



CAMPFIRE 营火 *Light* 火

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SCOUT GROUP

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Highlights

Reflections of a DCA, CCA and PSA

Pictorials of our glorious 5 years

GISL gets Malaysian awards



Note From The Co-editor

Catholic High Scout Group was founded in 1948. this magazine is a mark of our existence for the past 55 years; we have pulled through despite the many difficulties. It is a dedication to the resilience of the leaders and scouts and their tireless pursuit for excellence.

Quoting Queen Elizabeth II, "We have the benefit of a long and proud history this gives us not only the trusted stability and continuity to ease the process of change, but it also tells us what is of lasting value. Only the passage of time can filter the

ephemeral from the enduring. And what endures are the characteristics that mark our identity."

Indeed these characteristics are definitely the persistence and resilience which we have put up over these years. Just like the rungs of a ladder, which was never meant to be rest upon, but only to hold man's foot long enough to put the other somewhat higher, may Catholic High Scout Group soar to greater heights.

I hope that this magazine will make an interesting read. Thank You.

Editorial Committee

Editor : Andrew Chua

Co-editor : Yang Qihui

Photographer : Brian Wong

Journalists : Ngon Shu Yi, Nicholes Boey, Julia Ao
Rebecca Wong, Willy See, Lee Fengnian

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For inquiries regarding CAMPFIRE LIGHT reproduction
of materials, please write to the above address.



From left to right:
Julia Teo, Rebecca Wong, Nicholas Boey,
Ngon Shu Yi, Willy See, Yang Qihui, Andrew Chua

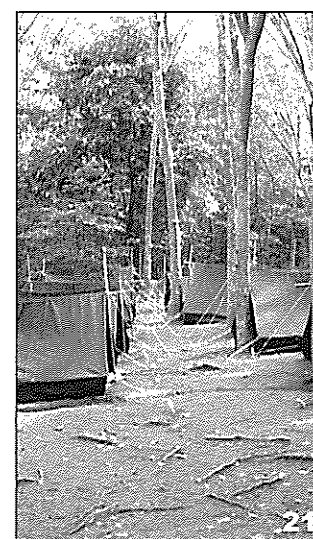
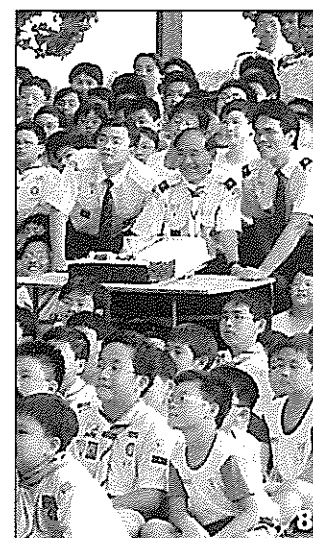
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The Past Editor Speaks

It is very gratifying to see that Campfire Light began to shine again after a lapse of 29 years. The new light was rekindled in 1996 with issue No. 33 to show continuity. Since then, it has already been shining for 6 years.

Why was the magazine named Campfire Light when it was first published? What was the significant of this name? Is it still relevant today?

Campfire is the icon of Scouting. Whenever we read about campfires in the newspaper or magazine, we will think of Scouts, Guides and camping. A campfire is normally held in the evening after a hard day's work in camp. The flames drive away darkness of the night and bring warmth to the campers as they sit in the cool evening air. They sing, they dance and entertain one another with songs, sketches and stories. With the magic of the fire, scouts send away their worries and weariness.

Companionship and brotherhood in the Scout family swing into full action. The campfire has always been an occasion for refreshing tired bones with healthy jokes. Yet it has its sober moment when the campfire leader tells a yarn about the beauty of Mother Nature and the meaning of life. A campfire is joyful and yet meaningful experience to be cherished for many years to come.

No matter how much we enjoy ourselves at a campfire. We know that the success of the event does not rest on a few. The campfire leader has to handle the event with fact and humour. Yet, the melody of songs and harmony of rejoice must echo the resonance of many hearts. Without cooperation, support and appreciation, no campfire can claim success no matter how many songs we sing.



Nowadays, it is common for campfires to be held in the school compound. During such an occasion, classmates, parents and friends are invited to share the joy and feel the comradeship. By the end of the campfire, these visitors would leave with the impression that Scouting is good for the body as well as for the mind. There is happiness in the songs. There is discipline in the mind. There is warmth in the heart.

"Campfire Light" is a literary torch that gives scouts the opportunity to write and to be read. Through news, comments and articles we share views, express differences and develop understanding. It is an intellectual laboratory where textbooks are put aside and creativity is encouraged.

In Singapore, Scout magazine are rare to find especially those with a local flavour. Campfire Light helps to publicise Scouting arousing our classmates,

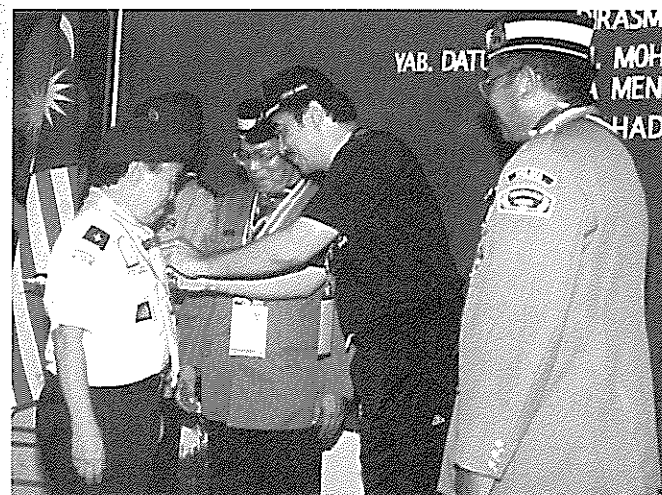
friends, parents and well-wishers. Many may not have the time to become Scouts themselves. Yet by reading Campfire Light, they can get some insight about Scouting. They will know that Scouting is a global movement that has shaped the character of many youth around the world. It shows that there is international friendship and goodwill on Planet Earth.

The "Campfire Light" has its editors as its lord bearers. But it cannot last very long without readers and contributors. As in a campfire, it takes more than a pile to raise a nice flame. We need many voices and bodies to sing and dance. A few isolated branches only glow and fade away in no time. Similarly, the Campfire Light must have a good supply of wood to make it shine long and bright.

Tan Chwee Huat

Our Heartiest Congratulations to:

Our Group Scout Leader, **Mr Andrew Chua**, who was awarded the "Anugerh Presiden" by the Chief Minister of Melaka State during the opening ceremony of the 4th Melaka Jamboree.



Our cadet scout leader **Vanessa Ng** who was married on the 6th December 2001 The lucky guy — **Mr Steve Ang**.

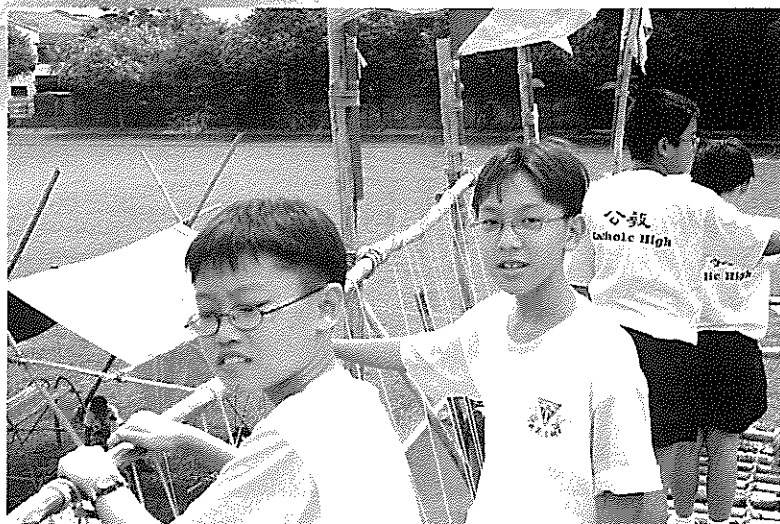
The time was set, the stage was ready. It was the annual presentation of the Frank Cooper Sands award on the 27th of July. This award is awarded to top performing units in the scouting work in recognition of their hard work and effort. This year, the Catholic High Scout Group bagged the awards in all categories, but the Rover Unit. First, we had the Gold award for the Cadet Scout Unit, the Gold award for the Scout Unit, and lastly the silver award for the Venture unit. These results have been



Frank Sands Award Presentation 2001 27 July 2002

made possible by the seamless integration of all our units working hand in hand, the boundless energy of the cadet scouts, the industrious scouts, the motivation of the ventures, and the leadership of the rovers synergized into one. With these results, we affirm our position in scouting. However, we should not be complacent and therefore should move on and strive towards greater heights. Till next year.

