



CAMPFIRE *Light*

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SCOUT GROUP

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HIGHLIGHTS

Nippon Jamboree

Joint Community Project

South-West CDC Campfire





A Note From the Co-editor

Year after year the publication of Catholic High Scout Group Campfire Light magazine has always been regarded as something routine or some may call it tradition. But, have we ever realized how this project has culminated into a generous compilation of articles, reflections and photographs that play witness to the events of the past? Looking back at the fun activities we had, the demanding camps, and the hard-fought glories that are all bound within the covers of this magazine, it does bring back a feeling of nostalgia.

That is the true significance of Campfire Light: relive the experiences, appreciate the values learnt, and together as a troop exhibit a spirit that never yields.

I wish you all a pleasant read and hope the articles leave you inspired.

Marcus Leong

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE 2006



Standing (Left to Right) : Lim Fang Kang, Koh Neng Jie, Martin Ng, Gary Yeo, Teo Ziyan
Sitting (Left to Right) : Marcus Leong, Andrew Chua, Linn Yun Le

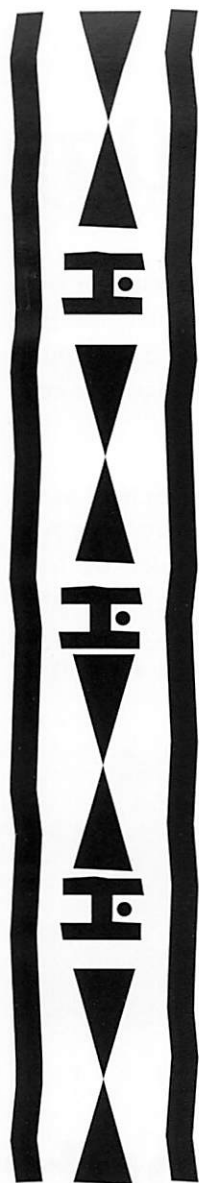
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AMK District

Cub Scout Field Day

The whole Catholic High Scout Group was excited and nervous about our cub scout field day as we arrived at Anderson Primary School. Last year's event was a bad showing – as we did not win anything. I told myself, "Today we will beat the other schools!"

I have been training hard for the past few days. The first event for my group is the 'race car'. Our leader was Jonathan Phua. He was an outstanding participant on that day. The contestants assembled their cars at the start line. Some looked seemingly harmless but some looked capable of thwarting our trophy dreams.

We won the first round, but the next event was an aeroplane game – which we lost to the other schools such as Da Qiao and Townsville. Next, we had a short break before heading to the field for following events – flagstaff and shelter-building. We managed to complete the flagstaff after heavy hammering on the pegs, tying the knots and finally raising the banner. It required a lot of hard work. We scored seventy points for that event!

When we got to the shelter-building event, we were quite anxious as we did not have much practice. But, our shelter still turned out sturdy, and the waterproof side of the ground sheet was placed face up – meaning we did it right!

We bid farewell to Anderson Primary School as we boarded the bus back. Along the way, Mrs Ang announced to us the long awaited results. We were the winners! Though everyone was delighted, I knew that what was most important was the teamwork we displayed and the effort that everyone has put in.

Jerrom Tan
Green Six



Traffic Games for Cub Scouts

In conjunction with the Road Safety Carnival, the traffic games competition was held on 17 November 2006 at the S'pore Expo Hall and was solely for cub scouts.

20 cub scouts from Catholic High comprising of P4 P5 pupils participated in the games. We were chaperoned by our adult leaders Mr Andrew Chua and Mrs Vanessa Ang.

Some 10 schools competed altogether. Each team had go-cart drivers, cyclists and pedestrians. We had to go around to different stations as in the order on the given card, answering questions. For every wrong answer we would get demerit points. We had a hard time finding spaces to park our go-carts in order to get to answer the questions as there were many other cyclists trying to park their vehicles too.

After the games, Mr Noel Hon, President of the Singapore Scout Association went on stage to give prizes to the 2 top schools. Singa the Courtesy Lion

also made an appearance much to the delight of the cub scouts. Woodlands Ring Primary came in second and..... guess who came in first?? Catholic High of course!! All participating cub scouts also received a cool-looking bag, a box of tissues and two pens with a post-it pad. After that we were treated to an ice cream cone as a reward for our good effort.

It was indeed a fun and exciting experience and we also learnt more on road safety and road courtesy.

Bryan Quah
Green Six



Cub Scouts June Camp

Excitement was present as we were assigned to different groups for our 3-day camp in school from 31st May to 2nd June 2006.

Everyone was asked to put their bags in a classroom. Our bags were heavy, and some people even had to drag their bags along.

On the first day, we had some team building games. We were told that we had to learn knots and lashings. I groaned silently as I did not like knots. However, it turned out to be very fun. We learn how to tie a square lash and many other cool knots.

'Everybody, please come back,' announced a venture scout from Hwa Chong Institution. Once everyone had settled down in their groups, we were told that we had an assignment. Everybody felt puzzled when the ventures told us that we had to make gadgets. 'What kind of gadgets?' I thought to myself. My doubts were soon addressed when the venture scout said that we had to make a dustbin or a shoe rack using wooden poles. When we realized that we had only half an hour to do our gadgets, everyone worked furiously, trying hard to finish on time.

That night, after clearing up, we were led to the music room where we had a one hour screening of 'The Jungle Book'. After the show, we went to Bishan Park. We had tons of fun there playing games like charades, having to figure out what our friends are trying to say to us. I was disappointed when we had to leave for school.

On the second day, we had station games. My group went around the school, completing challenge after challenge at the different stations. We had to learn how to pitch a basha tent after that, and were told that it is a shelter that can protect our stuff when it rains. The long awaited water bomb fight soon arrived. While everyone was busily attacking each other, the ventures sneaked to the second floor. Why? They took out the fire hose reel and sprayed at everyone who came upstairs plus those downstairs as well. By the time we realized what was happening, we were almost out of ammo!

After dinner, it was time for the campfire. Our GSL lit the flame. We had a lot of fun watching the skits performed by our fellow scouts.

On the third day, we had to prepare our own breakfast. After that, it was the flag-lowering ceremony. Everyone waved goodbye and departed. We really had a wonderful time at the camp!

Jonathan Chew
Orange Six



June Training Camp



Once again, it is here. Yes, its very name brings courageous scouts to their feet and strikes fear into their hearts. Once again, June Camp had arrived. This time the leaders had promised us something new and challenging, something we could never prepare for—a mobile June camp. Wait, it doesn't stop there, no one in the troop had the experience of going through a mobile camp before, other than the emergency evacuation of the previous year's camp, while the secondary ones were really 'tekan camp virgins' the moving of campsite the year before had been demoralizing and tough, what more, a camp based on mobility.

The camp started out with an introductory speech by none other than the camp chief Wen Bin himself. To this very day, his words still ring clear in my mind, as he barked, "This is not a fun camp, it's a training camp." Then we proceeded on to inspection. The patrols were given their first taste of what a training camp would be like and the basketball court was filled with a melody of the Patrol Leaders leading their men on as they carried out the push ups issued by their various instructors.

We then started on short game held in school, after which, we started on a hike. Donning our bulky rucksacks and patrol equipment, we started off the arduous journey, hoping for the best. As a first aid precaution, the leaders would patrol along the possible routes that patrols would take in their cars in case anything unfortunate happened and to make sure we refrained from cheating. The heavy rucksacks wore down on the scouts and the sun beat upon their backs, wearing them down, while they pressed on faster than ever, determined to strive for the ultimate goal—the Best Patrol totem. From there we stopped at where a Police Post used to be for lunch, we were in last

place and it was extremely demoralizing, but still, we persevered. The first day, we hiked from one checkpoint to another, finally arriving at the final destination for the day, a makeshift campsite by the jetty at Pungol, however it was located deep in the suburbs and we had to ask many people for directions but we were glad when we finally reached our resting point for the night, or so we thought. As it turned out, we still had much distance to cover in the night as our final rest point for the day had yet to be reached. Our modes of transport included public transport and bus eleven-walking on foot. This time however, the camp was wrought with matchstick puzzles which gave us a terrible mind grind as we pondered over the challenging logic puzzles in order to advance on.



