

# BB NEWS

2025 ISSUE 3

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BOYS' BRIGADE IN SINGAPORE



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THE BOYS' BRIGADE



# July - September Quarterly Highlights



14th and 40th Singapore Companies  
at their Company exchange



49th Singapore Company during their Fun Camp



87th Singapore Company cycling  
during their Adventure Camp

Our Companies also took the lead in strengthening bonds through shared activities. 14th Singapore Company (Anglican High School) hosted an exchange with 40th Singapore Company (Changkat Changi Secondary School), where Boys enjoyed a lively Pipes & Drums session before ending the day with friendly basketball matches.

Meanwhile, 49th Singapore Company (St Hilda's Secondary School) held their Fun Camp, filled with games and team activities designed to build camaraderie and confidence. Over at 87th Singapore Company (Northbrooks Secondary School), Boys took on an Adventure Camp, challenging themselves through cycling and high elements, pushing limits while cheering one another on.

From camps and exchanges to national moments, this quarter reflected the heartbeat of BB — Boys growing together in friendship, resilience, and *steadfast* spirit.

The opinions expressed in the following articles are the personal view of the writers and do not necessarily represent the policies of The Boys' Brigade.

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TO BB!**



# National Day Parade 2025



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On 9 August 2025, The Boys' Brigade Contingent took to the Padang with pride as part of the National Day Parade, joining other uniformed groups to celebrate Singapore's 60th birthday.

Comprising 45 Boys and 2 Primers from 16 Companies, the contingent displayed outstanding discipline and precision after months of training under the guidance of Officers, RSAF partners, and BB-NDP trainers.

Through blazing heat and pouring rain, the Boys' determination never faltered. Their efforts culminated in a flawless performance that showcased teamwork, pride, and the BB spirit.

This year's onwards march into the spectator gallery symbolised progress and unity - a powerful reminder of how far the movement and the nation have come together. As the crowd cheered, our Boys stood tall, representing the best of BB discipline and dedication on the national stage.

## BB is Hiring!

The Boys' Brigade in Singapore is Hiring!

If you are passionate about youth work and serving the community, apply now! We have open positions for:

- 1) Executive (Programmes)
- 2) Executive Assistant

You may just be the one we are looking for.

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# National Leadership Assessment Camp

107 Boys from 19 Seniors Programme Companies gathered for the second run of the BB National Leadership Assessment Camp (NLAC). The camp, designed to stretch participants both mentally and physically, was a true test of leadership, teamwork, and resilience.



From strategic planning exercises to high-pressure decision-making tasks, the Boys were thrown into unfamiliar and challenging scenarios that demanded quick thinking and unity. Each activity pushed them out of their comfort zones, reminding them that leadership is not about commanding, but about serving, listening, and inspiring others.

The camp wasn't just about challenges; it was about growth. Through setbacks and breakthroughs, the Boys forged stronger friendships, discovered hidden strengths, and learned the importance of courage and humility in leadership. By the end of the weekend, many left with not only sharpened leadership skills but also a renewed sense of purpose.

As these Boys return to their Companies, they carry with them valuable lessons and the confidence to step up as servant leaders, ready to guide, encourage, and inspire those around them. The journey of leadership continues, but NLAC has set the foundation for them to grow into leaders of character and heart.





# — The Role of Young Leaders in the Community

by Brigade Vice-President (Future Operations), LTA Andrew Yong

On 1 September 2025, Singapore intensified measures against vaping, including harsher penalties and enhanced public education, amid concerns that many vapers are youth and young adults.

Vaping has not been the only issue that has recently put youth in the spotlight. Bullying and the misuse of artificial intelligence have also emerged. But do all these mean that the future for our youth is bleak? While it may seem daunting, many still recognise the potential of our youth and continue to work with and mentor them. The Boys' Brigade remains a platform for bringing people together and raising volunteers and young leaders to nurture our youth and serve the community. With these recent issues, the need to guide our youth becomes even more urgent and important.

We recently celebrated our 95th Anniversary Family Carnival on 23 August. I had the opportunity to attend some of the meetings with the organising committee, which consisted of Officers and Primers. The planning and coordination were demanding, but the enthusiasm and purpose demonstrated by these Officers and Primers were evident. Discussions about the experience for the participating Boys, Companies, and community beneficiaries were frequent, and it was reassuring to see that their commitment to this event remained *stedfast*.