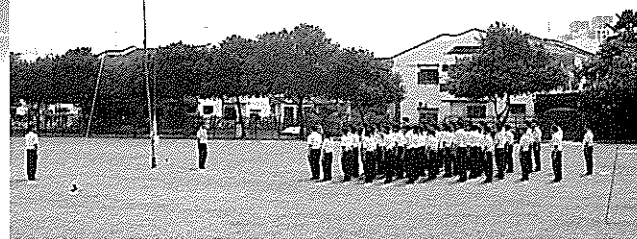
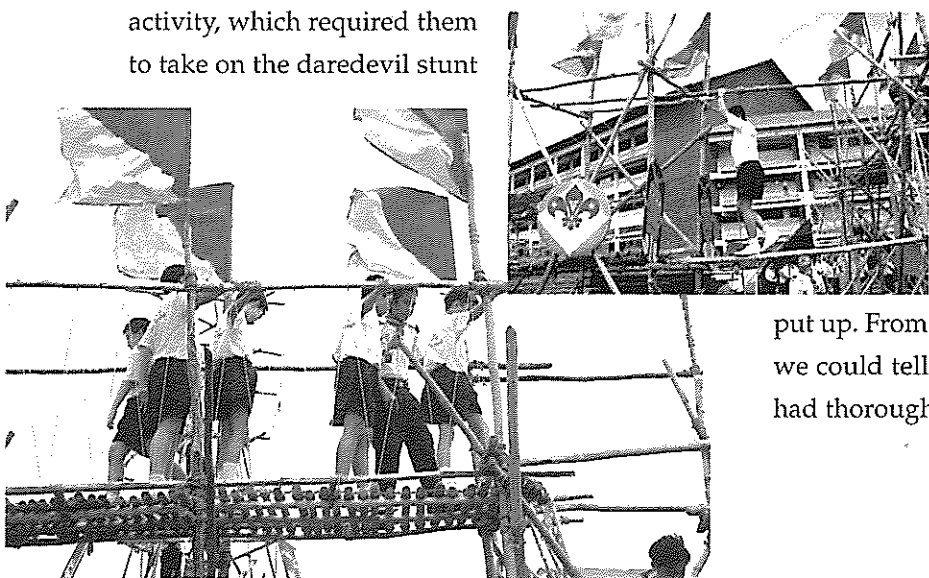
ORIENTATION 2002



Orientation was an occasion which new secondary one pupils were invited to an introduction of the various CCAs in school. The scouts have spent long hours in preparation for this day.

This year we had constructed 2 structures. One being playground enhanced with decorations, and the other of course the traditional tower which stood high and proud in the morning sun.

The ventures were engaged in the abseiling activity, which required them to take on the daredevil stunt



of abseiling down from the third storey to the first. Rounds of applause rang out as they completed their acts. This was deemed the main attraction of our orientation program.

Following that was the impressive display of the wide array of badges. In conjunction, there was an exhibition of all the medals which the scout group had achieved over the years. The sec 1s

viewed these layouts in awe and were thoroughly appalled.

Simultaneously, there was also a display of equipment such as pulleys, axes, parangs, as well as the highly acclaimed venture tower model. Alongside this was the various knots depicting the useful survival skills one can glean from scouting.

After each batch of sec 1s left the station, pamphlets and magazines were distributed to them.

These were informative and would be of aid in their selection of CCA. We persuaded the sec 1s to join scouts by explaining the benefits it would yield.

In conclusion, the orientation program was definitely a success. The sec 1s were enthralled by the brilliant show that the scouts had put up. From the laughter and smiles on their faces, we could tell that they really had a good time and had thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Gordon Foo (Eagle)

16th February was an important day for the scouts as it was going to be an annual investiture ceremony.

As we had to build a taller flagpole, we assembled on the track at 10 am. After that, we started building the flagpole. At 11 am, the sec.1s joined us after their burst programme. After we had raised the flagpole, we were told to have lunch.

After lunch, we were told to have a last PLC with the sec.4 patrol mates, who were going to leave us when they were promoted as ventures that evening. The sec. 4s gave their last instructions for their patrols and we changed into our uniform. We had trouble coping with the sec.1s as they had lots of frayed ends on their uniform and were not able to dress properly. As seniors, we helped them to check their uniforms.

At one o'clock, we formed a giant horse shoe at the founder's square. The sec. 1s were rather excited as they had never seen such big horse shoe in their short scouting life. The ceremony commenced soon after. As this was a serious ceremony, we had to keep quiet at all times. The seniors had to remind the sec. 1s constantly not to fidget.

The ceremony started with the sec. 4s getting promoted to ventures after they had assembled in front of the sotong which was placed in the middle of the horse shoe, every individual sec. 4 was giving

a hard thump on their chest by Yih Koon and then by Leon Tan— this is a formality in our scout group on saying farewell to scouting life and welcoming the new ventures to venture hood. As the sec. 1s had not seen anything so adsorb before, many of them burst out into laughter, which sparked a series of scolding and reminders by the seniors. As there was to be an instructor patrol formed this year, the sec. 3s marched up next to receive their ex-co badges, after that, the sec. 2s marched out according to patrol order to have their red scarf replaced with the

Investiture 2002



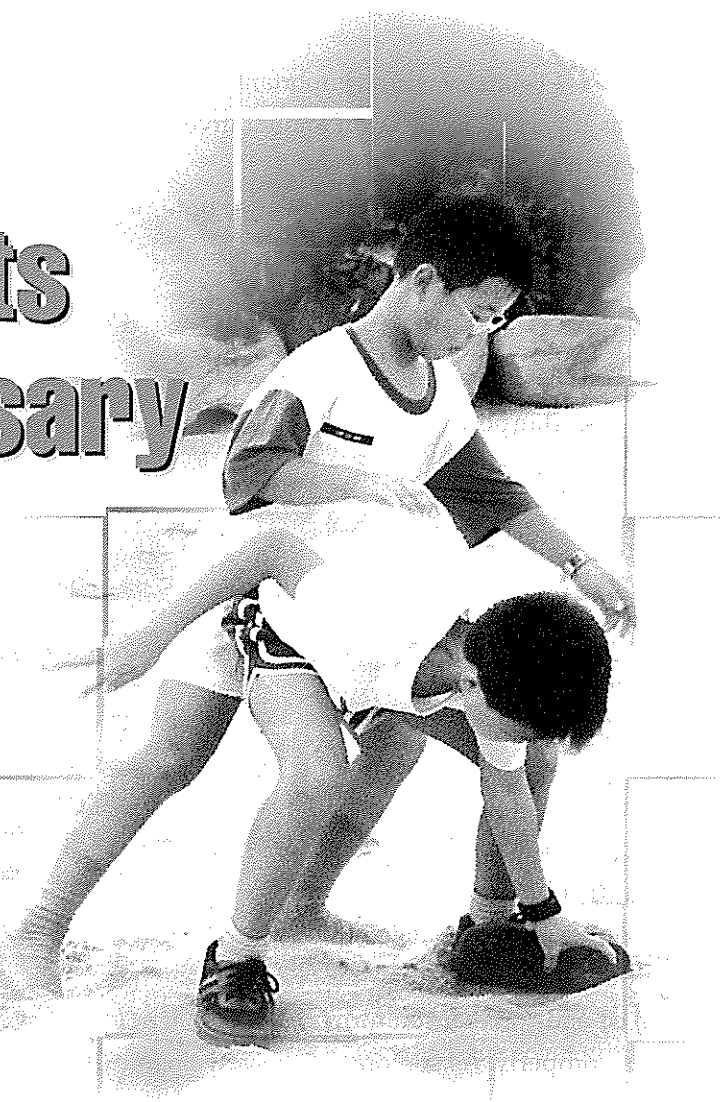
troop yellow scarf. Following that was the promotion of the new Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and the Assistant Patrol Leader (ASPL). Both of them turned out to be Daryl and Benny respectively. Next was the promotion of the respective eight Patrol Leaders. The Sec. 1s were then led out by the new patrol leaders to be invested by the Scout Leader, Wen Bin.

After all the sec. 1 were invested. We were told to fall in front of our flagpole for our lowering ceremony. The grueling two hours were finally over. This marks the end of the ceremony, but the beginning of a new scouting lives for the sec. 1s, and for me, a whole new year of scouting as a senior.

Ken Koh
Eagle Patrol

Cadet Scouts 54 Anniversary at Sentosa

At 10:45 am on the 24th of January, the Catholic High Cadet Scout Unit, assembled in School. We were going to Sentosa to celebrate our 54th anniversary. The clear blue sky promised a day of fine weather. Soon we were on the bus to Sentosa. When we reached our destination, we took a monorail to Central Beach. From there we changed into our scout



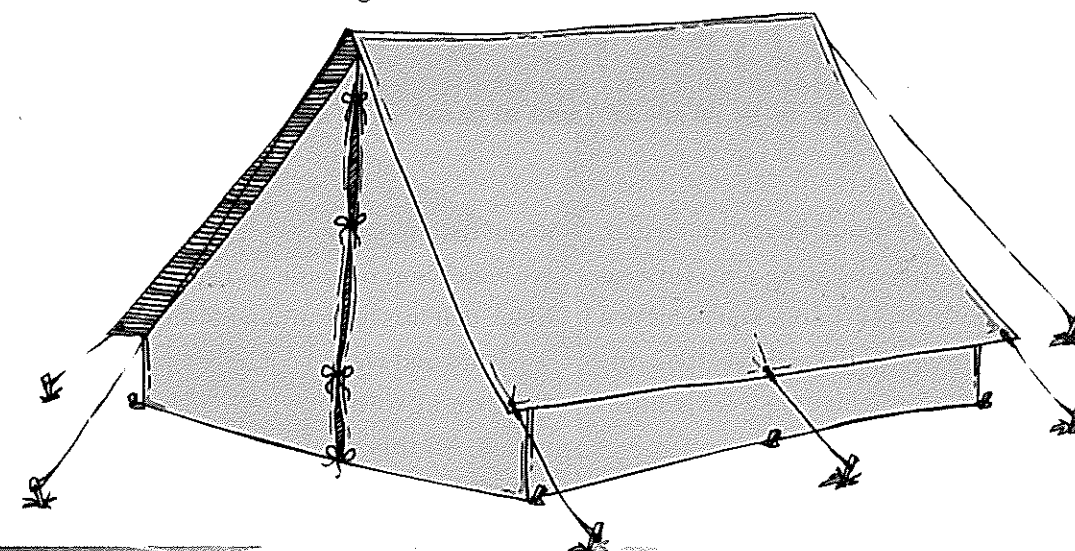
t-shirts and begin playing inter-six matches. The red six was teamed up with the white six. Due to our high morale, and strong attack and defence, we won the game 3-0 in the soccer match.

For the next activity, we teamed up with the scouts. Then the eight sixes were divided into four teams, each team with two sixes pitting their skills against each other in four different games which were Dog-And-Bone, water rationing,



Flour M&Ns and Hula Hoop Ring. We all enjoyed ourselves, though the Primary 3s, 4s, and 5s were still complaining about the horrible taste of the flour in their mouths after Flour M&Ns. They wished they could have tasted sugar instead.