All in the night was filled with adventure and certainly pushed us to our very mental limits, many times hovering between the very border of giving up and the will to push on. As luck would have it, fortunate circumstances pushed us into first place as we finally overcome all odds and arrived at Nanyang Technological University, our morale soaring high. It was here that we finally got some much deserved rest, though overcome with fatigue, we felt a sense of invincibility, we had done it, turned the tide around and forge our own success, of course we could not have done it without doing all necessary to push ourselves, after all, at Catholic High Scout troop, we were known for our mental limit.



The night passed too soon and before we knew it, it was time to awake to a refreshing session of physical training. We then went on to have Venture Obstacle Journey and other eye-opening experiences throughout the NTU complex, until finally, at night, we left for Lim Chu Kang cemetery on foot. However, the Patrol Leaders were not so fortunate as they had to case-vac our SPL Joshua during the journey. Despite the near impossibility of such a physically demanding task, the patrol leaders would not give up, pushing themselves and their limits. The very look of determination and perseverance on their faces inspired the troop and touched our hearts, when faced with such difficulty, they took it in our stride, even more so us. We finally arrived at the cemetery, where we soon discovered that our courage would be put to the test. The secondary ones and twos were paired up as they walked through the cemetery. The secondary threes, on the other hand were given a more unique treatment, they had to take a solo walk in the cemetery. As I remembered, I just kept on walking, my heart beating furiously as I blocked out all thoughts and ignored the 'scenery', my only goal then was to make it out without having to experience anything paranormal.

From this point, a bus took us to Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, where we were to spend the night. The next morning, we got to experience a full-scale inspection except that we were not in our full uniforms. Then, it was on to more hiking through the lush foliage and vegetation of the reserve, also we were tested many orienteering skills and picked up those we did not know, it was indeed enriching and a good experience. We hiked for what seemed to be an eternity before we finally realized we were at MacRitchie Reservoir, and the next destination was our final check point of the camp, our second home, none other than Catholic High School! Our spirits lifted, we picked up the pace,



determined as ever not to give up at the final lap, the end was so close, yet so far, all we had to do was hang in there.

And so, finally with jubilation and exhilaration we sprinted past the familiar school gates into the school compound, savoring this sweet moment of personal triumph over our mental barriers. Then it dawned upon me, the hike was over, but the camp was still on. Later in the day, we had a backwoods cooking competition where our cooking skills and fire lighting skills were put to the test. Eventually, shark patrol emerged triumphant, winning with their unique ketchup and cheese chicken and their well baked pizza. Next on the schedule, was the campfire. Unlike all the other campfires, this was one campfire I truly cherished and enjoyed. Everyone had fun singing campfire songs and laughing themselves silly over the skits. Also, it was at this point that the best patrol was announced, it went to none other than Pigeon Patrol! Also, outstanding scouts were awarded for their performance throughout the camp. For Secondary one, Wei of Pigeon, Secondary two – Kong Ying of Cobra and Eddy of Eagle. As for secondary three, it went to Pigeon PL, Toon Ee.

Though disappointed that we did not manage to defend our title, we were all glad at what we had achieved. The training camp had done its job, pushing us to limits we had never known we were capable of, making us a stronger person, and bonding the troop through periods of hardship and difficulties where only troop unity could tide us through. Indeed, as my last year experiencing the annual June camp, it was a truly memorable one that will stay deeply etched in my mind forever.

Aloysius Ho
Shark Patrol



AMK District Orientation Day

Catholic High Scout Group prepared for the District Orientation on the 14th of January 2006. Like ants on an anthill, the scouts started work at about 8.30 a.m. in the morning. We hurried to and fro, making sure that everything was in shipshape for the coming of Ang Mo Kio District's scout groups. Much had to be done and prepared; games stalls had to be set up, our NPC Tower and Gateway had to be kept in perfect condition and, most important of all, we had to ensure a warm welcome for our brand-new Secondary 1s who were joining us that very day! As the time of gathering ticked closer and closer, many Scouts pondered and anticipated the arrival of the Sec 1s.

Soon, our QM area was crowded with boisterous Sec 1s and our chatty 'delegates' from other schools. Peirce and Mayflower Secondary had also brought along their Sec 1s, so as to give them a taste of the scouting spirit. After settling the many administrative matters, the 3 schools were restless and ready for the fun that awaited them. Consequentially, the scouts played "Icebreaker" games - Catholic High style, both to warm up for the day and to form tight bonds of friendship with each other. Laughter and joy was written all over the faces of the scouts and we could tell that the flame of the scouting spirit had been kindled in them already. The games of "Murderer", "Dog-and-Bone" and "Wacko" were played with much zest and enthusiasm as each patrol tried to outdo each other.

Following this activity, the scouts proceeded to the primary school canteen for the exciting Telematch. With the B.P spirit coursing through their veins, the scouts geared themselves up to an unstoppable level as they listened to the instructions and rule of play. Firstly, they had to raise towers of straw. Compared to the Herculean task of raising 12m tall towers for NPC and NSPC, this seemed like no mean feat. However, everyone was sorely mistaken as straw towers did not require brute strength, but intricate design and a good grasp of the laws of Physics. Many towers fell and collapsed but the determination of the



scouts drove them to try their best. Afterwards, the patrols were required to protect a fragile egg the best way they could with the little materials that they had received. With this little ticking time-bomb wrapped in a protective cocoon, the patrols had to drop the egg from the 2nd floor of the primary school compound. Splattered egg yolk was a common sight although several of the patrols managed to accomplish the perilous mission.

By noon, everyone was feeling devilishly hungry. The patrols then prepared for their next activity: station games. There were ultimately 3 stations to clear and all had a war theme behind it. We had set up a 'Valley of Death' consisting of various challenges while Mayflower had set up a 'Water War' station. At the 'Valley of Death', patrols were required to choose a VIP and conquer a maze of tables and benches while protecting the VIP from the assault of water bombs by the towers, the Game Instructors. The maze was challenging as there were many twists and turns and dead ends. However, the patrols had a soaking good time as they were unafraid of getting wet. The next challenge in the Valley was Tug-of-War. A thick sotong was set between two logs and the first patrol to pull



the midpoint of the sotong over to their side's log, won the game. Muscles rippled and biceps bulged as the scouts struggled to pull the other side over. In the end, everyone was laughing and joking at the way their partner made a mistake in the game. On top of the Tug-of-War game, we also provided a series of sub-activities. One most memorable game we played was Sumo-wrestling. The game required patrols to send in a Sumo Wrestler at each round and the man left standing in the ring would be the winner, scoring 3 points for their patrol against the other team. It was an amazing sight watching Sec 1s battling it out against each other as they tried to drag or shove one another out of the ring. The rest of the team cheered at the same time. A favourite round was called 'Last Man Standing', where every 5 seconds a contestant could enter the ring and fight with those already in the ring. The scouts gritted their teeth as they grasped each other with crunching arms.

The other schools had also come up with innovative games according to the day's theme of 'War'. Mayflower Secondary created the 'Water War' game which provided easy game play for the patrols, yet highly enjoyable. The scouts tied a green dustbin cover to a canteen pillar to serve as the enemy's key base that was the primary target for the opposing patrol's bombs. The opposing patrols were given 2 water bombs per person and they could fire at the dustbin cover when they crossed past the barrier made up of rope barrels. However, the defending patrol could fire at the brave soldier who dared to cross into No Man's Land. If they were hit, the scout would have to start right at the back of the queue. The game pushed their skills of strategy and accuracy to the limit. However, all the patrols enjoyed themselves thoroughly. As for Peirce Secondary, their game consisted of trying to cross over fences of raffia that



were imaginary electric fences set up by the enemy. Calling upon all the teamwork and tactics that the patrols had, this game was extremely challenging yet definitely fun to play.

At the end of the day, the results were eventually revealed with the setting of the sun. As we strained our ears waiting eagerly for the announcement of the outcome, our District Games day organiser read off the ranking of patrols in order of merit. Catholic High, playing the good host, garnered 1 silver and 2 bronze awards. We also clinched the top place of the day. As our troop flag was lowered once again to mark the end of a day of scouting, one and all went away with new friendships forged and happy memories to treasure for a long time to come.

