



# GOVERNOR GENERAL'S YOUTH AWARD

## NEWSLETTER

May 2022

Quarter 2nd, Issue 12

Proud to deliver

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S  
INTERNATIONAL AWARD



### Cabinet Ministers Praise GGYA at Annual General Meeting



Hon. Mario Bowleg, Minister of Youth, Sports & Culture

The Governor General's Youth Award received high praise from two Cabinet Ministers for being among the few organizations in the country to continue its work with young people throughout the pandemic.

During its first Annual General Meeting since 2019, the organization reviewed its challenges and successes of 2021, which saw the local arm of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award programme attract 963 participants assisted by 160 volunteers spread among 40 units on nine islands.

According to Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, Mario Bowleg and Minister of State for Education, Zane Lightbourne GGYA's work didn't go unnoticed.

"Let me take this opportunity to congratulate each and every one of you volunteers who take the time to inspire and motivate our young people. The youth is our future. If we don't invest in them, our future is very dim. The work, the dedication and the commitment you give to the development of youth in this country is of the utmost

importance. We cannot afford to pay you for it...but because of you the GGYA is one of the most prominent youth organizations in this country," said Mr Bowleg.

The audience gathered at SuperClubs Breezes was comprised of members of GGYA's Board of Trustees, its Management Council, volunteers from New Providence, Grand Bahama, Abaco, Eleuthera, Exuma, Inagua and Long Island, in addition to other stakeholders.

Mr Lightbourne said the Award programme deserves recognition for its dedication to youth during the pandemic.

"There was a shutdown period for most our country and a lot of programmes shutdown. They could not operate. They could not function. They could not find ways to. Zoom could only do so much, but through it all you found a way," he noted.

"That speaks volumes about your resilience, determination and your dedication to our nation's youth. That is very commendable."

According to Archdeacon James Palacios, chairman of GGYA's Management Council, the lingering effects of COVID-19 continues to be a major hurdle for all its stakeholders.

"However, we were and continue to be encouraged and inspired by the determination of young people and the unwavering commitment of our volunteers," he said.

Last year, 92 participants – 44 males and 48 females – received their Award. These successful young people hailed from C.V. Bethel, R.M. Bailey, Queen's College, Lyford Cay International School, C.C. Sweeting, C.V. Hart Institute, the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Rangers, Inagua's All Age School and from schools in Grand Bahama including St. George's High, Lucaya International, Bishop Michael Eldon and The Beacon School.

Approximately 64 Bronze, 26 Silver and two Gold Award were earned by participants who were challenged to discover their purpose, passion and place in the world.

Each participant learns a skill, improves their physical fitness, volunteers in their community and experiences a team adventure or hiking expedition in a new environment. Success isn't competitive rather it is a personal challenge, measured by young people showing commitment and progress in each area over a fixed period. Each of the three levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold – are progressively more challenging.

Training remains a key ingredient to the delivery of a quality programme. GGYA's national director, Jacquetta Lightbourne-Maycock said volunteers participated in and benefited from best practices of Award centers around the world.

At the close of the AGM 31 volunteers received special pins commemorating their successful completion of courses delivered over a digital platform during the pandemic.

According to treasurer, Everette Mackey, who provided an assessment of the programme's financial performance over the past year, GGYA owes a debt of gratitude to the government, the Lyford Cay Foundation and other donors who help to keep it afloat.

"We have a lot to be proud of as we move steadily into 2022, focused and committed to ensuring that our nation's youths are empowered and given the opportunity to be the best they can."



**From L to R:** Mr. Everette Mackey, Treasurer to the Board; Dr. Rodger Thompson, Board member; Ms. Jacquetta Maycock, National Director; Hon. Zane Lightbourne, Minister of State, Ministry of Education & Technical & Vocational Training; Ms. Susan Glinton, Public Relations to the Management Council; Father James Palacious, Chair to the Management Council; Ms. Anna Martin, Vice – Chair to the Management Council and Mr. Lamar Pinder, Asst. Treasurer to the Management Council.