After the games, we took a group photo with a gigantic cake with the numerals 54 and our troop logo in the center. After the Photo taking, Mr. Chua, our GSL, cut a piece for everyone of us. Soon we started dinner, buffet style. There was fried rice, fried noodles, tofu, fried chicken and vegetables.



Everyone agreed that the dinner was delicious.

After our dinner we had a campfire, which was actually four Bunsen burners buried in the sand. After the campfire, the cadet scouts wearily made their way back to the monorail and back into the bus. The scouts did not follow as they would be camping on the central beach. On the trip home we could not help but agree that this was the best anniversary that we had ever been to.

Edmund Teo (Red Six)
&
John Wu (Orange Six)





54TH ANNIVERSARY CAMP

We gathered at school at 9:00am on 24th January which was a Saturday. Taking a bus we went to Sentosa Island which was to be our homes for that night. Upon reaching the island we took the monorail to Central Beach where we were going to camp.

Upon arrival we gathered and then set about to a game of inter-patrol soccer. We had great fun and some of the leaders even joined in.

After that we gathered the equipment to pitch the tents and set

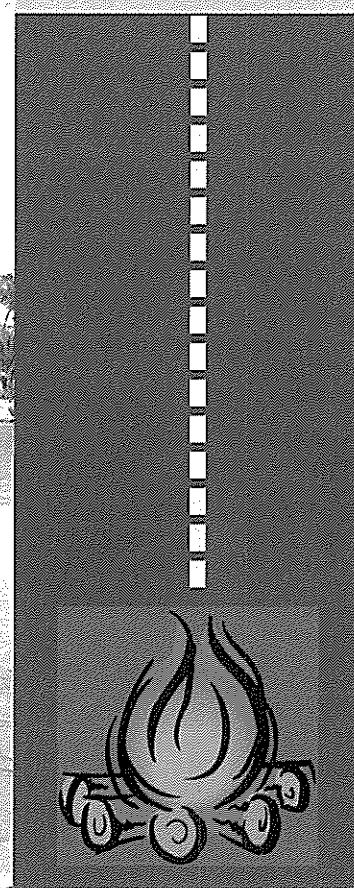
about doing the task. We had a bit of a hard time as we were short on raffle and ended up using bits of nylon that was lying around. Added that the ground was hard and we did not have a mallet to knock the tent-pegs in, we improvised and used a piece of hard wood. All this while the Sec. 1s who had burst program, and the cadet scout arrived. They played captain ball while waiting for us.

When we finished, we joined the Sec. 1s and the cadet scout. Together we had a game of water wrestling. Eagle immersed the champion of the scouts and they went head on with the ventures but sadly they were defeated.

Later, there was tower building which we all enjoyed. We then continued with our next game which is called "Telematch". It consisted of many parts, most fun was when we had to find M & Ms in a plate of flour using our mouth. It was very fun and we came out with our faces covered in flour.

We washed up and dressed up in our uniforms for the troop photo taking. There was also a big cake and a sumptuous deal of good food.

After dinner there was a campfire where each patrol came up with a skit. Sitting around the campfire, we sang songs and did a tons. We all enjoyed ourselves and had a great time.





The cadet scouts left after the campfire, the remaining scouts then proceeded in a game of "Shadowing". Following our assigned venture, we had to stay behind him and not be seen. All the while, he will drop notes for us, the notes would have clues telling us where we could find our flag.

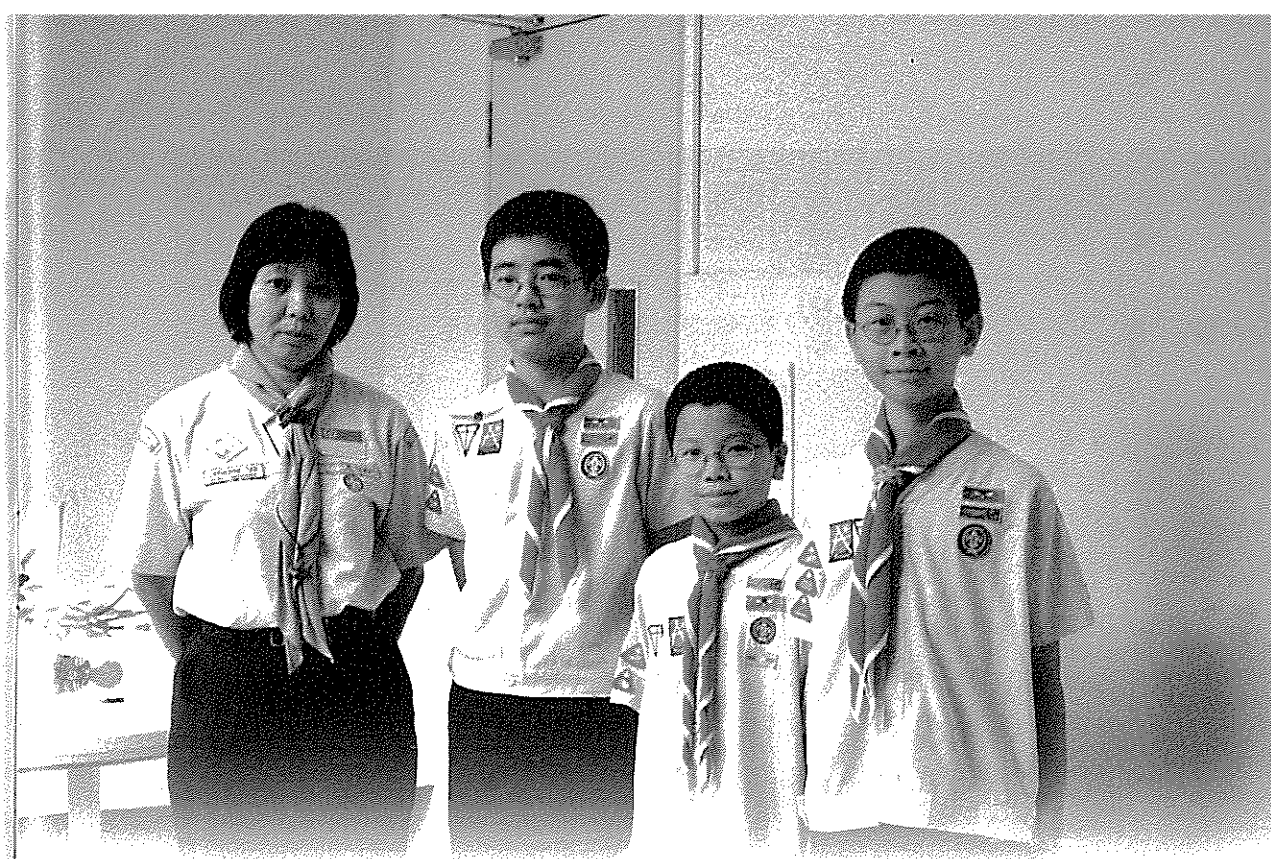
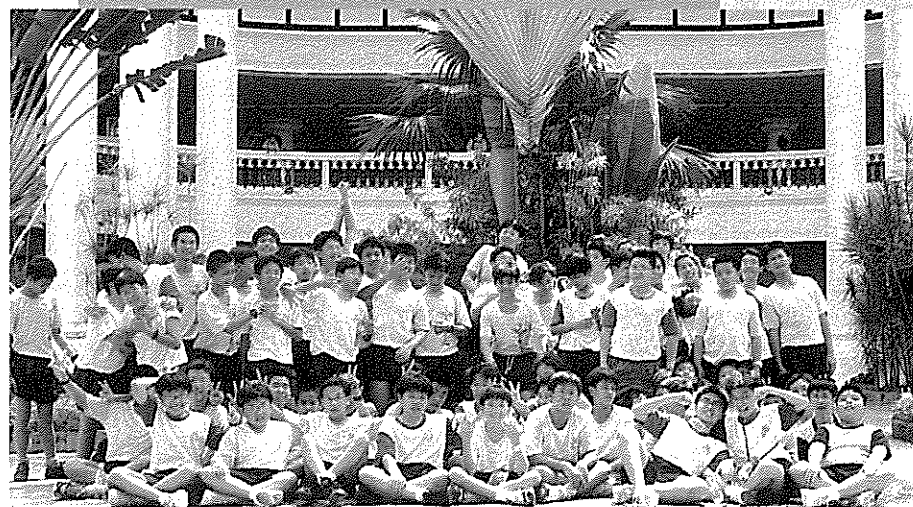
At the end of the game, we then gathered to have supper and hear ghost stories told by the

leaders. We then headed towards an abandoned old colonial building. Where we were brought in and shown around the place. It was a scary experience and I was truly frightened. After that, we washed up before going to sleep.

The next day, we started with some physical training to wake us up before we had breakfast. Then we proceeded to take some photos of the individual patrols before we started our last event for the day, an island wide hike. It was long and tough but we pulled through. We finally left the island in the afternoon, returning back to school to be dismissed.

This overnight camp was an enjoyable and miserable experience and I hope I would be able to do it again.