Joshua Goh
Eagle Patrol

Mayflower Guides Campfire



This is the first campfire that I have attended. It was a most memorable time for me and I enjoyed it very much. It was organised by the Mayflower Secondary School Guides. Both girl guide and scout units from various schools were present that Friday night of 14 July 2006. I felt rather honoured that Catholic High Cub Scout Unit was the only primary school that was invited for the campfire.

I learnt how to mix with other people and exchange ideas. We sang many songs and danced around the campfire which was the biggest blazing fire that I had ever seen. There were also many exciting games that the audience could take part in.

The Mayflower Guides really took good care of us. They even served us cakes when they found out that most of us were hungry. It was really sweet of them. I really hope to attend more campfires such as this one. This was a good start of my life as a Cub Scout.

Raphael Goh (3F)
Green Six



58th Troop Anniversary

WE ARE 58.....!

Today the robust scouts of Catholic High Scout Group wake up along side the warm sun as it rises from its deep sleep. Getting to school early for our annual troop anniversary is something the scouts are always willing to do. Preparing for the troop anniversary is something we are all proud to do.

This day is not just memorable for its literal meaning. For the troop anniversary also means another thing- recruitment of the new sec ones. This was a significant addition to all the patrols for new members also meant new problems ahead and new weaknesses and strengths in our patrols.

Today's program is scheduled to end around 8pm. As usual, the cub scouts were here to join us. First up, the recruitment of the sec ones. The sec ones were randomly split into different patrols. This was usually the permanent patrol for them unless a lack of sec ones is recorded at the last few patrols. This procedure

was then followed by the addition of the cadet scouts into our patrols. In the end, each patrol would have about 13 people in them.

Games were up next. The whole afternoon was spent on it. One thing we scouts from Catholic High love is the games we play. No way are we be able to play the exact replica outside. Every game had a precise plan behind it to make it unique and different from the other. One thing we'll never miss out is the involvement of the whole patrol. They would always award more points if the patrol was lead through it by the sec ones and this would ensure a constant involvement of the entire patrol.

After this, came the long awaited awards ceremony. Here, all will be commended for their efforts and contributions. We gathered in front of a table where all the prizes were and soon the announcement of the





best patrol was sounded. It was Shark Patrol! This was followed by the announcement of the best sec one, sec two and sec three of year 2005. They were namely Jason Tan from Rhino Patrol, Joshua Goh from Eagle Patrol and Ng Jing Cheng from Shark Patrol. There were also special awards for the previous year's CCA and PSA awardees – each of them being presented by our GSL with a plaque for their achievement.

Finally everyone was seated according to their patrols and food was distributed. The birthday cake as usual was large and delicious by just the looks of it. It was a tradition that no one started eating until everyone had collected their share of it. I believe it is to realize the fact that our troop leaves no man behind. We do everything as a troop- fight together, win together. The troop anniversary is always a wonderful event for us as it holds significant meaning which forms the very core of our troop itself.

Ong Kong Ying
Cobra Patrol

I remember my scouting days...

Each time I pass the SMU Campus at Bras Basah Road; I could not help but tell my kids that it was the place where I enjoyed my scouting at Catholic High.

I joined the Catholic High School 2106 Scout Group in 1970 from secondary one until 1973. Even after I went over to National Junior College (NJC) to pursue my Pre-U in 1974, I was granted permission to return to Catholic High scout group to be a venture scout and be part of the team of scout leaders for 2 years till 1975. Why? Because I loved to stay in touch, eat, sleep & play with the old "kakis".

Those days continue to hold a special place in my memory. I had lots of fun! And along the way, it had developed my character from a very timid, inferior, quiet boy to a more independent, confident, resilient, street smart, caring, team player kind of person.

How did it help to nurture me? It had a lot to do with team sharing activities, programmes and camaraderie during camping, hiking, job week and the friendship we fostered with each other. There were lots of sweat, tears and frustration, but it was worth it!

I remembered how the seniors bullied me as a young "pang". I cried, felt depressed, and really felt like giving up to join another ECA then. But I am glad I survived and remained a scout all those years.

I will never forget what happened during the year-end camp in 1971 at Sarimbun, Lim Chu Kang. I did not know I was capable of being bullied by leaders and seniors since day one of camp that I just walked out of the camp on the 4th day. I was being scolded daily and was so stressed up as a junior scout until I could not take it anymore. I thought it was hell and nothing like camping at all. Thinking back, I still wonder how I could have the guts to do it then. It

Nevertheless, after 20 years, I still treasure the memories of my scouting days more than anything else. There are so many friends we still get in touch with and we still cherish our friendship with one another. We feel so close and connected when we meet during functions. Our friendships are so genuine and without conditions that we know we could trust and help each other when the need arises.

The scout activities which always linger within my mind include the experiences I had during job week, the impromptu skits I needed to put up during camp fires, the crossing of the monkey-rope over the "long kang" (Stamford canal), next to Stamford Road, and the sweat and long hours of preparation I had to put up before camps. They were what I considered challenges at that point in time. I feel very proud of myself as I had managed to overcome my barrier of fear.

Any parents, who want my advice on what ECA their son should pursue, will always have the same answer from me. Join the scout group to help nurture your kids! It had given me so much sweet memories and training in the area of character building. I am sure all parents who were scouts before will agree.

I wish Catholic High School Group every success in their continuing pursuit to scale new heights in their quest to develop students as active citizens who will contribute selflessly to our society when they grow up.



Pang Tong Teck

The writer was a scout in Rhino Patrol at Catholic High 2106 Scout Group from 1970 to 1973 and subsequently Venture Scout from 1974 to 1975.



6th National Scout Lore Quest 2006



After a busy two weeks of preparation, the long-awaited static display and lore quiz was finally here. Although the scouts failed to qualify for the finals of the lore quiz, there were still high hopes for our scouts' and ventures' static display. It was the holidays, no doubt, but for the scouts, it was a busier schedule than normal school weeks as the scouts had their holidays packed with preparation for the Scout Lore Quest.

Some background on this year's lore quest- the competition was mainly separated into 2 different categories: lore quiz, 3 scouts per school are placed through a test on how much do they know about scouting, past and present; static display, as the name implies, scouts are meant to put up a display based on the theme "Harmony in Diversity, The Scouting Way".

On 2 September, scouts and ventures gathered to showcase their displays and lore quiz finalists are put to a mental challenge of their scouting knowledge.

At 8.00am, in Raffles Institution, our scout static display team, led by Daniel Stephen, and venture display team began setting up their display. Coincidentally, Catholic High Scouts and its Ventures

were placed just across each other. We started off building the main frame for our display, it was meant to act as both a boundary as well as part of our dark box concept, where our display was kept inside and the frame blocking light from entering. Although with only half the team present in the competition ground, we got to work instantly and efficiently. Measurements were taken, correct wood was chosen and perfect lashes were tight.

Not more than 15m away, our Ventures were also setting up their display. It consisted of a structure with an umbrella at its tip, boards with rich scouting information under it and most importantly, Ziyang's laptop. The laptop was the core of their display, it showed a movie clip of pictures depicting the theme "Harmony in Diversity, The Scouting Way"; it will certainly be an eye-opener for the judges.

By 11.00, finishing touches for the scout's static display was completed. The scouts' display, from afar, looked as if it was a cubic "Earth". Inside, the plane display of a map of Singapore was placed, in total darkness. The elaborate displays on the "map" of Singapore would not be seen till a bulb, placed at the centre of the display, symbolizing the scouting light, was illuminated.

Half an hour past noon, judging finally commenced. Our team leader, Daniel, gave a presentation to the judges, linking the different aspects of our display to the central theme. His presentation, backed by his eloquence, was definitely commendable.

Shortly after the judging of the static display, the Venture lore quiz commenced. The Venture team consisted of Louis, Zhi Wei and team leader, Jing Cheng; the team was backed by Sai Meng, the team reserve. In the brain-racking competition, our Ventures lost marginally to Raffles 01 Scouts, coming in second in position.



At the end of the day, the prize presentation ceremony was being carried out. Our troop managed to clinch a Silver for Scout Lore Quiz, a Gold for Scout Static Display, a Gold for Venture Lore Quiz and another Gold for Venture Static Display. The Ventures' Static Display was also the overall champion for their section. The achievements on this eventful day did our troop proud.

