

Independence Day Parade 2006

Report of Barbados Boy Scouts Detachment Commander- Dwayne Durant

The National Independence Day Parade took place on the customary November 30, 2006 at The Garrison Savannah. The Boy Scout Detachment numbered 52 and paraded before the Governor General, The Prime Minister of Barbados, representatives of most of the nation's uniformed groups and the people of Barbados.

Attendance at Rehearsals

Rehearsals were poorly attended by the Boy Scouts; the highest participation at any rehearsal was thirty-five boys. Calls were fielded to Group Leaders and contact was also made by e-mail to encourage increased participation, and while more boys did attend rehearsals we still did not reach the allotted number of one hundred boys. Suggestions have been made for drill practice at least once monthly to build towards this number by year end.

Parade Attendance by District

District	# of Boys Present
Bridgetown	37
North	11
South	4
TOTAL	52

Standard of Drill

The standard of drill exhibited by the detachment at rehearsals was generally sub-standard. Some members of the detachment stood out and are worthy of commendation. The detachment was well received at the march past and on the streets especially those pressed into duty on the right flank for the "eyes right".

It has been noted that rehearsals for the Independence Day Parade was the introduction to drill for some, and while it is the scouting way to involve all members in activities mandatory rehearsals with trained drill instructors in the scout movement should be mandatory for at least six sessions before rehearsals start at the Barbados Defence Force. Many Leaders have also shown an interest in being trained as drill instructors to improve the standard of drill at troop, district and national level.

Sleep Over/Meals

The sleep over went without incident and I am thankful to the Hospitality Committee who committed themselves to the preparation of meals for the detachment on the eve of the parade and also after the parade.

Conclusion/Recommendations

While it was an honour to lead the Boy Scout Detachment on the celebration of the 40th anniversary of our island's Independence; I have taken note of the enthusiasm of some of our well drilled, senior youth members to lead the detachment as their peers in other organizations are doing. Indeed, some ventures led detachments of other uniformed groups of which they are involved. This being recorded, I look forward to some discourse regarding this recommendation as it can only serve the greater good of scouting and aid in the development of our boys' leadership skills.

Yours in Scouting

D. A. R Durant
Detachment Commander
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