*Adam Kuang
Rhino Patrol*



The DCA and I

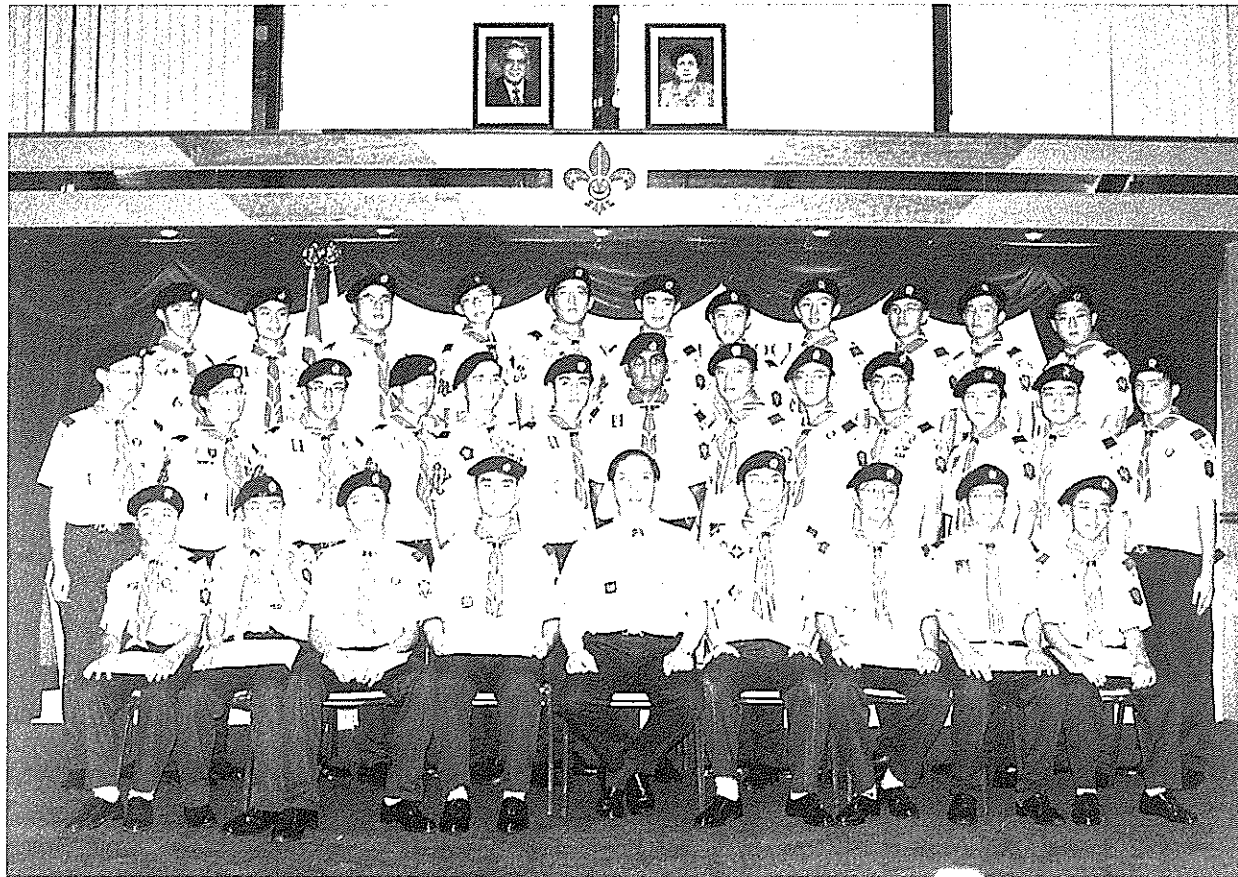
I joined the Cadet Scout movement when I was in Primary 3. My ambition was to attain the DCA (District Commissioner's Award) before I leave my primary school. As soon as I received my test card, I planned to keep pace with my schedule to complete the tests required for the Bronze Arrow in my first year, the Silver Arrow in my second year, the Gold Arrow in my third year and leave my last year for the DCA. All these tests that I would have to complete would teach me skills that will be useful in times of emergencies. As many Saturdays were spent on training for the NDP 2001 that I was involved in, I fell short of my expectations to get an arrow every year. Fortunately during my fourth year, I had the encouragement and support from my family members, Teacher-in-charge and GSL (Group Scout Leader) to attain the DCA together with three other friends who were too, aiming for the DCA. We learnt all remaining tests together, helping each other whenever each of us needed help. Eventually

my friends and I managed to complete the remaining test for 3 arrows (Bronze, Silver, and Gold) within half a year. During the course of completing these tests, I gave up pastimes of reading comics, going out with friends, playing computer games, etc. finally my sacrifice paid off.

On the last scout meeting for the year, the District Commissioner for Ang Mo Kio district came down to my school. I was feeling nervous for the interview with the District Commissioner. The three of us received a badge and a certificate. The badge is the only badge I can sew on to my sec 1 uniform when I joined a scout group in the secondary school I go to.

I felt very honoured and proud to receive the highest and the most prestigious award a cadet scout can achieve.

*Ng Jing Cheng
Red Six*



CCA Presentation Ceremony

After toiling through 9 months of hard work and long waiting of the posting of the results, it was definitely worth it. The road to the Chief Commissioner Award was not easy but was not as difficult as many would think.

The first obstacle David and me decided to overcome was the Exploration test. The hike itself seems easy but the logbook was usually the part that many candidates failed. I was lucky to have passed on the first try. The waiting of the hike result was nerve wrecking. We would

visit the HQ regularly to check the notice board of any latest news of the hike. Finally after a month of waiting, both of us passed the Exploration test.

The next task at hand was to do six hours of community service to a home for a period of six hours and on separate occasions. David and I decided to approach Brighthill Evergreen Home to do our community service. We went there the next four days, after school, to accompany the old folks there. We would chat with them or play chess with them. During the evening we

would serve the old folks dinner and help them back to their room after dinner.

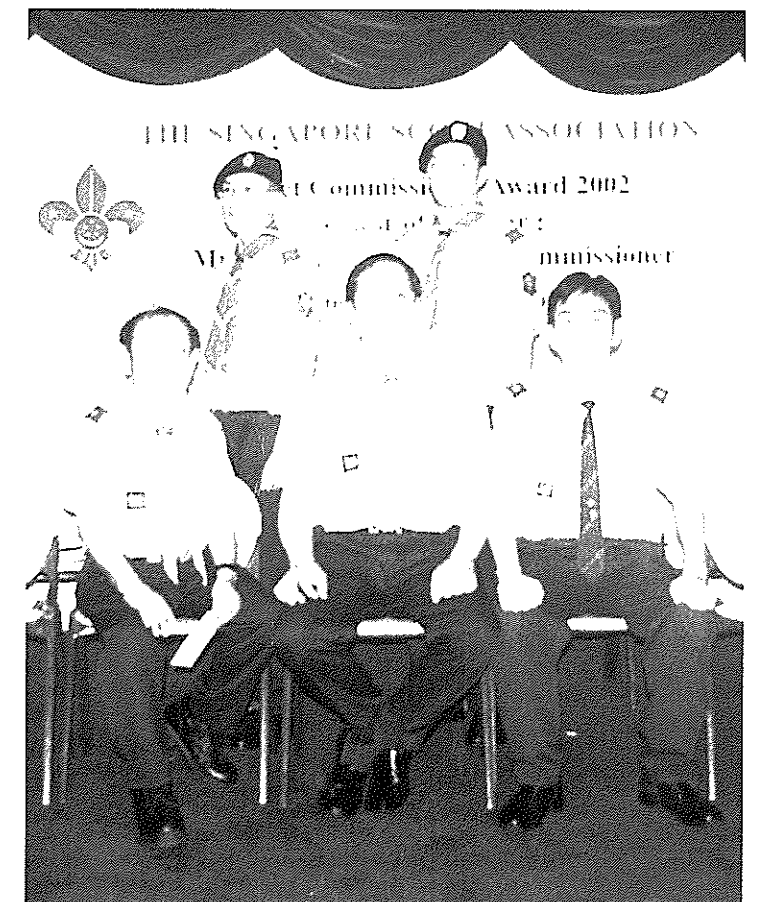
Our next difficulty was the Scout Test at Zhenghua Secondary School conducted by Sparrow with his Fox Scout Group. We went through a series of tests, on our knowledge of first aid, knots, map reading and footdrill. The test is to test our basic scouting knowledge and our skill.

The last hurdle that now stand in our way is the Interview by the scout HQ. At the waiting room, scouts from Chinese High and St Joseph Pelandok scout group was already there. Every body was pacing about, nervous about the interview. However, it was there where we made friends with scouts from other troop. Finally, I entered the interview room. The interviewers were White Lion and Sparrow. They asked a range of question from my testwork to Lee Hiesn Long! However they asked every candidate this question: Are you prepared to fail now?

The result of the interview was mailed to us, three day before the award ceremony. On the day of the award ceremony, everybody was overjoyed. We had a rehearsal and the ceremony began shortly. Standing in the contingent I began to think about the last nine months of working and the fear of failure was definitely worth it. I proudly receive my award from our Chief Commissioner, Mr Nicholas Tang.

The CCA was a encouragement for me to further my scouting journey and is only the beginning of the end.

Su You Yi
(Venture Unit)





21 September 2002 is one day I will never forget. As I marched up and received the award from President Nathan, I could feel an overwhelming sense of satisfaction. The feeling at that very moment was one that cannot be expressed in words. I felt as if I was on top of the world. However, everything was over within a mere few minutes.

Did I put in so much hard work just for that moment of honour? Was that piece of paper worth all the effort put in? No, the President's Scout Award is more than that moment of honour, that piece of paper. It is an experience unique in itself. It marks the end of yet another chapter of my scouting life, and the beginning of a new one.

Achieving the President's Scout Award was a dream that I have had ever since my cadet scout days. Then, I was inspired by the articles and photographs of the President's Scouts in the Singapore Scout Association (SSA) magazine. As such, I began working for this award in January 2001. It was not an easy ride. The journey was ridden with countless obstacles and challenges. At that time, I had just begun my junior college education. Thus, I found myself having to cope with a demanding academic workload, and still, make time for scouting activities. This meant spending less time with friends and family, and staying up late to finish up my homework. Proper time management was indeed very important.