Foo Jie Jing
Tiger Patrol



老童军

在俱乐部里遇到老童军，握手的那一刻时光倒流了40年。

老童军也是老学长，今天看起来体型有些胖但是风度依旧，亲切依然。

如果是在当年，我们必定是用左手问候，那是属于童军的握手礼，表示勇敢和勇气。

老童军不老，当年他的童军服上佩戴的各类专科徽章是最吸引我的地方。

还记得童军的专科徽章有百多种，是要经过严格的考试才能获得。每一次的童军集会，团长会宣布考获徽章的童军，那是令人羡慕的一刻。老童军的两边衣袖上早已缝满各类徽章，可见他是个多才多艺的好童军。

有一年的营火会上，我看见他披上绣满各团徽章的营火袍，后来我也有样学样，自己缝了一件各团童军徽章的营火夹克（包括我考获的徽章），至今还留着，偶尔会拿出来看看，自己高兴。

其实在那段年轻的童军岁月里，最值得回忆的还是大家亲手搭建出来的木屋团部，就在史丹福路的大水沟边上的一块空地上，我们有一个属于自己的俱乐部，52团童军团部。那是大小老少童军齐心协力，一木一钉的花了几个月的时间建出来的心血。那也是我们童军的家，我们在那里活动、唱歌、学习。白天搭望台搭旗杆，晚上在草坪上读星星。

时间过得真快，今天与老童军偶遇，竟勾起那令人怀念的童军日记....

什么时候，我们会再一次围在熊熊的营火，披着岁月的营火袍，再唱一首不老的营火歌？



黄意会（文）

早报现在四方八面

Published Date: Sep 14, 2006

The writer was a scout in Pigeon Patrol at Catholic High(2106 scout group) from 1966 to 1972.

Joint Community Project



Pulau Seraya, Batam

This Joint Community Project (JCP) is a collaboration between the Singapore Scouts Association and Akzo Nobel, a Dutch chemical manufacturing company. The trip being set in the month of August bears significance to the national days of Singapore and Indonesia which are only weeks apart, and aims to strengthen the ties between the civilians of both nations. All the expenses covered during the trip were sponsored by Akzo Nobel, and saw many enthusiastic rovers and ventures signing up. In the end, twenty-five rovers both from the land and sea units were chosen for the project. Five ventures from Catholic High were involved.

The project was a 3-day 2-night trip at Pulau Seraya, one of the islands of Batam, which is only about an hour away from mainland Singapore. The task was to repair the jetty on the island and to build a volleyball court for the school there. On the day of the briefing, the participants were split into two groups, those who could swim worked on the jetty, while the others worked in the school.

Upon arrival on the island via means of a sampan, we surveyed the condition of the jetty. The day before, professional craftsmen have already started on the repair, and now there only leaves the job of changing some of the rotting planks and the painting of the jetty. From the distance, we could see that the locals were housed near the shore in atap-houses, and they were quite exhilarated upon our arrival. We lug our haversacks up the jetty treading on the improvised wooden steps and proceeded onshore. The weather was fair and the air was refreshing. The serenity engulfed us quickly, occasionally being disrupted by the excited murmurs of the locals. We were lead to the school, which functions as our lodging for the next few days.

We left our luggage in the assigned classroom and hurried out to meet our Indonesian counterparts that were going to work hand in hand with us for the project. Soon after an island exploration exercise was commenced to familiarize ourselves with the



surroundings. It also served as an ice-breaker between the newly formed patrols. We gained a lot of insight about the island from the activity, and by the time it ended it was already dinner time.

For the whole trip, all the meals were catered food from Batam. Although they were packed food, the presentation was impressive and the dishes were both unique and filling. For dinner that night, most of us also had a surprising shock when we were told that one of the deep-fried items was cow's lung; initially most of us thought that it was just fish...

The next morning was the big day where the opening ceremony of the whole project would occur. Last minute fine-tunings were made to ensure the success of the opening ceremony. After the speech from the representative of Akzo Nobel and the Indonesian authority, they initiated the project by the symbolic act of emptying the first heap of soil on the school's field and the nailing of the first plank at the jetty. The scouts took over from then, embarking on each of their assigned tasks for the project.

At the jetty, the work was rather organized as initial planning had been made by the hired professional craftsman. For the stretch of the walkway, rotten planks have already been marked and our task was to nail in new replacements. At the head of the jetty, there was only painting to be done. Although there were hiccups, when one part of the jetty required a

new framework as it has collapsed from our weight, generally the project went on smoothly. It was an enriching experience for all of us, as what seem like an easy task of nailing a plank down actually posed more hindrances because we lacked the necessary skills. I have to admit, most of the more tedious work was done by the professional craftsman. Over at the school, the scouts were tasked with flattening the land with newly dug soil from a hill nearby, which they received much help from the schooling students. The shortcoming which we later realised was that the cement had failed to be delivered on time, so the court was not completed as planned, but the effort was commendable and the villagers promised to continue the project for us.

At the end of this tiresome day, the scouts were still bubbling with enthusiasm, as tonight was our turn to

entertain the Indonesian scouts. We started off with campfire action songs to entertain our Indonesian counterparts, after which we took them to the newly built jetty to appreciate the fireworks celebration being held in Singapore. That night injected much fun and joy into our memories which will stick with us for years to come.

After a slight debrief on the project, we were sent for an early night as the next morning we were invited to visit a jamboree held in Batam. The next day after bidding farewell to the locals, we took the sampan back to Batam Island. After a brief visit to the Jamboree, that brought back fresh memories of the Melaka Jamboree we went to a few years back, we headed for home.

Lim Fang Kang
Venture scout



It was early as 9 in the morning, yet the Catholic High Scouts were already geared up and ready to prepare for the CDC campfire which was going to happen that night. In the absence of the SPL, Toon Ee, and Jie Jing were supposed to oversee that all preparation for the campfire were completed smoothly. The task we had to fulfill was mainly the construction of the gateway and preparation of the fire pit.

Before 17 June, the actual day of the CDC campfire, scouts came down during the week for some preparation. Firstly, the straightest and most perfect of wood were chosen. Next, barrels of ropes were rolled out only to choose the best quality of rope, the "cream of the crop". Zinc plates, bricks and metal poles were brought out and placed against the QM. Last but not least, firewood were soaked in kerosene, left in oil barrels, and placed in a corner of the school.

The day started with the sheering of wood; 3 logs of wood, 2 of which placed tip to tip of each other, then all 3 were sheered together. Sheering was a boring job; hence, scouts were conversing about the happenings which happened since they last met. No doubt their conversing may slow down the process of sheering, but that was the best way to keep their moral high.

An hour later, upon completion of all the sheering and indoor preparation, the equipment (except the soaked firewood) were all brought out to the open field opposite our school site, which would be the campfire ground on that particular Saturday night. When all the shifting was completed, we were allowed to go for lunch, whereby every scout was sponsored \$5 by GSL Andrew Chua. Mr Chua also personally mentored the ICs a few days ago.

With filled stomachs and newfound energy, the Catholic High scouts were back from lunch and prepared to complete the gateway. Under the supervision of Toon Ee, the scouts tied and retied countless knots, only to ensure that the best standard was shown in every lashing. After all three triangular frames were done, the yellow banners are placed over the frames, adding lively yellow to the dull and plain brown.

Under the guidance of few JC1 ventures, the job of erecting the 3 frames was done effectively and smoothly, with no failed attempts or injuries. Although the 3 frames were erected, our work was not over. Scouts were further divided and jobs like building of walkways, hanging of the CDC banner and area cleaning were distributed to the groups.

After a day's work, from 9am till 6pm, everything was completed and ready for the campfire. The fire pit arranged neatly by our very own leaders; sufficient firewood prepared to last the campfire; a brightly lit walkway leading to our very own gateway whose 3 frames stood majestically to welcome the guest-of-honor.

The day was over yet the night was long, scouts led the song singing, adding of firewood, clearing of fire pit and last but not least, the dismantling of the gateway. All in a "day's" work.

