



Governor General's Youth Award

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Global Youth Day Celebrates Young People's Role in Food Security

GGYA tackles issue head on

When the pandemic struck, participants in the Governor General's Youth Award (GGYA) dug into gardening and volunteered to package and distribute food for charities. Unbeknownst to them, their push embodied the theme of this year's International Youth Day – young people doing their part to innovate and bring change to food systems, the practices used to grow, distribute, market, consume, and dispose of food.

August 12 was dedicated to the role youth can play in strengthening food systems, promoting healthy diets and improving nutrition, according to the United Nations.

"This global observance serves as an opportunity to raise awareness of the challenges faced when it comes to food insecurity and the limited or uncertain access to adequate food. "Our problems in this area were exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic which caused great financial hardship for many Bahamians, particularly people in low-income households," said Jacquetta Lightbourne-Maycock, GGYA's national director.

"This International Youth Day we want to recognize our participants who stepped up and contributed to their communities through backyard farming, donating food items or helping to pack and distribute food parcels to those who needed it the most."

"Our participants' outreach demonstrate young people are poised and ready to put themselves out there and assist in any way they can. We have been fortunate to have participants who are concerned with the environment and the health and well-being of others. We hope to continue along this path. It was great to see our young people work throughout the pandemic not for the sake of receiving an Award but simply to contribute towards the betterment of our society" noted Mrs. Lightbourne-Maycock.



In a joint statement, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) noted "a toxic combination" of rising poverty, inequality, conflict, climate change, and COVID-19 threatening food systems with alarming results to the poorest and most vulnerable communities and households.

"A transformation of the food system that listens to the voices of children and young people, and unlocks nutritious, safe, affordable and sustainable diets for every child, everywhere, must be at the heart of strategies, policies and investments," the statement read. UNICEF and WHO call on governments and decision-makers around the world to "scale up" their efforts in this regard.

Mrs Lightbourne-Maycock hoped the voluntary efforts of GGYA participants could create "a catalyst for change," leading other young people and youth organizations to follow in their footsteps. *(Submitted by: Precision Media)*

Special Needs Youth Earn Bronze Award from GGYA

Accomplishment is only the second time in GGYA's history

Embarking on a two-day/one-night hiking trip away from home, nine teens with different abilities surprised themselves as well as their teacher on how successful this trip would be. "I really wondered how they were going to mesh," said Jynda Bain, a teacher at The Beacon School in Grand Bahama who helps run the unit. "I think they did such an awesome job. Even though we chose a leader before they left. In some cases, there was no clear leader. Each one instinctively took a turn leading." Perhaps this was the formula that made the trip such a success. '

More than 30,000 young people in The Bahamas have passed through this programme for non-formal education and learning. This, however, is only the second special needs group to accomplish such a feat. The nine included youngster with challenges such as global development delays, sensory sensitivities and even dyslexia. These types of spectrum-related challenges are expected so it was indeed especially delightful to have this group participate in the GGYA Awards programme and do so well.

Some teachers lamented the fact that the students, despite a bit of hesitation, quickly caught on to what was required of them and completed simple tasks without much help from the programme guides or the teachers. Even parents have noted the progress in their child post participation in this programme. Once such parent, Mrs. Latoya Laing felt that the programme was very beneficial for her son and spoke passionately about major strides her 14 year old has been making with respect to communicating with others since his involvement in the programme. Doranda Russell, another parent, lauded the programme for how it helped her son to understand that there are no limits to what he is capable of achieving. For Mrs. Russell, this was very rewarding. *(Submitted by: Precision Media)*



The Bittersweet Taste of Success

With two school years disrupted and bored of learning remotely, Prishae Smith joined the Governor General's Youth Award (GGYA) to get out of the house and reconnect with friends at C.C. Sweeting Senior High School.



What the rising eleventh grader didn't sign up for, were the falls, tears and headaches associated with a 15-mile hike and overnight camping trip. "Honestly, I thought it was going to be a simple hike, a simple walk around Nassau, but it wasn't that at all. The happiest point for me was when it was all over and my brother pulled up and said, 'Let's go.' I never thought I'd missed him that much. As soon as I sat down in his car, I fell asleep and that was one of the best sleep I ever had."

"This was the second most difficult thing I've ever done, but I really wanted that Bronze Award. I wanted to feel accomplished. I didn't want to be a quitter. I wanted to make myself proud and I did. As much as I hate to say it, I want the Silver and the Gold. I want my Certificate of Achievement to say I finished GGGA. I'm not going to quit."

Eleven participants in C.C. Sweeting's 13-strong unit hit the road, backpacking from Fire Trail into Adelaide and back over the course of two days. They camped out on private property near the beach, accompanied by their unit leader Edwin Johnson, schoolteacher Lezelye Sands, GGGA's national director, Jacquetta Lightbourne-Maycock and three other adults.