On the day of the Carnival, I saw more than just Boys running their stalls and booths. I saw Boys caring and looking out for the beneficiaries they accompanied; I saw Boys patiently explaining to young children how to play the games at their booths. We should not take for granted that such behaviour and attitudes come naturally. Such care and concern must have been nurtured by Officers and Primers back in the Companies, over a sustained period of months, if not years.

To all these Officers and Primers, thank you for your heart of service and dedication to the BB. You are the guiding light that our youth need to make sense of this complex world we live in and must navigate through. It may feel draining at times, but I hope that through events such as the 95th Anniversary Family Carnival, you will be able to see the fruits of your labour. Continue to do what you do and inspire others to follow in your footsteps.

Together, we can fulfil the *Object* of The Boys' Brigade and serve the evolving needs of our community.



Boys experiencing the carnival with the beneficiaries.

# 95th Anniversary BB Family Carnival



Over 5,000 participants gathered at St. Andrew's Secondary School on 23 August 2025 to celebrate one of the biggest events in the Brigade's history, the 95th Anniversary BB Family Carnival. The entire BB family, Boys, Officers, Alumni, parents, and donors, came together for a full day of joy, laughter, and service.

The carnival featured over 40 booths and game stations, each run by different Companies and volunteers. There were food stalls, interactive exhibits, and exciting performances by BB Boys showcasing their creativity and teamwork. Families walked through rows of colourful displays highlighting the Brigade's history, achievements, and community initiatives.

The event was graced by Mr Baey Yam Keng, Minister of State for the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, who joined in the festivities as Guest of Honour.

For many, the carnival was more than just a fun day – it was a symbol of the unity and heart that defines the BB movement. Officers who had served for decades reconnected with former Boys, while younger members were inspired by the stories and legacy of those who came before them. Behind the scenes, Primers and Officers worked tirelessly to plan and manage logistics, ensuring everything ran smoothly.

As the day drew to a close, the laughter and music faded, but the sense of family remained. The carnival truly embodied the BB motto of being *Sure and Stedfast* – joyful in service, united in fellowship, and grateful for the journey that continues.





# 12BRJ's BB Family Carnival Experience

by JNR Timothy Woon & Mason Poh, 12BR(J) Singapore Company, Anglo-Chinese School (Primary)



For the Junior Boys of 12BR(J) Company, the 95th Anniversary BB Family Carnival was not just a day of games and excitement – it was an opportunity to serve. As part of BB CARES, the Company partnered with Yong-en Active Hub to befriend seniors and accompany them throughout the carnival.

Nine-year-old Timothy Woon skipped his Taekwondo competition to attend the event, determined to make a difference. “At first, I felt disappointed to miss my tournament,” he said, “but when I saw the seniors smiling and laughing, I realised that helping others brings a different kind of happiness.”

Eleven-year-old Mason Poh shared a similar experience. “It was my first time talking to seniors. I didn’t know what to say at first, but they were so friendly! They even taught us how to play some of the games better.”

Throughout the day, the Boys learned about empathy, patience, and genuine connection. Officers noted how their Juniors demonstrated confidence and kindness in every interaction. Parents who accompanied them were moved to see how much their children had grown through service.

By the end of the carnival, the Boys of 12BR(J) had not only brightened someone else’s day but discovered what it truly means to serve with heart. The lessons they learned will stay with them long after the music stops – that leadership begins with compassion and that every act of kindness builds the BB spirit stronger.



# Advanced Officer Training Course 2025

Over three weekends in September, Officers from across the Brigade gathered at BB Headquarters for the Advanced Officer Training Course 2025, a meaningful programme designed to sharpen leadership, deepen knowledge, and strengthen their ability to serve Boys effectively.

Day 1 brought together 11 Officers from 9 Companies for an engaging introduction to Design Thinking, equipping them with creative problem-solving tools to design impactful programmes. They were also briefed on their Action Learning Projects, which would anchor their learning through practical application in their Companies.

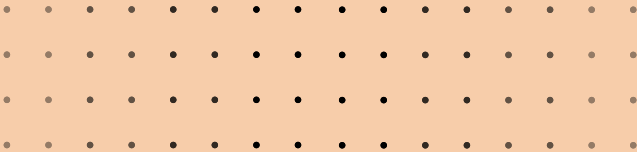


On Day 2, 12 Officers from 9 Companies explored the BB Constitution and Bylaws through an open-book quiz, reinforcing how these guiding documents shape governance and decision-making. They then delved into modules on Stewardship and Action Learning (Explore), working in teams to identify opportunity areas and propose thoughtful, stakeholder-driven solutions.



