



CAMPFIRE *Light* 營火

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SCOUT GROUP

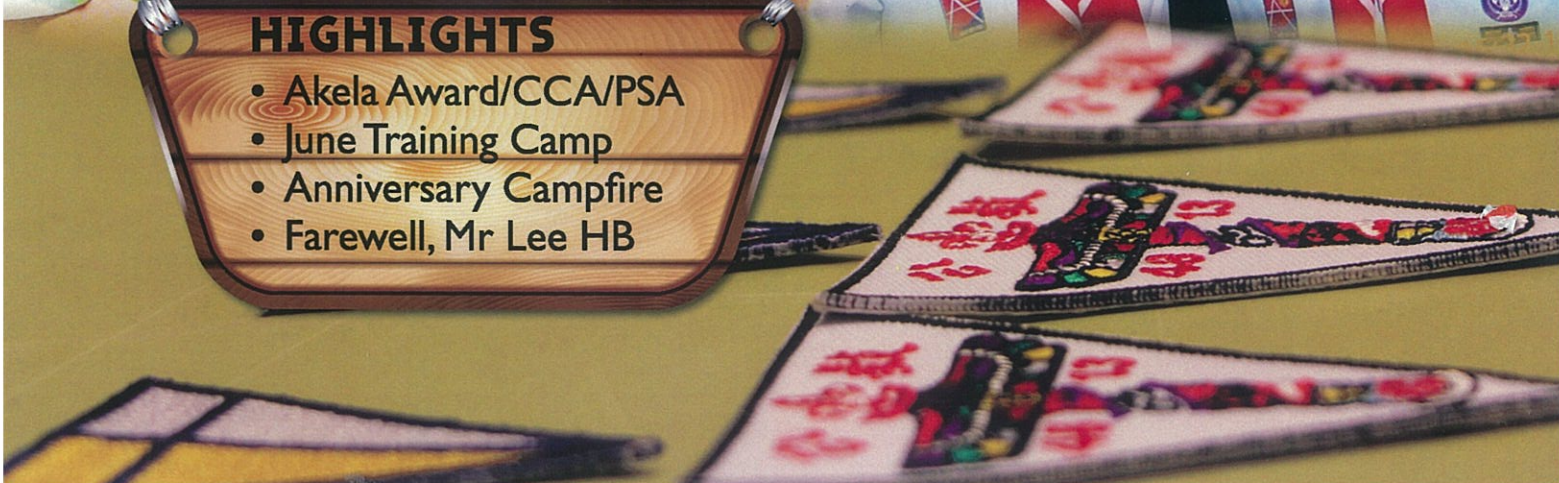
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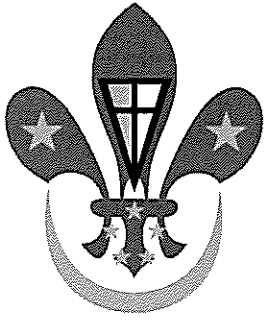


HIGHLIGHTS

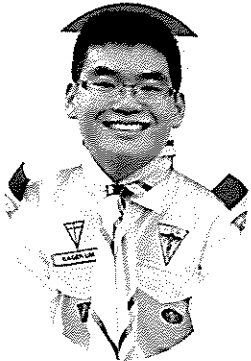
- Akela Award/CCA/PSA
- June Training Camp
- Anniversary Campfire
- Farewell, Mr Lee HB



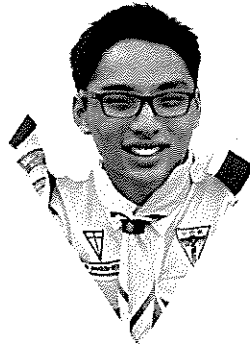




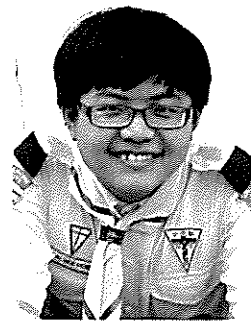
EDITORIAL COMMITTEE 2014



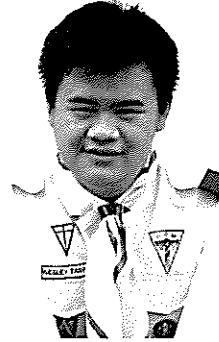
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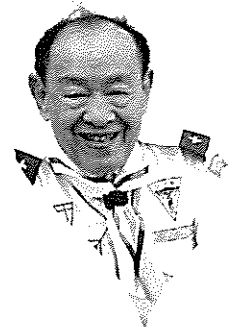
Tan Jingsheng



Lai See Hoe



Wesley Tan



Andrew Chua

FOREWORD

With our 66th anniversary, a significant milestone for our troop, perhaps we need to slow down, take stock of our achievements and pay tribute to our predecessor's hard work by treasuring our heritage. The 54th issue of Campfire Light will thus revert back to the old system of having longer reflective articles by our Cubs, Scouts and Ventures to better capture and present the notable moments of 2014's activities and events down to the raw human emotion. Hopefully such a format will continue to inspire our junior batches by enabling them to recollect their beautiful memories in Scouting and ensure that their passions remain "Ablaze" long after graduating from the school. May the **公教童军** legacy continue to be passed on!

智仁勇

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团庆



On the 25 of January 2014, at 10 am sharp, the secondary 3s and 4s senior scouts came down in their PT kit with pride and honour as they start to build the 5 *ceng qigan*. It was finally Tuan Qing, the mark of a new year and new beginning for the scouts of Catholic High Scout Troop. At noon, when the sun starts to shine at its brightest, the soon to be seniors, sec 2 scouts, came down to help raise the 5 *ceng qigan*, the pride of every Tuan Qing. As the flag rose high and soared above the clouds during sheng qi, the sec 2 scouts prepare their moment to be promoted to seniors, the sec 3 scouts prepare their moment to become the new leaders of the troop and lastly, the sec 4 scouts prepare to enter the next phase of their scouting journey. After sheng qi, the scouts jhed at the school hall with anticipation and excitement as the start of the ceremony begins. Firstly, the sec 2 scouts marched up by patrols, led by their Assistant Patrol Leaders of 2013, to be promoted as seniors and received their troop scarf, which mark their loyalty and commitment to the troop for being a scout for a year. Then, the individual sec 2 scouts marched front to receive their various ranks and titles. The various Assistant Patrol Leaders for the six patrols of 2014 are, Pigeon: Tan Dereng, Eagle: Justin Lew, Cobra: Ryan Lee, Rhino: Ellis Yeo, Wolf: Jeff Chin and Tiger; Brian Lee. This was followed by the individual sec 3s to receive their ranks of Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader and titles of Quartermaster and Secretary. The Quarter-masters are Javan and Ang Wei Jie and the Secretary is Samuel Eng. Joel Goh, the APL of Eagle patrol 2013, succeeded the SPL of 2013, Rayson Song. It was the first year that the troop has 2 ASPLs and they are Goh Wenxu and Ang Chun Teck. The various Patrol Leaders for the six patrols of 2014 are, Pigeon: Tan Hong Yu, Eagle: Lecarl Lim, Cobra: Loh Cheng Tat, Rhino: Ang Chun Teck, Wolf: Lee Kee Hon and Tiger: Goh Wenxu. The best patrol of the year 2013 was Rhino patrol. The best sec 1s, 2s and s were also announced. After that was the venture investiture, when the ventures are being invested, marking the next phase of their scouting journey. It was a moment of pride for all as the troop pumped to pledge loyalty and pride to the scout troop. Next up was some fun and games with the cub scouts. The scouts had a lot of fun as smiles were seen across all. This was followed by the cutting of cake. Lastly, the SPL of 2014, Joel, led the jiang qi and bersurai as it mark the end of the day. The scouts all left in joy and excitement as they look forward to the journey of a new year.

Jeff Chin
Wolf Patrol

Bronze Arrow Attainment Camp

24 of our cubs participated in this camp which was organized to help the boys attain their Bronze Arrow. This was held at Catholic High Primary School on the 22nd to 23rd February 2014.

