



BARBADOS BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL SCOUT COMMITTEE

NATIONAL YOUTH FORUM REPORT

23RD SEPTEMBER 2006

The National Youth Forum was held on Saturday 23rd September 2006 at the St. Leonard's Boys School from 1:00pm. to 5:30pm. It was attended by 32 Scouts representing 13 Troops from all three Districts. Each Troop in the island had been invited to send three representatives from a cross-section of the Troop. The Chairman of the National Scout Committee was the moderator and the Recording Secretary was Venture Scout Dwayne Worrell.

The topics discussed were divided into two sections: The Movement and The Programme. A break was taken between the sessions during which refreshments were served. The information and suggestions gathered will go a long way in helping the Committee to structure its activities to better meet the needs of the boys. The following are a synopsis of the responses of the Scouts at the Forum.

SESSION I – THE MOVEMENT: 1:30PM. – 3:12PM.

1. **THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MOVEMENT:** The Aims and Objectives are still relevant. However, some activities held do not pertain to Scouting. More traditional Scouting activities need to be kept in the programme – too many are being replaced. There was be standardization across the Districts to reduce confusion.
2. **THE SECTIONS OF THE MOVEMENT:** The number of Sections is not a problem. Rovers was thought to be a good idea as most Ventures were not anxious to be Leaders (too much stress and responsibility). The age for Scouts should be increased to allow for more time in the Section. With respect to boys who enter secondary school early, they should be allowed to join Scouts as long as they have completed the Cub Programme and/or are “mature” enough to participate properly in the Troop.
3. **THE UNIFORM:** All Scouts agreed there should be a uniform. They also agreed that there should be more than one uniform: Regular, Activity and Ceremonial. Concern was raised about the cost to Association and parents. Other general changes were suggested with respect to colour and type of pants, and headwear. Activity wear should not include scarves: some other means should be used to identify Groups.
4. **DISCIPLINE:** Obedience of instructions from Junior Leaders was lacking and situations had to be referred to the Leaders instead of being dealt with in the Patrol. Generally, punishment is too harsh especially at District/National activities with Leaders other than their own. The Scouts have a problem with the “Peter pay for Paul” type of punishment. Also at District/National activities there should be equality in punishment across all Groups. In relation to Drill, there is a marked decline in standards and there is a need to be stricter on parade. The Scouts stated that those who are interested should be the ones taken to parades – “There is no need for a million men when two can be taken”.
5. **GIRLS IN SCOUTING OR GIRLS IN GUIDING:** The majority felt that girls should be allowed to join Scouts. However, they agreed that Scouts would change with the inclusion of girls. Girls would distract the boys; be unable to “rough it” at activities;

complain too much; some would join for the novelty of the situation instead of true interest; and their presence would cause the boys be conscious of their appearance/smell (no more sweaty jobs or activities). None had a problem with a female P.L. or S.P.L.

6. **LEADERS AND LEADERSHIP STYLES:** There were questions asked and answered on this topic.
7. **SCHOOL GROUPS VS. OPEN GROUPS:** All Groups should be open for anyone who would like to join.
8. **SCOUTS AND THE COMMUNITY:** There is not enough community interaction apart from church services. There should be a greater bond with the community
9. **OTHER TOPICS:** There was a call to do recruiting at a level “higher” than that of the Troop.

There was a suggestion to use experienced Junior Leaders (who are now in Ventures) to assist in filling the void created by a shortage of adult leaders.

The topic of leaving camp in Scout uniform was discussed.

All Link Programme should be organized at District level to ensure that all Cubs were exposed to Scouts even if there is no Troop attached to the Pack.

The question of why there are not Troops at every School was asked and answered.

The question of why leaders are not paid was also asked and answered; leading to the question of “If they were paid, How do we determine who would be here just for the money?”

It was stated that Scout Headquarters does not look like a Scout Headquarters. A big fleur-de-lis on the building was suggested.

SESSION II – THE PROGRAMME: 3:40PM. – 4:12PM.

1. **THE AWARD SCHEME:** The new Awards do not have much to do with Scouting. They are more concerned with the personal life of the boy. The question of working on both Awards Schemes was raised. The Scouts stated that they did not feel like they accomplished anything with the new system. The scheme is also time consuming and takes away from “Scouting”. The Scouts preferred set requirements in an Award Scheme. They also preferred to wear the Badge on completion of the Award. There was a perceived difficulty in incorporating normal Scouting activities with the new Award Scheme
2. **PROFICIENCY BADGES:** In relation to the requirements: a call was made to modify what needs to be modified promptly. They were informed of the person to get behind to ensure that the modifications were made: in the North ADC Davidson Williams and Bridgetown ADC Trevor Jones. A call was made to change the circular badges: they are too ugly!
3. **EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES AT ALL LEVELS:** At Patrol Level: caving, hiking, skydiving.
At Troop Level: Horseback riding, going to the beach, ATV riding, shooting, and archery.
At District Level: Inter-Troop sports, sports teams (cricket, football, road tennis, pool, drill), diving, sailing (Sea Scouts can come together to do these two activities),

swimming competitions, and church services.

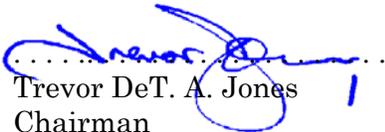
At National Level: Scouts vs. Cadet camp, bicycle racing, archery, volleyball, cruises, cooking competition, football, and basketball.

Some Scouts stated that there are too many activities at the District/National level. i.e. every Saturday.

4. **JOINT ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS:** The following were suggested: Hikes with Cadets and Guides, camps and picnics with the Guides, and partnering with the Red Cross for first aid. It was noted that CERO was asking for Scouts to join DEOs to use them as communications personnel.
5. **OTHER TOPICS:** What can be done to make Scouts interesting for those who are forced to continue in Scouting? Suggestions were: more appealing programmes such as shooting, and having activities that they can invite a friend to. Scout Leaders need to step forward and plan appealing activities.

How do we celebrate the centenary of Scouting? Suggestions included: a party; a grand parade; a public seminar reflecting on the 100 years of Scouting; a camp; introduction of a new uniform for the event; a camp 100 days before the event; and unveiling of a monument.

After the sessions the moderator made the closing remarks and assured those presents that there suggestions will be passed on to those who influence the programme of the Scout Section at Group, District and National level. After thanking the boys for participating in the activity, the moderator dismissed them at 4:40pm.


Trevor DeT. A. Jones
Chairman
National Scout Committee