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The Scouting Scoop

05/2023

News and highlights from
the Singapore Scout Association



Founder's Day Message

“As you continue to live by our Scout Promise and Law,
your actions and examples will be a shiny beacon of
hope, in the midst of all the challenges we face.”

Mr Desmond Chong,
Chief Commissioner

NATIONAL EVENTS

#Yourvoice Youth Leadership Fireside Chat on International Women's Day





Above: President Halimah Yacob (centre), Ms Carla Simões, Director of Youth Programme (left), and Ms Irdina Mah, Asst. Administration Commissioner (right), who moderated the session.
Left: The Fireside Chat was well attended by more than 180 female youth leaders.
Right: Female youth leaders discussing gender equity issues.

On 25 Mar 23, SSA organised a #Yourvoice Youth Leadership Fireside Chat at Gan Eng Seng School to commemorate International Women's Day. The dialogue saw Chief Scout, President Halimah Yacob engage more than 180 female youth leaders from various uniformed groups in Singapore on gender equity. She was joined by Ms Carla Simões, Director of Youth Programme of the World Scout Bureau. They took questions, shared their personal experiences, and highlighted the importance of an equitable environment to grooming female leadership.

[Click to view video of President Halimah's Engagement in Support of International Women's Day](#)

AREA HIGHLIGHTS

North Area: Venture Foundation Course at Sarimbun Camp



Above: Venture Scouts gathered at the iconic grounds of Sarimbun Scout Camp.
Media Credit: North Area

On 18-19 Mar 2023, 24 Venture Scouts participated in the North Area Venture Foundation Course at Sarimbun Campsite. As part of the programme, the Ventures honed their scouting skills: campcraft, backwoods-man cooking, and orienteering to name a few.

Of note was the community service rendered whilst hiking. The Ventures were tasked with picking up any litter at designated checkpoints to cultivate a greater awareness of their immediate environment. Conducted in the great outdoors - the traditional home of the Scouts, the Ventures worked together in unity, using their wits and ingenuity, collaborating and contributing to the overall success of the camp.

South Area: Cub Scout 3R Car Derby 2023



Above: Cub Scouts gearing up for the derby.

Left: The attractive event badge.

Right: "Whose 3R car will go faster?" "Beats me, it depends on science."

Media Credit: South Area

On 25 Mar 23, 100 Cub Scouts from 12 units participated in the South Area Cub Scout 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Car Derby. The derby involved Cub Scouts crafting model cars using recycled materials and racing them competitively. By working in teams, the Cubs demonstrated excellent communication and problem-solving skills. They put their scientific knowledge to good use by applying concepts such as friction and kinetic energy in the design of their cars. It was a fun and meaningful way to promote environmental friendliness and scientific learning.

West Area: Founder's Day Rally 2023





Above: A composite image depicting Scouts gathered at each venue to spell out the words “West Area Scouts”.

Left: Scouts undertook a cycling expedition to connect each venue symbolically to another.

Right: A three-legged race!

Media Credits: West Area

On 25 Feb 23, approximately 1000 Scouts of various age sections celebrated Founder’s Day with a Scout Rally held at Assumption Pathway School, Bukit Panjang Government High School, and River Valley High School. Cubs and Scouts participated in telematches which taught them teamwork and sportsmanship. Other events included a cycling expedition which connected the three venues, and Better World themed workshops, including Plastic Tide Turner, Champions for Nature, and others. Venture and Rover Scouts contributed significantly towards organising and facilitating the rally.

YOUTH FEATURE

“Well Done, Lavan”, said the Chief Commissioner.



Lavan Ajai S/O Kumaran
Tanjong Katong Seladang
Scout Group (Secondary)



My name is Lavan Ajai S/O Kumaran. I am a Secondary 3 Scout from Tanjong Katong Seladang Scout Group and a recipient of the Chief Commissioner's Well-Done Badge for Q4 2022.

On 18 Feb 2023, I met the Chief Commissioner, Mr Desmond Chong, for tea at The Singapore Scout Association headquarters at 1 Bishan St 12, with other Scouts and one of my teachers in charge, Ms Lily Toh. I had the opportunity to share how much I had learnt from Scout activities. These include leadership skills and strong values through Scout activities such as camping, outdoor cooking, and pioneering.

Mr Chong praised me for what I had done for a member of the elderly during Job Week in 2022. While fundraising, I chanced on a house where a senior citizen lived. She was not feeling well, but refused to call for an ambulance or leave her house. I took the initiative to help contact her family, and waited outside her flat for them to arrive to care for her.

Based on that experience, I joined the Lions Befrienders Club and began volunteering with the "I-Ok@LB" programme, which provides needy seniors with a digital tablet to monitor their own well-being, receive customised health alerts, and stay in touch with their family members. During the school holidays, I now engage senior citizens in both English and my mother tongue, Tamil, and share how to operate these tablets.

I guess these elderly folk had contributed to Singapore in their own way when they were younger, even if they had since fallen on hard times. As teenagers, we can do a little more in our free time to make sure these seniors feel that society still cares for them. I would encourage my fellow Scouts to look out for ways in which we can help others around us.

We can make a difference!





Scouting is a way of life. Lately, I had a chat with Uncle William, one of the school attendants, on mobile phone use. It was a good conversation and part of inter-generational dialogue. We should always be on the lookout on how to make life better for others even outside of activity time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Registration Deadline
8-11 Jun 23	Wood Badge Course (Advanced)	4 May 23
3-4 Jun 23	Unit Leader Training Skill Course (Campcraft Leader Course)	6 May 23
20-21 May 23	Wood Badge Course (Basic)	22 Apr 23
13-14 May 23	Unit Leader Training Skill Course (Campfire Leader Course)	15 Apr 23
28 Apr 23	Standard First Aid Course	14 Apr 23

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