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# GOVERNOR GENERAL'S YOUTH AWARD

May 2021

2nd Quarter, Issue 9

## GGYA Celebrates the Life, Legacy of Founder HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh dies at 99

He was a champion of young people worldwide and instrumental in the growth of the Governor's General Youth Award, one of the nation's most popular after school programmes for non-formal education and learning.

Across The Bahamas today, 729 participants, 124 volunteers, 42 units, the national office, council and Board of Trustees marked the passing of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh. He was at the Queen's side for more than 60 years. He died at Windsor Castle Friday, April 9th.

Sixty-five years ago, Prince Philip established The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the United Kingdom. Since then, it's been rolled out in more than 130 countries and territories, empowering millions of young people to build the skills, confidence and resilience they need to support their communities and be ready for the world.

"This is a very sad occasion for us. He left behind a very real legacy in The Bahamas," said Jacquetta Lightbourne-Maycock, GGYA's national director.

"We thrive today because he helped to pave the way. Prince Philip lit a fire in our leadership to attract more and more young people to find their purpose, passion, and place, in the world. We should all seek to emulate his passion for the nation's youth."

The Duke of Edinburgh first visited the programme in 1991. Back then, there were 151 participants spread throughout five New Providence-based units, supervised by six volunteers. Since then, 31,000 young people have passed through GGYA. In normal times, the programme averaged 100 volunteers per year with 56 units serving 11 islands.

In 1996, the programme dropped its original name, The Bahamas Duke of Edinburgh's Award and adopted the moniker, The Governor General's Youth Award to reflect a sense of place and people. Despite this re-branding, strict adherence to the principles and structure set by the International Award Association has always been maintained.

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"When I joined the Award family in 1991, no one ever breathed a word to me that I should be prepared to accompany royalty, so imagine my surprise when six months into my tenure I, someone more comfortable coaching than curtsying, found out I was to escort a member of the Royal Family to Government House and a gala ball," Ms Mortimer recalled.

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*GGYA Celebrates the Life, Legacy of Founder...from page 1*

"There are seven trillion nerves in the human body. During that first meeting with Prince Philip, it felt like each nerve of mine was on edge. I must confess, the feeling did not last long. His Royal Highness brought laser focused attention to our gatherings. The questions he asked participants displayed a genuine interest. His friendliness amazed me. I was taken aback by his interactions, not just with me, but with all the participants and guests at the ball. Although he was the royal one, Prince Philip made us all feel like VIPs."

Prince Philip's passion for the Award programme was contagious. He saw the need for many more young persons throughout The Bahamas to have access to it.

"He helped me to see it too. His Royal Highness impressed upon me the importance of providing a quality programme and valuing our volunteers. It was something that I, in turn, passed on to my successor," said the former national director.

It was the Duke's suggestion that GGYA should charter a boat to take the Award participants sailing to other islands of The Bahamas, helping them to learn more about their country.

"The following year we launched the Bahamas Award Scheme Expedition (BASE) which took 75 participants mainly from New Providence to the island of San Salvador as part of the Christopher Columbus centennial celebrations. BASE is now in its 28<sup>th</sup> year," said Ms Mortimer. "It attracts participants from across The Bahamas to partake in hiking expeditions across our archipelagic nation. We have taken participants to 14 of our Family Islands."

During his final 2001 visit, Prince Philip presented Gold Awards and attended fundraising events.

"This time, I felt as if I was in the company of a trusted mentor. He was the perfect listener, Award promotor and teacher. One always learnt something new in his presence whether it was the latest marketing strategy; how to maintain the quality of the Award; changes in the Award delivery; funding ideas or how to strengthen the volunteer base. His unwavering commitment to our programme certainly aided our phenomenal growth over the years."

John May, Secretary General of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation, hailed Prince Philip as a "thinker of truly global stature."

"As young people face exceptional challenge and change in the wake of the current pandemic, this 'do-it-yourself growing-up kit', as he described it, is even more relevant today than ever."

His Royal Highness's passion for, and commitment to, the work of the Award and the development of young people continued until the last. His determination, energy and enthusiasm will be greatly missed."

