



CAMPFIRE *Light*

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CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SCOUT GROUP

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- HIGHLIGHTS**
- NSPC 2007
 - XXI World Scout Jamboree
 - Chronicle Campfire
 - National Patrol Camp 2008



The Co-Editor speaks...

You now hold in your hands a very special issue of Campfire Light, for this magazine not only breaks away from tradition by recording the past two years of our Troop's activities, but more importantly this issue commemorates our 60th Anniversary as a Unit.

And so, as a new chapter of scouting for Catholic High Scout Group begins with the dawn of a new decade, it is necessary for us to take stock of how far we have come over the past years. It is our hope that the articles in this labour of love will inspire you to continue striving to greater heights as one Troop.

I wish you all a pleasant read and hope that the following write-ups will kindle a sense of nostalgia and pride.

God bless

Joshua Goh, Co-Editor
Venture Scout

Andrew Chua



Joshua Goh



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Ong Chee Yong



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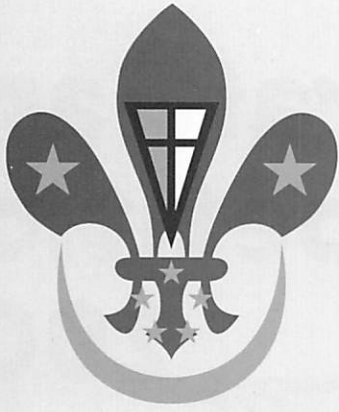
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National Scoutcraft and Pioneering Competition 2007



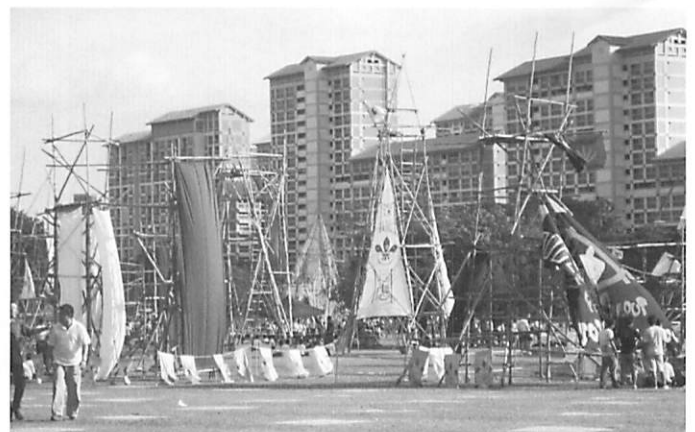
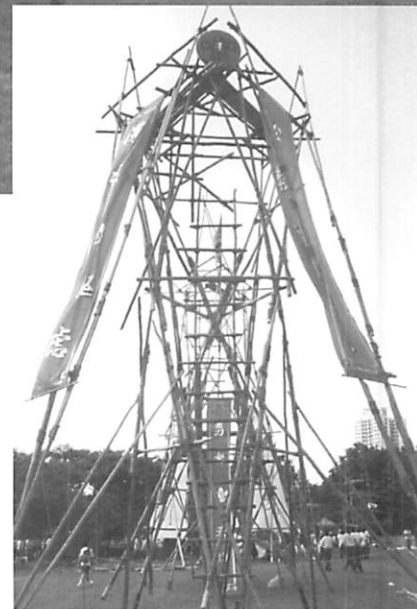
The day of reckoning had arrived at long last: on the 10th of February 2007, the legendary Catholic High Scout Troop assembled in school for a pre-competition briefing, and the major events teams were getting ready to fight in the battle for our Troop's glory with the blessings of all our leaders at the 7th National Scoutcraft and Pioneering Competition held in Bishan Park.

Having made a final check of the equipment at the respective grounds, each of the team leaders proceeded to the Main Administration Tent for registration and then all the teams present were gathered for a Competition Briefing and a Flag-raising ceremony. The Gateway team, the Scout Bridge team, the Scout Tower team, the Venture Tower team and the Venture Bridge team all let out a resounding "GONG JIAO!" that reverberated throughout the Competition grounds before we raced to lash and erect our core structures within the first few hours.

About two hours into the pioneering competition, a heartening sight appeared: the teams of the Minor Events had finally arrived, come to do battle and to set new records in the events which Catholic High Scout Troop have become renown for. It was truly an encouraging spectacle for the weary pioneering teams, as now everyone was together to fight for glory as one troop. The first minor events of the day to begin were both Pioneering Skills and 3-2-1 Flagpole simultaneously, led by Jit Sheng and Cuthbert



respectively. The judging of the Pioneering Skills structures would be held at the same time as that of the other pioneering events, while we were overjoyed to hear that after the heats for the 3-2-1 flagpole, our troop had made it into the finals. Next in line were the Blindfold tentage and the Sour Grapes events, in which both teams entered the finals to our elation. Unfortunately, our Chariot Race team did not manage to secure a place in the finals, due to technical difficulties encountered during the heats itself. Finally, the Roman Cannonball event commenced





and we pinned our hopes on the team, but sadly we did not manage to clinch anything. Nevertheless, the remaining teams practised and perfected their skills to gear up for the finals in the later part of the day.

Meanwhile, the pioneering teams were entering the last stages of construction. We had been at our tasks for an arduous 7 hours without rest, and as the time of judging drew near all of us entered into a frenzied fervor as we strove to finish up all our structures in the last hour. The tension among the competitors was clearly visible, as many team leaders could be seen hurrying their men at the top of their voices. The atmosphere was charged with anxiety and excitement. As the seconds flew by, the urgency of the situation was virtually palpable, as if the entire competition ground was shrouded by a blanket of desperation, and as the time drew ever closer, the clamoring voices grew louder, the movements became more frantic...until, finally, a voice boomed over the megaphone, "All pioneering teams, your time is up. Please keep away from your structures and prepare for the judging." As we stepped to back to admire our masterpieces after a grueling 8 hours, we were confident and proud that, truly, these were the best projects we had ever done. Sitting down in the shade for a break at long last, we received disappointing news of the competition for the Roman Cannonball, where we failed to attain any accolades. However, all of us remained sanguine as we awaited the

judges decision on the best projects of the Competition.

While waiting for the prize-giving ceremony, the Troop congregated at the minor events competition ground, where we found that our Sour Grapes team had snagged a Bronze from strong competitors from other Troops. We cheered wildly for the remaining two teams, 3-2-1 flagpole and the Blindfold Tentage team. Regrettably, to our chagrin our 3-2-1 flagpole team was disqualified, as they could have easily nabbed at least a silver in the 3-2-1 flagpole event. Despite this loss, we were ecstatic to hear that our Blindfold team had fought hard and triumphed, claiming our first gold of the day. Immediately after that, all the Troops present were gathered to the front of the main tents where the prize-giving ceremony commenced. The prizes for the minor events were given out first, and we cheered wildly for the Sour Grapes and Blindfold Tentage teams, sharing in their elation. All had their fingers crossed and were fervently praying for nothing but the Challenge Shields as the announcer proceeded to announce the various troops taking home prizes for the pioneering events. All members of Catholic High Scout Troop were overjoyed to hear that every single one of our 5 pioneering events had garnered a gold, and were even more overcome with jubilation as 4 pioneering teams, the Gateway, Scout Bridge, Venture Tower and Venture Bridge, had received Challenge Shields which recognised the most outstanding project of that particular event. However, we were devastated to hear that our Scout Tower had failed to receive a Challenge Shield, losing by a narrow margin to Gan Eng Seng Scout Troop. Then, the moment we had all been waiting for had come at long last: the Overall Challenge Trophy was to be given out to the Troop with the best performance in the whole competition. As we all held our breaths in anticipation, the announcer shouted into the microphone, "Catholic High Scout Troop!" As one troop, we knelt and bellowed the "Mercy" cheer until our throats went hoarse as we received the much-coveted Overall Challenge Trophy. All of us were overcome with a wave of jubilation and it was a sensation of joy that everyone shared at that moment. It was elation, it was camaraderie, it was an unbreakable bond: in short, it was our Troop Spirit.

We owe all of our success as well to the tireless efforts of our Leaders, and to our Scout teachers-in-charge. Finally, and above all, we must attribute our success to God, who led us through the countless hours of preparation and the Competition day itself. Lastly, as I pen these words, I hope and pray for another occasion when we will once again be able to stand triumphant, just as we had done on the 10th of February, 2007.

Joshua Goh
Senior Patrol Leader

2007 marks the 100th year of scouting. This time there is a world scout jamboree in UK the birth place of scouting. I am the lucky one from our troop, along with my GSL Andrew Chua and scouts from other schools, who went to England.