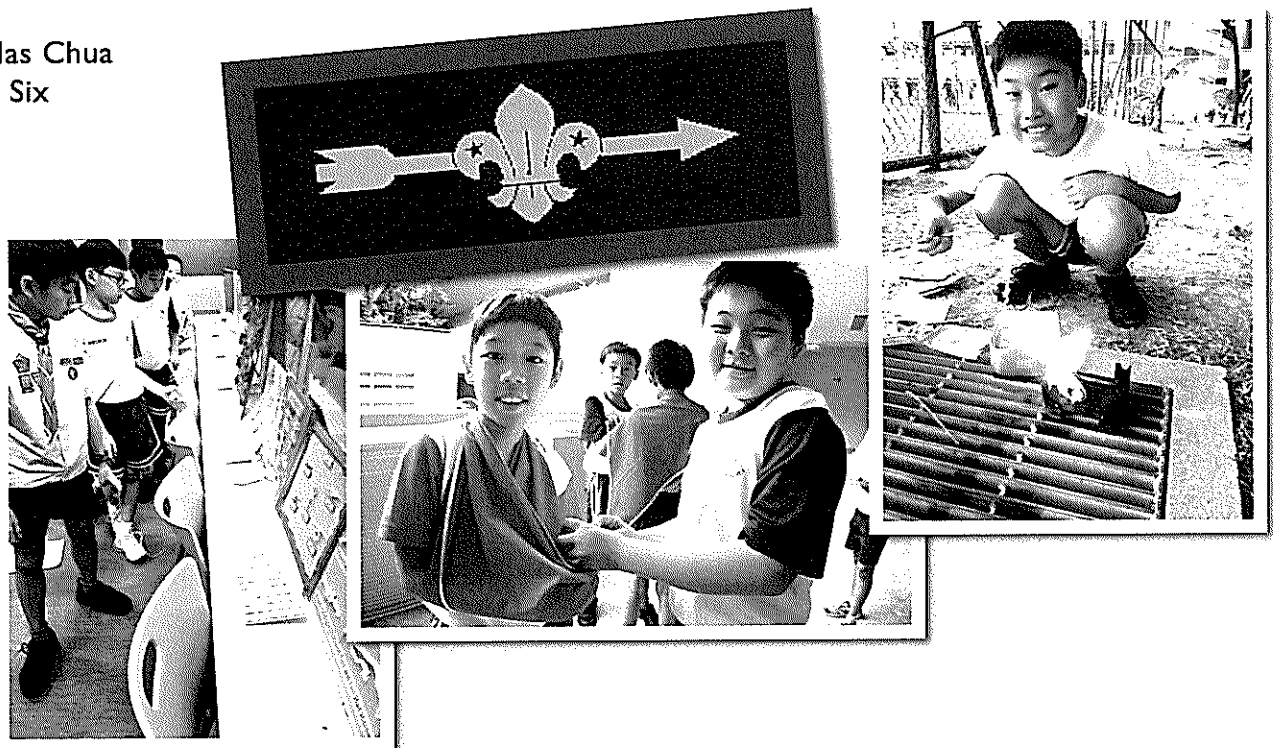


I learnt to help people with injuries on their hands, especially on how to tie the bandages to help wrap the victim's hand. I also learnt that teamwork is important as without teamwork, our group would not have been able to complete the poster about Singapore, with the many places and foods unique to our country. I even presented the poster on stage! The poster was very colourful, since we drew it with blue, green and yellow crayons and markers.

The activity I liked the most was the night stealth game. We had to be really stealthy in order to complete the obstacle course. I tried the course many times but kept failing. In the end, I persevered and completed it! The course required us to weave and duck in between tables to avoid detection by the "guards" who had "search beacon lights" or "poison balls", which we needed to avoid. Then, I had to play a "switching cups" game and passed it. I got caught so many times but in the end, I cleared the obstacle course.

I hope to apply the lessons learnt about teamwork and perseverance in my life. There are so many instances, even like in putting together a skit to be performed on stage, that teamwork is important. Each person has his role to play.

Nicholas Chua
White Six



Sec 1 Investiture



On the bright and beautiful afternoon on the 1st of March 2014, there was a mati that could be seen at number four, all of the faces of those in the yellow shirts were brimming with joy, especially those of the secondary 1 scouts. Anticipation and happiness was in the air - it was a big day for all of the new secondary 1 scouts. Today would be the day that they will be officially invested as scouts in Catholic High Scout Troop. Today will be the day in which they will receive their red scarfs. Today is the much awaited secondary 1 Scouts Investiture Ceremony.

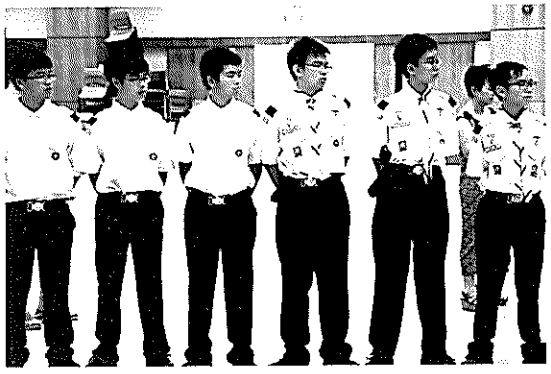
After taking attendance and confirming the troop strength, the troop proceeded with the raising of the qigan. After that, the scouts changed back into their troop PT kit to do some basic testwork on the basic, advanced knots and lashings that the scouts have learnt and practised for very long. Everything proceeded smoothly and soon the testwork was done and the much awaited event was about to happen in a short moment.

The secondary 2 and 3 scouts changed into their full uniform while the secondary 1 scouts remained in their troop PT kit for the flag raising ceremony. The troop flag was being raised signifying the beginning of a brand new day. After which, the secondary 2 and 3 scouts jighed in the school's multi-purpose hall for the investiture ceremony. On the other hand, the secondary 1 scouts changed into their full uniform which was only missing that one uniform part that they would be receiving today, their national scarf. The chairs in the hall also started to fill up with parents, with pride for their children being drawn on their faces. The parents were also excited for their children's symbolic day, their transition into scouts and a start of a new life for them. The ceremony started shortly after the secondary 1 scouts finished changing into their uniforms. In the hall was a big mati, with Catholic High Scout Troop's Group Scout Leader, Andrew Chua at the front of the mati. He was the one who would invest the secondary 1 scouts with their national scarves.



The secondary I scouts , with their Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders, marched up in patrol order to the front of the mati where Mr Andrew Chua was. They then placed their left hand on the troop flag and raised their right hand to recite the scout promise, a promise they will keep throughout their scouting lives. Then, they had the national scarf being placed around their neck. At that moment the faces of the secondary I scouts and their parents brightened up with big smiles. It was a proud moment for all of the new scouts, their big eyes smiling and their hearts dancing with joy, they were finally a part of the Catholic High Scout Troop, the Catholic High Scout Family.

Ryan Lee
Cobra Patrol



June Training Camp

Day 1



The annual June Training Camp begins again. This year's June Training Camp differs from the previous two years as this year is the special 'Mobile Camp' Ubin. This is new to all the sec 1 to sec 3 Scouts in the troop as we have never experienced such an Ubin Camp before and are unsure of what to expect. As with all the June Training Camps though, the Scout motto proves to be an attitude that every Scout should have throughout the course of the camp – 'Be Prepared'.

The theme for this year's June Training Camp was "Chasing Fears". As such, throughout the course of the camp, the Scouts will learn to not only face their fears but also chase them, live them, and overcome them. The First Activity on Day One is Closed Inspection, which happens immediately after a brief breakfast meal – a highly stressful component especially for the newly indoctrinated junior Scouts, who have yet to undergo this pseudo-baptism of fire, requiring immense attention to detail, practice and a perpetual sense of urgency.

After the gruelling ordeal, the patrols are relentlessly dished out their next component – the arduous hike to Punggol Campsite, the campsite for the troop on Day One. Each patrol is handed a map and a list of MGRs, for which they are to plot their destination and all checkpoints in between that they are to reach. The patrols then set off at approximately nine thirty in the morning with all their rag sacks and patrol equipment.

Upon reaching the site, the patrols were given time for camp development and for stove cooking, followed by a Scout classic Night Game – with elements of reconnaissance, intelligence gathering and avoidance of detection, with the Ventures as game masters who were the targets of the night.

The first day has proved to be more than just physically challenging, as mental limits and capabilities are tested to the limit. However, that is the aim of every June Training Camp as the troop emerges stronger and tougher than before, becoming Scouts who are more ready to face any challenges ahead in the future. As the first day draws to an end, every scout knows that this is but the beginning, and that the chase for every one's fears has only just started.

Tan Hong Yu
Pigeon Patrol





Day 2

It was 5 am when we were abruptly woken up by the sudden and urgent call for an evacuation. It was hectic and crazy, no one was fully prepared for such an evacuation. Especially because the previous day was excruciatingly tiring and physically demanding. So, similar to all other evacuations, we never always seem to meet the timings, resulting in a few other punishments-a few rounds, dozens of push-ups and sit-ups.

After that morning, we were transported to Pulau Ubin. This island was traditionally the location of the majority of our activities.

Firstly, when we got there, setting up of our campsite and Jelutong. After which, we had some lunch followed by an activity commonly known as VOJ where we are tested on our First aid techniques and knowledge on that subject. These tests were not limited to evacuation, sprains, burns, in fact, we were also tested on necessary actions like placing of a danger triangle before rescuing someone on the road.

After that, we had outdoor cooking. We were given flour, fish, pakchoi and a few apples. It was messy and frantic to have to juggle both maintaining the fire and preparation of the food.

At night, we had the traditional night games. However, these games were slightly different. We had to solve a crime scene. We were supposed to pinpoint the killer, options ranged from werewolves to vampires, it was no surprised that some of us couldn't sleep well after that – an eventful day that was only a milestone in our 4 day Journey in June Camp.

