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The Scouting Scoop

04/2023
News and highlights from the Singapore Scout Association



President's Message

"I hope that the Association will develop youths to be focused and directed individuals, as well as active problem solvers of tomorrow."

Mr Raymond Chia,
President

LEADERSHIP VOICES

Mr Chia Lee Meng Raymond, Singapore Scout Association President

In Mr Chia Lee Meng Raymond's professional life, he is the Executive Director and Group Chief Executive Officer of Chip Eng Seng, a multinational conglomerate company with businesses in construction, civil infrastructure, and other areas. Despite his busy work life, he makes time to give back to the Scouting community and serves as the President of the Singapore Scout Association. In this capacity, he leads the Scout Council in overseeing the strategic matters of the Association. This work includes establishing Scout Council committees, publicity for the Association, administering the by-laws of the Association, fundraising, etcetera. Today, we get to hear from him.

Q1) How did you get into Scouts in your early years?

A1) To be honest, I joined Scouts because we were required to join 2 CCAs during my secondary school days. It was a coincidence that I had chosen Scouts.

Q2) What are some key lessons from your Scouting experience which impacted your professional life later on?

A2) Though there are many lessons that I have gleaned from my scouting experience, the most important one that I've learnt is leadership; through caring for a group of younger scouts, listening to them, leading them, and eventually earning their respect and trust.

Q3) What is your vision for Singapore Scouts in the next few years or even beyond?

A3) The environment that we live in is more complex than before, with many opinions and distractions. I therefore hope that the Association will continue to be relevant to youths and that the Association will develop them to be focused and directed individuals, as well as active problem solvers of tomorrow.

Q4) What is some advice you would like to share with young Scouts who may be reading this?

A4) I would like to encourage young scouts to continue to enjoy themselves, have lots of fun, and remain committed to the Scouting journey as the Scout programme is designed to develop good values and important life skills. Additionally, they should remember not only to do their "good deeds" each day, but also to see how they can be involved in the greater good of the community.

NATIONAL EVENTS

Diamond Jubilee Challenge 2023 and Youth of the World Award Launch



Above: Mr Desmond Chong, Chief Commissioner of SSA, Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Sustainability and the Environment, and Mr Ngien Hoon Ping, Vice President of SSA, launching the DJC 2023.

Left: A Rover Scout expressing his views at the dialogue session with Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Sustainability and the Environment.

Right: Scouts discussing environmental issues.

On 14 Jan 2023, Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Sustainability and the Environment, launched the Diamond Jubilee Challenge (DJC) 2023 and the Youth of the World Award (YWA). The DJC theme this year, 'Environment', aims to raise awareness of climate change and encourage Scouts to start ground-up initiatives supported by the current Better World Flagship Initiatives.

The YWA is a programme developed to provide young people between the age of 16 to 26 with opportunities to address challenges of the future. This programme was jointly developed with support from the World Scout Bureau. A "Forward Singapore" dialogue session was conducted subsequently for participants to better understand government initiatives dealing with climate change and how Singaporeans can play a part in the pursue for net zero greenhouse emission in 2050.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Institute of Mental Health (IMH)



Above: A group photograph of Scouts and IMH representatives at the event.

Left: From left to right are Mr Desmond Chong, Chief Commissioner of SSA, Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Education, and Dr Daniel Fung, Chief Executive Officer, IMH, at the MOU signing.

Right: Scouts and an Officer of St John Singapore discussing mental wellness.

On 12 Nov 2022, the SSA signed an MOU with the Institute of Mental Health (IMH) to promote mental health literacy for Scouts, and develop a Train-the-Trainer programme for Scout Leaders to conduct mental health literacy programs for Scouts.

Afterwards, a fireside chat was held with Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Education, who graced the MOU signing, and engaged the Scouts on stress management as well as how various support groups can help society to manage mental wellness concerns. Guests from the various uniformed groups in Singapore attended the fireside chat.

[Click to view mental wellness resources from IMH.](#)