Upon arrival at Heathrow airport, we boarded the bus to Hylands Park, Chelmsford, which was going to be our home for the next 12 days.

The first day after our arrival, we got our jamboree scarf and tags we proceeded to the venue where we learned the jamboree song. We then proceeded to the place for the opening ceremony. The world scout flag and national flags were brought in and finally raised. I watched the flags go up and could for see days to come, bonding with scouts from all around the world.

On 1st August 2007, all Scouts and former Scouts worldwide celebrated Scouting's Sunrise - the dawn of a new century of Scouting - 100 years from the day when Lord Baden Powell blew the Kudu Horn. But on this day, the chief scout of United Kingdom, Peter Duncan blew the Kudu Horn to mark the centenary of Scouting. Lord Baden Powell's grandson came and gave a speech on Lord Baden Powell's dream, which was to "unite scouts over the world". On this special day, Scouts will renew their Scout Promise as the sun rises across the globe



and share their celebrations with friends, families, supporters and the local community. HRH Prince William also made his appearance as a former

scout and Kang Yan, a venture scout from Hwa Chong managed to get a close up picture of him. On that day countries from all around the world were supposed to share their countries local food among our sub camp. For Singapore, we did keropok. People from other countries were stunned at how this keropok expands



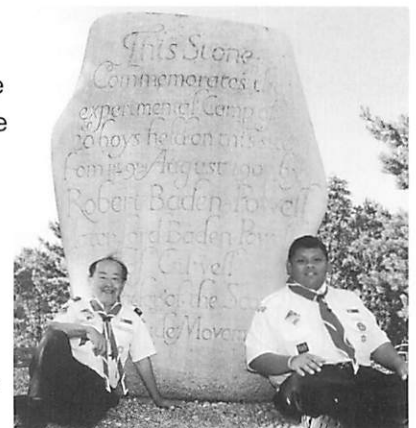
21st World Scout Jamboree @ Hylands Park Chelmsford 27 July - 12 August



upon submerging in a pot of boiling hot oil.

We visited Gillwell park, which was our scouting home. We went for different activities like challenge valley, scouting skills, mountaineering and finally discovery where we were told about the past activities.

It was the closing of the camp after 12 enriching days. Along with some scouts we went to trade our remaining badges. We cleared up the camp





out Jamboree ds Park, , Essex, UK August 2007



world. Although the jamboree was over, it was not over for our contingent as we headed for Brownsea Island, the island where all scouts dream to visit. I was one of the lucky 40 from the Singapore contingent to realise that dream.



We set off to Brownsea island where Lord Baden Powell held the experimental camp 100 years ago. Along the way we visited Charterhouse where Lord Baden Powell received his education. We went to Lord Baden Powell's 1907 original campsite and where we were to stay there for the next 2 nights. Scouts from all round the world only managed to visit the site but our contingent slept there! It was indeed a great privilege – a dream fulfilled!



On our National Day, 9 August, our contingent built a flagpole. We then had flagbreak and sang the national anthem followed by a moment of silence. After the flagbreak, we went to the famous rock where it was presented to Lord Baden Powell for scouting. That night we had a dry campfire where we sang songs and reflected on our camp and shared our thoughts.

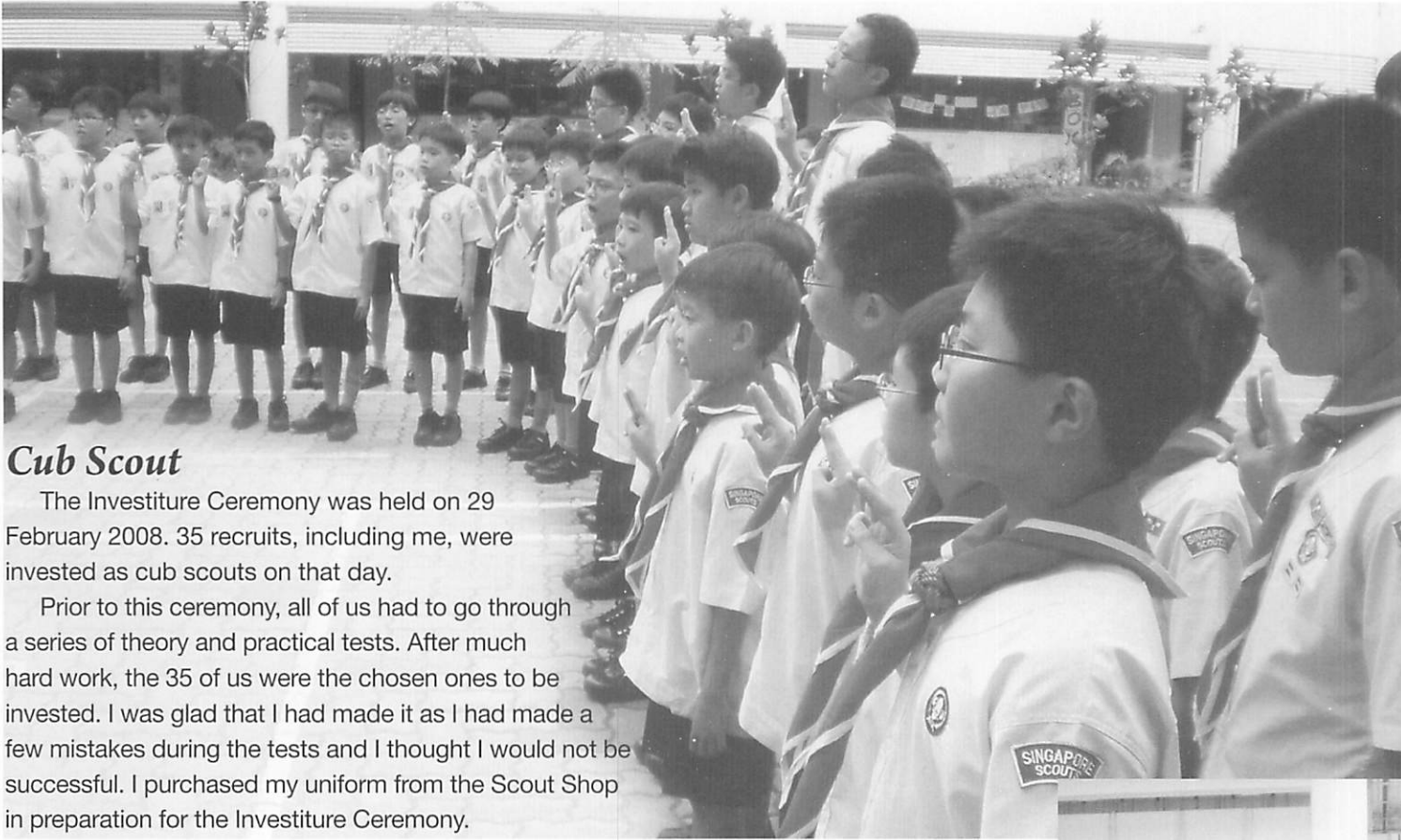
We left Brownsea Island and headed to the airport for our departure home.

Lim Lik Xian
Dolphin Patrol



site and went for the closing ceremony where the flags were lowered. As the flags went down I remembered the 12 days of bonding with scouts from all round the

Investiture Ceremony 2008



Cub Scout

The Investiture Ceremony was held on 29 February 2008. 35 recruits, including me, were invested as cub scouts on that day.

Prior to this ceremony, all of us had to go through a series of theory and practical tests. After much hard work, the 35 of us were the chosen ones to be invested. I was glad that I had made it as I had made a few mistakes during the tests and I thought I would not be successful. I purchased my uniform from the Scout Shop in preparation for the Investiture Ceremony.

On the day of the ceremony, Mr. Chua, our Group Scout Leader, was present to invest the new recruits. The entire Cub Scout Pack formed a horse shoe. The Investiture Ceremony commenced. One by one, the recruits from the different sixes had to stand behind the scout flag. Soon, it was my six's turn. Mr. Chua instructed us to place our left hands on the flag and to raise our right hand. We recited the Scout Promise and Scout Law. Then, Mr. Chua put on a national scarf with a woggle for each one of us. It was truly a proud moment for me and for my fellow cub scouts. I felt truly happy to be a Cub Scout.