Lecarl Lim
Eagle Patrol



Day 3

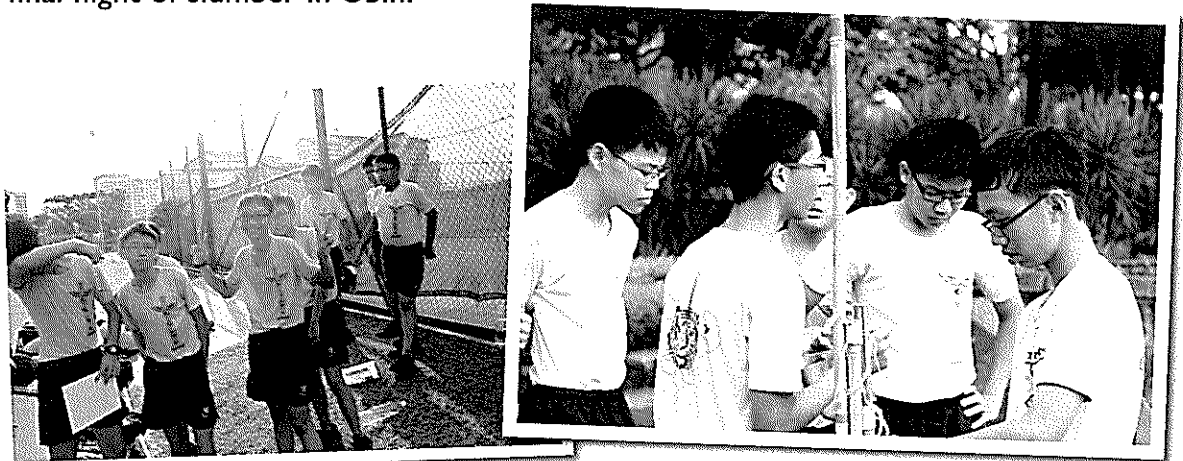
The troop was awoken at around 6.30am for morning P.T, led by Kai Siong. We ran to Berberek Hut and back to our campsite. Despite the run being really tough, we managed to overcome it as a troop. After the tiring run, we went back to our campsite for breakfast. We then began inspection, with one Venture taking each patrol. As some patrols were not moving fast enough, they were punished and had to redo inspection.

Once we had finished inspection, we were briefed on our next activity” Scavenger Hunt! We were given a list full of items, with even some weird items like a dog. Like hunters, the scouts roamed Ubin for items and even went to beg store owners for certain items. We also had a mobile lunch. However, after a seemingly insufficient duration, we had to make our way back to the campsite for another smoky backwood.

This time, Marcus Boh taught the seniors survival killing skills which were exercised on live frogs. Meanwhile, the troop began the backwood. With fires burning in the pits, our raw fish and food made swift progress. Despite a setback that required us to shift our fire pits, we soon were able to present and have our long awaited meal. Our bellies rumbled with satisfaction after consuming our hard work. It was then finally time for the long awaited event of the camp, the Campfire - the time for us to take refuge from our fears and have some joy, fun, and laughter! With Ellis Yeo and Ryan Lee as the emcees, the campfire was kicked off! The night was packed with singing, games and laughter – embodiments of the Scouting Spirit and Brotherhood.

After a final night hike up to Puaka Hill, where everyone was reminded of their journey and purpose in Ubin, the Sec 3s were sent away for their Solo Night, while the rest of the troop went back to the campsite for their final night of slumber in Ubin.

Ang Chun Teck Rhino Patrol



Day 4

By day 4, many of us were already very tired. We were constantly pushed to and beyond our own limits over the past 3 days. As the famous saying goes, you will never know your own limits until you push them. My fellow scouts kept pushing themselves, motivating each other, stepping out of their comfort zone and setting new limits. However I could see that this perseverance and determination had somewhat been jaded due to their exhaustion.

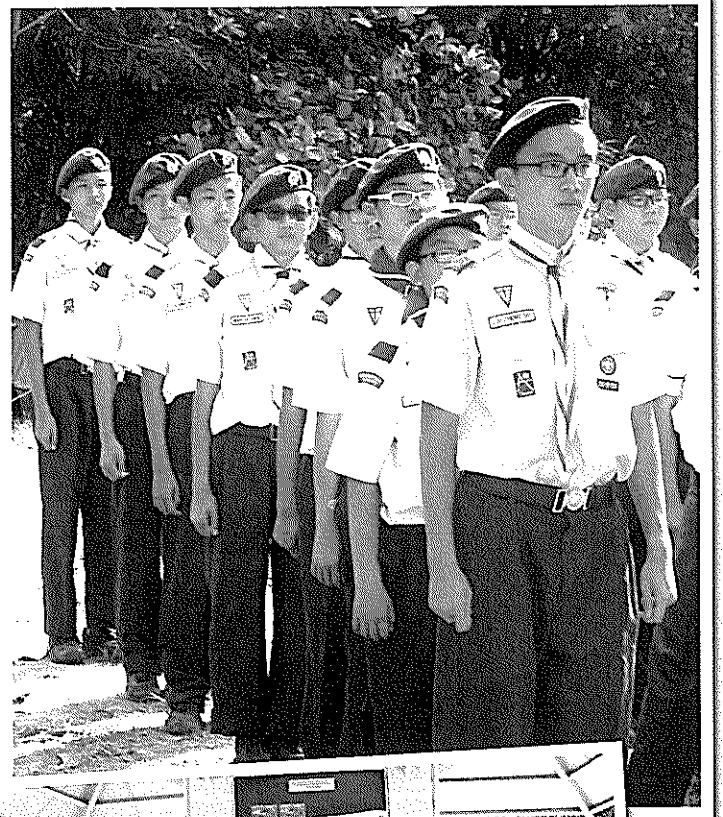
It was the final lap of Ubin training camp 2014, I could not afford my fellow scouts to slack off now and see all the hard work and effort they put into this training camp go to waste. Yet I knew that I could not do this all by myself. With the help of my entire batch, being the most senior batch of scouts, we went around pushing our fellow scouts not to give up at the very last moment. We motivated them, made sure they worked with a sense of urgency. Very soon, the long list of tasks were slowly being completed one by one.

Perhaps the most heart-warming thing was not the fact that we could go home, well not anymore. I saw my fellow scouts, not just my batch, pushing each other on, helping one another. It didn't take long until the final activity of Ubin training camp 2014, our prize presentation. Ryan Lim got the outstanding Sec 1 award, Ellis Yeo and Ryan Lee both shared the outstanding Sec 2 award while my fellow batch mates Joel Goh and Ang Chun Teck shared the outstanding Sec 3 award. Finally, for the second consecutive year, Rhino Patrol clinched the title of Best Patrol in this year's Ubin training camp.

As we stood there in our mati for bersurai, I could not help myself but reflect back. I have been through 3 Ubin training camps, this being my last one. What have I learnt and gained? I learnt survival skills, scouting skills, I found my discipline, sense of urgency and courage. However I gained something precious, something that only one who has gone through Ubin training camp with me would have gained. It is the bond that holds our troop strong, the bond that holds our batch strong. 3 years ago I stepped into the Catholic High Scout Troop as an individual. 3 years later after my last Ubin, I walk out with a troop, I walk out with a batch. It is not about being the best, it's about the friendship and lessons learnt.

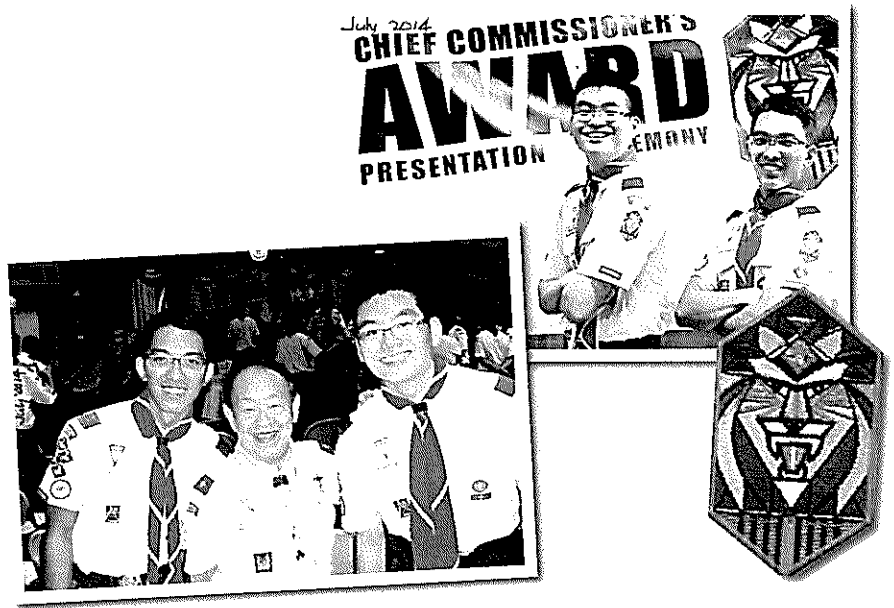
Ubin training camp day 4, the end of a chapter, the start of a new one. From here, we shall travel further with our new found friendship and bonds. As a batch and as a troop, if we stay strong and bonded, nothing can stand in our way.