Distinguished Service Awards 2022



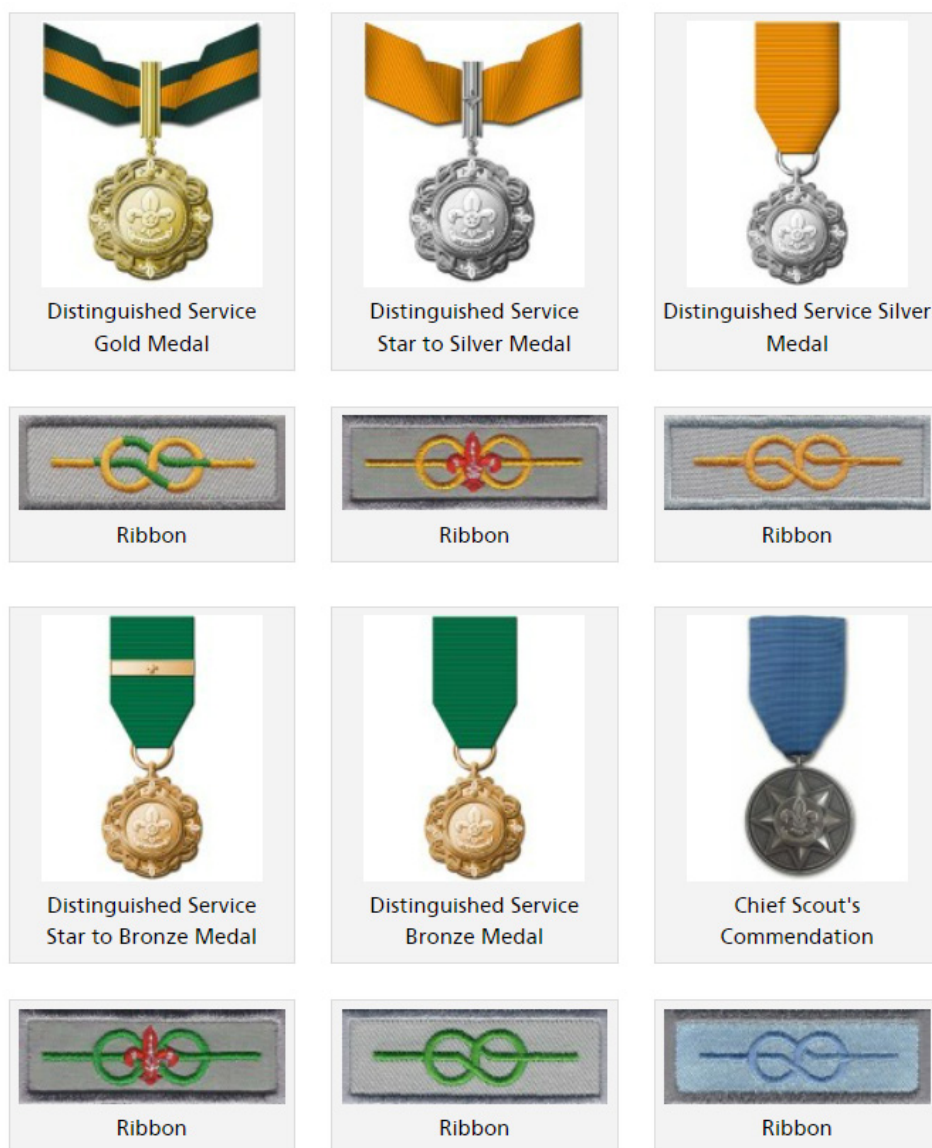
Above: A group photograph of award recipients with Chief Scout, Mdm Halimah Yacob, President of Singapore.

Left: Mr Philip Ling receiving the Star to Silver Distinguished Service Award.

Right: Mdm Halimah Yacob, President of Singapore engaging award recipients and their guests.

On 13 Oct 2022, the Distinguished Service Award ceremony was held at the Istana State Room. The ceremony was officiated by Chief Scout, President Halimah Yacob. That day, the Distinguished Service Star to Silver Award was conferred on Mr Philip Ling, who was the immediate previous Treasurer of the Association.

The Association would like to extend its heartiest felicitations to all award recipients and note its appreciation for their outstanding service and contribution to the Scout movement in Singapore.



A graphic showing some of the Distinguished Service Awards of the Singapore Scout Association. This series of Distinguished Service Awards were launched in 2010.

Visit to World Scout Bureau and Persekutuan Pengakap Malaysia





Above: A group photograph of Commissioners from SSA and Persekutan Pengakap Malaysia (PPM) at Rumah BP, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Left: Mr Ahmad Alhendawi, Secretary General of WOSM, and Mr Desmond Chong, Chief Commissioner SSA.

Right: A group photograph of Commissioners from SSA at the World Scout Bureau, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Photograph Credits: PPM

On 22 Oct 2022, Chief Commissioner Desmond Chong led a team of Commissioners on an introductory visit to the World Scout Bureau (WSB) and Persekutuan Pengakap Malaysia (PPM) headquarters in Kuala Lumpur. During the visit, they discussed support for adult leaders as well as WOSM youth programme initiatives.

Through the visit, SSA renewed its friendship and collaboration with both the WSB and PPM.

AREA HIGHLIGHTS

Postcard from North Area: Sunrise at Venture Foundation Course



On 26-27 Nov 2022, 24 Venture Scouts attended the North Area Venture Foundation Course at Pulau Ubin.

During the course, participants learnt how to interact with and preserve Nature. They also acquired leadership and self-management skills. The above photograph depicts the Venture Scouts gathered for flag break on the morning of 27 Nov 2022.

West Area: Cub Scout Crossover Camp



Above: The titular “Crossover Ceremony”, in which Cub Scouts are guided by older Scouts into their next phase.

Left: Well prepared Cubs heading into Sarimbun campsite.

Right: Learning about camp inspections in the great outdoors.

Photograph Credits: West Area Scout Instagram page.

On 29-30 Oct 2022, over 30 Cub Scouts attended the Cub Scout Crossover Camp held at Sarimbun Scout Camp. These Cubs were exposed to aspects of the Scout programme, such as the patrol system and core scouting skills. In a symbolic “Crossover Ceremony” representing membership retention, Cub Scouts ‘crossed over’ an ingenious knotless wooden bridge structure constructed by older service Scouts who had assisted in facilitating the camp for their younger brothers and sisters in Scouting, with hope that they can continue to stay in Scouting as they move on to secondary school.

YOUTH FEATURE

Awards Season!



The final quarter of 2022 was marked by numerous award ceremonies, as our top performing Scouts, Venture Scouts, and Rover Scouts received the Chief Commissioner Award, President Scout Award and Baden Powell Award respectively. Congratulations!

(Cub Scouts had already received their Akela Award earlier in mid 2022).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Registration Deadline
	To Be Announced.	

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