Ethan Kai Ando
Orange Six





Scout/Venture

Adrenalin rushes through our veins every time the Scout Investiture is approaching. It is at this time, every year, when efforts are recognized, accomplishments are acknowledged and commitment, rewarded. This year, it was no different. Being an annual event, the Scouts Investiture still does not fail to astound me even though I had been through this once already. This year, there were several familiar faces missing from the crowd as they

have moved on into other institutions of higher learning due to their academic status. However, this was not enough to dampen the mood as on that day itself, we were extremely excited about the event and I could not see how any news could have took that away. The Scouts Investiture is truly an exceptional event!

This year, eight new APLs are chosen from my batch while the APLs from last year's batch moves on into positions of higher authority, effectively taking over the troop from

the Sec 3 batch last year. Harrison, our SPL for the year 2007, would be succeeded by Li Ren whilst Kong Ying, our ASPL for the previous year would be succeeded by Xue Ying. Both Harrison and Kong Ying had done an unbelievable job and now it is time for Li Ren and Xue Ying to continue this tradition, of which we have utmost confidence in. The position of Patrol Leader for each of our eight patrols were then to be inherited by the Assistant Patrol Leader of each respective patrol, with the exception of Rhino, Dolphin and Shark Patrols, with the



reason for both Rhino and Dolphin due to the leaving of Darren and Darryl, two APLs who have left for another institution due to their academic excellence, and the reason for Shark Patrol due to Li Ren having to take up his new position as Senior Patrol Leader, and thus unable to continue leading Shark Patrol due to his new commitment. Luckily, there were several secondary 3s who have shown to possess a great sense of leadership, and would be able to take up the vacant positions of Patrol Leader for these three patrols. For Rhino Patrol, it was Jun Ching, who was previously from Eagle Patrol, who rose to the challenge. For Dolphin, the responsibility was left to Clement, a scout who have shown excellence in his work during his time at Cobra Patrol. Last but not least, Ze Jun, who was previously from Tiger Patrol but not in the position of Assistant Patrol Leader, became the new Patrol Leader for Shark Patrol. For the rest, it was Wen Wei for Pigeon Patrol, Xue Ying for Eagle Patrol, Jerome for Cobra Patrol, Toon Yang for Wolf Patrol and Leonard for Tiger Patrol. However, it does not stop there! The new Assistant Patrol Leaders for the Troop are Terence for Pigeon Patrol, Zi Jian for Eagle Patrol, Kevin for Cobra Patrol, Yi Shen for Rhino Patrol, Zheng Jie for Wolf Patrol, Gabriel for Tiger Patrol, Cody for Dolphin Patrol and Darren for Shark Patrol. Nonetheless, there are still numerous other scouts in our Troop who possess amazing leadership abilities, just that there isn't enough patrols to go around. The coveted spots for Best Sec 1 then went to Cody, Kevin and Gabriel. Best Sec 2 then went to Jun Ching whereas

Best Sec 3 went to Harrison, Kong Ying and Kwan Hong. With so many budding and committed talents in our Troop, I have absolutely no doubts that our Troop will be able to continue our streak of excellence in Scouting!

Chan Zi Jian
Eagle Patrol

60th Anniversary Dinner 2008

Cub Scouts

Our Scout unit celebrated its 60th Anniversary on 19 January 2008. 25 cub scouts were present to celebrate the occasion together with the scouts from the secondary school. Since this year was our 60th birthday, a special dinner was organised. It was held in the secondary school hall.

Before proceeding to the hall for the scrumptious dinner, all of us had the opportunity to walk on the spectacular gateway that our talented scouts had built to lieu of the celebrations. After that, we went for a gallery walk where many items pertaining to scouting were on display. I was intrigued by the colourful log books that evidently



showed the amount of effort that went into it.

Finally, we made our way to the secondary school hall for the dinner. Mr. Lee, our principal, was present that night and he delivered a speech praising the efforts put in by the various people to make scouting in Catholic High School a remarkable one. A huge birthday cake was then brought out and cut. After that we tucked into the delicious buffet spread of noodles, rice and much more. I was so hungry that night that I wolfed down 3 plates of noodles and 3 cups of dessert!

All of us who were present were given a badge as a souvenir. Soon, it was time to go home. I waited a while for my father to pick me up. It was a very meaningful event for me. I hope next year's anniversary celebrations will be equally as enjoyable and meaningful.

Tan Wei Xi
Yellow Six



Scouts

Today, the scouts of Catholic High Scout Group gathered in school as usual, but for a special occasion, the troop's honourable 60th anniversary dinner. We walked around the school preparing for the event with smiles on our faces and a sense of pride in our hearts.

The Catholic High Scout Group was established on the 24th of January, 1948. It is one of the oldest Chinese scout groups in Singapore, and also the oldest CCA existing in

Catholic High. Its high standards have been maintained by generations of leaders, allowing its flag to soar high as one of the best troops in Singapore.

Everyone had a part to play in preparing for the big occasion. Some scouts helped Ventures Sai Meng and Louis at the display booth. Den cleaning was also done to ensure cleanliness, while some other scouts helped with the construction of the gateway which the J1 ventures had started building the previous night. All the scouts went on with their work happily for the glory of the troop. Recently we had also been told that scouts from the past 60 years were invited to the dinner that night.



Debris from the early activities of the day was then cleared to ensure that everything was perfect.

Time flew by as we were having fun and soon it was 6 pm. Scouts donned their freshly-ironed uniforms and stood ready to usher in the flow of guests. After



display booth and to ensure that no one attempted to disassemble the gateway. This helped to show the public the history of scouting, and at the same time, let the scouts reflect back on the days of old. The current scouts could also learn from the experiences of former troop members and benefit from them.

When the dinner was going to end, the MCs called the troop, including batches from the past 60 years, to get onto the stage to take a group photo for remembrance. Photographs serve as a purpose to refresh memories of later batches of scouts. As the saying goes, "A picture paints a thousand words."

Soon the dinner ended and the scouts of Catholic High cleared the dinner hall, as well as the gateway painfully built with our sweat and blood. Already, we were anticipating the next big event of the year, our 60th anniversary campfire. Finally, Catholic High Scout Group is blessed to have enjoyed another year of excellence in scouting.

Leonard Lim
Tiger Patrol



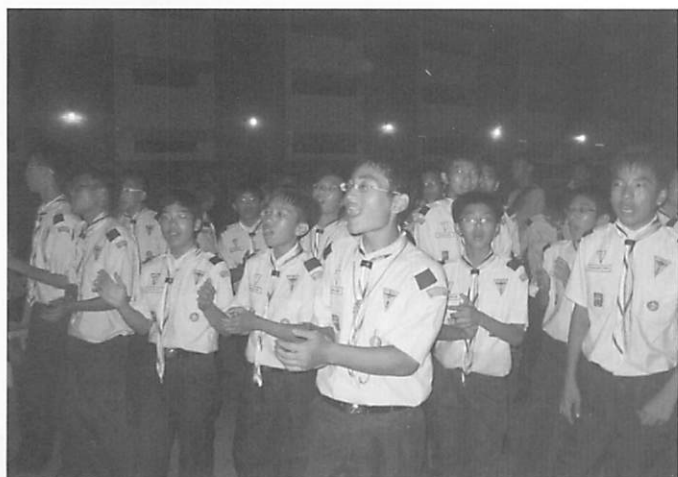
the guests had registered their names with our GSL Mr Andrew Chua, we settled down for dinner. Ex-SPL Joshua Goh and Louis Chong were the MCs for the night and they gave a short speech before the much awaited dinner finally commenced.

This year's cake weighed 20kg instead of the usual 5kg one. The dinner also consisted of food that was much better than previous years. Throughout the dinner, campfire songs were played to keep the mood going. I felt that this was a good thing as it brought back memories of campfires where the troop had fun and bonded together.

We also took shifts to guide visitors round our



60th Anniversary Chronicle Campfire 2008



Three years later, it is back!

Catholic High Scout Group's 60th anniversary campfire was held on the 16 August 2008. The theme for this campfire was Chronicle. A record, a diary of the facts and events about this 6-decade-old troop we belong to.

The 1st preparation camp was held from the 1st-3rd August, where the troop gathered together and tried out the gateway we were to build during the actual campfire itself. It was also in this camp that the emcees of the campfire did the most training with the organizer of the script, Russell. Soon, this camp came to an end. There was only less than 2 weeks to the actual campfire itself.

