



GGYA NEWSLETTER

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Bahamian Among 100 to Receive Duke of Edinburgh's Special Coin *For half a century he championed youth*

Through rain, shine, retirement and a battle with prostate cancer, Captain Henry Curry has helped guide scores of young men through Boys' Brigade and the Governor General's Youth Award (GGYA) – two programmes that equip its participants to succeed in life.

Captain Curry is among 100 inspirational volunteers across the globe to receive an official commemorative coin celebrating the life and legacy of the Award's patron. The coin was accompanied by a letter of thanks from HRH The Earl of Wessex, Prince Edward – the youngest child of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip.

"Captain Curry has been with us for more than 30 years. He is our longest serving volunteer. He comes to us from St. Barnabas Anglican Church where he leads their 23rd Bahamas Company of Boys' Brigade. Both programmes have similar personal and social goals, including community service, cultivating skills, fitness and adventure," said GGYA's national director Jacquetta Lightbourne-Maycock.

"Although many of our volunteers are known for stepping up and staying around, Captain Curry stands out. For his dedication and leadership throughout the decades, we thank him. He's served on GGYA's Management Council. He's often among the first to respond when we reach out to our volunteers, and he gets his unit out to many of our planned activities. If every youth organization could have someone like Captain Curry on their team, we'd be better off as a nation".



In 1973, a young Basil Tynes and his brother, Peter, joined Captain Curry's 23rd Company. He credits the organization with his spiritual growth and development and was thankful for the opportunity to be mentored by "a giant of a man".

In October 2000, Tynes crossed paths again with Captain Curry. Now an Anglican priest, Father Tynes was appointed rector of St. Barnabas Church.

"This time I assumed the post of chaplain with Captain Curry still very much in charge. Under his leadership, the 23rd Company produced high ranking police officers, lawyers, accountants, bankers, doctors, medical personnel, priests, bishops, ambassadors, chefs, you name it. Captain Curry can hold his head high in that regard."

When the modern-day Award came on stream in 1987, Captain Curry viewed it as a Programme to enhance Boys' Brigade. Like the Duke of Edinburgh Award, the 23rd Company was known to camp out. That adventurous journey component and the discipline GGYA fostered attracted him to the Award.

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"GGYA is for anybody, including the children who believe they can't do anything in life," said the 78-year-old who chairs the New Providence Battalion and the Western Caribbean Fellowship of Boy's Brigade. "It's not based on academics. It's based on your resiliency and the goals you set for yourself. That's what it's all about".

"Participation in GGYA has influenced my service, skills, survival techniques and offered me great companionship with other participants," said Shane Oliver, a Bronze level participant. "Captain Curry has taught me to be dedicated to a cause and open-minded about my opinions".

Whether he's teaching young people how to swim or demonstrating backyard farming techniques, Captain Curry said leading a unit is as rewarding to him as it is to the youth.

In half a century, his commitment to youth development has never wavered. Even when he fought prostate cancer in 2011, Captain Curry was a model for how to pull through an ordeal.

"Despite all of his health challenges he remains on top of his game," said Father Tynes, who for 21 years served as the 23rd Company's chaplain.

An unassuming and kind gentleman, Captain Curry – a former lab technician – never wanted any accolades for all his hard work.

"What I'm working for is to know that I can change some boy's life," said the father of six, who lost one of his five sons, a police constable, to murder back in 2005.

"What makes me feel good is when a young man says, 'Captain Curry, do you remember me?'"



Sometimes it's a difficult task putting a name to a familiar face when what stands out are moments and memories not monikers.

"My reward is knowing that I've touched somebody's life and they're being productive and even if they're not productive they can recognize what was done for them".

(Submitted by: Precision Media)

GGYA Connect, Collect Trash at Coral Harbour Canal

Armed with gloves, trash bags, masks and tally sheets, participants in the GGYA were among scores of volunteers helping to remove more than 5,000 pieces of waste and debris at a Coral Harbour waterway during a synchronized coastal cleanup exercise taking place around the world.



"I can't believe people were polluting this area. It was bad. I was shocked by the amount of trash I saw. It was a lot to cleanup and there's still more out there," said Carlicia Brown, a twelfth grader who collected bags of plastic, glass bottles and even parts of an air condition unit with her team of five.

The R.M. Bailey Senior High School student signed up for the activity as a means to relieve boredom and got more than she bargained for. "I haven't been out of the house in quite a while. I saw an opportunity to volunteer and thought sure, why not? I didn't realize people brought out their dump from home and just left it in the back here, which was wrong. Stop polluting the area. Keep it clean, green and pristine".

The Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) is the world's largest volunteer effort for ocean's health. It's observed annually on the third Saturday in September.

About 93 people from Rotary, Rotaract, Boys Brigade, Toastmasters and GGYA collected 5,392 items. The garbage included building materials, appliances, plastic bags, food containers, bottles and cans. It took two workdays to tally up collection records and measure their cleanup impact.