Foo Jie Jing
Tiger Patrol



Bishan North RC Family Day Campfire



OUTSTANDING SCOUT AWARD



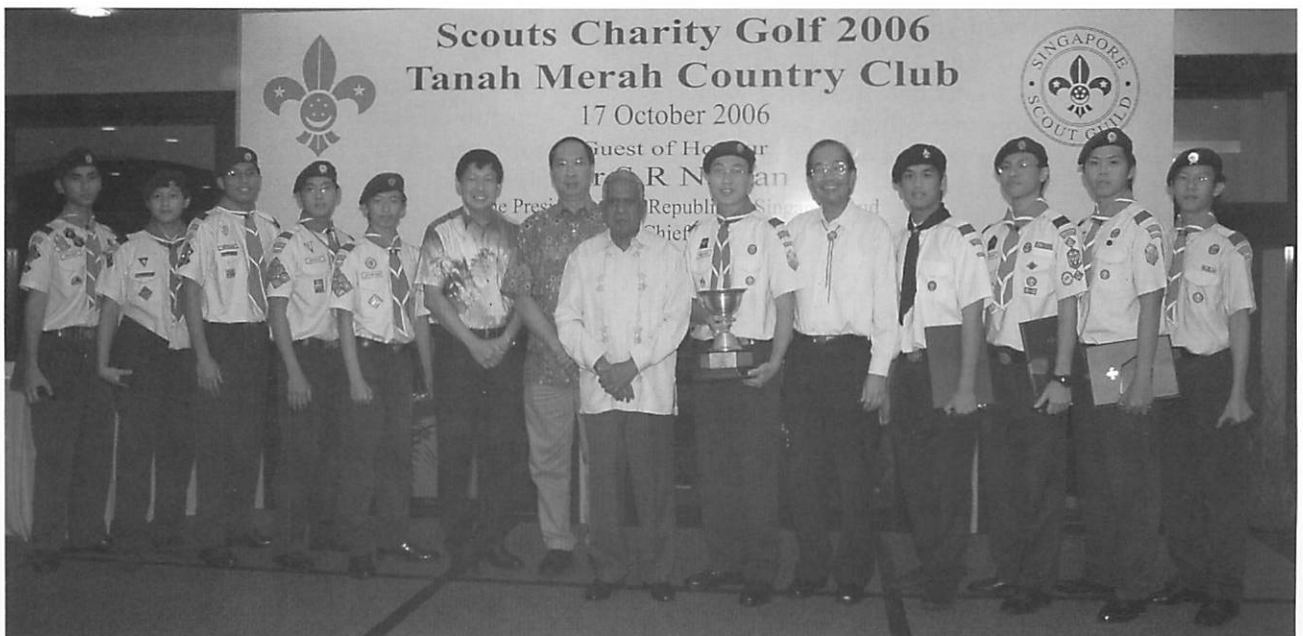
The Outstanding Scout Award is a yearly award given to scouts that display excellent leadership qualities based on records of awards received, positions held as well as testimony from the school and scout leaders. One must also attain good academic results in order to be selected for this award.

In the phase of attaining this award, I went through judging at AMK District level by the district commissioner first. Next, 10 selected candidates proceeded on to the judging at national level, which involves giving a speech and going through an interview. It was a tough fight as the candidates were all of high profile and are from the top schools in Singapore. I emerged overall 5th in position nationally among the 10 candidates and was invited to receive the prize at Tanah Merah Country Club on 17 October by President S.R Nathan.

That day was a dinner-cum-prize giving ceremony and my parents along with the leaders of Catholic High were there to give me support. Mr. A Chua, Mr.S Quay, Weixin, Leon and Wenbin turned up for the event. It was an exciting day especially for me because I was also in charge of giving the welcoming shout on arrival of the President. Not long after the arrival of the President, the prize presentation begun. Everything went well as we had rehearsed a few times on the procedures. After that, it was dinner time and there were activities going on simultaneously which were conducted by the emcee.

Indeed, this whole journey cannot be possible without the help of our GSL Mr. Andrew Chua, the leaders and our teacher-in-charge Miss Mary Hua. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of them for everything they have done for me.

Gordon Foo
Venture scout



NIPPON JAMBOREE



Forty Singapore scouts and leaders (ten Sec 3 and Sec 1 scouts plus one adult leader were from Catholic High) assembled at Terminal 2 of our renowned Changi Airport for the 14th Nippon Jamboree. Every one was brimming with excitement as the scouts fell in our patrol order, including the parents that were surrounding us snapping shots of their sons. A short briefing was held to tell us of our flight and our break time for dinner; after which the scouts were left to join their parents for dinner.

At 11pm sharp, 45minutes from our release for dinner, the Singapore contingent gathered back, observed one minute of silence as prayers for a safe journey were made, then bid farewell to our dear parents. Upon arrival at Narita airport we proceeded to our groups, helping out in various ways. We then boarded the bus and headed to our long awaited destination - 14th Nippon Jamboree campsite.

When we finally reached the jamboree site, we were offered a simple Japanese-style meal, the second one we would be taking that day, after our lunch at a food court earlier in the afternoon. Soon after, we were split into small groups—mainly consisting of 2 scouts and a leader. The groups were then asked to join individual scout groups for the rest of the jamboree. The day was long and the scouts went to sleep shortly after dispersing to their new troops.

The following day, when we were asked to join the troop's activities, there was a lot of confusion as the Singapore scouts and the Japanese scouts were unable to communicate, only by using vague hand signs were we able to get simple messages through. That day's activities were mainly seeing the exhibitions the Japanese prepared for us; however, it did not work well for most of us as the exhibitions and explanations were given in Japanese. However, in the course of attending and viewing the exhibitions, we managed to know most of our patrol mates. The patrol Luther and I joined on that day—Crab Patrol.

The 2nd day that we joined the Japanese troop went much better. We had more understanding of each other since the first day; things went well and smoothly since the morning, mainly because the situation was not that awkward compared to the first day. That day, we learned how to make a magatama, which is curved



bead which first appeared in Japan during the Jomon period. The steps to making it were simple, yet to make a beautiful masterpiece, it would be very difficult. After much grinding of the square piece of stone given to us, we finally completed our own magatama. During this activity, although we were the slowest to complete the magatama, the Japanese tried their best to help us—patiently showing us the procedures, handing us the best of the equipment etc. After all that hard work, it was time for relaxation as we played different games with a Frisbee.

The 3rd day, we became more familiar with each other and even joined in their inspection. However we temporarily parted with them as the day's activity was to attend a service for your own religion. Luther and I went to the Catholic service and, not surprisingly, met our fellow Catholic High scouts in the service. The service was rather uninteresting to us as it was held in the Japanese language. After the service, we went around to the shops and chatted about our different activities and encounters with our Japanese scout troops. The encounters and experiences were far from similar, there are totally extreme sentiments for our scout troops. For example, Luther and I felt that the scout group we joined was a very impressive one, going all out to help us during our stay with them; other scouts hardly even participate in activities with their scout group. When the Singapore scouts parted, we found ourselves joining in some Japanese campfire

songs. Few Japanese scout groups were going to come together at night to have a combined campfire and each scout group had to do up a performance to display—our scout group chose a song accompanied by some simple dance moves. At night, when the campfire finally begun, we found out that the hosts were the Scout Leaders themselves, although not young, they were vibrant and full of energy.

On the 4th day, we participate in water activities that were located at the beach. During that day, there was a competition going on. The game was similar to tug-of-war only that it is played on water. Each team was given a set of floats, linked together by nylon strings; the teams were then joined together by a larger and longer rope. Each player has to get on the float and the whole team had to paddle as hard as they can to “pull” the rope over to their side. We entered the competition only with the mindset that it was for fun, not knowing that the Japanese were carrying the mindset of not only fun, but winning the overall competition. It was a knockout match and our first game went smoothly, as we were full of energy then. Unknowingly, we managed to beat all the teams we met and climbed all the way to the finals; that time, losing was not an option to us, since we climbed so high, no point leaving the beach empty handed. We battled the opposite team with all we had, exerting all our energy into our hands and legs to paddle as fast and strong as we could. After a grueling match, we eventually beat the opponents and were the champions of that day. We were each given a special badge and won the troop a certificate. During that time, we saw the pride the Japanese Scouts had in winning the competition through the eyes of our patrol members. The patrol we entered with the competition—Scorpion Patrol.