Day after day, nights passed. It was less than 2 days to the campfire now. Chronicle campfire preparation

camp was held on the 15th to 17th August. We knew it was not going to be easy... On the 15th, we built the first 3 frames of the gateway. It was not easy at all. In fact, it was one of the toughest camp we have ever been through apart from the annual June camps. These three frames were made of twelve flagpoles, with their lengths ranging from 7 meters to 12 and a half meters. The scouts gathered at the track immediately after they were dismissed from school that very day. The flagpoles were gathered and so



were the ropes and bamboos. Soon, everyone was working vigorously with one good goal in mind, "to make this 60th anniversary campfire a success." This drive for perfection spurred us on. All the knots were tied with zest and with all our might. Later on, we were split into 2 groups, one group to continue the construction of the gateway and the other to start the construction of the backdrop for the campfire, which was to be held the next day. Under the sun, we worked while all these were going on, the emcees, Leonard and I, were practising our scripts. All the lines were to be memorized. To add to that, each word must be filled with emotion and expression. We worked hard, wanting to make the campfire an unforgettable and enjoyable one for our guests, as well as for our seniors and leaders. It all seemed so fast...

The next day came. Excitement was building up fast, and so was anxiety. We started work early in the morning. The platform of the gateway was to be constructed today. The emcees continued their rehearsal with Russell. At about 3 in the afternoon, the stage as well as the chairs arrived. It was also then that the backup dancers of the campfire items were chosen. 4 hours more... This was going to be the last rehearsal,

before the actual campfire. 6pm, about one and a half hours to the campfire everyone is talking about... The gateway was finally completed. The leaders and scouts were all happy and relieved. A sense of achievement surged within them...

Now, it was all up to the emcees, to make the campfire the most



special one that any scout troop has been to. There was not much time left. Troops strolled into our school only to be awed by the magnificent structure greeting them. Ushers politely led our guests, guides, scouts and leaders, up onto the campfire circle. It was an enjoyable moment. At 7.30pm came the moment of truth...

The lighting of the campfire.

It was about a young boy named Leonard. A disgruntled punk, who was forced into scouting by his parents. To him, scouting means nothing and he finds no reason for himself to continue to stay in this troop... His departure would be unnoticed, if not for a special someone looking at him from afar. This special person eventually ignited the passion of scouting within Leonard as they went through different activities together...

During the campfire, the morale was extremely high. It was indeed the most fascinating campfire that I have attended. As an emcee, it was really consoling to see the different schools cheering together with us, singing at the top of their voices, having fun. It all paid off. It all went well. Soon, the campfire came to an end. The best supporting and early bird awards were given to Anderson Guides and ACSI respectively.

Finally, a sigh of relief and elation. We were glad of what we had achieved. This campfire had pushed

us really far out, to realise what we are capable of doing, making us stronger and even bonded our troop as one. It was truly a memorable campfire that will stay deeply etched in my mind forever.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone who helped us in making this campfire a success. The scouts of Catholic High Scout Troop. The Ventures-Toon Ee, Jie Jing, Phelan, Han Xun, Aloysius, Chee Yong, Zong Rui, Elson, Sai Meng, Jing Cheng and Joshua- and the Leaders-Eugene, Russell, Kuan Liang and Ivan Soh- who took their time out to help us in the preparation of the wonderful campfire. Mr Steven Quay, Ms Mary Hua and Mr Almon Yao who ensured that we were cared for during the many preparation camps. Mr Andrew Chua, our GSL, who was there with us every step of the way. And not to forget, God, who made everything possible and never abandoned us in our darkest moments.

Jerome Lim
Cobra Patrol



CHRONICLE



June Camp 2008 at Ubin

(6th June – 9th June)



(Day 1)

The whole troop was down, excited about what this year's June camp had in store for us. We packed our rucksack, prepared our equipment, and headed for Pulau Ubin.

When we reached our campsite, we cleared our campsite of leaves and built our basha tents and camp gadgets. It rained halfway through our work and became heavier and heavier. We were cold, wet and miserable. However, we kept our spirits high and worked under our ponchos till we have completed it.



The sky finally cleared as we begun the treasure hunt. We were given a list of items to find, ranging from things such as newspapers to bamboo! We quickly started the island-wide search. Some of us took the shells of chilli-crabs, cartons of empty beer bottles and even lugged a whole fallen bamboo tree back to the campsite.

After the activity, we were rewarded to have frogs for our dinner. However, we had to kill them ourselves. Ng Jing Cheng demonstrated the way to kill the frog, and we followed. Clutching the frogs' thighs, we slammed its head down onto a board till it died before slitting open its stomach to get its meat.

We later cooked and ate it with our porridge. That was the Survival Killing.

The day was not over as we played a final game. The rules are simple: we had to get clues from scenes acted out by ventures, playing the roles of different characters. From there, we had to guess who murdered Bruce Wayne. Possible suspects included Spiderman, Mary Jane, Joker and others. The story was very complex and we were given a whole night to ponder about it.

(Day 2)

We woke up, energetic after our sleep as we prepared



for physical training in the morning. Then, we headed out for VOJ. We "navigated our way through the forest using a compass", "treated our patrol mates using our first aid", and "cooked 'chicken and pineapple soup for the Si-Chuan earthquake victims' and more. Through the journey, we showed our skills and our teamwork to overcome the challenges.

After, assembling back at the campsite, we were dispatched to find the different locations that we had to find. We were given clues and MRNs to locate the few places. Some chose to go to places near the jetty, while others headed to the Chek Java Boardwalk. It was an eye-opening experience to see the different parts of Pulau Ubin that we had not been to before.

Once returning to the campsite, we were told to pack up and we headed to the jetty and returned to the main shore at Changi Jetty. From there, we took a night hike all the way to Pasir Ris Park where we spent our night under the open sky.

(Day 3)

We took a bus back to Catholic High where we made the space beside our QM our final camp area.

Later, we left for Bishan Park 1 where we had our next game, which we had to accomplish a few tasks by the end of the given time, such as to build a mini-gun with whatever materials we can find, to find our hidden flag and plot it in the new location and so on so forth. We started work immediately, working together to finish the requirements.

The game ended few hours later, and everyone enjoyed very much at least a part of the

game. After the game, it was time to work.

The troop collected leaves and firewood for backwood before making our way back to school. We started our fire as soon as we reached Catholic High.



We cooked a meat, a staple, a pizza and a bread twist. All went smooth and well as we raced against time to cook our full course meal before the sky turned dark. We ate heartily and prepared for the campfire.

The campfire, hosted by Gabriel Mao and Bryan Ong, went very well under the cooperation of the patrol. We sang the usual campfire songs, and took turns to perform our skits, based on the topic "S", which many of us took it as "Super heroes". The skits were hilarious and fun, and we enjoyed our time spent there. However, the campfire was not over yet! There was the annual "Miss Ubin" where each patrol representative come forward to compete



against others using their charm, beauty and sexiness. Out of the many contestants, the Leaders and the Ventures have crowned the one and only Nicholas Loh! Next up, the Leaders, Eugene, Kuan Lian, Russel, Ivan and Cheryl performed a hilarious, and entertaining skit. But nevertheless, Shark patrol managed to win the "Best Skit" award for Ubin Camp Campfire 08.

Later, the Secondary Threes were taken for a solo night at MacRitchie Reservoir while the others enjoyed a game specially planned by the Leaders before turning in to bed.

(Day 4)

The Secondary Threes arrived just in time as the rest of the troop woke up for breakfast. Then, we changed our attire and went for Challenge Valley. This time, we went some where among the HDB blocks where we climbed into a drain that leads on to the canal at Bishan Park. At there, we did a little stretching exercise in the muddy water before competing in various races. All did their best for their patrols.

Following on, we went back to school and packed up. Before the camp was over, our camp chief, Tham Sai Meng gave out the prizes to the best secondary 1, Keefe Robin Sim; the best secondary 2, Cody Ong and the best

secondary 3, Leonard Lim. Last of all, the Best Patrol of Ubin Camp 2008 goes to... Cobra!

(Reflections)

All of us had at least earned something from this year's Ubin Camp, be it the chance to carve the patrol's name on the Ubin Totem, or winning in some activity, all of us had bonded throughout the camp, grown stronger, and had learned the true value of Scouting.

Ng Jun Ching
Rhino Patrol



National Cub Scout Challenge 2008



The National Cub Scout Challenge was held at Catholic High School on Saturday, 20 September 2008. Our pack participated in a total of 6 events, namely, Treasure Hunt, Obstacles Relay Race, Sour Grapes, Chariot Race, 3-2-1-Flagpole and Captain's Ball. I participated in an event called "Sour Grapes". The Friday before the competition,

my team mates and I trained at the school parade square to prepare for the various events. As we had only one day to train for the challenge, we did our best and I practised very hard tying knots and climbing the pole. I managed to climb the pole but I was quite slow as it was my first time doing it.

