



Governor General's Youth Award

January 2023

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GGYA attends royal charity fundraiser in London

National Director of the Governor General's Youth Award Jacquetta Lightbourne-Maycock travelled to the United Kingdom in November to address a fundraising dinner attended by His Royal Highness (HRH) Prince Edward, Chairman of Trustees of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation.

Ms. Lightbourne-Maycock was invited to share how the generosity of donors to The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation's Special Projects Fund has made impacted The Bahamas.

The Special Projects grant strives to ensure all young people have access to the Award by increasing access, reach and impact amongst at-risk and marginalized young people across the globe.

GGYA used the money to restart the units at Grand Bahama's Beacon School and at the Willie Mae Pratt Centre for Girls. It's also earmarked to fund three more centers for disenfranchised youth.

The presentation highlighted the difference the Award is making in the lives of participants, and their families, and the wider community.



The intimate, black-tie dinner raised £262,000 to support Special Projects worldwide.

"My presentation would not have been possible without the work of our participants, unit leaders, and partners at The Beacon School and the Willie Mae Pratt Centre, who agreed to share their journey," said Ms. Lightbourne-Maycock.

"Our long-time publicist, Precision Media, ably assisted us in putting together two powerful videos and ensuring the overall quality of the presentation would represent The Bahamas well at such a high-level event."

"The combination of your great speech and the video were certainly a highlight of the event!" wrote Sam Palmer, Director of Development, in his post-event correspondence to the national director.

"Thank you also for bringing the impact of Special Projects to the forefront and linking your brilliant work back to the generosity of previous donors – the point hit home very strongly. I am convinced this directly impacted the amount pledged by our guests throughout the evening."

GGYA Showcases How Youths Can Get Involved

Scores of youths from private and public schools across New Providence flocked to Breezes Bahamas on September 24th to discover how they could get active, develop a skill and help the community through their participation in the Governor General's Youth Award (GGYA).

"The goal was to introduce young people to activities they can do to pursue their Bronze, Silver or Gold Award," according to Jacquetta Lightbourne-Maycock, GGYA's national director.

"I was amazed by all the opportunities to get involved, especially the Dignified Girl Project, catering to those who are unable to buy feminine products," said Zahriya Reckley, a twelfth grader at Jordan Prince Williams.

"You are more likely to see a volunteer group like that in America not The Bahamas, so I volunteered my services to them. That's going to be my community service."

For C.C. Sweeting twelfth grader, Jenika Pierre, Hands for Hunger stood out.

"I helped out with them before, through my church when I was younger, but I stopped as my school schedule got busier. I want to get active with them again. It feels good to give back."



The Scout Association of The Bahamas caught Carlton Tucker's eyes.

"I found it interesting. I want to join," said the tenth grader at George O. Fowler Apostolic Academy. "I think that GGYA will help me in the long run, for life."

One popular activity at Saturday's event was Blue Angel Flight Experience. The business highlighted its flight simulators.

"Young people in grades eleven and twelve can come in and learn how to fly," said Sheryl Carey, a ground instructor, and pilot. "We teach the basic fundamental of flying, and we can also provide ground classes for them to get their private pilot license which could go towards GGYA's skill-development component."

Another newcomer to GGYA's showcase, now in its second year, was the Bahamas Chinese Dragon Boat Association.

"It's a 2,000-year-old ancient Chinese, team building, water sport," explained Kay-Kay Tong, the association's founding president. "We need teens to be at least 14 year old and have some proficiency in swimming."

Meantime, GGYA'S long-standing community partner, Ardastra Gardens, offered a fun time with animal friends.

"A couple months ago GGYA reached out to us to bring about 150 volunteers in two different sessions where they helped us with the animals," said Hendrew Haley, Ardastra's animal manager.

"Our partnership not only allows participants to give invaluable community service, but it's also a chance for teens to explore an alternative career path. We take the opportunity to share from an environmental perspective and give kids interested in animals an opportunity to get closer to nature."



Bahamas Award Super Expedition (BASE 2023)

The 29th Bahamas Award Super Expedition (BASE) is scheduled for June 27th - July 7th and will cater to Bronze, Silver and Gold Participants. Location TBA.

Participants can start to sign up through their units, or online at www.bahamasggya.org or at the GGYA National office on February 28th. The first deposit is due on or before March 31st.

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, and 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.



Calling All Gold Participants

All records or uploaded information on the ORB are due in the National Award office on or before January 13th.

The ceremony is set for February 23rd.

To qualify for the Gold Award if a Silver recipient, the following minimum require must be obtained over a period of no less than 12 months:

- Perform a community service.
- Follow or study a skill (hobby).
- Participated in a physical recreation.
- Plus, carry out a four day/three night Adventurous Journey.
- Complete a residential project covering five days and 4 nights living with others that are not their typical peers.

This Quarter Events

January

- 12th – Award Volunteers Meeting (New Providence) – 4:00pm
- 13th - Gold Award information due on the ORB
- 18th – Award Volunteers Virtual Meeting (Family Islands) – 4:30pm
- 19th – Management Council Executive Meeting – 6:00pm
- 20th- 21st – Andros visit
- 25th – Adventurous Journey Panel Meeting – 6pm
- 28th – Water Safety Course

February

- 18th – 19th – Bronze Q Expedition/Exploration – Grand Bahama units
- 21st – Management Council Executive Meeting – 6pm
- 23rd – Gold Awards Presentation
- 24th – Rally (Adelaide)

March

- 4th - "Skill Day" (New Providence)
- 14th – Management Council Executive Meeting – 6pm
- 18th – American Heart Association Course (New Providence)
- 22nd – Adventurous Journey Panel Meeting – 6pm
- 25th - Physical Recreation Day (Grand Bahama)
- 31st – BASE 2023 deposit due - \$50.00

April

- 1st–2nd - Bronze Q Expedition/Exploration – New Providence units (Eleuthera)
- 5th –Office closed @ 5pm "Happy Easter"
- 11th – Office re-open @ 9am
- 18th – Management Council Executive Meeting – 6pm
- 21st - Annual General Meeting
- 22nd – Volunteers' Training
- 22nd – Earth Day

Dates & Times Subject To Change

Awards

Congratulations to fifty-one (51) participants from Grand Bahama for completing the minimum requirements.

Bronze & Silver Awards units:

Bishop Michael Eldon High School, Eight Mile Rock High School, Jack Hayward Sr. High School, Lucaya International School, St. George's High School and Sunland Baptist Academy.



EVENTS

Major events of Fall 2022: International Coastal Clean-up Day (ICC), Youth Marches, Grand Bahama Mangrove Restoration Project and HIV/AIDS Walk.



Contact Information
Governor General's Youth Award
#12 Essex Street, (off Shirley St.)
P.O.Box SS-19228
Email: admin@bahamasggya.org
Telephone: 326-1760/1 office
225-8876 vibe
Facebook: GGYA Bahamas
Website: www.bahamasggya.org

Freeport
NYO'S Grace Center (B6), West Atlantic Dr.
Telephone: 242-602-0995
Email: freeportsdmin@bahamasggya.org
Mrs. Jacquetta Maycock
GGYA National Director
Dr. Sophia A. Rolle
Executive Newsletter Editor