## 2022 Bahamas Award Super Expedition (BASE)

### Exuma

June 28 to July 8

### "Treasures of the Cays"

All systems are go for the 28<sup>th</sup> annual BASE. This year's BASE will take place in Exuma June 28<sup>th</sup> to July 8<sup>th</sup> and will be an expedition on foot. Participants will hail from throughout the Bahamas and BASE will cater to three levels -

Bronze, Silver and Gold. The base camp will be located at the L.N. Coakley High School in George Town, Exuma. Where the participants will

prepare for their respective levels of expeditions and complete training courses before venturing out. Additional activities will include the required Gold Residential Project, church service, and variety show.

Participants can sign up through their units, online at [www.bahamasggya.org](http://www.bahamasggya.org) or at the GGYA National Award office located at #12 Essex Street, Off Shirley Street.



## Get Yours Today!!

With the Award ceremonies right around the corner, the GGYA wishes to encourage all Bronze and Silver participants to take the necessary measures to ensure they meet the requirements for their respective Awards. Deadline to upload is May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

A ceremony is set to take place in person on Tuesday May 24, in New Providence, and Thursday May 26, in Grand Bahama.

### Bronze Award requirements include:

- Three months participation in a Physical Recreation, Skill and Service.
- An additional three months in either Physical Recreation, Skill and Service.
- Successful completion of a two-day, one night expedition, covering 15 miles or more.

### For Bronze recipients, Silver requirements include:

- Six months participation in Physical Recreation, Skill and Service.
- Successful completions of a three-day, two nights expedition, covering 30 miles.

**Contact your unit leader or GGYA office at  
326-1760/1 or vibe 225-8876**



## Leader's Retreat

After a two year hiatus, our GGYA volunteers were finally able to gather for the purposes of reconnecting, networking, and simply having a grand 'ole time.

On Saturday April 23rd, 48 volunteers set off for Rose Island for a special retreat planned just for them. Following the concluding session of the American Heart Association First Aid and CPR and AED Training Course for Family Island volunteers, the next part of the day was designated for volunteers. After being put into groups, each team was responsible to participate in group games organized and led by Ms. Darisha Johnson and her fellow Adventurous Journey Panel members.



The competition was tight between the seven color groups: Orange, Green, Red, Purple, Blue, Yellow, and Aqua. Games included the Sack Race, Egg and Spoon, Fill the Bottle, Pitch and Fold Tent, and the eagerly anticipated Chef Challenge where groups had to prepare a meal, and they had to include a surprise secret ingredient—a mango.

In the end the winning team was the Red Group...whose grand prize is bragging rights until the next event! Notwithstanding that ALL volunteers should be commended for participating. It was hailed as a wonderful weekend by all. We look forward to our next gathering!



## Unstoppable Beacon School Receives GGYA Award



When 16-year-old Kevin Jean belted out his version of Sia's "Unstoppable" at a Governor General's Youth Award (GGYA) ceremony, he may have fumbled some words and went off key, yet it brought tears to the eyes of at least one person in

the crowd.

"Kevin and his twin brother Kevon joined GGYA last year during the pandemic. Kevin stuck with the programme. Unfortunately, Kevon wasn't able to embark on the hiking expedition and fulfill his Award requirements. He was gunned down six months later," recalled Jacquetta Lightbourne-Maycock, GGYA's national director, in explaining why she got misty eyed.

Moments earlier she had assisted in attaching Jean's Bronze pin to his shirt during the brief ceremony held at the Grand Bahama school for special needs students.

"For me, the song symbolized Kevin's tenacity. Due to a mishap at the start of the hiking expedition in June, Kevin nearly didn't get to participate. So, both twins would have missed out, but here we are today. Despite having laid his brother to rest, Kevin has achieved his Bronze. He is now pursuing his Silver Award and dreams of becoming the first in his family to attend college. If he, and the other participants in his unit remain on the right path, they will continue to be unstoppable."

GGYA's first in-person Award ceremony since the onset of the pandemic two years ago, paid tribute to Kevin and his fellow participants: Cadejah Clarke, Levar Laing, Dennis Maycock, Justin Miller, Christopher Munroe, David Munroe, Dwayne Romer and Stephan Russell.