The next day during the National Cub Scout Challenge, I found out that 15 other schools were taking part in the same event that I was participating in. I lost my confidence a little when I saw other school teams practise their climbing up the pole for the "Sour Grapes" challenge and

they did it very quickly. However, I decided to give it my best shot and not be intimidated by them.

Before the game started, my team mates and I said a short prayer. Then the competition started and everyone climbed up the pole as fast as they could. In the end, we were the fastest team. We were so happy that we jumped up and down and cheered.

It was an exhausting but rewarding day for not only my team, but for the entire Catholic High Cub Scout Unit as we bagged 5 gold and 1 silver. We were happy that we had made our cub pack proud.



Brandon Koh Wai Loong
Yellow Six



2106 Changed My Life

I remembered the day that my father asked me if I wanted to join the cadet scouts in Primary 3. I knew little of what the life of a cadet scout would be like, but trusting that my father knew best, I agreed. I did not know that I would embark on an incredible journey with 2106.

It was with 2106 that I began to explore a wide range of areas as a cadet scout.

Donning the cadet scout uniform with its smart-looking scarf, I would look forward to every scouting session where I would be among my good friends and inspiring adult mentors. Each session promised new songs, new adventures and most importantly new lessons that were not available through a typical classroom experience. Many of the lessons that I picked up as a cadet scout continue to guide me in many aspects of my life today.

One of my most vivid memories was of Job Week. The one-week adventure each year taught me much about the relationship between hard work and reward. I approached each Job Week with a mix of excitement as well as trepidation. I wanted to earn as much as I could, but to do so I had to overcome my fear of approaching unfamiliar adults. Through Job Week, I learnt to use my hands to do odd jobs in distant neighbourhoods, strange temples, busy offices. I encountered kind and generous people as well as stingy and nasty folks. Each job (or rejection) hardened me and made me more confident of myself.

As a cadet scout, I also spent many nights around campfires learning new songs, listening to exciting stories and acting out humorous skits. While most of these were done in the name of fun, the content of many these songs, stories and skits revealed new worlds and broadened the imagination of my then young mind. We sang of distant lands and learnt words from unfamiliar languages. I would transport myself into each song and story, living the life of a mountain climber, an oarsman in a Viking ship or a horse-riding cowboy. The scenes that came alive in my head fired my imagination and fueled my desire to learn more about the world beyond my own.

My dreams of new worlds eventually came through when 2106 organised a trip to Thailand! As a young boy of 12, I was able to travel to the land of a thousand smiles in a company of some of my best friends. I remembered the spiciness of tom yam soup, the awe-inspiring statues



of Buddhist statues housed in majestic temples. I learnt how to say 'Sawadee Krup', how to greet one another with the traditional bow. I remembered seeing a cock fight in the Rose Garden, learning of how normal elephants were used as animals of labour while white elephants were symbols of the Thai monarchy. The trip enabled me to make contrasts

between Thailand and Singapore, which helped me to better appreciate my own country.

The cadet scout experience also taught me to be a team player. The activities that I participated together with all my fellow cadet scouts each Saturday showed me how different people with different skills could work together to accomplish complex tasks. As I got promoted to take on positions of responsibility, I also learnt how to lead, to organise and delegate, to direct and to motivate.

These experiences helped me grow in areas that went well beyond what I could have learnt in the classroom. The CSLs guided me, nurtured me and inspired me to take on new challenges at every step. I looked up to the seniors who sported numerous achievement badges and worked hard to earn those badges myself. Through that, I experienced the bitterness of failure when I did not pass some of the tests, but also the sweetness of success when I tried again and passed.

If I could turn back the clock, I would gladly join the cadet scouts again as I now understand how much I had benefited from the holistic programs that formed the scouting experience. I thank my scoutmasters, particularly Mr Andrew Chua, for making my cadet scout experience such an enriching one. I am glad that many more young boys continue to benefit from the cadet scout program and the guidance of the Adult Leaders of 2106. In my most recent Catholic High reunion, I have also promised Mr Andrew Chua that when it comes time for my son to decide on his CCA, just as my dad urged me to join 2106, I will do the same.

Lim Tuan Liang
Cadet Scout 1981-1984
White Six



Cub Scout Year-End Sarimbun Camp 2008



Our year-end Cub Scouts camp at the Sarimbun campsite was both fun and enjoyable. On 13 November, we gathered at school and boarded the bus which took an hour to arrive at our camp site. The instructor quickly divided us into 2 groups. We made a poster and named our group "Survivors" and the other team was named "Coconut". The instructors helped us pitch the tents that we were to stay in. It took us one hour to pitch 4 tents.

We then proceeded on to the challenging rope course and I walked the "Broken Bridge". It was scary when I looked down the three-story high bridge, but it was surprisingly rather easy walking on that bridge.

We also had flying fox. When I first stepped onto the platform, I was nervous. But when I zipped down the



rope, it was really fun! Next, we climbed a wall and later learnt about knots and lashings. Time passed very fast, and soon it was dinner-time. All was fun, except for the "five-second rule". We had to

do things very quickly, but it helped to train us to be fast.

The next day we had many activities lined up for us as well. The most fun and enjoyable activity was fire crafting. We went to gather TKT (tinder, kinder, timber) in 2 minutes. The instructor then used a candle



to light it up for us. Our fire kept failing us and turned into embers when we put many leaves, twigs and branches on it. In the end, we extinguished the fire. After fire crafting, we used their equipment to cook noodles. My friend, Brandon

and I did not have enough time to fully cook our noodles.

We then had a 5 km hike which brought us to a frog farm, dragon fruit farm and dairy goat farm. At the frog farm, we saw many bull frogs and a monitor lizard trying to eat the frogs! On our way to the dairy goat farm, we dropped by the dragon fruit farm. We explored the shop and our instructor bought some dragon fruits to let us try. We then walked to dairy goat farm and touched the goats and fed them. Our teacher also bought us

some goat's milk to taste. It was quite an experience.

On the last night, we had our campfire! I really enjoyed the campfire because of the cheers and songs that we were taught and the warmth of the fire as it was raining earlier. On the whole, I really enjoyed the camp very much as I gained new knowledge and experiences.

Lim Lik Rong
Red Six



Akela Award 2008

Area Assessment Interview

On the 23rd of October 2008, 8 Cub Scouts, including myself, made our way to the multi-purpose hall of the Scout HQ for our Akela Award interview. The minute we stepped into the hall, we could feel the excitement in the air. Many cub scouts from the various districts and units were also present. We sat at our designated seats and waited to be interviewed.

All the Cub Scouts present were grouped into various groups and each one of us was given a number. I was No 5 in Group A1. I was in the group with two other Catholic High Cub Scouts, Jonathan Chew and Sean Liew. I was glad that there were a few familiar faces in my group.



First, we had to undergo an interview which was a gruelling one. This year, we had to go through a group interview. A panel of judges asked us various questions. The three of us were rather outspoken, which showed that we were sociable and not shy. After that, we thought we could go home but there were still two more activities!

We played a few games that tested our leadership skills and took a written test on first aid. My group excelled in the games but the written test was rather difficult but we managed it somehow. On the whole, it was a meaningful and fruitful session and I was overjoyed when we were given our Akela Award badge to sew onto our uniform.

Daryl Tan
Green Six

Award Presentation Ceremony

The time had come for our four years of pure hard work and dedication as a member of the Cub Scouts CCA to pay off. My fellow Cub Scouts and I were at the auditorium at Hwa Chong Institution for the Akela Award presentation ceremony.

The Akela Award is presented to cub scouts for their outstanding leadership and dedication to the Cub

Scouts CCA. It is the highest achievement that can be attained for a cub scout. In order to achieve the Akela Award, a cub scout has to meet certain criteria. He has to possess a Gold arrow, complete the activities meant for the Akela Award, pass the log

book component and clear an interview by a panel of interviewers.



Our school sent out 9 nominations from the various Primary 6 classes. 8 cubs managed to meet the criteria needed. 3 cub scouts even attained the merit award, which is the first for our school.

We all had to report to Hwa Chong much earlier on the day of the ceremony for a rehearsal. Even though we knew that it would be a long day, we were glad that there was a rehearsal so that we would be very confident about going up on stage to receive the award. We met Mr. Clarence Hoe, who practised the steps with



us until we were confident. We were then given a break.