The hiking experience wasn't the same for everyone. Sixteen-year-old Tonique Simmons has been a cadet with the Royal Bahamas Defense Force Rangers since seventh grade. She went on similar hikes twice before. "The backpack made it feel longer, but the adventurous journey was fun and tiring at the same time." For Simmons, one of the trip's highlights was crossing a creek in Adelaide which leads into Coral Harbour. Typically, the water is about knee high and not overly challenging. On this trek, strong currents and chest high waters meant the girls got fully drenched.

"Going through the water was the best part for me. My muscles were tight and for me the cold water helped with the pain."

Following the expedition the group gathered at their school to dissect the trip. Their debrief revealed areas where the unit excelled – decision making, problem solving and team-work – and those in need of improvement, such as food rationing, packing, pacing, and endurance.

The trip was a success story that almost didn't happen. It's been more than five years since the school was last on track to earn Awards from GGGA. This latest achievement wouldn't have been possible without unit leader Edwin Johnson, Ms Sands and volunteer Chuck Smith.



Mr. Johnson, a graduate of C.C. Sweeting and former participant was recruited by his old unit leader, guidance counselor Philipa Shaw, when she could no longer continue. In 2019, he started off with 20 participants. The number dwindled to 10, all eleventh and twelfth graders who graduated without completing their Award due to the pandemic. In May, Mr. Johnson changed his strategy to focus on tenth grade students. Ironically, only girls signed up for the programme. They developed skills in cosmetology, played soccer, volunteered with the Ardastra Gardens and partnered with Dolphin Encounter for a beach clean-up, among other community work.

"It was very exciting to see their limits be tested and to watch them go through this new experience in life and it was great to hear their personal challenges and experiences and how they overcame them," said Mr. Johnson.

"This was a great accomplishment for them, and I can see that they are eager to receive their Awards. I'm hoping that it motivates them to go on to the next level so they can really reap the true benefits of this programme just like I did." (Submitted by: Precision Media)

Calendar of Events:

September

13th – Management Council Executive Meeting – 6pm
14th - Award Volunteers Zoom Meeting (New Providence) – 6pm
15th – Award Volunteers Meeting (Family Islands) – 6:00pm
18th – International Coastal Clean-up
23rd – GGYA Alumni Meeting – 6pm

October

2nd – Water Safety Day
3rd – Youth March
4th – 9th – Forum, Romania
13th – Adventurous Journey Panel Meeting – 6pm
16th – GGYA “Activities Showcase”
18th – Management Council Meeting – 6:00pm
22nd – 24th - Silver Q/Gold P Expedition/Exploration –
Location TBA

November

5th – 7th - Silver Q/Gold P Expedition/Exploration –
Grand Bahama units
13th – 14th – Bronze Q Expedition/Exploration for New Providence units – Location TBA
15th – Management Council Executive Meeting – 6:00pm
19th – Adventurous Journey Panel Meeting
20th - Physical Recreation Day – Grand Bahama units
30th - Bronze/Silver Awards Presentation

December

8th – Management Council Executive Meeting – 6:00pm
4th – AIDS/HIV Awareness Walk
5th – International Volunteers’ Day
21st – Office closed @ 5pm “Happy Holiday”

Dates & Times Subject To Change

Ocean Heroes

Are you a Bronze, Silver or Gold participant that need to do an adventurous journey but can't get out? Here's an option...

Ocean Heroes, is running an virtual exploration for the Caribbean from September 30th – October 3rd, 2021. Follow the link <https://oceanheroeshq.com/> to sign up or call the GGYA office to find out more.

Contact Information

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Bronze and Silver participants up next

The GGYA wishes to encourage all Bronze and Silver participants to take the necessary measures to ensure that they meet the requirements for their respective Awards.

The presentation is set to take place on Tuesday, November 30th in New Providence pending safety protocols. All information on the ORB is due on or before November 12th.

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.
- A log of all activities are required on the ORB.

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.
- Log of all activities undertaken on the ORB .



Partner with the Governor General's Youth Award for the International Coastal Clean-Up

WHEN: Saturday, September 18th, 2021

WHERE: Coral Harbour Canals

TIME: 8:00am – 10:00am

Service Hours: 4

***All Participants MUST wear their GGYA T-shirt
or School P.E. Shirt, Face mask, knee length
Pants/Capri, Hat and Tennis!**

***Bring: personal hand sanitizer, gloves and
drinking water**

PICK UP AREAS STARTS from 7am – 7:15am

R.M. Bailey Park (across from Wendy's)

Golden Gates Plaza Bus Stop (Carmichael Rd)

By Invitation Only