The last day of our stay with the Japanese scouts was a long and bitter one. Since the break of dawn, all of us were feeling sad by the mere thought of parting with our Japanese troops that night. That day the activity was mainly free and easy, except for the break camp in the evening. In the morning, we took advantage of the time given and went round the Jamboree campsite, exchanging as many badges we still have left over and collecting more by participating in their simple activities. That night, we left on our bus with the beautiful array of fireworks bidding us farewell.

Our stay in Japan was concluded with the last two days of rest and relaxation. Although it was supposed to be time for us to unwind after the camp, the sense of nostalgia was inevitably still within us. However, we managed to make the most out of the two days, shopping for gifts and souvenirs of Japan. On the 10th of August, the day after National Day, we arrived back on our homeland, carrying more than just gifts and presents in our haversacks, but a whole mind of fond memories.

Foo Jie Jing Tiger Patrol



MY PSA JOURNEY

Six years of scouting has passed and as I look back, I have definitely come a long way. Many say that scouting is a life long journey and I truly believe in this statement. Even after having achieved my President Scout Award, it has only helped to make me realize just how little I know.

Over the past two years, I have slogged hard and had to cross countless obstacles to achieve my goal. The hike component, ASPIRE and the project were all difficult tasks to accomplish. Jing Cheng and Joshua, my two hike companions were a great help in doing this hike, without whom I would definitely have found the hike less smooth-sailing.

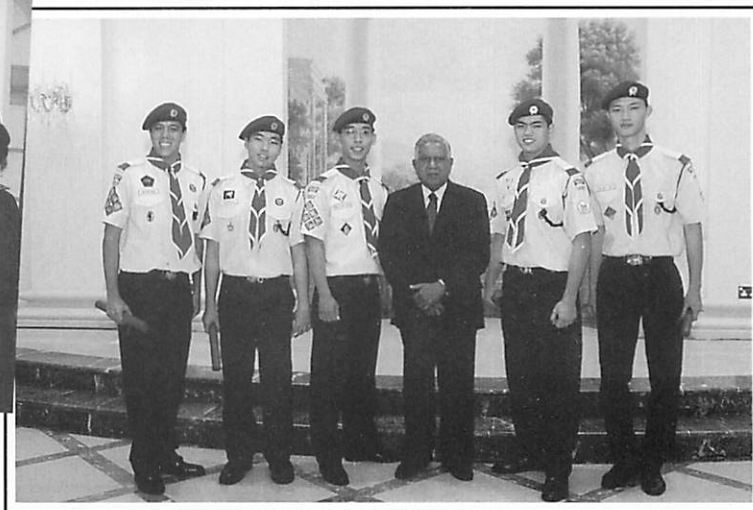
ASPIRE was such an inspiration, like a baptism of fire. During the camp all else just seemed so insignificant, all your personal wants or needs just fade away. It is a test of your will, as long as you can keep your head about you no matter how tired you are, or how frustrating the situation seems, you will be able to get through. As the saying goes what does not kill you makes you stronger.

Many people feel that the ASPIRE and the hike were the most grueling components of the award. However I would like to add that the project is no easy task. Numerous meetings, planning and managing of funds are all part and parcel of the project. Just as ASPIRE tested my capabilities, the project tested my management and organizational skills. Both of which are equally important even though many scouts tend to ignore the latter.

I would like to encourage all others brave enough to pick up the challenge to try for the President's Scout Award. It is definitely a very rewarding experience. Strive hard to improve yourself, to put yourself to the limits and see just how far you can persevere.

As I reach the end of another chapter of my scouting life, I look forward to many new challenges. Definitely the troop has helped me to grow up and become the person I am today. People who have shaped my life include Miss Hua, Mdm Pang, Mr Chua, and my leaders Leon, Wei Xin, Wen Bin, and Yi Kun. I am truly grateful to them, especially my fellow venture Gordon who has been a great help. Thank you all for your guidance and support!

Kuang QingYang Adam
Venture scout



MY CCA JOURNEY

Inspired by our seniors, and with the entire troop behind us, four of us embarked on a journey to strive for the Chief Commissioner's Award. Ng Jing Cheng, Tham Sai Meng, Tang Wai Kwan and I, Chong Wu Siew Louis, took up the challenge with the sole intention of doing our troop proud. We believed that our actions and achievements would not only attest to the standard of excellence our scouts were dedicated to but also take our juniors along this learning journey so that we could grow in the spirit of brotherhood.

Despite the fact that we faced many set backs and challenges; we took them head-on, with the support of our leaders, and never gave in. 4 years of training in orienteering, lashing and scouting culminated in the Exploration Hike. This was considered the main 'obstacle' and the acid's test. The preparations and execution of the hike itself required a concerted effort on our part and also that of our companions'. Most importantly, we wanted to be role-models for our aspiring juniors who may shoulder similar responsibilities in the near future.

Unlike the hike which only took a span of about 2 weeks in preparation, the service section that we had to fulfill required us to clock up to 12 hours of service which we completed over 3 months. We helped out at cadet scout sessions in Catholic High Primary on a weekly basis. Indeed, it was a refreshing experience interacting with our younger brothers. Though many a time, it was tiring, their overflowing energy and enthusiasm motivated us to continue and do our best for them.

Lastly, we all had to go through a short interview at the Scout HQ. Inevitably, for 3 hours, the jittery feeling lingered in our stomachs in the waiting room. We spoke our minds and truthfully related our experiences to the interviewers. Finally, we were elated when it was announced that all of us had passed.

This year, the award ceremony was held at Burkill Hall, at the Singapore Botanical Gardens on the 26 August 2006.

As we proceeded up to receive the awards, a sense of achievement and pride filled us. It was an acknowledgement of our commitment to scouts for these 4 years. The support of our leaders including our GSL Mr Chua and teacher-in-charge Miss Hua made it all the more meaningful for us. Our parents were present too. To add to the significance of the evening, we each presented personalized and handmade scarves to all of them.

Chong Wu Siew Louis **CCA recipient 2006**



AKELA AWARD

On the eighteenth of November 2006, five cub scouts, including myself, made our way to the multi-purpose hall of the Singapore Scout Association for our Akela Award Presentation Ceremony. 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 for our Group Scout Leader, Mr. Andrew Chua.

Soon the Guest-of-Honour, Mr Michael de Silva from MOE, arrived along with several scout commissioners. The GOH went on stage to give his opening speech after which the presentation of the awards commenced. Our school was the first to go up on stage to receive the award. I could feel butterflies in my stomach as I recalled the various steps that I had been taught on how to receive the award.

As I walked up onto the stage, I could feel the many eyes of the audience fixed on me. I recall being overwhelmed with a sense of pride at being given the honour of receiving the award. I received a plaque and a certificate from the guest-of-honour. I was also presented with a wolf woggle by my GSL to replace the plastic woggle. This was the first time that this practice of exchanging woggles was introduced. Then, a cub scout from the St Andrew's Star gave his valedictorian speech before we finally proceeded to have our reception followed by a photo taking session with the leaders.

Yip Keen Wah **Red Six**



FRANK COOPER SANDS

Presentation Award Ceremony



My legs were trembling. My heart was beating extremely fast. I was about to go onstage; I was our school's representative. "Catholic High School, Primary", the MC announced over

the microphone. I stood up and walked towards the stage. "Just salute, take the award with my left hand, bow and salute again", I told myself as I stepped onto the stage. I received the award from the guest-of-honour and held it tight, then looked at Mr Chua, our Group Scout Leader. He gently pressed the button of his digital camera and it flashed immediately. I managed a wide smile before going off stage. I heaved a sigh of relief as I scampered back to my seat.

That was what the Frank Cooper Sands Award ceremony was like. Numerous schools had also won the award. Catholic High was one of those on the list. My friend Gan Wan Teck and I were privileged to represent our school on this day.

When I entered the hall, there were already chairs lined up neatly. Mr Chua reminded us to enjoy the ceremony. Right after the ceremony, all the people present were invited to a breakfast buffet.

Bryan Ong Zong Yi (Cub Scout)
Green Six

FRANK COOPER SANDS AWARD	
Cub Scouts	GOLD
Scouts	GOLD
Ventures	GOLD



The Frank Cooper Sands Award is a yearly assessment Award for the Scout units to achieve excellence in the areas of programme development, unit administration, training and individual scout achievements. This year, 17

scout units and 12 venture units receive the Frank Cooper Sands Gold Award.