We walked around excitedly, waiting for our parents to turn up as each Akela Awardee was allowed to invite two guests. Soon, my parents arrived. I was so glad to see them. Our CSL and GSL were also present to lend support. We were all told to be seated and to wait for the guest-of-honour to arrive. Soon, the ceremony commenced. The guest-of-honour, Mr Lee Pak Sing, Director of Culture & Education Programme, Singapore Youth Olympics Games Organising Committee gave an inspiring speech after which the prize presentation segment commenced.

that I had been given sufficient practice. I went up on stage to receive my medal and certificate with a smile of confidence. I knew that my parents who were seated in the audience would be very proud of me. I clapped enthusiastically as I watched my fellow cub scouts go up on stage. After the Akela Award was given out, the Public Health Badge was also given out.

Within an hour, the ceremony was over. Our parents and teachers were told to go to the refreshment area for their refreshments first. All the awardees were told to go up on stage for a group photo. I was glad to have the honour of being part of the picture that was taken.

Soon, it was time for all of us to have our refreshments. We were all famished and immediately made a beeline for the canteen. We ate to our heart's content as we chatted away happily. This was indeed a proud moment in my life as a cub scout. I was very glad that I had put in my best diligently for four years and that it had finally paid off.

Sean Liew
Green Six



Each Cub Scout was given a medal as well as a certificate. It was soon my turn to go up on stage. I could feel the butterflies in my tummy creeping up on me but I kept my cool as I knew



President Scout Award Presentation Ceremony



6 December 2007 was a memorable and glorious day for Catholic High Scout Group. With much pride and gusto, five of our venture scouts among 12 nationwide reaffirmed the Scout Promise at the Istana as they were awarded the most prestigious award attainable by the venture scouts, the President's Scout Award. It was by no means an easy feat; Venture scouts Koh Neng Jie, Lim Fang Kang, Linn Yun Le, Marcus Leong and Teo Ziyan were put through the most gruelling tests of character and abilities.

The road towards the President's Scout Award is a long and arduous one, involving countless obstacles that

challenge us to our limit. Criteria such as the Venture Cord Hike spanning three days covering distances of nearly a hundred kilometers truly tests the limits of our physical endurance, while criteria such as the PSA project tests our planning and execution skills. The ASPIRE, a two-part camp, puts our skills, knowledge, leadership and teamwork to the fire. The process made each and every one of us stronger, a better leader, more matured, cohesive and ultimately people of better character worthy of being called a true scout.

It was with much peer support that we endured through the many tests thrown to us. To those who may consider going for the prestigious award, here are some

advices: Firstly, never give up. There will be times in the journey where all seem lost, and failure seem inevitable. Endure to the very end with courage, fortitude and determination for as the saying goes, "even the darkest night will end and the sun will rise". Secondly, teamwork is key. Throughout the journey, know that you are not walking alone as you have very valuable peers trotting alongside you towards the same goal.



Cover each other's weaknesses and draw strength from the determination to not let each other down.

We would like to express our utmost gratitude to our scout leaders, who have provided us with invaluable advice and motivation to spur us on. To all our juniors, we strongly encourage you to take up this challenge, as you will, without doubt, become individuals of better character.

Linn Yun Le
Venture Scout
President Scout
Award Recipient
2007





asking myself, I wondered, if the seniors have managed to, and I have come together with the others for so far, why should it even be a problem?

The leaders have encouraged us on and on, Mr Chua with his persuasiveness, Leon with his 看着办 approach, Ms Hua and Mr Quay for the constant reminders to consider our academic obligations and the juniors for accompanying as companions for the hike, and running errands to buy certain equipment. No doubt we were



the ones that received the parchment from the president, Mr Nathan, I would rather feel that behind each and everyone of us, it were these people that have stayed with us through this particularly long journey, never giving up hope on us.



A particular question that interested me a lot was "what does it mean to receive the President's Scout Award?" Super Scout? No. It was never meant to be that the most skillful and angelic teenager would naturally become a President's Scout Awardee. I guess the thing that allows us to stand out from the

rest would be the ability think on our feet, adapting to changes, following the scout law and promise to the best we even in such a secular world. To my juniors intending to pursue the award, I would only remind, that no doubt people say, behind every successful man, there is a woman; I would rather say, behind every accomplished scout there is a supportive troop.

Ng Jing Cheng
 Venture Scout
 President Scout Award Recipient 2008



The journey to the President's Scout Award was a long journey, and looking back on when I first read about the award, I remember that it was a Campfire Light article like this, that I felt the urge to push my limits to meet this award. Together with the support of my leaders, and seniors before me, my batch mates, Sai Meng, Zhi Wei, John and myself took up the challenge as we embarked into venturehood. On the 20th of November, a much cause for celebration myself as it was my last A level paper, we finally made it to the Istana, except for Sai Meng who had an examination that clashed.

Seeing my batch reunite once again after a long time apart to study for the A levels, only made me miss the times that we spent together hunting and packing equipment for ASPIRE, Venture Cord Hike the 2 major components that stump many potential candidates. The never ending distances that we have hiked and the weekend spent in Punggol never mattered to me, because they were my motivation always. Continually



Frank Cooper Sands Award Presentation Ceremony 2008 for 2007

Cub Scouts

The Frank Cooper Sands Award is a yearly achievement award for the scout units that achieve excellence in the areas of programme development, unit administration, training and individual scout achievements.

On the Saturday morning of 25th October, Catholic High Cub Scout Unit received the Frank Cooper Sands Award, the highest award a cub unit can attain. Indeed, our scout troop is truly unique as all our three scout units, cub scouts, scouts and venture have all attained the Gold award for the year 2007. A teacher from another school leant over to me and whispered, "Your school is truly special to receive three gold awards!" I replied with beaming pride, "Of course! This is Catholic High!"

We started off with reciting the Scout Promise, after which the ceremony commenced. I was our school's representative for the Cub Scouts Unit. "Catholic High School," the emcee announced. I walked up to the Guest-of-Honour, Mr. Yap Meen Sheng, Assistant Director of Character Development and Uniformed Groups and Education Division of MOE. I saluted, shook hands with him, took the award, took a step back and saluted again. I heaved a sigh of relief as I went back to my seat, glad that I had remembered all the steps to receiving the award.

That was what the ceremony was like. Numerous schools had also won the award and were also present. Catholic High was one of the schools on the list. I was privileged to have been able to represent our school on



that day. Immediately after the ceremony, we gathered and took photos with the plaques in remembrance of our achievements, all thanks to our GSL Andrew Chua, the dedicated leaders and of course our very own cub scouts who contributed to achieving this award in one way or another.

Daryl Tan
Green Six

Scouts

It was 9am, and I along with many other scouts from the various scout troops in Singapore were waiting patiently, queuing up to sign in at the Singapore Scouts Headquarters. But deep in our hearts and soul we were all exhilarated and excited about the day's events. It was the giving out of the Frank Cooper Sands Award!

Arriving in my scout uniform, ironed and perfect with not a crease to be found, not a speck of dust or dirt to be noticed, I proudly walked into the hall. Signing in as the representative of Catholic High Scout Troop, I held my head high as I walked around. As I went on to look around the hall many familiar faces popped up. I saw some people from the Patrol Leader Training Camp (PLTC) I attended last year, old primary schools friends, and I also saw Mr Andrew Chua. Of course I went up to him to greet him.

Soon, the representatives from our cub scout and venture arrived and we were all briefed by Mr Chua on what to do later that day. Slowly, more and more cub scouts, scouts, ventures, and rovers were coming in, taking up the seats that remained. I was glad that many of the scouts had kept the scout promise and went to help those who were in need of seats or any help, and of course I was one of those scouts.

Soon, after everyone had taken their respective seats, the ceremony began. The guest of honour, Mr Yap Meen Sheng, Asst. Director – Character Development & Uniform Groups, Education Programmes Division of MOE, arrived and gave a rousing speech that lifted our spirits. Soon the time had arrived for the prizes were to be given out. It started with the cub scouts. One by one they went up stage to collect their award. And the Catholic High Cub Scouts had achieved gold. Then came the scouts. With the number of scout troops in Singapore at a huge amount, anxiety built up in my



heart as they got to the gold recipients. I was next in line after ACSI and when my scout troop's name was called I marched up with pride as I saluted the guest of honour then shook with our left hand, followed by the receiving of the prize and another swift salute, and finally I marched off the stage.

The ventures were represented by Tham Sai Meng, our ASPL of 2005. The Ventures too achieved gold this year. This is the third time that all our three units achieved gold. After taking a picture with all the gold recipients, our own cub scouts, scouts and ventures took a picture to commemorate this glorious day. As I walked out of the hall, I felt very proud of playing a part in helping our troop to achieve its 14th consecutive gold. It really felt good that day, bearing the yellow t-shirt that strikes pride into the other scout troops' eyes. I was once again proud to be part of the Catholic High Scout Troop.