Moreover, going through and passing all the tests and courses was extremely arduous. Although these tests and courses were physically tough, it was to me more a mental battle than a physical one. Many a times, I found myself faced with daunting

Reflections of a President's Scout

challenges. The thought of giving up did cross my mind, but fortunately, my mental resolve prevailed. One such instance was during the Self Reliance Initiative Course (SRIC). On the second night of this 4 days 3 nights course, I was down with a fever. That night happened to be solo night. Candidates had to build a shelter, cook, and spent the night alone in the bushes. Therefore, I had to push myself to complete these tasks, even though what I most wanted was a good rest. Things were made worse by the wet ground which made it difficult to start a fire. Indeed, my mental strength was put to the test. Fortunately, my fever had subsided by the next morning.

Although I had put in much hard work and made many sacrifices, it was all worth the while. That moment of honour, that piece of paper was just the culmination of all that effort. What mattered more was the experience gained, the lessons learnt and the friends made in the process. The lessons learnt are invaluable as compared to those taught in the classroom. More importantly, these experiences have shaped my character and attitudes, and galvanised me both physically and mentally. I must say that the President's Scout Award is the pinnacle of my scouting life

For those who are considering taking up the award, my advice to you is to go ahead and give it a shot. The journey might be tough, but the rewards more than compensate for the effort put in.

Terence Thom (Rover Scout)







Cadet Scout Group Camp 2002

On the 1st June the weather was beautiful. Carrying our back packs we headed for the concourse on the third level. Mrs Ang our Cadet Scout Leader (CSL) took our attendance as we settled down. Soon, our Group Scout Leader (GSL) Mr Andrew Chua came with some Chinese High Ventures that were going to assist in the execution of some of our activities. Soon afterwards, our CSL assigned us into different groups (A to F) and appointed a Chinese High Venture, leader and assistant leader to each group. We then went for the flag raising ceremony. A venture gave the attention command which was resoundingly loud.

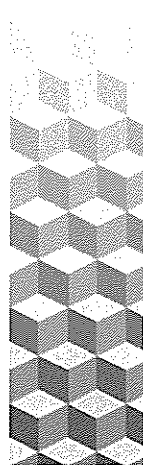
Next another venture briefed us on our first

activity, which was games. We were very thrilled and excited. We then went to different stations, each with a station master explaining the rules of the game. There were many interesting games like "Dog and Bone", "Rolling Good Time", "Soccer" to mention a few. During one of the games we had a cheering competition with an opponent team. We scored points for each game we participated in. Group D was leading in all the games.

We had a singing session conducted by Mr Chua, followed by dinner. After that we pitched tents on the field, which was not an easy task. We learnt many knots that we needed to pitch the tents.

As we were very thirsty, we went to the

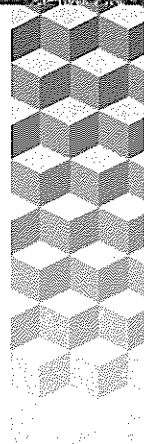
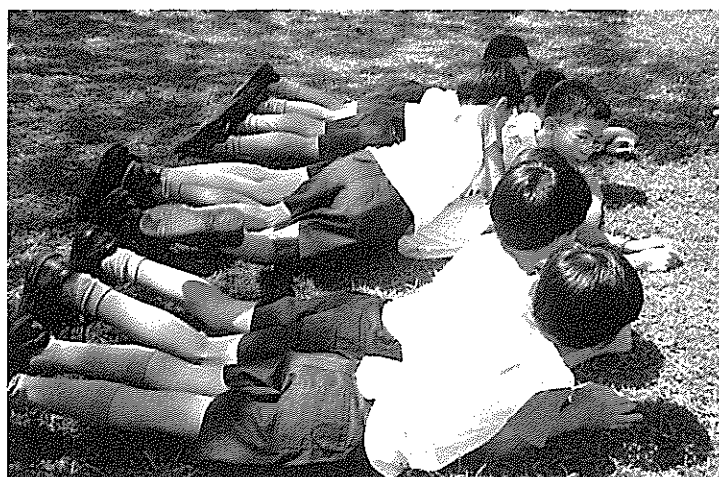




canteen for water parade. We filled our bottles to the brim and waited for the command to start drinking. After that we started on our scout tests, sewing buttons and mending tears. After that we proceed to yet another classroom to learn how to iron. We also had an inspiring talk by Mr Chua on how scouting was founded.

Our next activity was "Musical Chairs", a rather entertaining game. Following that, we also played "Scavenger Hunt".

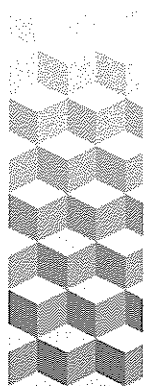
After supper, we went to sleep in our tents. It was not very comfortable as there was insufficient space. Around midnight, it started to pour and some water seeped into the tents.



When we woke up the next morning, we packed up and went for our morning exercise before having

breakfast. After another song session conducted by Mr Chua, we headed on to taking group photos. We then struck our tents and had the prize giving ceremony, Group D was the overall champion. We prepared the next meal ourselves using our mess tins, burners and solid fuel. It was the most satisfying meal as it was prepared with our own effort. Soon afterwards, it was time to say goodbye.

Edmund Teo (Red Six)



At six in the morning, the scouts reported to school. After inspection and attendance taking, we boarded the bus and headed for Pulau Ubin.

The camp started with a treacherous hike to the campsite, which was no easy job considering the load we were carrying. Half an hour later, at 10:30 am, we reached the campsite. Without hesitation, we started camp development. After 45 mins of intense leaf clearing, we had lunch.

Soon after, we proceeded on with our first activity, Scavenger Hunt. The game lasted for two and a half hours. When the all the scouts had arrived back the base camp, the winner of the game was announced, then our camp chief, Jayson Yang Zhineng, had the scouts to further improve on the campsite. At 6 pm, we cooked our own dinner.

After the sun had set, we got ready for "Shadowing". The pitch black conditions made the game even more exciting then before. After four and



a half hours we had our confidence course, which involved walking through the dense Ubin forest blindfolded. by the time this ended, it was midnight. The scouts had a quick supper and then went to sleep.





nearby mangrove swamp. It was extremely disgusting, but we had fun anyway. Then we had "Sea Games" which was actually captain's ball in the sea. After a sumptuous dinner, we had our campfire. "Thieving" and then supper and sleep.

In the midst of our

At 6 am in the morning, we had PT, conducted by Terence, followed by flag – raising and then inspection. The first activity for the day was VOJ. We had our water bottles filled and proceeded to the various stations. VOJ took up the whole day. By the time it was over, it was dinner time. Orienteering was next. This was followed by a night hike up Puaka Hill, which is Ubins Highest peak. We had a "short" jog back to campsite from Puaka at midnight, then it was wash up and bedtime.

On the third day, after a strenuous PT conducted once again by Terence, and the usual formalities, we had a survival craft lesson where the Sec 4s took over. As part of our survival training we were taught how to slaughter chickens by Jayson, who had been long awaiting this session. Some of us lucky scouts even managed to get a hands on session with the chickens.

After lunch, we had "challenge valley". Led by a few sporting ventures, namely Willy, Nicholas, and Qihui, we waded through waist deep mud in a

sleep, we had a rude shock when we were summoned for a troop fall-in. It was rather disruptive as most of the scouts were still half a sleep. We were given orders to strike tent, pack-up and leave campsite. All these to be done in 15 mins. Naturally, we took longer than that. In an hours time, we had gathered at the basketball court. For PT, we jogged back to campsite to clear up.

By 1 pm, we had reached Catholic High. We had a short evaluation and presentation of awards and were dismissed.

Teo Jia Hao
(Rhino)



Badge Patch 2002

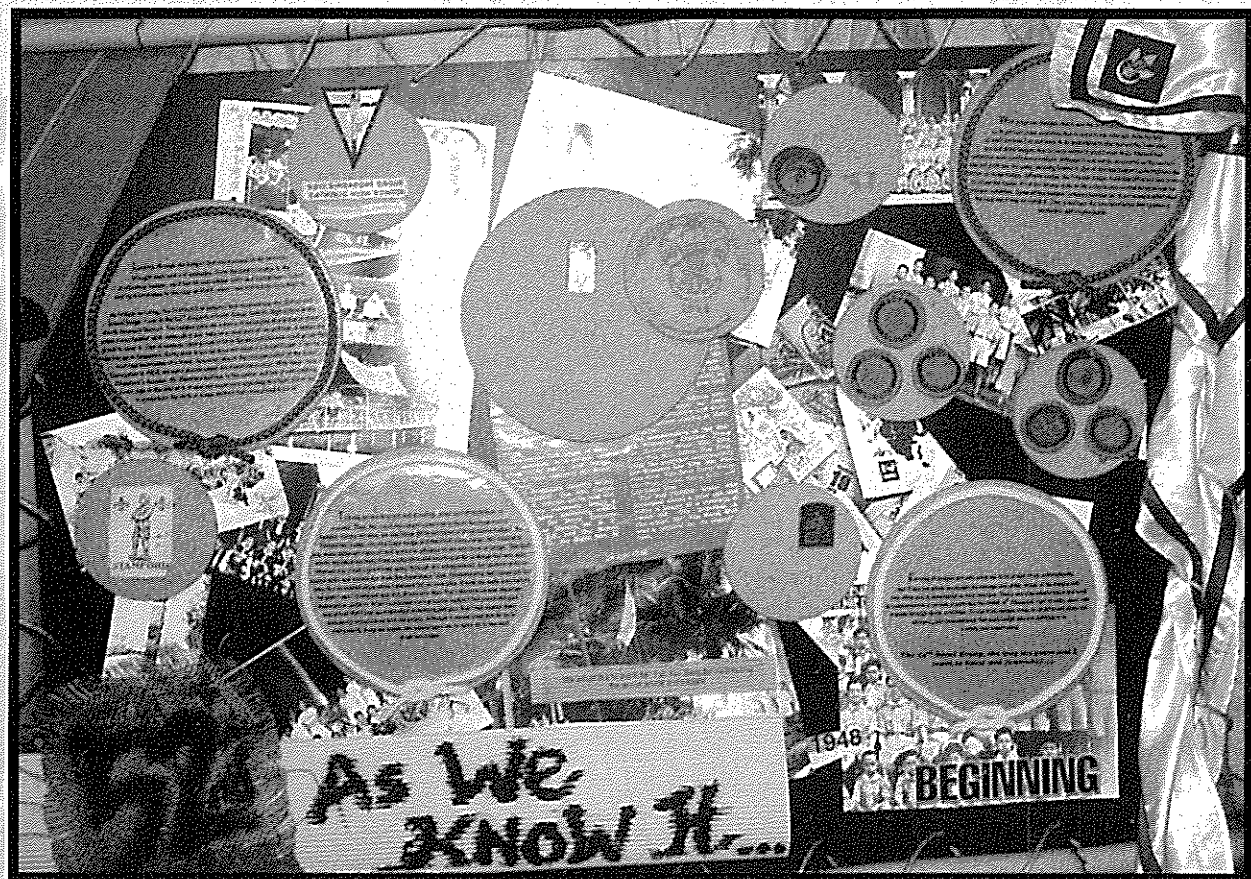
The troop assembled at 10.30am today. It was Badge Patch Day competition where scout groups from all over Singapore came to display the wide range of badges which they had collected over the years. There was also an individual badge designing events for creative scouts to display their

artistic talents. The various patrols had worked hard over the past week to come up with colourful displays.