On the Saturday morning, 22nd July, Catholic High Scout Group were about to receive the Frank Cooper Sands Gold Award, the highest award that a scout unit can attain. Indeed, this year was special as all our 3 units, the cub scouts, scouts and the ventures have attained the Gold award. For the past few years, our venture unit has been attaining only silver but this year was a break through.

At 10.00am, the guests slowly streamed in as we awaited the arrival of the guest of honor, Mr. Nicholas Tang, the Chief Commissioner of the Scout Association. Since he was not able to turn up for the event, the guest of honor was taken over by the East Area Commissioner, Mr. Malcolm Tan. We started off with the recitation of the scout promise, and then the presentation. As the prize was given to the scout section first, Louis Chong, the senior patrol leader for the year 2005 went up to receive the prize from Mr. Malcolm Tan. This was the 10th year our Scout group has receive the Gold ever since this award begun in 1996. Not long after, I went up to take the plaque for the venture section. I represented my batch of 2004 ventures and it was the second year that I went to receive the award since the current batch of ventures was not able to make it. Soon, it was the end of the presentation and we ended the event with the Scout Hymn.

When the ceremony ended, as usual, we gathered and took photos with the plagues in remembrance of our achievements. This achievement is all thanks to our GSL Mr. Andrew Chua, the dedicated leaders and teachers, and of course our Scouts and Ventures who contributed to this award in one way of another.

Gordon Foo (Venture Scout)
Venture Chairman of Batch 2004



Kindred Spirit @South-West CDC

15 Secondary Four ventures assembled in school on the 11th of March to prepare for the CDC Campfire on Sunday. 10 bundles of pioneering spars, 2 barrels of robe and a container of banners on board the lorry, we were on our way to Jurong East Stadium.

Our task was to build our gateway design which topped the category in last year's National Patrol Camp. The Campfire would be graced by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong who would be welcomed through the gateway on his arrival. Arriving at the stadium amidst other helpers preparing for the big event, we promptly set to work.

Feeling excited about our project, we quickly got our pioneering project lashed in place. We were honoured to build the gateway on our part as a contribution to the banners which contrasted against the last rays of the setting sun. Finally, the three mountain-like structures were erected and interconnected at the base to form the whole gateway.

The next four banners that dressed the sides had images which themed around activities in scouting such as orienteering and backwood cooking.

The last phase of construction was the most important. The gate itself required precision and accuracy in the alignment to form a nice concave shape. It further enhanced the protruding structure that made the design unique. This gate was ensured neatness to the highest standard as we knew that the VIPs would get their first impression from it through their entry.

On the final day itself, we arrived early to make the final checks on the gateway. While some volunteered to distribute lightsticks to the public, others stationed at the gateway, patiently awaiting the arrival of the VIPs. People poured in from both entrances clutching their red goodie bags. The participants of the campfire were residents of Jurong East and VIPs including Mr Noel Hon, President of SAS, 13 MPs and Ministers including Mr Tharman, Minister of Education and the Prime Minister himself. Sai Meng and myself were chosen by our GSL Mr Chua to present scarves specially made for the campfire to 2 MPs on their arrival.

The atmosphere was further exhilarated by the band of drummers formed by a group of fellow brother scouts. Soon, the VIPs arrived consecutively. Sai Meng and I presented scarves to Dr Wang Kai Yuen, MP for Bukit Timah Constituency and Mrs Yu, MP for Jurong CRC respectively.

Having the chance to present the scarf to a leader of the state was an honour for us. We politely helped to wear the scarves for them, took a warm handshake and proudly gave a salute.

The campfire commenced shortly, upon the arrival of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. We lined the entrance and cheered as he proceeded through the gateway. Mr Lee Hsien Loon was most surprised when he knew that the gateway was built by scouts from his very own Alma Mater.

From this experience, we all learnt the importance of contribution, regardless of cost. There was a sense of fulfillment that sparked a drive in all of us to want to do more, not just for our own achievement but for the better good of society. At the end of the day, we really went back with more than what we came with, nothing we could buy - experience.

Chong Wu Siew Louis Venture Scout



Patrol Leader Training Camp 06

Finally, the much-awaited 'Patrol Leader Training Camp' had arrived. Scouts from Bishan Park Secondary, Whitley Secondary, Mayflower Secondary, Bartley Secondary, Deyi Secondary, Peirce Secondary and alas, us Catholic High scouts have gathered together one week before the camp to be sorted into different patrols.

Throughout the week, all the scouts met each other regularly to prepare the equipment needed for the camp. The night before the camp, I could hardly get any sleep, as it was the first time I had a camp with scouts from other schools.

The camp started at 7.00 pm sharp at Catholic High School. There was hustle and bustle as all of us hurried to prepare for the first inspection of the camp with our patrol members whom we only met for one week.

The inspection ended swiftly and after we were given a briefing on this camp, a Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader was elected to lead the cohort and of course, a Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader was appointed for every patrol.

A hike commenced soon after attendance was taken. We were told to take turns to lead our patrol from checkpoint to checkpoint using our orienteering skills. We cheered for one another and after a long but worthwhile journey, my patrol was second to reach the rest point, Punggol Jetty. We all heaved a sigh of relief and encouraged each other, glad that the gruelling hike was finally over. After all the remaining patrols arrived, we took a rest and then proceed to an open space to pitch our tents.

We woke up at 7.00 am and soon got ourselves ready for the next event, which was morning PT. After the cool-down, we had our breakfast and changed into our full scout uniform for the flag-raising ceremony. Another Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader were elected and the same went for the Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader.

The day's activity was team-building games. At this point in time, we all knew our patrol members inside out, and had become good friends. After the games were over, we went to collect our firewood for backwoods cooking (dinner).



We cooked chicken, canned food, rice and pizza. Although our dinner is cooked, we have to let the ventures test our food first to make sure that they are edible. Reluctant we are, we stood behind our food during the inspection and tolerated the overpowering fragrance of our scrumptious dinner forcing their way into our nose.

After dinner, we had a campfire of songs and skits. It was certainly a very precious moment when we see our patrol members dancing and singing hilariously. After the campfire, we had a mini war game. Soon after that, we went to sleep. When I was almost in deep slumber, oblivious to my surroundings, a shout of "Fire!" woke me up. I then realized that an emergency evacuation had just started! Everyone woke up hastily and fall in. Our ventures scolded us and gave us punishments for being so slow. They also said that if there really was a fire, half of us would have already been burnt, but that half excludes me.



We kept everything into our rucksacks and cleaned up the place that used to be home to the fifty of us for one-and-a-half days. We then hiked back to Catholic High School. Upon reaching our destination, we took a short rest and then proceed to wash and keep all the equipment. Next was the peer evaluation. After that, we had breakfast and waited for the prize presentation.

The best patrol was announced and after a wave of applause, the three most outstanding campers were chosen. I was one of those selected to receive the award. Lastly, the best camper for the camp was Ong Kong Ying, a scout with good leadership potential. The camp came to an end shortly after Wei Xin had an insightful debrief session with the whole lot of us. I have learnt a lot of things throughout this PLTC and want to thank the people who organized this camp and of course, my patrol mates who went through every bit of this camp with me.



Lim Kwan Hong
Dolphin Patrol

CONGRATULATIONS

to



GSL Andrew Chua
awarded the
Star to Silver Lion
by **President Nathan**
at the Istana
23 Feb 2006



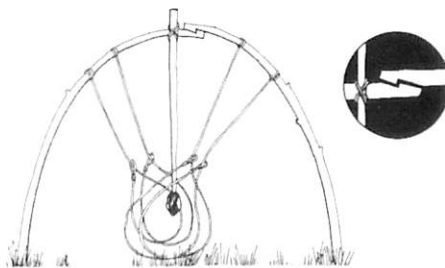
SL Ching Wai Shun
awarded the
Chief Scout Commendation
by **President Nathan**
at the Istana
23 Feb 2006

Survival Skills: Traps & Shelters

Land Animals

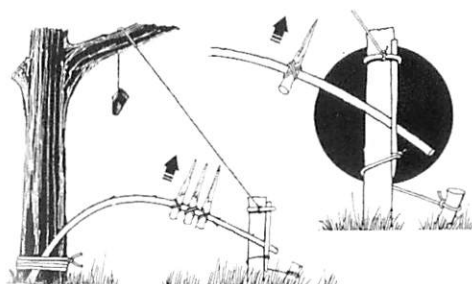
Double Spring Snare

Two saplings are notched to interlock when bent towards each other over the game trail. A vertical bait bar is lashed near the end of one of them. Two snares can be attached to each sapling, they need to be fairly stiff wire to hold their positions. This is another trap suitable for use in clearings to catch small carnivores. When the bait is taken the game is held in the air between the saplings.