Tang Li Ren
Senior Patrol Leader

Venture Scouts

The place was crowded and bustling with life. Scouts from various schools walked by us as my fellow Venture, John and I walked in. This was no competition. Today, cub scouts, scouts, ventures, rovers and leaders were all gathered in HQ's multipurpose hall for a very special ceremony – the Frank Cooper Sands Award Ceremony.

John and I were there to represent our Venture section that day. We met up with our GSL, Mr. Andrew Chua and the representatives from the Cub Scout and Scout sections. We were given a quick briefing by Mr. Chua

about the ceremony before being shown our seats. No one in the room could sit still. Looking around at others from various schools, one cannot help but think back to the long journey that has brought us to this day.

Today was the day Units were given recognition for their effort in Scouting. Everyone had worked hard the past year for the Frank Cooper Sands Gold Unit Award. After a short rehearsal, the ceremony started with the arrival of the Guest-of-Honour. Inspiring speeches were given by the Chief Commissioner as well as the GOH. After which, the Award presentation began.

Recipients formed a line in the centre aisle as the Units were named one after the other – starting with the Cub Scouts section. Everyone in the Hall wearing the all familiar blue, white and yellow triangular badge was filled with pride as one by one, all 3 sections of our Unit – Cub Scouts, Scouts and Ventures, were called up to receive the Gold Unit Award. As I walked down the aisle onto the stage, all that ran through my mind were the many things my fellow Ventures and the previous batch worked for throughout the year. It all came down to this prestigious award.

After the brief ceremony, we took photographs with Mr Chua before heading for the refreshments. All around, people were shocked with awe as the 3 representatives beamed with delight, holding the certificate booklets. Silently, as people filed out of the Hall, deep in our hearts, we were all promising to strive hard to receive the awards once again next year.

Tham Sai Meng
Venture Scout

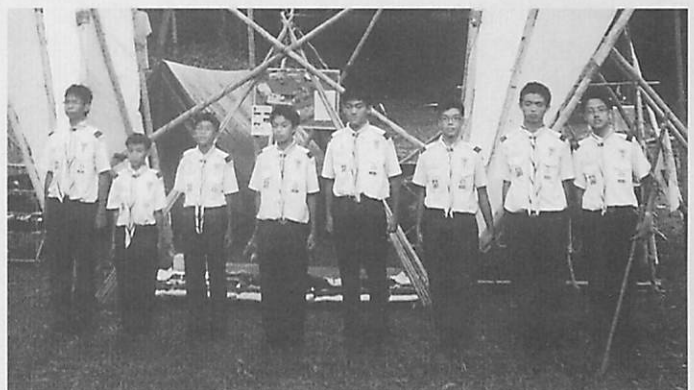
National Patrol Camp 2008



As people slept peacefully in the wee hours of the morning, the scouts of Catholic High were gathered in school, brimming with energy. It was a day much awaited, the start of NPC 2008, which thoroughly tested every inch of a scout's knowledge and skill of the outdoors. Although we had trained long and hard, there were still many areas left uncovered. We rushed through final preparations and loaded all the necessary equipment onto the lorry leaving for the Sarimbun Scout Camp, where history would once again be made.

The troop helped us unload the equipment and moved it to our campsite, of Sub camp 2 Team 9. They then left us and after a final briefing and motivational talk by our ventures and adult leaders, we were on our own.

6th NPC 2008 was similar to previous ones, starting with a flag break and an address by the Camp Chief, Mr. Freddie Kwek. We were then dispatched to our various campsites and the competition began. After a short prayer and a '公教!', we worked at top speed to get our gateway, kitchen tent and sleeping tent up. The building of the gateway did not go as planned, with the addition





of banners that have never been tried before; we were behind schedule by at least an hour, delaying our other structures/gadgets, causing us to sleep late into the night.

After a short rest, we awoke to continue perfecting our gadgets and campsite. With a common goal in mind, we cleared the morning inspection to the satisfaction of the judges, then we split up for backwoodsman

cooking and orienteering. We wowed the judges with (according to them) the best dough they have seen in our "crystal swirl" and "Adam's pie", and also dishes like "lemon catch", "rainbow after the rain" and so on. At the same time, the orienteering team achieved very good results, coming in first for the quiz and scoring high in other components.

After a short break for lunch, we split again into our first-aid practical and scout quiz teams. First-aid teams were assessed in bandages, evacuation methods, quiz, check of first-aid kits, and finally the daunting scenario. While on the scout quiz side, they were tested on pioneering theory and scout lore. We returned to the campsite to continue with our campsite development, while Jerome and Gabriel went away to prepare the dinner, as we were told that that night's dinner was going to be judged.

We progressed into the third day of the competition, where a major part of the competition would be – the pioneering project. We built a ship named courage, signifying our rocky journey to prepare for this camp, and how we sailed as a team, as one. The building of the ship did not go according to plan, ending up with a few minor adjustments to the design. Fortunately,



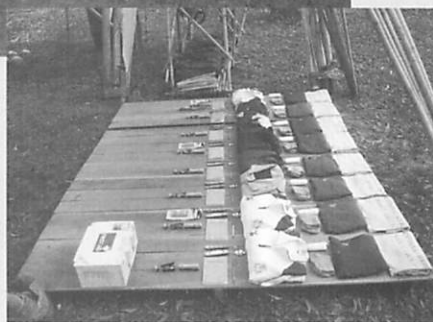
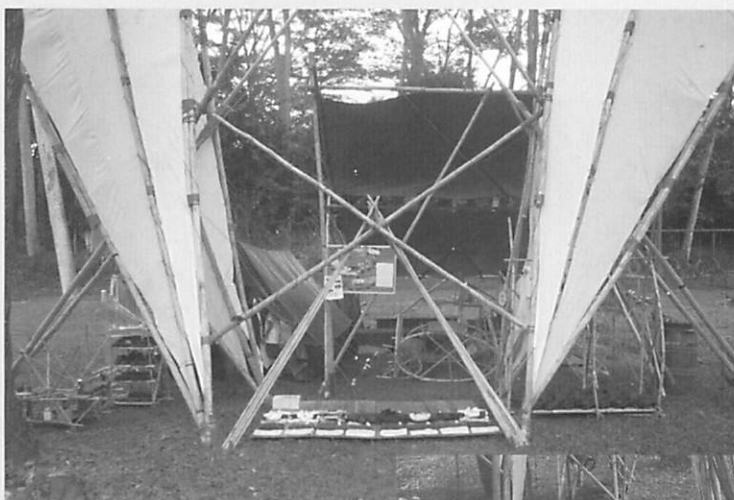
the camp committee decided on a time extension of one hour on the next day. Upon returning to the campsite, we continued

touching up our knots and campsite. The night ended with the individual sub camp's campers' night, where one skit would be chosen to be performed in the main campfire the next day.

The final day of competition arrived and we prepared for our last inspection, which consisted of 3 rounds of different judges. We cleaned the campsite, tightened knots and ensured to the best of our ability that everything was prim and proper. Judges came and left satisfied, especially with our gadget designs and our camping standard, which they commented was very clean. After that, we were assigned our own NPC 08 t-shirts which were to be worn during open house, during which the camp would be open to visitors.

Open house soon ended, Catholic High Patrol gathered at their kitchen tent for their last and final

rehearsal of their skit, "Scout Man". During the campfire, skits were welcomed with roars of approval by the various patrols, which died down as the time for the announcing of results came, much awaited by our patrol and troop which had come down to support us.



The night ended with tears, and joy, as Catholic High Scout Group retained her "Best Singapore Scout Patrol" title,

the challenge shield was ours to keep again. To add on to the joy, we came in first in majority of the main categories.

The success of the camp would not have been without the help of the ventures and leaders, who were always there to help us and improve on our skills. Hence, the team would like to offer their deepest appreciation to all that have contributed to the competition, in one way or another. Finally, I would like to thank my teammates, who have always been there for one another whenever something happens, especially to Toon Yang, PL of Team NPC 08, for leading us to victory. Thank you.

Leonard Lim
APL Team NPC 08



Chief Commissioner Award Presentation Ceremony

On the 23rd December 2007, dozens of Commissioners and Leaders from various troops all over Singapore gathered in the Chamber of the Arts House to witness the solemn presentation of the Chief Commissioner's Award to 15 proud recipients. It was an exciting day for the recipients, including me, as that day marked the long-awaited conclusion of the CCA journey that my counterpart Toon Ee and I had embarked on. All our sweat, blood and tears over the past year became worthwhile when we were presented with the Chief Commissioner's Award from the Guest-of-Honour Chief Commissioner Mr Nicholas Tang during the Ceremony. Unfortunately, Toon Ee was overseas during the time and so was unable to attend the Ceremony.