Day 3 culminated with 10 Officers from 8 Companies presenting their design challenge projects. Each group demonstrated strong collaboration, critical thinking, and leadership as they applied systematic approaches to real-world challenges.

The course was a valuable journey of growth, empowering Officers with fresh perspectives, practical tools, and renewed conviction to mentor and lead the next generation of Boys with excellence.





## *JP Officers Conference 02/25*

A total of 41 Captains, Teachers, and Officers from 35 Companies attended the second Juniors Programme Conference of the year on 15 July 2025.

The conference provided a valuable platform for Officers to receive key updates and insights. Highlights included an introduction to the Officers' Continuing Education framework, as well as a detailed briefing on the newly revised Code of Conduct, both essential in supporting the growth and development of Juniors across Singapore.

Attendees also revisited the recent BB Adventure Quest held in March, reflecting on its successes and offering feedback to further enrich future editions. In addition, discussions centered around the refreshed Juniors Programme curriculum, ensuring it remains engaging, purposeful, and impactful for the Boys.

Looking ahead, excitement is already building for the 95th Anniversary celebrations, with updates shared on the upcoming BB Family Carnival and Dinner. These milestone events will bring together the BB community in a time of fellowship, celebration, and thanksgiving.

Through sessions like these, the Juniors Programme continues to be strengthened by the shared dedication of Officers, united in their mission to nurture Boys with values, character, and purpose.



## *SP Officers Conference 02/25*

50 Officers representing 45 Companies gathered for the second Seniors Programme Conference of the year on 29 July 2025, an enriching time of sharing, updates, and collaboration to further strengthen the programme.

The session covered several key areas, including updates on the upcoming 95th Anniversary BB Family Carnival and Dinner, the revised Officers' Code of Conduct, and the importance of building a strong mentoring culture within Companies. Officers also exchanged good practices on instilling discipline and received reminders on curriculum updates to support the holistic development of Boys.

The conference highlighted the commitment and passion of our Officers, whose collective efforts continue to shape meaningful experiences for our Seniors. Their dedication ensures that BB remains a place where Boys can grow in character, leadership, and purpose.



# The Backbone of the Brigade

by Brigade Chaplain, Rev Daniel Tong

Through the decades, The Boys' Brigade have thrived and grown, all praise be to God, and thanks to our wonderful Officers and volunteers. We could not be the organisation we are today without our Lord God's blessings, and the many dedicated men and women through the years who volunteered themselves to serve and care for our Boys.

Volunteering with the Brigade though is a challenge, as it calls for sacrifice. The sacrifice of time (c.f., weekends spent with the Boys rather than family, friends, and personal pursuits) and finances (c.f., treating our Boys out of our own pockets), just to name two. Sacrifices often unseen, unrewarded, and with much regret, very often taken for granted and unappreciated.

In the face of this, why should anyone volunteer, and remain a volunteer with the Brigade for decades, as many do?

Extrinsically, it would be due to the impact of the Brigade on Boys through the generations. Many of whom transformed into able individuals and respected leaders of their respective industries and communities. There are so many stories to tell, and remembering them helps us make sense of and take comfort in the sacrifices made.

So, the next time you tire of volunteering, or question the worth of your efforts, remember these stories – be they from your Coy and time, or the Brigade as a whole through the generations – and press on, with the assurance that the seed of sacrifice sown will in some way and at some time bear good fruit in the Boys under your care.

Intrinsically, and most vitally, it would be the hand of God upon our Brigade, and the community of fellow volunteer-officers our Lord God have brought around this work. We start and end our parades, meetings, and gatherings in prayer, because we know our abilities are finite; and the ministry of our Brigade needs the blessing and provision of our Lord God (Luke 11:9-10).

The backbone of our Brigade is extrinsic in the many able and faithful men and women who volunteer with us; and intrinsic in the relationship each of these have with our Lord Jesus Christ – our *Sure* and *Stedfast* Anchor -- whose love spurs us to love our Boys and our Brigade in active and persevering service.

Volunteers will feel the pressure of family commitments, increased career responsibilities, and discouragement over various volunteer and life challenges. In the face of these, my dear fellow officers, do not lose sight of God – His grace and mercy our reason for serving, His might our confidence of fulfilling our responsibilities, His love which helps us love and go the extra mile for all our Boys.