Goh Wen Xu
Tiger Patrol



CCA Presentation Ceremony

Throughout our years in Scouting, we are always given specific tasks to do. Clear this sotong, chong-bang that knot, find the distance from this to that. Our focus never leaves from these specific tasks and each small specific isolated incidents until our senior year, when we pull back to look at our Scouting lives thus far in review, when we realise that how everything we have been through, everyone we have fought for and against, every challenge that we have been presented extrapolates to culminate at a certain point of intersection – serving as evidence that we have truly grown as a person and as a Scout.



For my batch-mate Ryan and myself, that point was on 19.7.2014, our long-awaited CCA ceremony. At the Scout HQ Multi Purpose Hall, awaiting to shake the Chief Commissioner and Guest-of-Honour Tan Cheng Kiong's hand, our palpitating hearts and sweaty palms betraying our nervousness despite our best efforts to plaster a wide grin on our faces. There was no cheesy realisation of our progress in Scouting thus far, no sudden revelation of the difficulties we had faced, or any instantaneous reality check that reminded us of the great honour we would about to have. The seemingly insurmountable peaks we had to scale to get to each stage leading up to CCA were undeniably real and arduously taxing.

Rather, we personally felt nothing but great gratitude and humility- gratitude for our teachers-in-charge, leaders, seniors, peers and juniors that had helped us get to this point and humility at the clear fact that we would never had reached anywhere close to this without their help and guidance.

To the cynical, perhaps the CCA doesn't mean that much at all - getting to shake someone's hand (albeit a very important someone), a colourful patch on one's left sleeve. Why all the trouble? Simply because the CCA isn't an individual achievement. The CCA is the first square lash I had ever tied. The CCA is the first time I found bearing using a compass. The CCA is the hardship I went through during the three annual June Camps I was put through as a Scout. Put succinctly, the CCA is representative of the collective efforts my batch and I have put into Scouting for the past four years. This made my left sleeve very very heavy indeed.

For my juniors who aspire to be a part of the CCA experience - it's going to be a very tough ride. If all roads lead to Rome, then Rome definitely doesn't give out the Chief Commissioner's Award, regardless of the ecclesiastical influence it wields. Start with the knowledge that it's going to be one bumpy journey, and hang on tight till you get there. Do so, and I assure you that one day you'll find yourself shaking the Chief Commissioner's hand like Ryan and I have and wonder – that was one heck of an amazing journey.
智仁勇!



Kagen Lim
Rhino Patrol (2010-2013)



15th August had arrived. The National Camp, held on a massive scale for members of Uniformed Groups (UGs) from all schools in Singapore, was about to begin. My fellow Catholic High scouts, Lee Kee Hon, Jonathan Soh, Jeff Chin and I took a bus ride from the Scout HQ to the NPCC HQ. NPCC was the organiser for the camp. We were all excited and raring to go.

Shortly after everyone arrived, we were split into our allocated divisions, which included Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, Echo, Foxtrot, Golf, Hotel and Juliet. Each division comprised of 50 people. The members of every division bonded in no time and friendships were forged. We were then told to settle our “barang-barang” in our allocated bunks. This was then followed by lunch at the mass hall, where we had all our meals at.

Each UG was in charge of organising and executing a particular activity that was representative of that UG. The activity organised by Scouts included introducing to participants the essentials when planning for a campfire and inter-division games that encouraged teamwork and leadership. These activities enabled us to learn more about what the other UGs had to offer.

In the blink of an eye, it was the last major activity, the campfire. Everyone huddled around the fire, singing songs and performing skits. The atmosphere was electric. The very next morning, it was time to leave. Even though the camp had ended, I was very fortunate to have forged friendships, which I will cherish for a long time.

Overall, it was a fruitful learning experience, and we all gained something from the four days at camp.

Joel Goh
SPL 2014

OUR SENIOR PATROL CATHOLIC HIGH

1993	See Cheng Wai
1994	Louis Jeng
1995	Shawn Lin
1996	Mark Wong
1997	Leonhard Wee
1998	Trevor Kuang
1999	Mervin Teo
2000	Willy See
2001	Joshua Lai
2002	Daryl Lim
2003	Aaron Ng
2004	Marcus Leong
2005	Louis Chong
2006	Joshua Goh
2007	Harrison Kho
2008	Tang Li Ren
2009	Gabriel Mao
2010	Benedict Tedjopranoto
2011	Eng Xue Yan
2012	Lee Zheng Yi
2013	Rayson Song
2014	Joel Goh



LEADER & (1993-2014) OF SCOUT GROUP

Although a SPL has the granted authority to command, being a true leader encompasses more. A SPL has to lead, not instruct. He should seek to connect with his team and be the one who steps up to provide direction and guidance when there's collective uncertainty. That's what a leader does.



There's also no denying the fact that a SPL ought to be the role model that inspires scouts. He should exemplify the scouting spirit and lead by the scout group's core values – wisdom (智), benevolence (仁), courage (勇). A SPL cannot merely act as the role model. He has to be one.

A SPL has to think purposefully ahead, be accountable and take full responsibility for his actions and words. He needs to understand that his one-year leadership appointment does not only have a limited, one-year impact. The impact extends beyond, where even at the most basic level, a SPL's year in position will touch the lives of at least three different cohorts of scouts in understandably different ways. Take charge not only of the group, but also be accountable for yourself.

People have arrived, had an impact on the lives of others, and left as better persons. So, amidst the surge of greater responsibilities, do recognise that you're also a key element in helping to construct a living legacy. Spend some time to reflect on your own journey, then identify and help the potential few that could succeed you and continue to craft a more inspiring story.

Marcus Leong
SPL 2004



Being appointed as the Senior Patrol Leader of Catholic High Scout Troop was one of the greatest honours ever bestowed upon me, and now I look back and say that the most important lesson I learnt from being a SPL is something both counterintuitive yet befitting - humility. A leader has to have humility in order to gain the respect of his peers and subordinates. Humility was also essential in ensuring that I followed the advice of the leaders and teachers and not run astray of what the troop strives towards. Humility was key in demonstrating to my fellow Scouts that I was one with them and that I served the troop with them, allowing me to think of the troop first before making any decisions. During my one-year tenure, I have learnt a great deal from my seniors, peers and juniors alike, moulding me as a person. It is indeed a great endeavour to be a SPL in Catholic High Scout Group and I sincerely wish the best to those who dare to step forward to lead and serve. I end with these parting words, which I have come across recently and found meaningful as a constant reminder to us all, "A humble man might not gain anything, but a proud man will lose everything". May God continue to bless Catholic High Scout Group as she enters her 67th year.