The Award now continues under the watchful eyes of its chairman, Prince Philip's son, HRH Prince Edward, The Earl of Wessex. *(Submitted by: Precision Media)*



## 2021 2nd Quarter Events

### May

5<sup>th</sup> – Award Volunteers Meeting (New Providence) – 4pm  
 13<sup>th</sup> – Adventurous Journey Panel Virtual Meeting – 6pm  
 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> – Bronze Q Expedition/Exploration for New Providence units – Location TBA  
 17<sup>th</sup> – Management Council Executive Meeting - 6pm  
 25<sup>th</sup> - Board of Trustees Meeting - 10am  
 27<sup>th</sup> - Awards Presentations – All islands

### June

10<sup>th</sup> – Duke of Edinburgh's Legacy Celebrations

### July

15<sup>th</sup>—World Youth Skills Day  
 17<sup>th</sup> - Physical Recreation "Bowling Day" – 4pm – 8pm

### August

Planning/Recruitment Sessions  
 12<sup>th</sup> – International Youth Day

**\*Dates & Times Subject To Change\***

**FYI...**It still stands that the International Award Foundation has allowed for the continuance of **ONE** AJ until December 31, 2021, for participants to qualify. Participants are still encouraged to carry out explorations for Silver and Gold levels. Explorations can be done on New Providence as well as all the other Bahamian Islands. Alternatively, expeditions may be organized under the new directives, primarily highlighting the following:

- Groups must not accommodate more than 20 persons
- Only one person per tent
- Camp on private property only
- GGYA office manages the expedition and must have 2 weeks' notice

In case you have forgotten, we have resumed collection of the annual registration/reregistration fee (\$10). While the payment is not required for young people to sign up, the fee covers the use of the ORB, annual insurance (mandatory), as well as the t-shirt. They **must** have paid the registration fee in order to embark on an AJ.

Volunteers who are listed on the ORB must complete the Award Leaders Training and ORB Training on the OLH in the Award Community.

## GGYA Awarded International Grant to Help Reach At-Risk Youth

For the fourth time since its inception GGYA has been awarded a grant from The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation, in the amount of £30,000 (GBP), to allow more at-risk youth, including young people in reform schools and those with greater levels of special educational needs, to participate in the programme.

The Award Foundation is convinced that a "good non-formal education is essential to equipping a young person for adult life, and so should be available to everyone."

"Although we have previously had some participants from these areas, for the most part, these at-risk categories of young people remain largely unreachable," said Jacquetta Lightbourne-Maycock, GGYA's national director.

"We not only required funding, but we also needed to identify Award leaders and volunteers who are ideally committed to our same values, whilst also being embedded in those environments and are willing and able to work with us."

"We were extraordinarily pleased to receive an application from GGYA as we have not funded any projects in The Bahamas since 2010. We were even more pleased it see it approved," said Melissa Stoakes, the London-based Global Operations Director at The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation.

"A project delivering the Award to young people who face a multitude of challenges is close to our ethos and aim that any young person, despite their situation, can do the Award".

She added: "The project proposal was one of the strongest we have seen in recent years and will benefit from learning from similar projects around the world, whilst also inspiring and showing others how to deliver the Award in these centres and schools."

GGYA is now in its 11th anniversary of a bipartisan support by three successive administrations.

In 2010, under the Ingraham Administration, the late Minister of Youth, Sports & Culture, Charles Maynard created the G.O.L.D. Initiative to help the programme expand and then sustain its presence on every major island throughout The Bahamas. A major source of funding, this financial support continued under former Prime Minister Perry Christie and now through the Minnis Administration.

Among past and present benefactors are Atlantis, the T.K. Foundation, Cable Cares Foundation, Lyford Cay Foundation, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Social Service and Urban Development, Department of Gender and Family Affairs and BTC.

"Engaging as many young people as possible, particularly at this time, is key to them getting their education back on track after being disrupted by the pandemic", said Ms Lightbourne-Maycock.

"We want non formal learning opportunities to be available to all young people, especially youth that do not have access to mainstream clubs. GGYA is more than ready to offer these young people a chance to prove that not all learning happens in the classroom and they can continue to excel in other ways." (Submitted by: Precision Media)



# Scenes from... Earth Day & Qualifying Adventurous Journeys



Participants take note about Mangrove



Participants from Inagua hike along the salt pans



Queen's College participants prepares for AJ



Assisting National Trust in painting Awareness sign



Participants in the heart of the Mangrove nursery



Lucaya International School participants meets with Assessor before AJ



Lyford Cay Gold participants carry out sailing Expedition



Silver level participants from CV Bethel hike the famous "Lamp Pole City"

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