**“There are so many stories to tell, and remembering them helps us make sense of and take comfort in the sacrifices made.”**



Volunteer guiding his Boys before the start of BBAQ



## Primers Summit 03/25

34 Primers from 13 Companies gathered at BBHQ today for the 03/25 Primers Summit – a day filled with learning, connection, and practical skills!

The first workshop, *Lifting Others Up – Appreciation*, explored how understanding and applying appreciation languages can strengthen relationships in BB, school, and the workplace. Primers discovered research-based ways to boost morale, motivation, and life satisfaction, and how to bring these lessons back to their Companies.

The second workshop, *Capturing BB Moments with Impact*, equipped Primers with skills in documentation, brand guidelines, and event coverage. With hands-on practice using social media tools, they learned how to create impactful content for BB and beyond.

A big thank you to our Primers for their enthusiasm and passion, we are excited to see these new skills put into action in their Companies and daily lives!



## Teachers' Orientation 02/25



Two teachers took part in the second Teachers' Orientation of the year, gaining fresh insights into the movement's mission and the vital role they play in shaping the lives of Boys. Through engaging sessions, they learned about the partnership between Officers and Teachers, and how together they nurture character, discipline, and service in the BB community.

The programme also included a tour of the Heritage Gallery, where participants explored the organisation's rich history and milestones. It was both an inspiring and eye-opening experience, connecting past legacy with future purpose.



The session concluded with warm fellowship and reflection, as the Teachers shared their excitement to begin their own BB journey. We wish them the very best as they continue to guide and mentor the next generation of Boys!

# 22J's Trip to the Singapore Oceanarium

by LTA William Ho, 22J Singapore Company, Anderson Primary School

It was a day of discovery and excitement as the Boys from 22J Singapore Company dived into an unforgettable learning journey at the newly opened Singapore Oceanarium. From shimmering stingrays to majestic manta rays gliding overhead, every moment sparked awe and curiosity.

Primary 5 Boy Vo Dang Hai could not hide his excitement: "The Ancient Water exhibit was my favourite! It felt like stepping back in time. I never knew sea creatures could be that huge!" Beyond the spectacle, the Boys took part in conservation workshops that taught them how even small actions can protect the oceans and their inhabitants.

Parents and Officers were deeply moved watching the Boys connect classroom learning with real world impact. Mrs Audra Khoo shared, "It was eye-opening to see them realise that caring for the environment is also a form of responsibility."

By the end of the trip, the Boys left not just with photos and memories, but a new understanding—that being *Sure & Stedfast* means protecting the world we live in, one thoughtful action at a time.



## Officer Cadet Orientation Course 02/25

40 Officers from 27 Companies gathered at Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church (PSPC) for the Officer Cadet Orientation Course (OCO) 02/25, an inspiring start to their journey as BB Officers.

The day began with an introduction to BB Tradition, where participants learned about the movement's history, purpose, beliefs, and the responsibilities that come with wearing the anchor. The session offered valuable context on what it truly means to lead and mentor the next generation of Boys.

Beyond the classroom, Officers embarked on the BB Founder's Trail, retracing the footsteps of J.M. Fraser and exploring PSPC's heritage gallery to better appreciate the Brigade's legacy in Singapore. Lunch provided a time for fellowship and sharing, as senior Officers offered words of guidance and encouragement.

By the end of the day, the new Officers left with renewed conviction - ready to uphold the BB spirit with dedication, passion, and heart as they serve in their Companies.





# President's Award Presentation Ceremony



This year, five outstanding Primers were conferred the President's Award at the Istana, celebrating the highest accolade of the Primers Programme.

The ceremony was graced by President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Patron of The Boys' Brigade, who presented the awards to the recipients. It was a truly memorable and inspiring moment, witnessed by 33 esteemed guests, including Honorary Office Bearers, Brigade Executive members, and the proud families of the awardees.

We extend our warmest congratulations to the 2025 President's Award recipients (in alphabetical order):

1. **SCL Andric Goh (91st Singapore Company)**
2. **SCL Jared Wee Cheng Yuan (14th Singapore Company)**
3. **SCL Jonathan Jiang Huai Xuan (60th Singapore Company)**
4. **SCL Tng Jie, Jay (94th Singapore Company)**
5. **SCL Yiau Dee Zhou Andrew (5th Singapore Company)**

May your example continue to inspire future generations of Primers to serve with humility, lead with conviction, and remain *Sure & Stedfast*.