Benedict Tedjopranoto
SPL 2010

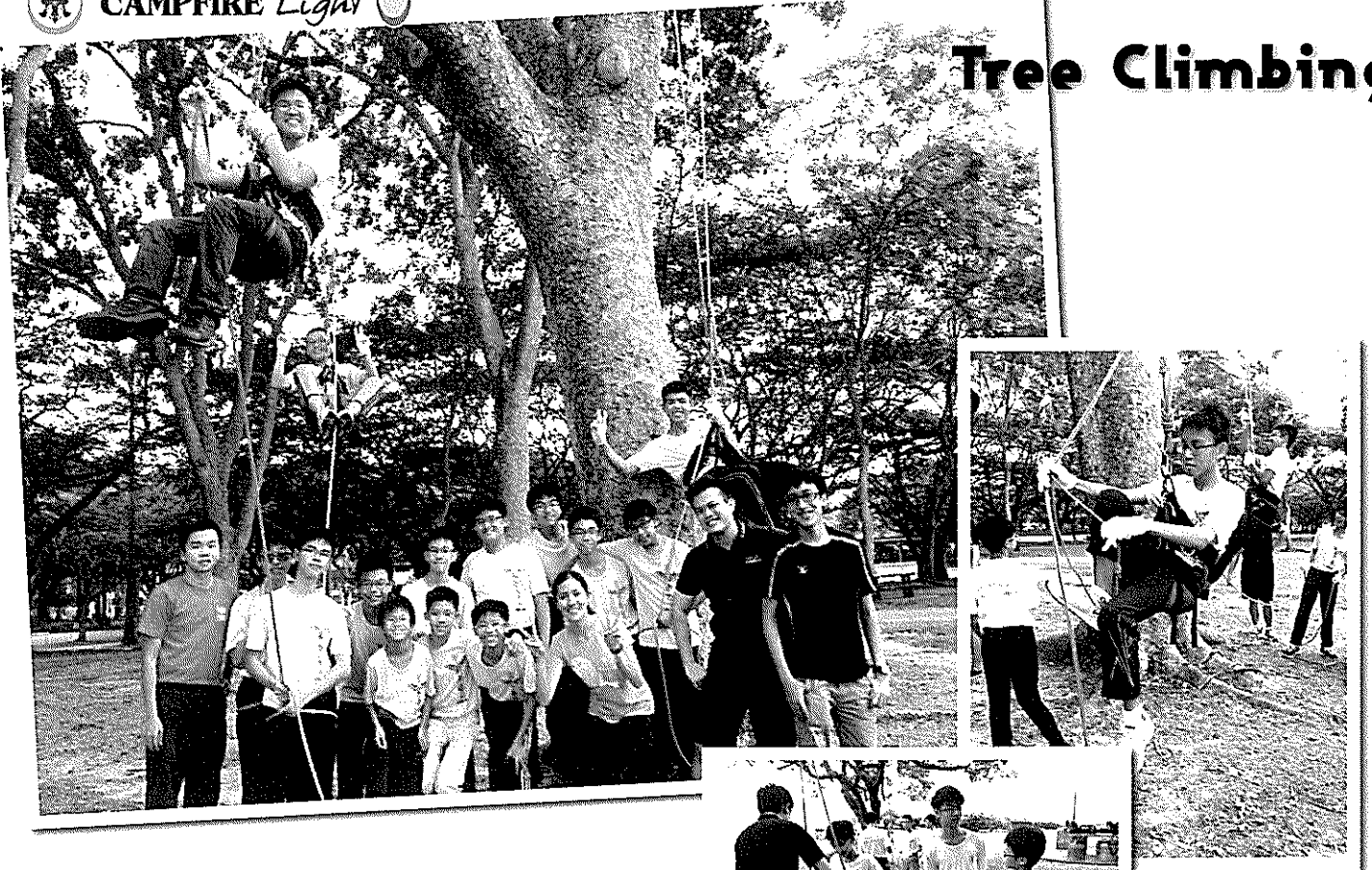


Three qualities are essential to being a good SPL. First, be humble and always willing to learn from others and your own mistakes. Second, empower your PLs, encouraging and guiding them rather than micromanaging them. Third, have a heart for the Troop and for the well-being of the Scouts under your charge in all that you do. Remember that we are called not to be successful, but instead faithful in duty and service.

Joshua Goh
SPL 2006



Tree Climbing



On the 16th of August, 14 of us Sec 1s assembled at the school foyer, bubbling with excitement. Before long, we arrived at the park. We were brought by the trainers to a huge tree. The tree had 3 main large branches; these 3 branches had some sort of a pulley system and a harness on each of them.

We assembled beside the tree while the trainers taught us how to use the harness. When we learnt about how to use the harness, excitement filled us. We distributed ourselves to the three climbing stations. At first we thought that it was very easy but when it came down to trying to climb the tree, it was hard. It was very hard. In fact, we could not even bring ourselves up an inch! Appalled, we kept trying to pull the rope but to no avail. Luckily, our trainers were there to help us. Most of us committed very small mistakes like pulling the rope in the wrong direction but with our trainers' guidance, we managed to overcome our difficulties and finally pull ourselves up.

Eventually, everyone tried climbing the tree. We were so excited that we tried repeatedly. It was such an exhilarating experience. On my turn, when I reached the top, I felt the cool breeze gently tug us on the harness, I admired the view below me with delight. Even though I was afraid of heights, the feeling had taken my fear of heights away.

We had overcome our difficulties and managed to climb the tree. A big lesson learnt at the end of the day, albeit a slightly metaphorical one, is that the tree is just like any other goal we have. As long as we face our difficulties and try, we will succeed.

Jason Lee
Cobra Patrol

Kayaking



I went for the One-star kayaking course over two days, 16 and 17 August. On the first day, the instructor showed us the various equipment we would be using throughout the kayaking course, such as the life-jacket as well as the paddle. We were then taught the function of various parts of the equipment. After a brief test on the aforementioned topics, we were finally allowed to hop into our boats and start the kayaking course proper. Many of us were initially apprehensive since it was our first time kayaking, but as we all helped one another out, we all managed in the end. In the water, our instructor pulled all our boats together in a single file, and taught us how to maneuver our boats to get to our desired destinations, as well as several protocol to follow throughout the course of our lessons, such as the 'raft up. Later, we ventured into deeper waters to practice the techniques we were taught, and before we ended the course for the day, we were taught on how to perform the capsize drill. Most of us dreaded it at first, but looking back, it was rather enjoyable.

On the second day of the course, we took our equipment and took to the water, more confident and familiar with kayaking. We immediately headed for the deeper water where we had a recap on the techniques taught to us the previous day, followed by another run of capsize drills. After that, the instructor taught us more advanced kayaking techniques, which included the J-Draw, which enables a person to move his boat sideways. Skills like these would come in handy for the next activity, which was the rescue drill. Unlike all our previous exercises, this drill was a team effort, requiring 3 people. The entire process was rather complicated and tiring. By then, time was almost up, and we headed back to shore for a quick debrief before ending the course.

Piaa Ong
Wolf Patrol

Mini Pioneering Event

I woke up feeling excited as I took part in the Mini Pioneering event. It was held at Catholic High School on 30 August 2014. My partner, Rui-En and I had been practising building a stilt tower for more than a week. We learnt square lashing, diagonal lashing and continuous lashing.

During the competition, we were shocked upon receiving the materials. There were different from the sticks and strings that we had been practising with over the past one week. The materials were much smaller and we had a difficult time to tie the knots tightly.

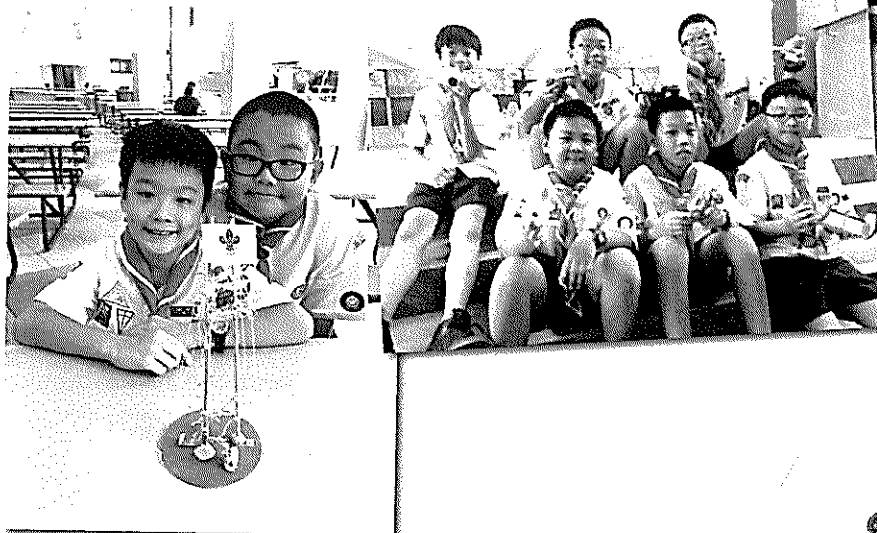
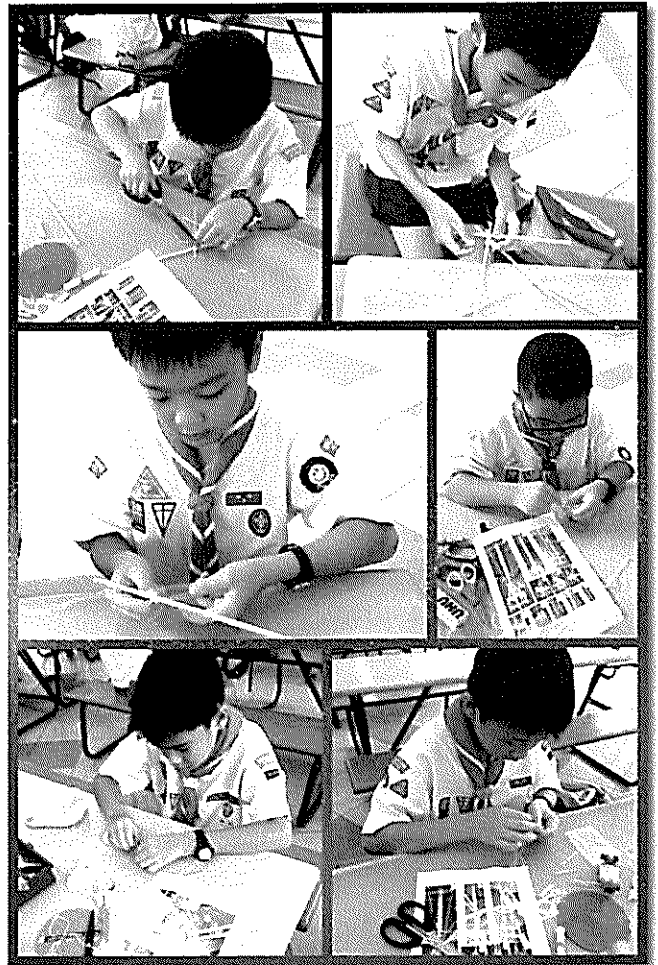
Rui-En and I persevered and we encouraged one another throughout the competition. We believed that as a member of Cub Scouts, we can overcome all challenges and difficulties ahead of us. We made use of all the materials provided and created our stilt tower.

We had a great time working as a team. Finally, the stilt tower was completed and we added Lego as decorations. Our tower was neat and stable.

During the prize presentation ceremony, our team won first in the Mini Pioneering Competition. We were delighted and overjoyed. We took pride in our tower and brought glory to our Scout Group.