The PL and PLs reached the Scout Headquarters at around 11am. Our ventures were already there by the time we got there. The themes for the competition were "Cadet Scout Proficiency", "Baden Powell", "District", and "World Scout" badges, just to name a few. Besides the display, there were also game stalls set up by the SJI scouts, and food stalls by the Dunman scouts.

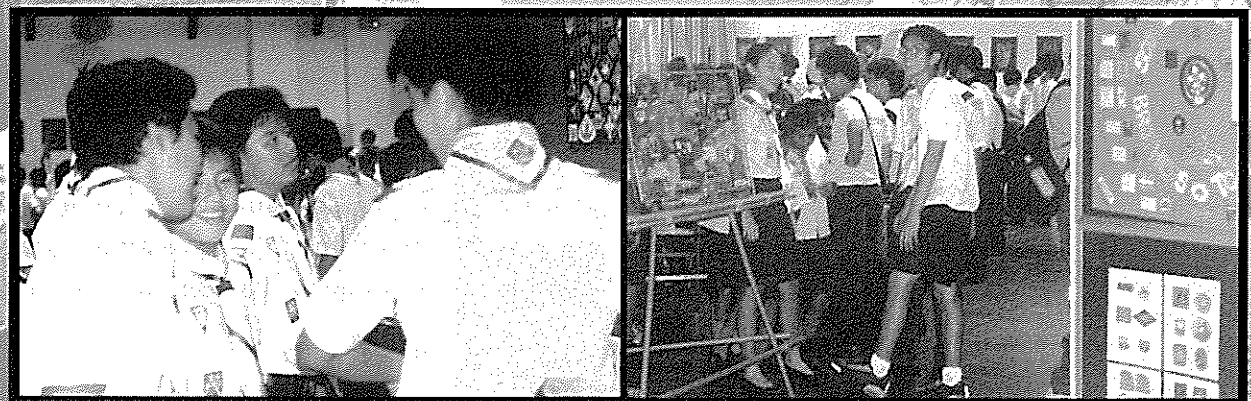
After lunch break, the MC entertained the cadet scouts with some quizzes concerning scouting.





Following the quiz was an auction. Auction items included many rare and valuable scouting badges as well as some quaint looking pins and woggles. This activity was greatly supported by our scouts. Prices for the badges ranged from \$1 to as much as \$12. After that, it was the moment that everybody had been waiting for - the announcement of the winners of the competition. Once again, the Catholic High Scouts dominated the competition with us sweeping the prizes for two events. The Ventures too came in first for the theme of "Local Events". It was a resounding victory for us all.

It was a memorable event for us all and we anticipate the next "Badge Patch Day"

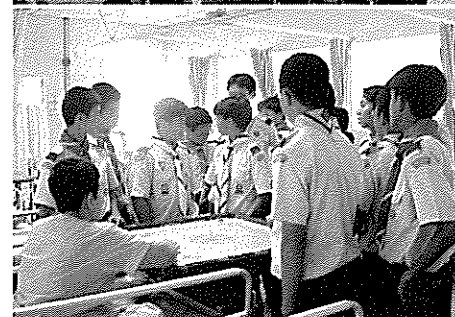


VISIT TO REN CI HOME FOR THE ELDERLY

Today the scouts assembled at 10.45am. We were going to the "Tan Tock Seng Ren Ci Home for the Elderly". This was my first close experience with old folks, so naturally I was excited.

After lunch in the school canteen, my patrol went to prepare the things that we were to bring there. We brought a few chess sets and board games. After half an hour, we assembled at the canteen again for the arrival of the bus. After a few warnings and reminders by the ventures regarding our behaviour at the home, the bus arrived and we were on our way.

When we reached "Ren Ci Home", the troop was divided into three groups. Each group was to be sent to different parts of the home. My team, led by Fengnian,



was led to a male ward. We were to spend our next few hours here, trying to get to know these old folks better.

Being chatty and sociable, I soon got acquainted with an old man. He told me about amazing tales of World War II, when Singapore was under the rule of the Japanese, and how he managed to survive the difficult times. His story had struck a chord in me. It made me realize that I should not take the comfort I have now for granted.

The old man, feeling tired and sleepy after a while, told me he would like to have some rest. Therefore, I proceeded to have a game of chess with his neighbour. Since I am really lousy at it, I lost a few games consecutively.

When it was time to go, we packed our things and got ready to board the bus. After many goodbyes, the troop unwillingly left the home. For me, it was an unforgettable experience. I realized that, the elderly, in their old age, were actually interesting people, and there was a lot we can learn from them.

Lim Funk Kang
(Wolf)

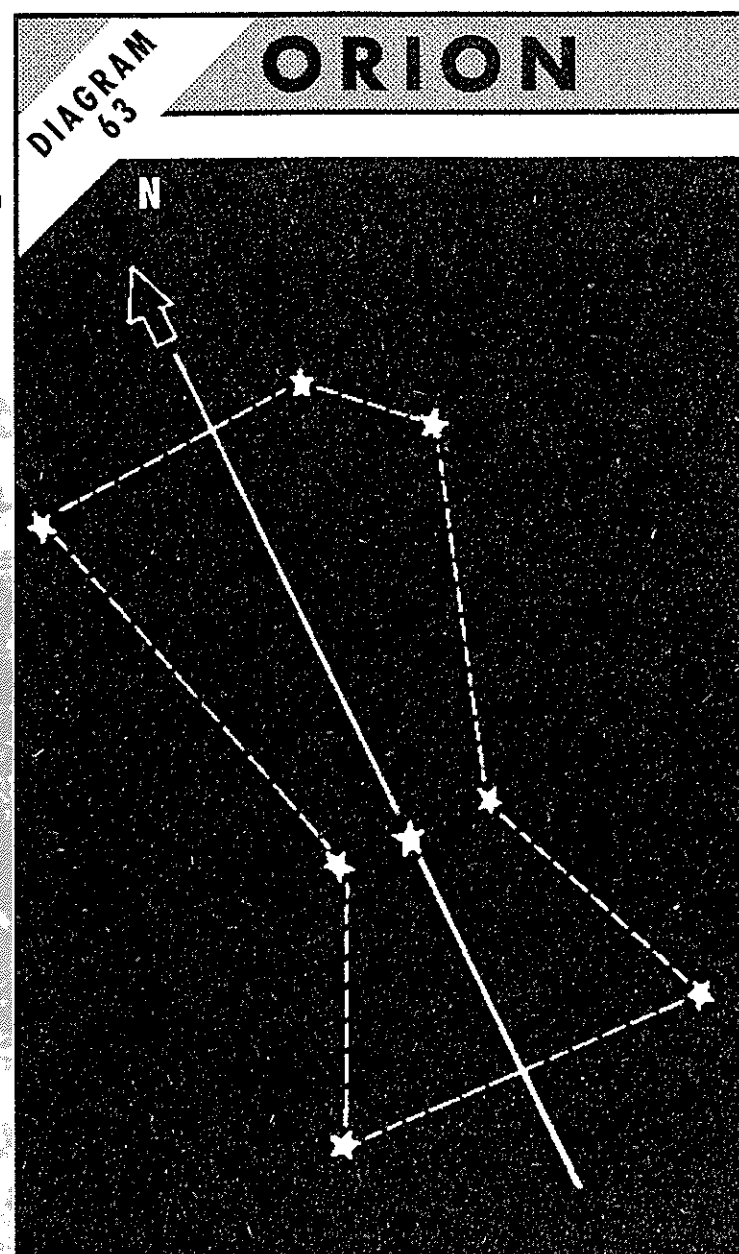
On Navigation- Nature's Natural Signpost

It is imperative to be able to navigate accurately. Navigation is not just about reading a map, it also concerns being able to read the landscape, landmarks and picturing it as it appears on the map.