# 9th Stedfast Games 2025

BY MR VINCENT NG FROM BB ALUMNI

The 9th Stedfast Games in Kuala Lumpur brought together more than a hundred competitors from Stedfast Associations across Singapore, Malaysia, and Hong Kong for a weekend of sportsmanship and fellowship. Team Singapore arrived with renewed energy, determined to compete honourably and connect deeply with their brothers in the region.

From the opening table tennis serve to the final dart throw, the Games showcased a unique blend of competition and camaraderie. Singapore's Table Tennis team clinched Gold after a tense five-set final, while the Carrom team earned a Bronze following a hard-fought match against SA Penang. Captain Victor Aw reflected, "Every game was a chance to build friendship. We don't just play to win – we play to grow together."

The Games also coincided with SA Kuala Lumpur's 30th Anniversary, and delegates attended a thanksgiving dinner celebrating decades of shared faith and fellowship. Amid laughter and songs of "Sure & Stedfast", representatives reaffirmed their commitment to supporting youth work across Asia. As the closing ceremony drew to a close and the torch passed to SA Penang for the next Games in 2027, the Singapore delegation left with a sense of purpose – reminded that competition may end, but brotherhood endures.



# BB Founder's Day Service 2025

BY DR LIM KHAY THAM FROM BB ALUMNI



On 4 October 2025, about 30 former Boys' Brigade members gathered at Charis Methodist Church's new Koon Seng Road facility to mark 142 years since the movement's founding.

Guest speaker Rev Fred Tan delivered an address titled "Memories," encouraging attendees to reflect on how their BB years built discipline, respect, and lifelong friendships. Dr Tham also paid tribute to Founder Sir William Alexander Smith, whose vision of developing "intractable Boys" into responsible young men continues to inspire today.

The celebration concluded with familiar BB songs and lunch at Oasis, hosted by Mr Thomas Khoo (5th Singapore Company, 1970s), with Mrs Mabel Tan's cheesecake adding a sweet finishing touch. The Founding Day gathering was a timely reminder of the BB's enduring legacy of character, camaraderie, and service that continues to shape lives.



## BB Alumni's 90th Anniversary Lunch

BY MR HENRY TEE AND MR KENNETH LONG FROM BB ALUMNI



On 21 June 2025, the ballroom of The Grassroots Club was filled with laughter, songs, and stories as more than 60 members of the BB Alumni gathered to celebrate nine decades of fellowship. From veteran Officers who served in the 1950s to newly joined members, the event was a living testament to the Brigade's enduring legacy.

Mr Henry Tee opened with a reflection on the journey of faith that had brought the community so far. "Ninety years of brotherhood means ninety years of mentorship and service," he shared. "We stand on the shoulders of those who guided us, and we must do the same for those who come after."

Between courses of local favourites, members reminisced about camps, drills, and the Officers who shaped their lives. Ten new members were welcomed into the Alumni, each receiving a pin symbolising their commitment to carry on the legacy of service. Veteran Mr Lim Chee Siong shared fondly, "I joined BB in 1957 - we had no air-con or internet, but the fellowship was strong. Today I see that same spirit alive."

A spontaneous rendition of the BB Song closed the lunch, voices young and old blending in harmony. It was a moment that captured the heart of the Alumni - a family bound by shared memories.

## BB Alumni SG60 Gathering

BY MR DAVID SEET FROM BB ALUMNI

On 2 August 2025, the BB Alumni marked Singapore's 60th birthday with a heart-warming celebration at BBHQ. Over 40 members from 14 branches came together to reflect on the nation's journey and the Brigade's contributions to nation-building.

The evening opened with the National Anthem and a short tribute to BB members who have served in key public roles over the years - teachers, soldiers, and community leaders. Veterans shared memories of marching in the early National Day Parades, while younger members spoke about how the values they learned in the BB continue to shape their professional and personal lives.

Guest speaker and former Brigade Officer Mr Jonathan Ng spoke passionately about the importance of service and leadership. "Our love for country grows when we serve others with integrity and humility," he said.

The celebration concluded with a group photo beneath the Singapore flag, followed by a final chorus of the BB Song. As the voices rose together in the BBHQ hall, the moment captured what the movement stands for - fellowship, character, and a lifelong commitment to service and community.



## Junior Share Builders Plan

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### LONG-TERM FINANCIAL GOALS

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