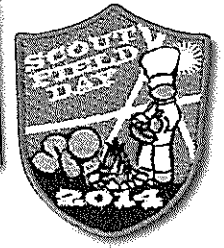
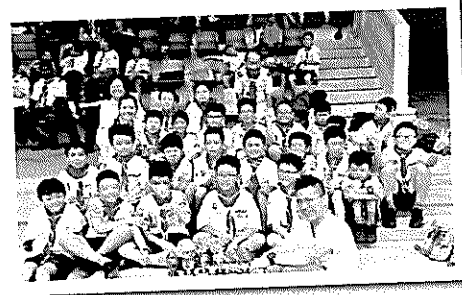
Siauw Yu Hern
Blue Six

(Our scout section also sent two teams to participate in the mini pioneering event.)



District Field Day

On District Field Day this year, 30th August 2014, I signed up for the F1 Racing Car Competition. My car looked like a F1 car. The day before the competition, my father added batteries for weight to make it go faster. On the day of the competition, when I showed my team my car, they called it "Cyclops" because the batteries were in a straight line and made the car look like it had one eye.



I raced my car against the other schools during the competition and in the end, helped Catholic High to win the first place. My team were very happy that we won the first place for Catholic High and I am looking forward to next year's competition!

Clayton Lau
Red Six

(Our Scout Section also participated in the District Field Day's Sour Grapes, Egg Parachute and Cooking Events. Our Venture Scout Section also participated in the Fire-Lighting Event.)

South Area Camp

I attended the South Area Camp from 31 May to 3 June 2014. It was my first scout camp away from home.

We were very excited for the 4 days ahead of us. We arrived at the Sarimbun Scout Camp at about 9 a.m., and thereafter, the exciting activities happened one after another. Besides clearing components of certain badges like the "Map Reader Badge", "3R Badge" and the "I'm OK Badge", we also had very engaging activities like Movie Night when we watched "Cast Away", and even challenges like the "Iron Chef Cook Off", when we fashioned out own desserts out of ingredients provided. All of this was done in patrols, giving us the opportunity to bond with old and new friends.

Time passed so quickly, and before I knew it, even the highlight of the camp – the campfire that Chief Commissioner Mr Tan Cheng Kiong graced with his presence was over.

Although I missed home, I felt that going to Sarimbun Campsite was worthwhile as I learnt so much. I learned how to pack my belongings. I ensured that my belongings were packed according to the packing list and in the ways that I could easily find them. I am thankful to all my Cub Scouts teachers who took care of us throughout the camp and motivated us to persevere and stay until the end of the camp. I am also thankful to all the scout leaders for guiding us throughout the camp.

Brennan Ting
Green Six

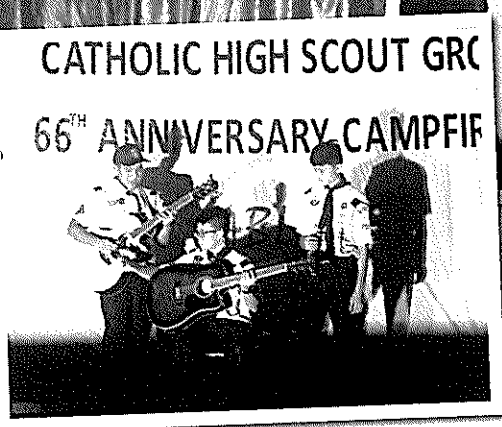
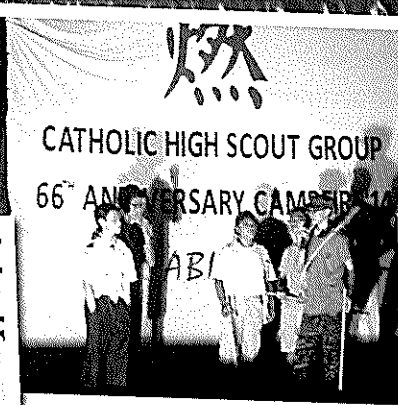




CAMPFIRE Light

66th Anniversary Campfire - 'Ablaze'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCOUT GROUP



Our 66th Anniversary Campfire was held on the 18th October 2014, where we invited over 30 schools, including our sister schools, St. Nicholas Guides and Singapore Chinese Girls School Guide, along with scout troops all the way from Bukit Panjang. We were also honoured to be graced with the presence of commissioners such as the Scout Commissioner, District Commissioner and Assitant International Commissioner.

Alas, our moment had arrived! The long hours of tiring preparation all added up to what we were about to see before our eyes. As the sun set for the night, the campfire was declared open! Cheers rang out through the entire field as the grand spectacle that was the campfire had begun. The merry voices sang in harmony as the staple yet joyous songs such as "campfire's burning" were sang upon the opening of the campfire. With the fire burning fiercely, our hearts were definitely "ablaze", in the jovial and cheery atmosphere that the campfire brought about. Several scouts were even so enthusiastic and energetic as to stand, cheering and singing at the top of their lungs with passion! Every scout was certainly united with one another in song, joy and laughter as yet another good memory was made from being a part of the campfire, some scouts even made new friends as the campfire was a good opportunity to meet new people and share good times with them.



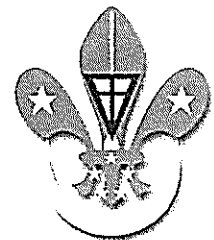
The climax of the Campfire was definitely the Campfire skit, "Aladdin and the Kerosene Lamp", which was planned and written by our ventures. It detailed a Scout's journey and quest to defeat a mythical creature with a genie he befriends along the way. Although it was set in a world of fantasy, many scouts could relate to the topics as the protagonist went through problems and tasks that scouts had to face during their activities. Of course, the skit was full of hilarious jokes and funny gags complete with puns and whimsical characters; it brought even more joy and laughter to the crowd with each witty joke. The variety of colourful characters ranged from genies' to mythical beings and even Hula Dames! The skit even touched on meaningful moral values and teachings such as friendship, courage in the face of difficulties and trust in one another, all qualities that were quintessential to each and every scout.

However, soon enough, it was pouring. We were worried that the rain was going to damp the mood but no! Our fellow scouts saw the rain as a test, and continued to keep their spirits high! It was certainly a sight to see as we were shown first-hand the resilience of the scouting spirit, where nothing stops our bonds as scouts, demonstrated when Fuhua Tsunami Scout Group continued to perform even under this horrid weather. Unfortunately, both the skit and performance was cut short due to the rain, but the actors as well as the audience had tremendous amounts of fun participating in the skit. The day ended with the schools and commissioners receiving their souvenirs from the canteen. As we went to bed for the night after dinner, our hearts were full of joy from the fun we had in the campfire, and our belly full of joy from the dinner. This campfire did not just set our hearts alight, our tenacity set our hearts Ablaze!

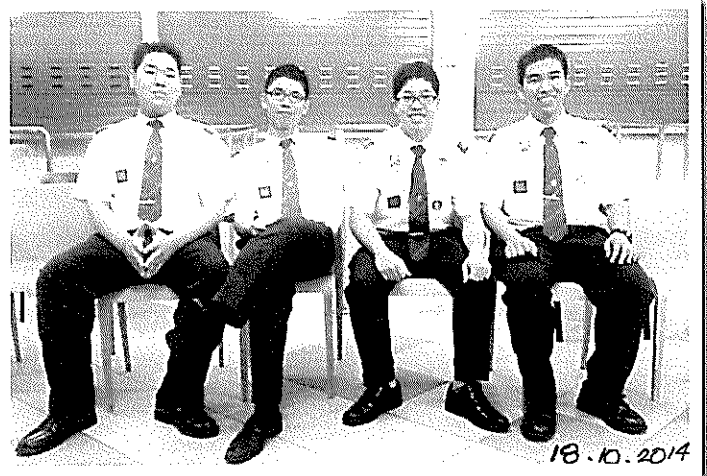


CATHOLIC HIGH
SCOUT GROUP

66TH
ANNIVERSARY
CAMPFIRE



Lecarl Lim
Eagle Patrol



Akela Award Presentation Ceremony



It was finally the day when I went for my Akela Award Assessment at the Singapore Scouts Association Head Quarters on the 11th of October. I really looked forward to this day, to have a chance to earn the most prestigious award within scouting. When I entered the hall, it was packed like sardines. There were many other cub scouts in uniforms fully adorned with badges. At first, I was afraid that I could not get the award and I panicked. But I kept on telling myself that I had to keep calm and focus.

Soon, the first round started – it was a challenging pen and paper test. The questions tested me on some facts that I never knew of. Then there was the teamwork assessment stage – my group had many vocal cub scouts, but I persevered and suggested some of my own ideas to them. In the end, we managed to complete the assigned challenges and moved on to the interview phase. There were three scout masters who kept on asking questions. All of us took turns to speak. I ended the three – stage assessment with mixed feelings. I was happy to have done my best, yet worried that I would not be able to achieve the award. When it was announced that I had qualified for the award I was overjoyed!

It was a truly joyous occasion when Ezekial Lim and I went down to Yangzheng Primary to receive the Akela Award on the 1st of November, with the Guest of Honour being the Assistant Director of Uniformed Groups in MOE, Mr Chua Kah Sheng. From this experience, I learnt that we must always try our best no matter what difficulties we may encounter.