Although tens of thousands of young people in The Bahamas have passed through this programme which challenges young people to discover their purpose, passion and place in the world, this week's ceremony marked only the second time a unit comprised exclusively of special needs participants has accomplish such a feat.

Supporting the Beacon School Unit is a network of adult volunteers, unit leaders, assessors, the national office and a grant from The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation – GGYA's international governing body.

## This Quarter's Events

### May

4<sup>th</sup> – Award Volunteers Meeting (New Providence) – 4pm

7<sup>th</sup> – Coastal Clean-up New Providence/Family Islands

9<sup>th</sup> – Board of Trustees Meeting – 10am

10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> – BASE 2022 Recce

12<sup>th</sup> – BASE 2022 Staff Meeting – 6pm

17<sup>th</sup> – Management Council Meeting – 6pm

19<sup>th</sup> – Adventurous Journey Panel Meeting – 6pm

24<sup>th</sup> - Bronze & Silver Awards Ceremony - New Providence

26<sup>th</sup> - Bronze & Silver Awards Ceremony – Grand Bahama

### June

1<sup>st</sup> – BASE 2022 Staff Meeting – 6pm

8<sup>th</sup> – BASE 2022 Staff Meeting – 6pm

10<sup>th</sup> – Founder's 100 T-shirt Day

10<sup>th</sup> – BASE 2022 final payment due

15<sup>th</sup> – BASE 2022 Staff Meeting – 6pm

28<sup>th</sup> - BASE 2022 – Bronze Q/Silver Q/Gold Q Expedition

### July

8<sup>th</sup> – BASE 2022 Ends

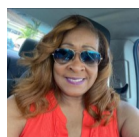
### August

12<sup>th</sup> – International Youth Day

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

## Welcome On Board

The GGYA Management Council is pleased to announce the appointments of Mrs. Diane Saunders (Grand Bahama Part-time Field Assistant ) and Ms. Ebyan Munroe (New Providence Part-time Field Assistant)!!



Ms. Diane Saunders

Mrs. Saunders is no stranger to the Award Programme, and has retired from the Minister of Education. Ms. Munroe is a full time student at the University of The Bahamas.



Ms. Ebyan Munroe

## GGYA NEW HOME ...

The Governor General's Youth Award is finally home!! We are located #12 Essex Street, Off Shirley Street.



### Contact Information

Governor General's Youth Award  
#12 Essex Street, Off Shirley Street  
P.O.Box SS-19228

Email: [ggya@coralwave.com](mailto:ggya@coralwave.com)

Telephone: 326-1760/1 office

225-8876 vibe

Facebook: GGYA Bahamas

Mrs. Jacquetta Maycock  
GGYA National Director

Dr. Sophia A. Rolle  
Executive Newsletter Editor

Ms. Susan Ginton  
Public Relations

## After pandemic pause, GGYA resumes inter-island expedition

It was a transformative weekend for 35 participants in the Governor General's Youth Award who successfully completed their Silver qualifying hike in Eleuthera, the first out of town expedition

Government's easing of COVID-19 restrictions allowed a larger number of persons on the trip with mask mandates, social distancing and sanitizing enforced. Also helping to make the journey possible, Doctor's Hospital provided PCR tests at GGYA's office to participants and adult supervisors.

"I had some anxieties about the first adventurous journey off island since the pandemic began. There were many moving parts," said national director, Jacquetta Lightbourne-Maycock, who assumed leadership of the international award programme in late 2020.

This trip marked the first time she oversaw an entire journey on her own.

"The weather was favourable. Everything created a perfect environment for participants to successfully complete the three-day, two-night expedition. Along the way, they visited blue holes and explored a cave. Despite the challenges involved they were able to pivot just as they will have to do in life. It speaks volume to the discipline and determination of these young people."

Participants from Queen's College, C.C. Sweeting, R.M. Bailey and one member of the 23rd Company of the Boys' Brigade attended.

The group departed from New Providence aboard the Island Link and arrived in Hatchet Bay, Eleuthera four hours later to begin the 30-mile hike that would qualify them to obtain their Silver Award.