The Chamber was once a room in which Singapore's top echelon of leaders gathered to decide on the best way



to shape Singapore's future, where crucial choices were made, where trials and tribulations facing the nation were met head-on. It was significant then, that the

Ceremony was held in the Chamber, as the pursuit of the Award likewise shaped my future, gave me opportunities to make crucial choices and allowed me to face my trials and tribulations head-on. From a poetic perspective, no other location for the Award Ceremony would have been fitting.

During the Ceremony, we presented hand-made scarves to our parents, as a sign of our gratitude to them for their unfailing help during the course of our CCA journey. Likewise, it is crucial now to show my gratitude in this space to all the people who had been supporting and guiding Toon Ee and me from the start, all the way to



the finish. None of this would have been possible without our leaders Mr A Chua, Mr S Quay, Ms M Hua, Leon, Wei Xin and Wen Bin. The unstinting support from our parents was equally crucial, as they saw us through each phase of the journey, starting from when we were mere candidates to becoming Awardees. However, we owe the biggest thanks of all to God, for He is the biggest reason for our success. For all those who have read this article, let it be an inspiration for you to take up the Challenge and become a Chief Commissioner Awardee.

Joshua Goh
Venture Scout
Chief Commissioner Award Recipient 2007

The Chief Commissioner Award is the highest award achievable by a Scout and thus, it requires a full three and a half years of dedication to your Scout Group, extreme determination and strength of mind, body and soul to accomplish such a feat. This year, Catholic High Scout Group has managed to produce two Chief Commissioner Awardees – Lio Yu Feng and Chua Seng Yew. We truly believed that we had done our troop proud and we hoped that more of our juniors could embark on the CCA journey in the future.

The Chief Commissioner Award Exploration test consisted of three parts – the preliminary report, the execution of the hike and the exploration report. For the preliminary report, we were expected to plan our hike route and our ration list, safety precautions etc. Once our preliminary hike report has been approved by the examiners, we could proceed on to executing the hike itself. The exploration hike takes place over a duration of two days and one night, covering a minimum walking distance of 25km with a total of 10 checkpoints. The hike itself was a gruelling journey as we had to navigate our way to locate our checkpoints. Thankfully, we had great companions who followed us along our journey. Last but not least, we had to



complete an exploration report that was as flawless as possible. We were expected to draw out floor plans and area sketches with a detailed description of each checkpoint. We stayed up through the entire night to finish the log and the next day as well. We got to know our companions better as a result of this CCA journey.

Next up, we had to fulfill the service section which required us to clock up at least 13 hours of service. We looked to our Cub Scout unit as we could impart our skills and knowledge to them and at the same time, we could complete the service component of the award. We helped out at the cub scout sessions in Catholic High Primary on a weekly basis. Finally we had to go through an interview at the Scouts HQ in which we were posed a range of questions. We answered them confidently



and truthfully, relating to them our 4 years of experience in the Scout Group and throughout our CCA journey.

After much painstaking hardwork and unwavering support from our leaders and fellow scouts, we managed to achieve the Chief Commissioner Award. This year, the presentation ceremony was held at The Arts House which is at the Old Parliament House on the 25th November 2008. We had a few rehearsals prior to the actual ceremony and through these rehearsals, we got to make more friends (fellow CCA awardees) from other scout troops. As walked up the aisle to receive our awards,

we felt we had done our troop proud and our three and a half years' efforts had not gone down the drain. The efforts that our parents had put in had not gone unnoticed, as all the awardees thanked them for the unwavering support they had lent us during this journey by presenting them a small gift as a token of appreciation.

We would also like to thank all our leaders including our GSL Mr Andrew Chua and teacher-in-charge Ms Mary Hua for their constant encouragement and support, as well as others who have helped us in one way or another.

Chua Seng Yew
Venture Scout
Chief Commissioner Award Receptient 2008



Congratulations

To



AL Ching Wai Shun
on the happy occasion of his marriage
on the
21st of March 2008

AL Ng Boon Peng
on the happy occasion of his marriage
on the
10th of August 2007

Tr I/C Mary Hua
on being awarded the
Chief Scout Commendation
by President SR Nathan
on the 8th of May 2008






BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO RAFT BUILDING

In this section, you will find 2 articles on how to build a barrel raft from materials that can easily be obtained. It is good to note that the directions for constructing your own "Titanic" mentioned here are merely guidelines, and are not set in stone. Please pardon the expression, but in essence it is a "crash course" on making your very first water-borne craft. So feel free to experiment and have fun!

(Life jackets not included.)

BUILD YOUR OWN BARREL RAFT

[This article details from a first hand perspective the steps in building a raft with mostly artificial materials.]

We built a raft out of 55 gallon plastic drums and plywood. The drums are attached to the wooden platform with steel cables. Originally, we tried to lash the barrels to the frame, but they came off in the water, and it was not stable enough.

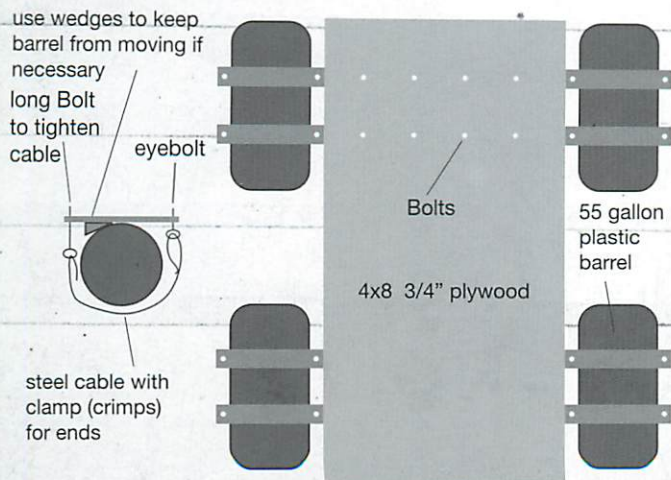
CONSTRUCTION

We decided to put two 2x4s perpendicular to the plywood, and attached the barrels to the 2x4s, and we repeated this in the back. We used 4 bolts on each 2x4 to attach them to the plywood. We have learned it is helpful to over engineer everything we build. We made little metal 'flaps' that we epoxied to the barrels and ran the steel cable through them so that the barrels would not slip. The steel cable is tightened with clamps and then affixed to long eye bolts going through the 2x4s. We did not, but you may have to put blocks under the barrels to help keep them in place.

PROPULSION

We have not figured out how to steer it or sail/row it. I did find some plans for some quick, cheap oars, I'm not sure if they will work. When we tested the raft, we just paddled it with canoe paddles, since this is painfully slow, we are going to build oars. We have learned from our experience with the beachcamper that we need to make sure it can fit on or in a car and it can be lifted.

RAFT PLANS TOP VIEW



We didn't end up using "wedges" to keep the barrel from moving. I would recommend making the raft longer so that you can have a middle row of barrels. Having the barrels touch in addition to the longer waterline will make the homemade raft much faster.

Source: <http://www.captainfletch.com/projects/boats/barellraft/barrelraft.asp>

[On the other hand, this article provides a more "primitive" way of constructing your raft.]

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Something to cut the wood with (a hatchet)
- Logs (spruce is recommended)
- Heavy twine
- Leaves
- 4 empty water jugs

STEPS IN BUILDING THE RAFT

Step One:

First off, you will need to lay about half a dozen 12-foot long and 12-inches thick logs side-by-side on the ground. Using the hatchet, cut grooves near the ends of each log in a U shape. Each groove will need to be around 2 inches from the end of the log.

Step Two:

Place two 7" x 6' logs in the U shaped grooves of the larger logs. Already your hard work should be paying off with a half built raft.

Step Three:

Wrap the heavy twine in a crisscross pattern across the large and small logs to make the raft more stable. You should be able to stay afloat on the waters now.

Step Four:

Now that your raft is secured with twine, flip it over so that the smaller logs are on the bottom.

Step Five:

Using the plastic water jugs, place them on the bottom of the raft and secure them by using heavy twine. It is a smart idea to have each jug placed in a corner of the raft to balance everything out.

Step Six:

Place leaves on the top of your raft. Lay several on top of each other making many layers of leaves. Now you will at least have some better cushioning and a stylish new look when compared to a plain raft. However, the danger is that leaves can get slippery when wet.

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