Zavier Chua Zong Hann
Red Six

Farewell, Mr Lee Hak Boon

On the 22nd of November, our Group Scout Leader, Teachers-in-Charge, Leaders, and Ventures gathered in the Dungeon from a very special surprise farewell.

Mr Lee Hak Boon has been very supportive of our troop, and through this farewell, we hoped to thank him for his continued support. We even had a cake that our leader, Lik Xian, baked by himself for the occasion.

Upon Mr Lee's arrival, our Group Scout Leader Andrew Chua gave a short speech to thank Mr Lee for all he has done for the troop, never missing a single prize presentation ceremony for our Scouts and Venture Scouts. Pointing out a few familiar faces in the crowd like Senior Venture Joshua Goh, Mr Lee wished our troop all the best for our future competitions and endeavours.

Thank you once again Mr Lee, for all your support, and we at Catholic High Scout Group hope that you will have another great term serving as Principal at your next posting!

Pang Kim Jin
Rhino Patrol(2012-2013)



President's Scout Award Presentation Ceremony

During the PSA award ceremony on the 10th of December at the Istana, my parents and several teachers-in-charge, Mr Quay, Ms How and Mr Chua, and our vice-principal, Mrs Tay, attended the ceremony and saw me as I received the award from President Tony Tan.



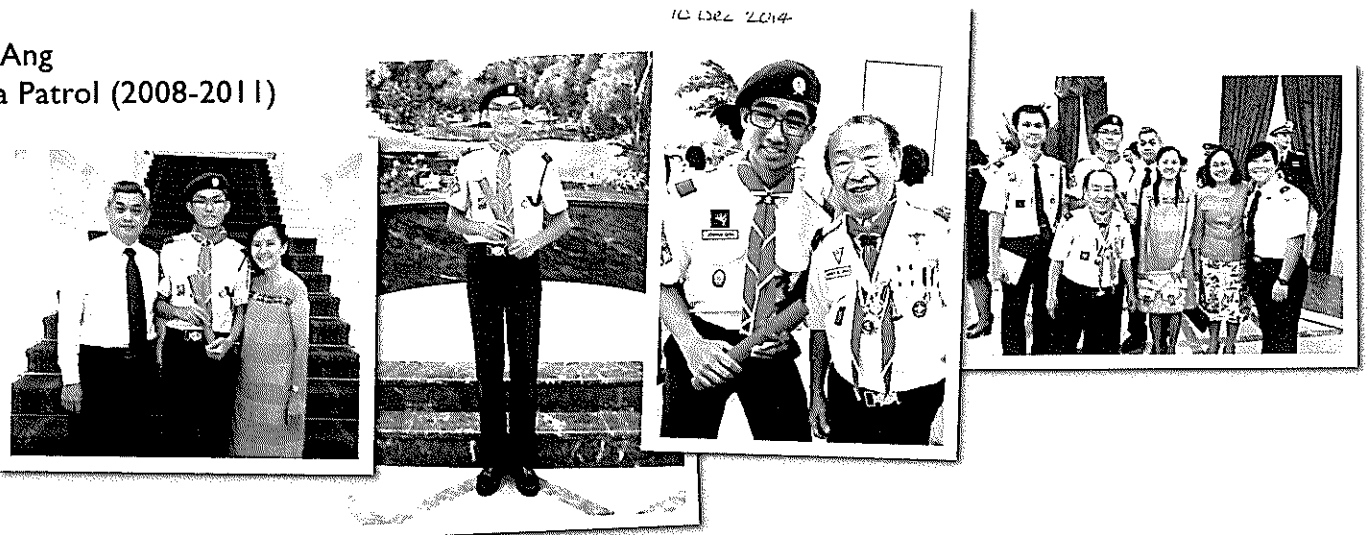
Before receiving the award, out of sentimentality, my fellow awardees (including Joshua Chin Akela Awardee 2009 from Cat High Cubs) and I had the benefit of hindsight to recollect and discuss defining moments of our PSA journeys. Personally, the three main components – the A.S.P.I.Re Camp, the Venture Cord Hike and my PSA Project tugged at my heartstrings the most.

The A.S.P.I.Re camp was where I had met most of my friends who were receiving the award, as I had entered the camp three times in total - receiving the unfortunate privilege of socialising through the assessment camp thrice. My two failed attempts were due to a medical condition that amounted to a lung rupture and my backwoodsman cooking respectively, yet my tenacity led me to the last A.S.P.I.Re camp that I could attend and completed it successfully. It was not the eventual pass but rather the bonding with my fellow candidates, some whom had I have repeated met on my attempts, that made the camp really enjoyable as it was a great place for me to make friends that I would otherwise not have. Moreover, it had taught me the perserverance and persistance in the face of failure.

During the Venture Cord Hike, I had learnt to take care of the companions who were willingly following me to help me achieve my award. The completion of the hike was key, however, my companions were much more important as without them, I would not have been able to complete the hike too.

Along the journey, there were many ups and downs that I had encountered but afterall, these accomplishments and setbacks are the things that have made me a better Scout. I do hope that many more Scouts, especially the aspiring PSA awardees, continue to pursue this award and further their journey in Scouts alongside all the leaders. It's not just a journey of self-fulfillment- it's a journey of self-improvement that will be worth it.

Jason Ang
Cobra Patrol (2008-2011)



Reflections as a Scout



I choose to believe that scouting is a state of mind. It is a subconscious that affects your daily thoughts and deeds, even when it's been years since you last attended a weekly jihe.

Scouting taught me three key lessons:

1. Be prepared

Outdoor activities I participated in taught me how the elements could become a nightmare – if you didn't plan for the unlikeliest of weather scenarios. By the same token, never underestimate the competition. Always show respect by going the extra mile, and preparing for surprises. A scouting mindset is undoubtedly applicable in helping one navigate these real world challenges where there is a high degree of volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity. VUCA, they call it.

2. Leave no trace behind

When breaking camp, we were always reminded to leave the place in a better state than it previously was. Although more noble than practical at times, maintaining such discipline helps us understand that our actions do leave an impact on the numerous stakeholders whom may be left either better or worse off due to our actions.

3. Pursue excellence

I had the opportunity to seek out challenges during my scouting career. And I feel privileged to have been conferred both the Chief Commissioner's Award and the President's Scout Award. It wasn't an easy journey, especially when I had to find a balance between schoolwork, competing in a sport, and scouting. But these awards would have meant little had the experience not reshaped my perspective and value-added to my life. Scouting is really more than the uniform, the activities, and the friendships forged. It is the start of your own story.

Share it. Influence lives. Enjoy exploring. But do not just seek answers. Instead, learn to ask the right questions.

Also, avoid living in a constant. If you're happy with your life, make others better off. Or keep chasing for better.

Marcus Leong
Tiger Patrol (2002-2005)

Pass It On...

I cringe every time I hear someone in the army say the following words: "We are not training boy scouts here! We are training soldiers!"

I've heard these words from my BMT instructors, and also from platoon commanders under me. These gentlemen clearly have no idea what they are talking about, as any proud member of the Catholic High Scout Group would attest to the fact that the rites of passage we'd have to go through as a scout were definitely as tough, if not tougher than most military training that an average national serviceman might ever come across. The interesting thing is, as far as I can remember, each of those experiences were in fact far more enjoyable than my military ones.

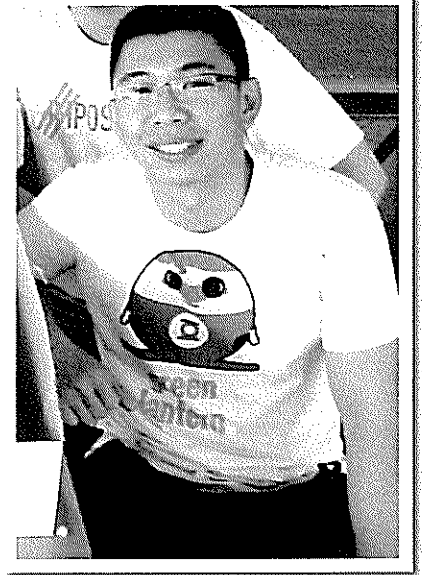
Once a scout, always a scout. I am a scout, and I'm proud of it!

As a regular in the Army, those formative years that I'd spent as a scout in CHS had shaped me to become the leader and the person that I am today. Such was the impact of those experiences that on my wedding day in 2010, despite not having written a wedding speech and suffering from nervousness on stage, I instinctively made a tribute to my scouting buddies and to Wei Long and Siu San. Wei Long and Siu San were my venture and scout leaders respectively, but they were much more than that! There were my mentors, my coach, fatherly and motherly figures whom I respected dearly and looked up to as role models. Being an officer in the Singapore Armed Forces requires me to be a leader, commander, coach, manager, and friend. My years as a scout has taught me well in those areas; the values and beliefs that a true scout holds dear to his heart, is equally relevant as a patrol leader back in 1998, as it is today as a company commander. Even till today, 17 years since I joined the troop as a sec I student, the Scout Promise and the Scout Law continue to define and guide me in life.

