Malaysia, it's been a mutual blessing. Members of the ITECC Primers Company have gained a unique opportunity for cross-cultural exchange and discipleship. Senior Primers have been able to step up as mentors, experiencing first-hand the joy of teaching Pipes and Drums beyond borders.



91st Coy's Parent-Child Bonding Day

BY LCP HO AN YU FROM 91ST SINGAPORE COMPANY IN REGENT SECONDARY SCHOOL

On 17 May, four Uniformed Groups and the Parent Support Group of Regent Secondary School organised a meaningful Parent-Child Bonding event filled with fun and connection. Families enjoyed activities like improvised bowling, target shooting, and first aid bandaging. The highlight was a cookie-baking session led by the nutrition and food science department, where parents and children bonded through teamwork and laughter.

As a BB member, I was proud to witness the spirit of togetherness, especially when my fellow members shared how special it felt to bake with their parents. I managed a game booth and found it challenging to explain the rules, but the joy and interaction made every effort worth it.

The event also included an upcycling workshop, an SGSecure presentation by NPCC cadets, and an engaging Kahoot quiz. We ended with a group photo, tired but happy, carrying home memories of love, teamwork, and shared joy.



21st & 21J's Amazing Race

BY 2LT HARVEY QUEK FROM 21J SINGAPORE COMPANY IN GEYLANG METHODIST SCHOOL (PRIMARY)

On the second day of our June camp, we took part in an 'Amazing Race' planned and led by our seniors from the 21st Singapore Company in Geylang Methodist School (Secondary). Boys from both Companies raced through a series of checkpoints around the neighbourhood, working together to complete tasks under the scorching sun. It was tough, but their perseverance, teamwork, and determination truly shone as they encouraged one another through every challenge.

One of the most memorable moments came during lunch, when many Boys cooked their own meals outdoors for the first time. With guidance from their seniors, they learned to start a fire, prepare ingredients, and cook a simple yet satisfying meal.

It was more than just cooking, it was about learning responsibility, building confidence, and discovering how much we can achieve together. The day highlighted how fun, challenge, and growth often go hand in hand when we step out of our comfort zones and support one another.



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