Baited Spring Spear Trap

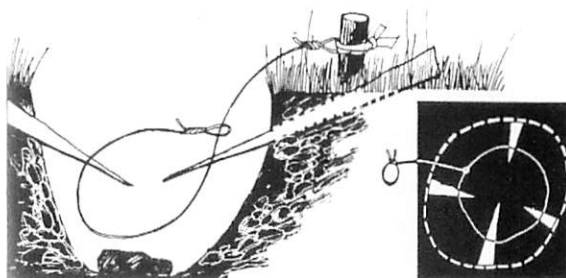
Taking the suspended bait dislodges a retaining ring to release the trigger bar, allowing the spear to fly upwards. The ring holds the upper end of the trigger bar against an upright post, so that it retains the spear shaft. The lower end of the trigger is restrained by a cord. To increase the trap's efficiency use several spear points on the bar.



Baited Hole Noose

Digging pits disturbs the environment and leaves a permanent mark. This will alarm some animals. In others curiosity may outweigh discretion and they will investigate. Baiting the hole may bring animals sniffing. Foxes, pigs, wild cats and badgers will all dig up rubbish pits and this could attract them. The animal smells the bait and pushes its head down. If it goes past the stakes it will not be able to retract it. If it uses a paw it will become ensnared.

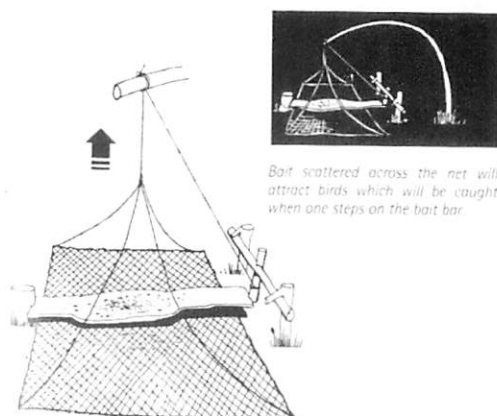
Drive four sharpened pliable stakes through the edges of the pit to emerge below the surface where they are less noticeable. Lay a noose across them, attached to a post outside pit.



Aerial Animals

Toggle release net trap

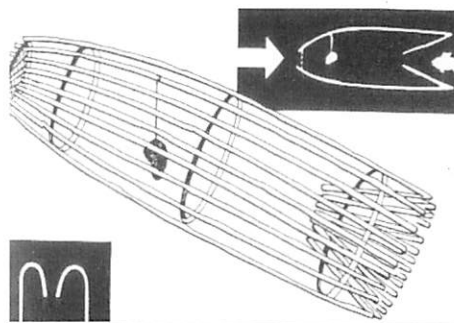
A net laid on the ground and baited to attract birds has lines from the corners to a springy sapling overhead. A tension line extends to a toggle mechanism notched on to a horizontal bar and operated by a flat bait stick. Set the bait stick off the ground and only just resting against the lower end of the toggle. This trigger mechanism needs to be extremely sensitive if a small bird's weight is to set it off.



Aquatic Animals

Wickerwork Traps

Use young hazel, or other pliant twigs – bamboo bends better if you warm it – to make a trap into which fish can swim but from which they can find no way out. A wickerwork trap allows the current to flow through it, and since it is made of natural materials may seem like a tangle of reeds or stream-bottom debris.



Eel Bag

Tie fresh surplus offal or a dead animal inside a sack or cloth bag (plastic will not do) together with a quantity of straw-like vegetation or bracken. Tie a line and a weight to the end of the bag and allow it to sink. Leave it overnight and pull it out in the morning. If there are eels in the water they will chew their way into the bag to get at the offal and will still be wriggling in the straw when you get the bag landed.

Shelters & Roofing

Natural Hollow Shelter

Even a shallow depression in the ground will provide some protection from wind and can reduce the effect in constructing a proper shelter. However, take measures to deflect the downhill flow of water around it, especially if it is a hollow on a slope, or you could find yourself lying in a pool. Make a roof to keep the rain off and the warmth in. A few strong branches placed across the hollow can support a light log laid over them, against which shorter boughs and sticks can be stacked to give pitch to the roof and so allow water to run off. Consolidate with turf or twigs and leaves.

Shelter Sheet

With a waterproof poncho, groundsheet or a piece of plastic sheeting, you can quickly and easily make a number of different shelters which will suffice until you can build something more efficient. Make use of natural shelter (a) or make a triangular shelter with the apex pointing to the wind (b). Stake or weigh down edges. If it is long enough, curl the sheeting below you running downhill so that it keeps out surface water (c). Use dry grass or bracken as bedding. Do not lie on cold or damp ground.

Parachute Tepee

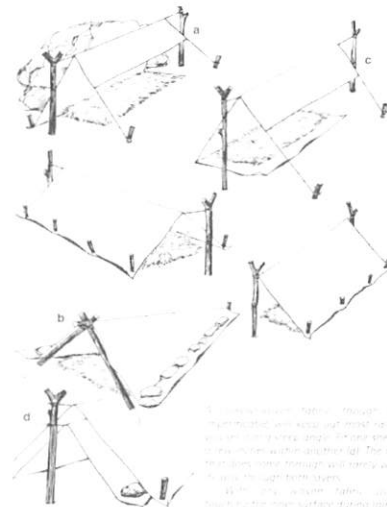
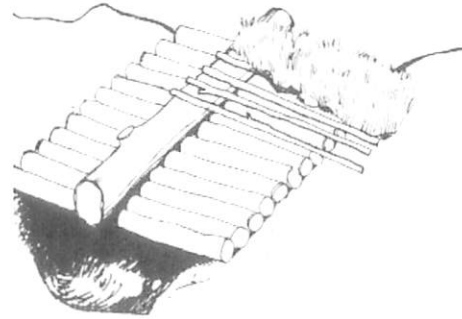
A parachute, suspended by its centre, makes an instant tepee. Peg out the bottom edge.

Bamboo Roofing

This large-stemmed plant, actually a grass, is a very versatile building material and can be used for pole supports, flooring, roofing and walls. The giant form of bamboo- which can be over 30m high and 30cm in diameter- is an Asian plant, found in damp places from India through China both in the lowlands and on mountain slopes, but there are types native to Africa and Australia and two which are found in the southern United States.

Source:

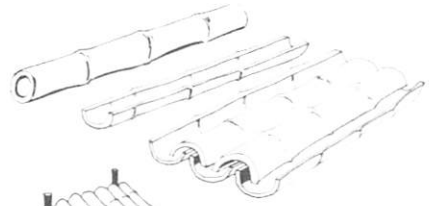
SAS Survival Handbook
John Lofty Wiseman



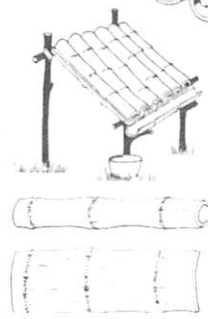
(a) Natural hollow shelter. Though not recommended, you could use most form of hollow shelter. (b) Triangular shelter. The apex should point to the wind. (c) The sheeting should be curled downhill so that it keeps out surface water.



Parachute material can be used to make a tepee, but even simpler is to suspend one from a tree. Use the sides for a windbreak and keep the fabric as waterproof as possible. For the best shelter, use the bottom edge of the parachute to make a windbreak and make it airtight by taping it.



Split bamboo vertically to make roofing and guttering to collect rainwater. The split stems are alternately interlocked with one another, form efficient and waterproof pantries.



Roofing split bamboo for smooth water runoff. The sheets are joined vertically through the joints every 7.25cm (2 7/8 in) or so around the circumference. It can then be embedded in a gutter.

The paper-like sheaths formed at the nodes can also be used as roofing material.

