

Director for Scotland

Newsletter February 2014



Introduction

I was on holiday recently and enjoyed visiting BB friends in Hong Kong and New Zealand. Not only were they really hospitable, but it was great to be able share ideas and see different ways of working. The BB in Hong Kong has far more HQ staff than we do, including two full time fundraisers. Their building is a very impressive full sized replica of Noah's Ark!

The ICONZ programme in New Zealand seems far more adventurous compared to what our Junior Sections get up to but it is still very much recognisable as The Boys' Brigade. If you want to see more have a look at <http://www.iconz.org.nz/>

I was also able to spend some time at "The Gathering" at the SECC in Glasgow. As the name suggests, this was an opportunity for many different Third Sector organisations to meet together and exchange views.

Scotland Committee

We are looking for nominations for representative members for the Glasgow / Dumbarton and the North Scottish Area. Please note nominations are due by the 31st March. If you would like a nomination form, please contact Rhona Drummond rhona.drummond@boys-brigade.org.uk if anyone is interested in putting their name forward and would like an informal chat about what is involved please feel free to contact myself.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

DofE, in partnership with Dumfries & Galloway Council is holding a Commonwealth Youth Summit, in Dumfries, over the weekend 6-9th of June. The event is aimed at young leaders (not necessarily DofE Leaders) and enabling them to hear from inspirational speakers, share their common experiences about leadership and further develop their interest in leadership skills. Rebecca Adlington is already confirmed as attending, the Cost will be £50 for young people and £100 for youth leaders. More info at <http://www.youthsummit2014.com/> (please let me know if any young person in your area would like to attend, as we may have some funding available to assist)

The **31st March** is the deadline to submit the necessary paperwork for anyone wishing to attend this year's Gold Award Presentation at the Palace Holyrood House.

BB DofE Open Gold Assessment Expedition

This year's expedition will take place from 11th to 16th June with the starting point being Scott Lodge in Angus. Places are already filling up so if you know of anyone who needs to complete a Gold Hike please ask them to register as soon as possible. More information is available at <http://scotland.boys-brigade.org.uk/dofedownloads.htm>

Protection of Vulnerable Groups

The Brigade is now starting the process to transfer existing leaders over to the PVG Scheme. This will affect all officers who should have been re-registered since 2010. Company captains will soon receive a letter explaining the process in more detail and supplying LREG2 form which should be used.

New leaders should continue to be registered as usual and in Church of Scotland Congregations the PVG forms should be supplied by the local safe guarding co-ordinator. The membership team at Felden will be taking the lead on this so if there are any queries, please contact them membership@boys-brigade.org.uk

Camp and Holiday Leadership / Expedition Certificates

Just a reminder that now is a good time for leaders to check if any of their camp or expedition certificates are about to expire. Please submit new forms in good time before any planned events. If you need to check the current status of your certification, please contact Scottish HQ.

Online Pack about Wildlife Crime

The Scottish Government have launched a new pack to allow children to learn about the impact of wildlife crime and how they can help combat the problem through a new online crime detectives' education pack.

The pack includes:

- CSI-style wildlife crime activities;
- A link to an online video that provides an educational introduction to wildlife crime;
- A quiz and poster design challenge;
- A role play exercise to help children understand the effects of wildlife crime on those involved.

If you want to use this new resource check out <http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Rearing-young-detectives-8cc.aspx>

Uniformed Organisations Science Bash

It is still not too late to register for this exciting event which is taking place at Glasgow Science Centre on Saturday 22nd March 2014. There are two sessions: Morning (0900 to 1400); or afternoon sessions (1500 to 2000) This one day spectacular will give children aged 10-14 years an opportunity to participate in one of these themed science activities;

- Space and Astronomy – Learn about planets and stars and even build your own rocket and visit the planetarium.
- Nature and Conservation - Explore nature soil, earthworms, water and other wee beasties.
- Human Body - see how you measure up against Commonwealth athletes, jump, sprint, and cycle and visit the Body Works exhibition.

So if you didn't make our sleepover, or your Boys are keen to go back please contact Info@glasgowcityofscience.com for more information.

Leader Training

There are a few really useful training courses coming up soon. The Expedition Leadership Course will take place over the weekend of 9th to 11th May, and the BB First Response' – Practical First Aid course is on 17th-18th May. Both courses are at Carronvale House and are open to all BB leaders. Check out the training section of the website <http://scotland.boys-brigade.org.uk/training.htm>

YLN

The Lisbon trip (24th – 26th June) still has some spaces available. Information for the Seniors Sevens (16th April) has already been distributed to battalions. Also, we have launched a new competition for Seniors – Ultimate Challenge Plus. See <http://scotland.boys-brigade.org.uk/seniorsandyounge.htm> for more info.

Sport Relief 2014

Sport Relief runs 21st – 23rd March. It's a chance to get active, have fun and raise money for causes both in the UK and internationally. See <http://www.sportrelief.com> for further details.

Should your company/battalion be getting involved, please let Niall Rolland know. niall.rolland@boys-brigade.org.uk

With all best wishes,



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