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THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S
INTERNATIONAL AWARD



September 2022

Quarter 3rd, Issue 13

NEWSLETTER

GGYA scores with BASE in Exuma

Exuma was calling and 56 participants, including two from St Lucia, looking to complete a level of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award answered.

The Governor General's Youth Award hosted its Bahamas Award Super Expedition (BASE) for the first time since 2019. The annual, mega event provides participants from across the nation with an opportunity to explore new frontiers in this archipelagic chain of islands, push their limits, and learn from both their successes and their mistakes.

Under the theme, Treasures of The Cays, the 10-day adventure kicked off Sunday, June 26, and wrapped up in the wee morning hours of Thursday, July 7.

The young people, accompanied by 26 adult volunteers, made the 15-hour voyage to George Town aboard the M/V Carib Warrior.

Following their arrival and opening ceremony, they began readying themselves for an adventure in a new and unfamiliar setting. Team-building exercises were held, first aid and emergency procedures reviewed, routes planned, equipment checked and backpacking techniques perfected.

On Thursday, June 30, Gold participants left BASE headquarters at L.N.

Coakley High School in Moss Town. They were followed by Silver on Friday, July 1, and Bronze later that day. All expeditions wrapped up on Sunday, July 3.



"These last four days have not been an easy journey," said Kevaughn Neely. The Gold participant from C.V. Bethel Senior High School experienced several bumps in the road. He skipped breakfast on the first day, suffered from a bout of heat exhaustion and wounded both his toe and foot after tripping over a tree stump.

"I persevered and I toiled through it. It's a relief that I am finished."

At the highest Award level Gold, there is also a Gold Residential Project where youths carry out meaningful work via a community service initiative.

"I think we can take a few pages out of GGYA's book when it comes to the level of organization in camping," said Robert Thomas, a St Lucia native who works with the Duke of Edinburgh Award in the capital, Castries. [\(cont. on page 2\)](#)

(GGYA scores with BASE in Exumacont. from page 1)

"All in all, they did a marvelous job. Everything happened the way it was supposed to occur."

Thomas brought two participants, one Gold and one Silver, to experience the super expedition.

For Thomas, the take-away is, "perhaps it's time for St Lucia to have a go at hosting an inter-island expedition in partnership with Duke of Edinburgh Award operators in the Windward Islands – Dominica, St Vincent and Grenada.

"This experience helped to foster good relations between our territories. I think that's one of the things that is lacking within the programme in the Caribbean."

BASE 2022 was a larger event than its 2019 predecessor which saw 37 youths travel to Long Island, Rum Cay and San Salvador.

The annual gathering aims to broaden the experience of young people through living and working with others they have not met before.

"We learned how to co-operate. We learned each other's differences. We learned how to get along," said Kevin Jean, a participant from The Beacon School in Grand Bahama, The Bahamas. (Submitted by: Precision Media)

2022 3rd Quarter Events:

September

- 7th – Management Council Executive Meeting – 6pm
- 8th – Award Volunteers Meeting (New Providence) – 4pm
- 14th – Board of Trustees Meeting – 10am
- 15th – Award Volunteers Meeting (Grand Bahama) – 4:30pm
- 15th – 16th – Grand Bahama Unit visits
- 17th – International Coastal Clean-up
- 24th – GGYA "Activities Showcase" – 10am – 2pm

October

- 2nd – Youth March (New Providence)
- 8th – Water Safety Day
- 9th – 16th – International Award Foundation Forum, Romania
- 18th – Management Council Executive Meeting – 6:00pm
- 21st – 23rd – Silver Q/Gold P Expedition – Location TBA
- 30th – Youth March (Grand Bahama)

November

- 4th – 6th – Silver Q/Gold P Expedition – Grand Bahama units
- 15th – Bronze & Silver Awards Ceremony - New Providence
- 17th – Bronze & Silver Awards Ceremony – Grand Bahama
- 19th – 20th – Bronze Q Expedition – New Providence unit (Eleuthera)
- 22nd – Management Council Executive Meeting – 6:00pm

December

- 3rd – AIDS/HIV Awareness Walk
- 5th – International Volunteers' Day
- 22nd – Office closed @ 5pm "Happy Holiday"

Dates & Times Subject To Change



GGYA collaborates with BNT at Exuma's national park

Fifty-six participants in the Governor General's Youth Award (GGYA) got up close and personal with a little-known national treasure, the Moriah Cay National Park in Exuma, and played a hand in preserving the protected area, rich in biodiversity.



Established as a national park in 2002, Moriah's boundaries were expanded in 2015 to nearly 23,000 acres of pristine beaches, blue holes, coral reefs, mangrove creeks, coppice forests and seagrass meadows. The site sustains vibrant populations of endangered corals, sea turtles, conch, lobster, grouper, birds, and sharks. It borders the communities of Rolle Town, Hartswell, The Ferry, The Cottage and Forbes Hill, Exuma.

While attending (BASE) 2022 in Exuma, GGYA's Gold participants helped to construct a new cross island nature trail from East Moriah Harbor Cay to West Moriah Harbour Cay for their Residential Project which, among other objectives, aims to provide young people with a sense of personal achievement as well as an enhanced social connection to a community.

Silver participants cleared the trail to the old ferry dock and assisted with trail upkeep at The Ferry

Welcome Center site. Meantime, those at the Bronze level carried out a major clean-up of the ramp, road and shoreline from the Ferry Bridge to Turquoise Cay.

"The natural beauty of The Bahamas is a very important jewel. It's something we should preserve and protect. Just by cleaning up one national park which serves that purpose, I feel we made a big contribution to the cause," said Hanna Edomwonyi, a Silver level participant who attends Bishop Michael Eldon School in Freeport, Grand Bahama.

"We got a lot accomplished in terms of the trail work and the clean-up," said Catherine Booker, BNT's Exuma programme coordinator.

"We hoped that students gained a better appreciation that national parks are not only a place for nature but for people as well."

The experience left a lasting impression on Jaymie Mackey, a Bronze participant from the 23rd Company of Boys' Brigade.

"I wanted to join the Bahamas National Trust since a visit to Bonefish Pond National Park in southwest New Providence. Even though Exuma isn't my island, it is a part of The Bahamas and I wanted to help out. We pride ourselves on keeping our areas clean. We have to live on these islands we shouldn't mess it up." *(Submitted by: Precision Media)*





Stand Up, Stand Out Against
Marine Debris



International Coastal Clean-Up

WHEN: Saturday, September 17th, 2022

WHERE: South Beach Pool

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!** (NO Crocs/flip
flops/slippers)

***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)

Sign up by Wednesday, September 14th @ 5pm.



AWARDS

During the month of May, 95 participants from New Providence, Grand Bahama and Long Island receive their respective Bronze or Silver Awards.



New Providence Bronze recipients from various Units



Lucaya International School Bronze recipients



New Providence Silver recipients from various Units



Calling all young people ages 14-24
interested in joining

Governor General's Youth Award (GGYA)

Prizes & Surprises

OPPORTUNITIES TO:
LEARN A SKILL

VOLUNTEER IN YOUR COMMUNITY

KEEP FIT

GO ON AN ADVENTURE

Come out to our 'Activities Showcase'

Learn more about GGYA!

Super Clubs Breezes, Cable Beach

Saturday, September 24th, 2022

TIME: 10:00am-2:00pm

#DISCOVER YOU
FREE ADMISSION

Light refreshments

Contact Information

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