According to Ms. Clarke, Beach Buddies' goal is to focus on pollution awareness through education and action resulting in cleaner and healthier marine environments. International observers say the data collected from cleanup crews around the world could lead to new research and policy changes.

"I feel proud of myself because I actually did something," said Brown, the high school student. "We helped the environment".

"Undoubtedly, the scale of the dumping made an impression upon them," said the Programme's national director, Jacquetta Lightbourne-Maycock. "They learned how they can be the solution and not the problem".



Kenvaughn Mortimer, a 14-year-old participant from C.R. Walker Senior High School said "This made me think about coastal cleanup and taking a more active role in taking care of the environment".

(Submitted by: Precision Media)

Founders 100 Challenge

10 June 2021 would have been The Duke of Edinburgh's 100th birthday. As an Award family, we miss him. Prince Philip was a champion of the infinite potential of young people and a pioneer in non-formal education and learning. As we mark his 100th year, the global Award family is determined to ensure that The Duke's vision can continue and grow for many years to come.

The Founder's 100 Challenge encourages young people to commit 100, of just about anything, to spread awareness to the campaign. Participants can choose to bake 100 cookies, walk 100 steps, make 100 masks...or anything along those lines...

Bahamas Award Super Expedition (BASE 2022)

Where you going this year? What Island are you going to visit?
What you going to do this year?
You gonna find out real soon...

The 28th BASE'22 is scheduled for June 28th - July 8th and will cater to Bronze, Silver and Gold Participants.

Participants can start to sign up through their units, or online at www.bahamasggya.org or at the GGYA National office on February 25th. The first deposit is due on or before March 30th.

BASE aims to give young people the opportunities to:

- Experience adventure and discovery on a different Bahamian Family Island.
- Create an opportunity for Participants from different islands to share skills and experiences.
- Encourage young people to be disciplined, responsible, use their initiative and be resourceful.
- Give them opportunities to receive training in the adventurous journey section and fulfill the requirements for that section.
- Experiences personal achievement in challenging situations.
- Ensure that Gold Participants complete the Gold residential and service projects.

Former GGYA head receives MYSC's Living Legend Award



On, October 29th, Denise Mortimer, the former national executive director of the Governor General's Youth Award (GGYA), was announced as the recipient of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture's (MYSC) 2021 Youth Practitioner's Living Legend Award during a virtual ceremony. She also served as patron of Youth Month, which is observed in October.

"This means people realize GGYA's impact on young people in society and how important it is for them to be involved in non-formal education," said Mortimer, who stepped down as head of the internationally recognized programme in 2020, after 29 years at the helm. "I share this award with the many volunteers that we have had. Without them, we would have not been able to record so many successes. Therefore, it is an honour and a privilege to be recognized in such a way".

When Mortimer assumed the role of director of The Bahamas' Duke of Edinburgh's Award in 1991, there were 151 participants operating through five New Providence-based units supervised by six volunteers. Under her watch, more than 30,000 young people stepped out of their comfort zones to take up the Award's challenge to learn a new skill or develop an existing one, increase their fitness levels, cultivate a sense of adventure and volunteer in their community in order to obtain a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

(Submitted by: Precision Media)



2022 1st Quarter Events:

January

- 13th – Award Volunteers Virtual Meeting (All Islands) –6pm
- 15th – Volunteers Camp Fire – 10am – 2pm
- 18th – Management Council Executive Meeting – 6:00pm
- 22nd - Award Volunteers Meeting (Grand Bahama) – 6pm
- 29th – Water Safety & Training Day (New Providence)

February

- 5th – 6th - Bronze Q Expedition/Exploration –
New Providence units (Eleuthera)
- 10th – Adventurous Journey Panel Meeting – 6pm
- 17th – Management Council Executive Virtual Meeting -6pm
- 25th – 27th - Silver Q/Gold P Expedition/Exploration –
Location TBA
- 28th – GGYA Alumni Regroup Meeting – 6pm

March

- 5th – “Skill Day” – 9am – 1pm
- 15th – Management Council Executive Meeting – 6pm
- 19th - Water Safety Course
- 26th – 27th – Bronze Q Expedition/Exploration – Grand
Bahama units
- 30th – BASE 2022 deposit due - \$50.00

April

- Harbour Island All Age & North Eleuthera High School
Bronze Q
- 9th –10th - Bronze Q Expedition/Exploration –
New Providence units (Eleuthera)
- 12th – Management Council Executive Meeting – 6pm
- 13th –Office closed @ 5pm “Happy Easter”
- 19th – Office re-open @ 9am
- 22nd - Annual General Meeting
- 23rd – 24th – Volunteers’ Training – Location TBA
- 29th – May 1st - Silver Q/Gold P Expedition/Exploration
Grand Bahama units

Dates & Times Subject To Change

Events

Award in action: The Bahamas Disability Dollar Day Drive, HIV/AIDS walk, Beach clean-up and Water Safety training.



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