The Stars — Nature's Natural Signpost

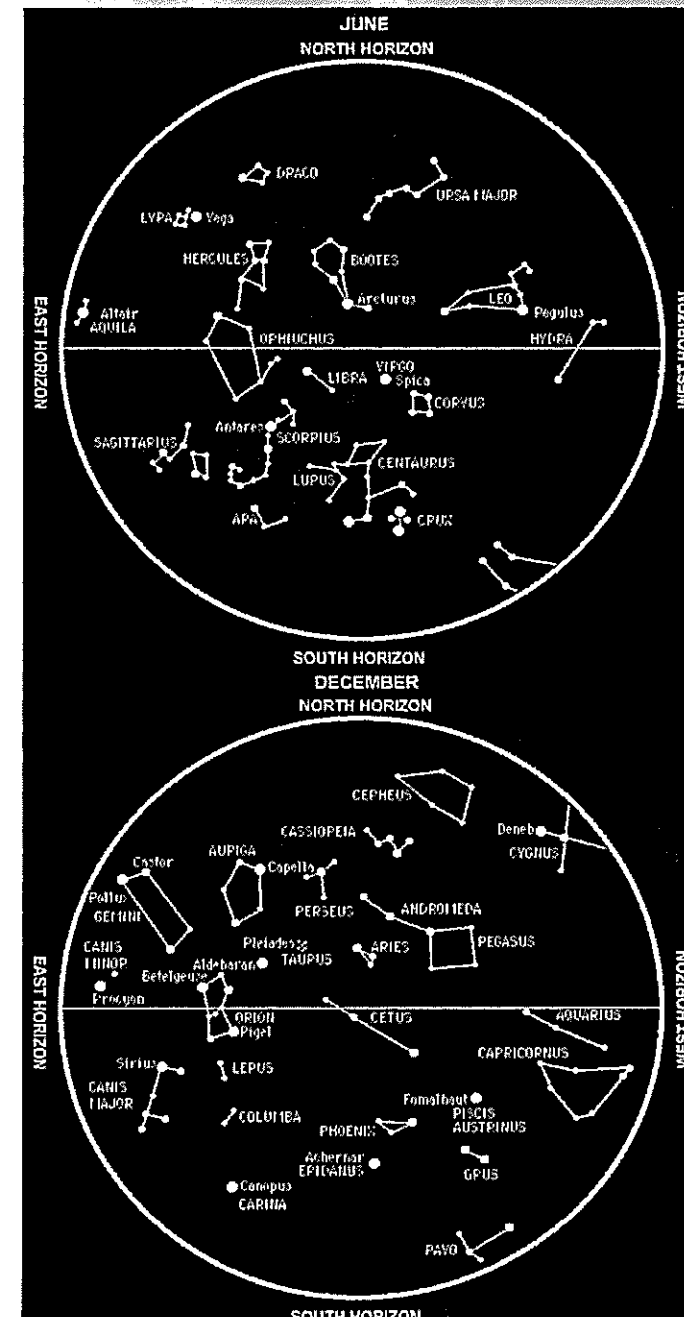
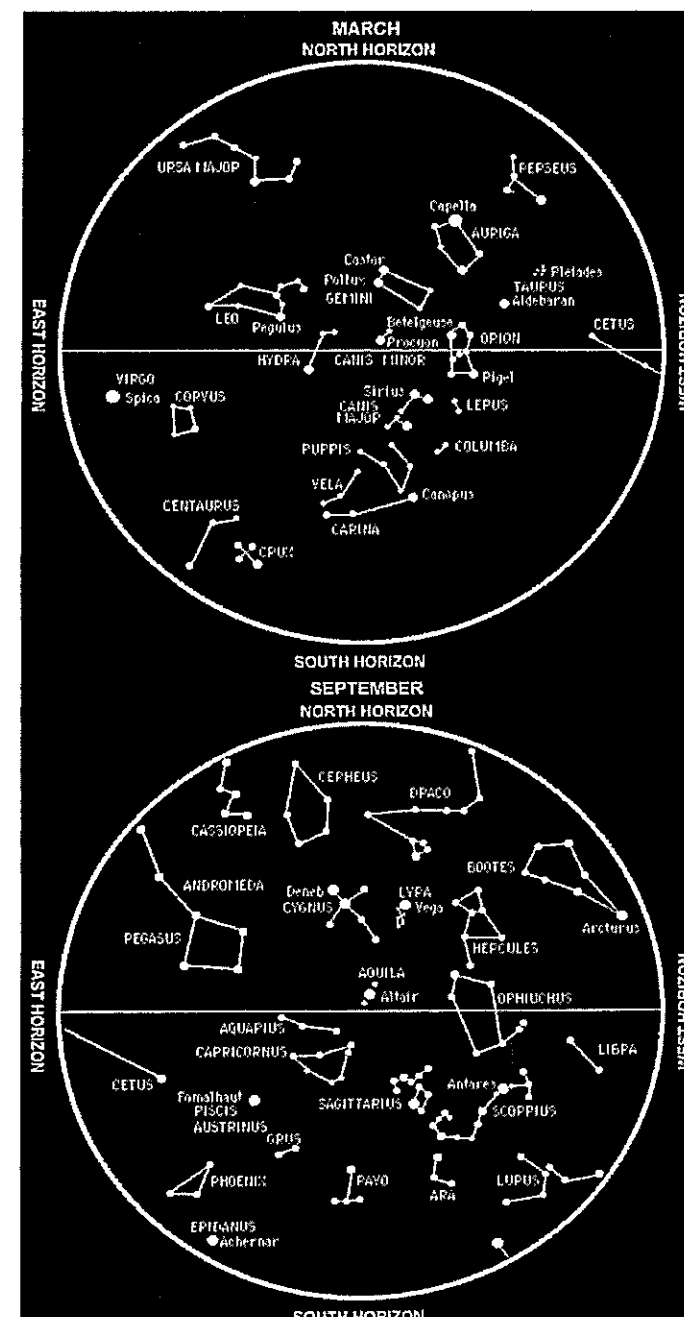
Star constellations can also be used to determine direction, here is a list of constellations which lie near the celestial equator which are visible to the naked eye, together with the month of the year which they are at their highest point on its path above the celestial equator.

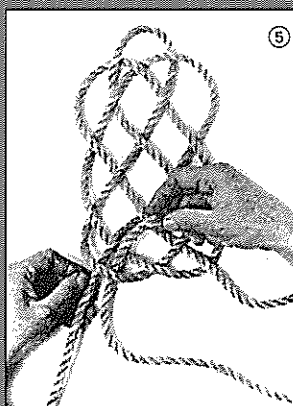
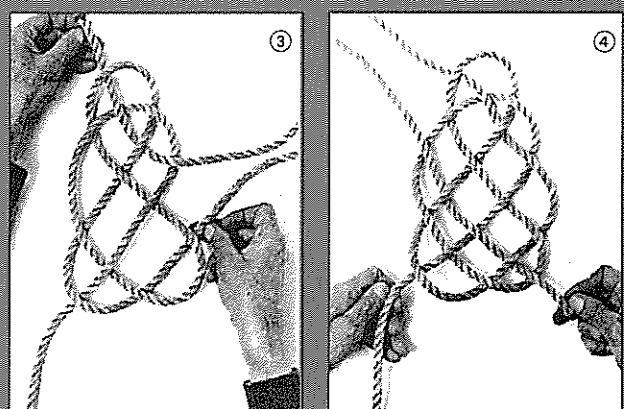
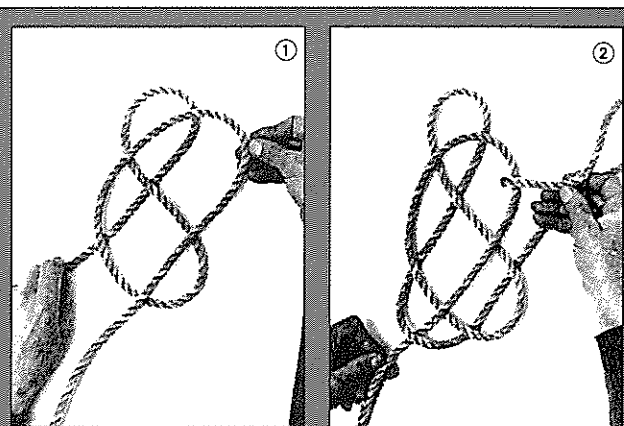
- January — Eridanus and Taurus
- February — Lepus, Orion and Monoceros
- March — Canis Minor and Gemini
- April — Sextans and Leo
- May — Cancer, Virgo and Corvus
- June — Bootes
- July — Serpens (Caput) Libra and Ophiuchus
- August — Serpens (Cauda), Hercules and Scutum
- September — Aquila and Delphinus
- October — Capricornus, Equuleus, Pegasus and Aquarius
- November — Pisces
- December — Cetus and Aries



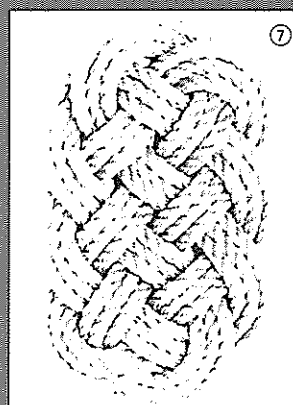
Sky Map of Singapore
Source: National Computer Board
The sky maps show the brighter stars that are above the horizon in the latitude of Singapore at 2230 hours at the beginning, 2130 hours in the middle, and at 2030 hours at the end of the month.

Extracted from
CHSSCOUT Website





Ocean Plait and/or Mat



A considerable length of cordage is required to form this plait and the rope which, from time to time disappears out of the picture and returns, is in fact the bight of a long rope.

The rope is laid up as Fig 1, after which the part in the left hand of this figure is brought over the other tail and up under the one bight as shown in Fig 2. The part now held in the left hand in Fig 2 is the one end which remains in this position and is not used again.

The other end is worked over one/under one as shown in Figs 3 and 4, the first full circuit of the plait being completed as Fig 5, the working end meeting the other at the point of origin, laying alongside it and pointing in the correct direction to continue with the first follow around.

This is completed as Fig 6, when once again the working end returns to the point or origin, ready to commence the third circuit, after which the whole is worked tight and to shape, the ends cut off and buried under the mat. The completed work appears as shown in Fig 7.

The mat may be followed around more than three times, if required, but then the whole tends to become unwieldy and the strands begin to ride up over each other.

It is usually used as the centre piece of a larger mat, perhaps being surrounded by several turns of simple plaiting, before the introduction of a circle of other smaller mats of a different design, the whole being sewn together with sail twine.