The scouting journey is a life-long journey that doesn't end after you leave the troop. The Scouting Spirit continues to live on in you, and everyone you touch will experience it. You're the spark that warms everyone in its glowing.

Lastly my dear friends, as you start upon this chosen way, be courageous in all you do, your thoughts, your work and your play. Always strive to be the best, the best that you can be.

Lim Huai Yang
Wolf Patrol (1996-1999)



年初，蔡总（即蔡三陵君，Mr Andrew Chua，当了幼童军团长多年，现是公中团的总团长）来电，要求我写张稿给营火年刊。我欣然答应。能替公中团出些力量，何乐而不为呢？

蔡总又问是要写中文的还是英文的？我回顾参加团庆多次，不论是演讲，歌唱或是话剧，听到的都是英文，令我感触无比，似乎自己是摩西根族的最后一人（西片：Last of the Mohican，印第安族，因无法应付外来因素，全族已亡）。因此，虽然没用中文写稿已长达四、五十年之久，决定以中文把过去参加童军活动的点滴写下。若用词不当或有欠确实，敬请原谅。

参军

我两位哥哥都非常热心于公中童军的活动。我校开设童军活动之初，该有四至八团之多，都以天主教教义为名。不到两年，只剩下我们这一团，名为望团。我大哥之业便是第一任团长，而二哥之铨也担任过团长并且也是早年与李国强君，李开智君与蓝秉添君得到女皇童军章之一。随之，小弟也於1960年加入了队伍，成为少年军鸽子队的一份子。队长为张学文君。上任队长为蓝永光君，但是当时已跃升为中队长，负责我团少年军的活动。我也於一九六七年与杨家丁君和谭锐彬君一起考获总统童军章（我国独立后，女皇童军章之改称）

监牢

有一件鲜为人知的秘密。我们的团址其实是一间监牢。早期英政府为了发展大英帝国的业务，大量从印度运来大批囚犯安放在这里，等待被派去劳作地点。这与我们现在滥用廉价外劳似乎没两样！

诸君若到六马路（亦即Prinsep Street）的龙都酒店（Rendezvous Hotel）里的Nasi Padang餐馆用餐，该可看到墙上挂着几张退了色的相片，拍的都是印度囚犯，他们的脚还扣着脚镣呢！

据传，该片地底下还有隧道。我就曾经和几位小童军在运河旁找到一个入口，就当我们在准备再做深一层的探测时，被我二哥发现，骂了我们一顿，怕隧道倒塌。可惜新加坡就因此丧失了几位考古学家，或许地道里还藏着无数的金条呢！他骂得也有理。该地的看管人冯先生的小狗就这样爬进了隧道，没回来了！冯先生还等了老半天。这该是我国的“守株待狗”吧！

巴威岛

今天的巴威岛已成为军部的训练基地，闲人免进。早些时候，团长李开智君在那儿有个老家，带了我们去露营。由于要搭船，所带的露营配备一切从简。大家都就地取材，收集了飘来的树干，抛弃的铁丝网，胶布等，搭起了将是我们的“家”的小棚。

李君带了我们划小舢舨去海上布网，捉小鲨鱼。第二天早上把网拉起来，便见到许多小鲨鱼卡在网上，还在

那儿挣扎。把它们切成小段，连皮丢进火里。不到一会儿，鱼肉便熟了，剥了皮便可吃，香甜无比。他更找来十数只“古拔螺”（属螺类，因肉厚，闽南话称之为“牛肉（古拔）螺”），也就把它连壳丢进火里去烤，熟了把肉挖出来即可吃，美味可口。如今想起来，还会垂涎三尺。珍宝海鲜楼也不过尔尔！

一晚，低潮，明月高挂，海面一片寂静，只有远处传来轻微的浪声。由于岛上没甚灯光，天上漆黑，大多数星座都清晰可见。许多兄弟们还在数流星呢！巴威离新岛甚远，低潮时可踱踏到远离沙滩两三百米以外，而海水也只及脚跟。各人找了块岩石坐下，便来个歌唱会。兴趣正浓之际，郑丁裕君来个独唱，高吭一曲“草原之夜”（或是“教包相会”，记不起了！）。歌声雄壮嘹亮，震撼全岛。可能也因此感动了海神，海水突然有如万马奔腾，朝我们滚滚而来。全体拔步而逃。要不被海浪冲去大海，鲨鱼爸爸妈妈可不高兴死了，更何况我们还刚吃了他们的许多鲨鱼小宝贝呢！至于郑君的下半首歌，也只好等我们安全抵达巴威再说吧！

下雨天

某年，带团去榜鹅露营，头几天连续下着大雨，活动大受影响。有些团员嚷着要回家。就在千钧一发之际，教练林瑞敬君与蔡三陵君带了几位幼童军到来探望我们。林君召集了所有的团员，问清楚了来龙去脉之后，把要回家的团员分开，让他们回去，也没责备他们，也没让他们拿团旗。终究留下来的弟兄才是黄白团旗的真正旗手！林君堂堂一副大将的风度，办事有条不紊，一丝不苟，令我十分佩服。说也奇怪，部分团员回家之后，雨过天晴。

当晚营火会，林君还以旧歌“满场飞”的曲子，篇了“露营歌”，鼓励大家别因生活上的一些小挫折而气馁。至今我还耿耿于怀，牢牢记在心里。有时对事物稍有不满意，便想起这首歌，吹吹口哨，勉励自己，不要轻率放弃。

再说当晚的营火会上，有位团员唱了“天伦歌”，歌词正气浩然。唱毕，全场寂静好一会儿，才高呼：“YASAKA, YASAKA, YASAKA!”。与当天早上发生过的事情联想起来，无一团员不深受感动！

童军活动不只带给了我一个多姿多彩的童年，它也给了我许多待人接物，服务人群的教导。在此，我向许许多多帮忙和指导过我的教练们致最敬礼。

最后，让我写下“露营歌”的最后四句歌词，与大家共勉之：

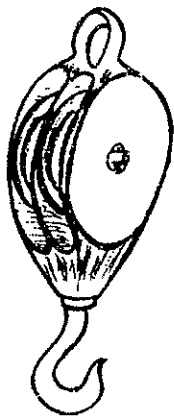
“做人呀要有骨气，
狂风暴雨都不必怕，
任它青天塌，
用骨头撑住它，嗨！”

李之志 (Lee Chee Chee)
Pigeon Patrol (1961-1964)

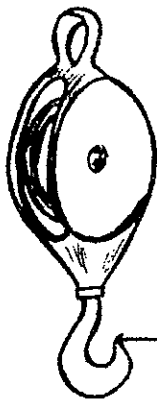


BLOCK & TACKLE

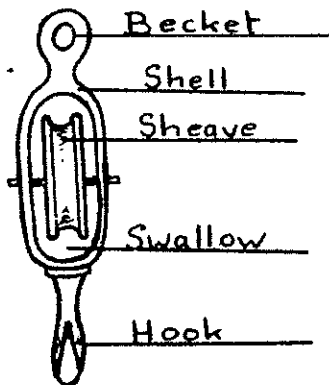
SEE ALSO CHART NO 11.



Hooked Blocks



Bill



Becket

Shell

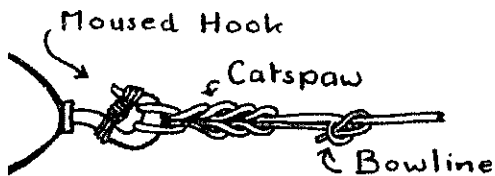
Sheave

Swallow

Hook

DOUBLE BLOCK

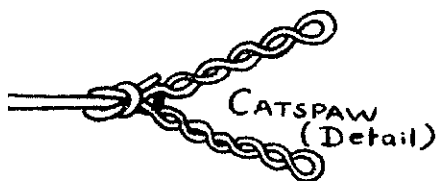
SINGLE BLOCK



Moused Hook

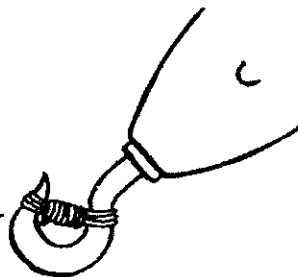
Catspaw

Bowline

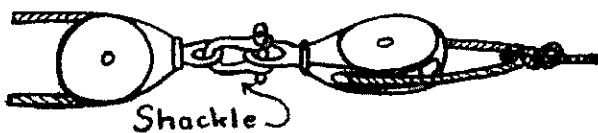


CATSPAW (Detail)

MOUSING OF A HOOK



EYED BLOCKS



Shackle



When attaching a block to a tree, use sacking to protect the bark

Sacking

HAWSER

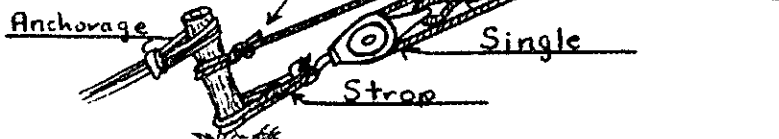
Mousing

Catspaw

Double

Round Turn and Two half hitches

Anchorage



EYE SPLICE

Single

Strap

See also
PIONEERING PROTECTS
PIONEERING PRINCIPLES
both by John Thurman