Turk's Head

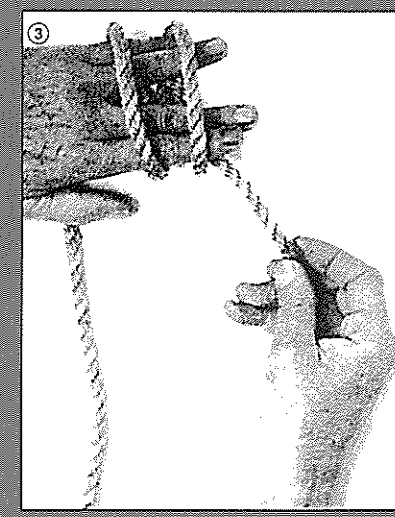
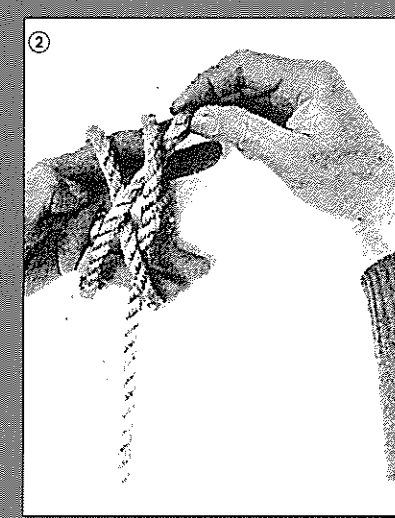
The Turk's head is a purely decorative piece of ropework, invariably made around an object such as a guard rail.

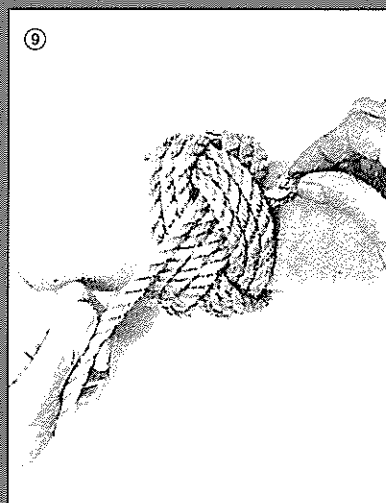
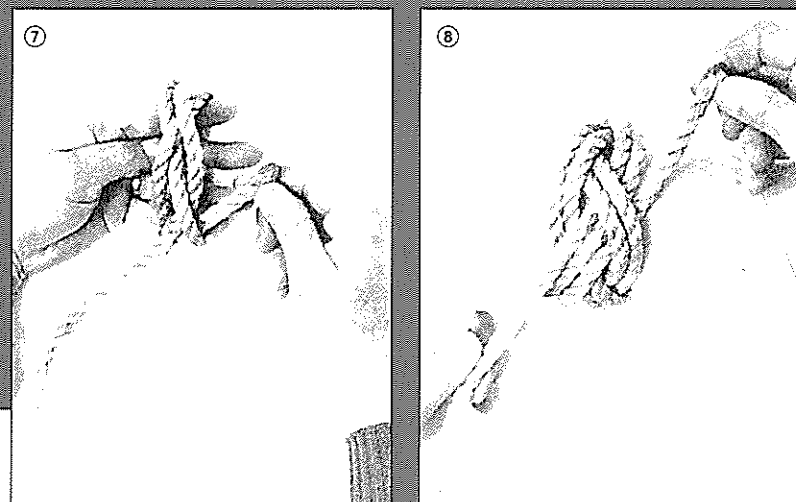
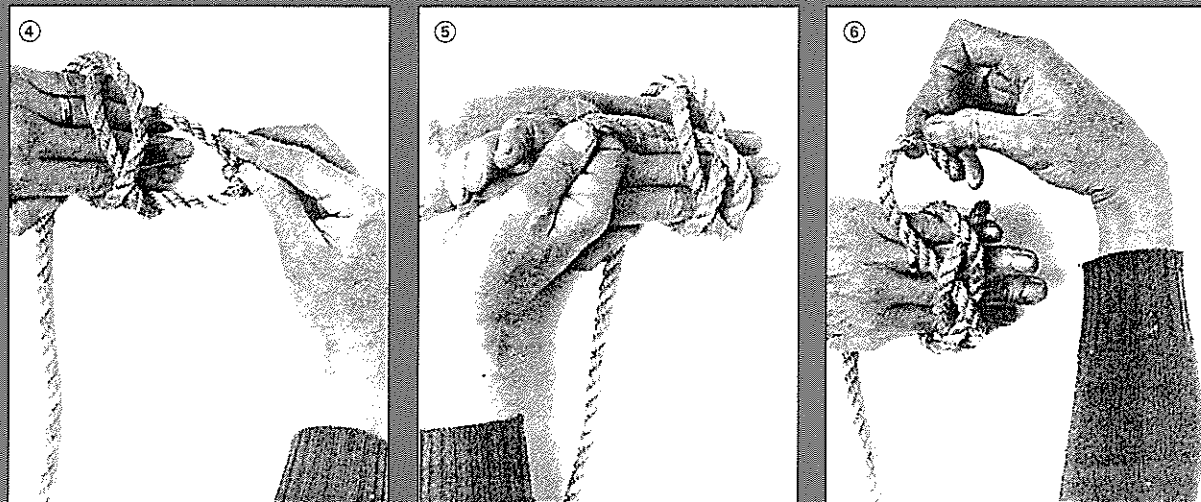
It has been commenced on the hand, only to show what happens at the back of the work, as illustrated by the rotation of the hand. In practice, it would be made direct onto the chosen object.

Similarly, for photographic purposes and clarity, the working end has been kept short and again, in practice, sufficient length of end would be employed, to complete the work without rendering around.

The rope is arranged as Fig 1 and the working end tucked as Fig 2, thus forming the first cross over, at which time the turns at the back of the hand are laying parallel, Fig 3.

These are now crossed over each other, Fig 4, and the working end tucked between them from right to left, Fig 5. One opening will be found to remain, Fig 6, into which the working end is passed from left to right. On viewing the work from the other side, Fig 7, the working end will be found to have returned to the point of origin, laying alongside the other end and leading in the same direction. (The work was, at this point, placed over a cylindrical object, as the remainder is automatic and there is no reason to view the reverse side.)





The working end is now passed over and under around the knot for a second time, following exactly the course of the first turns, on the completion of which it will return to the point of origin in its correct lay and pointing in the right direction for a further follow around, Fig 8. The procedure is repeated and the completed work appears as Fig 9, after which the ends are cut short and buried under the turns at the point of origin.

The illustrations show the most simple of Turk's head. More elaborate versions are possible by increasing the parts and turns, whilst the number of times the knot is followed around is a matter of choice.

童军岁月



岛上的地图走在坎坷不平的车路上也能睡著。这可算是体力的一大考验呀！

在露营的最后一晚，我们得再把我们的勇气放至另一个考验——也正是精心安排的“独处之夜”(Solo Night)。顾名思义，我们每人被带到岛上最为偏僻的角落，然后每人隔离大约20米，搭起自己的临时帐篷，独自在那儿露宿一夜。我到达被分配给我的地点时，我心中竟然不自觉地勾起了害怕的感觉。面对著黑鸦鸦的一片树丛，在自己周围的10米内没有灯火的情况下，我看心惊胆跳也是难免的。

去年，我也贡献了我的另一个“第一次”，也就是第一次代表公教童军团去参加(Pioneering)比赛。我们一组8个人在限时48小时内得搭建一栋大约4层楼高的structure。第一天比赛时，艳阳高照，大家在摄氏32度的高温下不停地往上建。虽然脸颊已被晒得红通通的，但

“把握生命里的每一分钟，全力以赴我们心中的梦，不经历风雨，怎么见彩虹，没有人能随随便便成功……”。当这首耳熟能详的歌曲《真心英雄》在我耳际响起时，许多既美好又难忘的童军生活的回忆顿时在我脑海中浮现……

两年前在一群好友的陪同下，我加入了公教童军团，这也掀开了我们人生中重要的一页。在这短暂的两年里，我们在无数的露营及营火会中的确成长了不少，在学习新事物的当儿，也结交了许多“能共患难”的知心朋友。这句话听起来可能有点儿严重，但是不可否认的就是他们真的在我们平淡无奇的童军生涯中带来了不少欢乐与笑声。当然也忘不了他们与我们共同度过的艰辛的日子。

虽然说只有这么短促的两年，但在我心中，这两年内所经历的一切一切已深深地在我心坎里留下了永不磨灭的烙印。

还记得高一的那一年，也就是我加入童军团的第一个年头，我参与了在乌敏岛举行的第一次户外露营。第二天，我们一群女生，连同一些童子军，将一起在乌敏岛来一次远足。虽然远足也不算头一朝，但令人难忘的却是这一次的远足将长达24小时，况且是连续不断的，也意示著大伙儿们会失去宝贵的睡眠，在岛上“翻山越岭”。我们在下午5时左右从营地出发，起初还算精力充沛，但一旦午夜的钟声响起时，我疲惫的身心简直再也支撑不下去了，两眼的眼皮也不由自主地往下坠。更棒的是，我拿著





大伙儿的士气依然高昂，还不断地开玩笑激励著对方。在我而言，有好几次我想停歇下来，但看到其他组员为了赢得奖杯而拚命时，我真的是惭愧不已，叫自己要继续与他们共同奋斗。第二天，老天不做美，竟然下起了滂沱大雨，但这雨并不因此浇灭了大家的士气，反而使我们更加努力要把这工程完成。这次的经验令我感受到一组人心连心要达到团结与大家表现出来的毅力和强烈的“爱国精神”。顿时，我感觉大家都抛开了你、我，心中只有一个信念——也就是“公教童军团”！

在这两年的童军团生涯中，我累积了许多人生历练，也从中学了宝贵的处世待人之道。所建立的坚固友谊也是非笔墨能形容的。我可以代表和我一同加入公教童军团的好友们大言不惭地说，我们加入的决定是正确的！

陈涵莹 Jessica Tan
青年军

