

A brief introduction to.....

Venture Scouting



Scouting.....

Where the Adventure Begins

What is Scouting?

Scouting is an international youth movement with a membership of more than 28 million youth and adults in 160 national Scout organisations in 217 countries and territories. It is also a non-formal educational organisation.

The Aim and Method of Scouting

The aim of Scouting is to develop good citizenship among boys by assisting in the formation and development of character; training them in habits of observation, obedience and self-reliance; inculcating loyalty, patriotism, courage and thoughtfulness for others; teaching them services useful to the public and handicrafts useful to themselves; promoting their physical, mental, moral and spiritual development.

The Method of achieving the Aim is through the provision an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership.

The Programme

The Programme is a seamless progression of training, activities and awards that covers everything that young people do in Scouting from the age of 4 to 21. The Programme is divided into four age groups called Sections.

Beaver Scouts	4 - 7 years
Cub Scouts	7 - 10½ years
Scouts	10½ - 15½ years
Venture Scouts	15½ - 21 years

The Programme is based around helping young people to grow in a number of personal development areas to ensure young people really are 'learning by doing'

The Association

Scouting in Barbados is administered by the Barbados Boy Scouts Association. The Association has jurisdiction over the entire island, and its headquarters is at Hazelwood, Upper Collymore Rock, St. Michael.

The first Troop on the island was registered on 9th March, 1912, at Combermere School, just 5 years after Scouting was founded. From 1912 to 1969, the local Association operated as a branch of the British Scout Association. On 20th February, 1969, the Association's Constitution was approved, making it an independent Association and the 95th member of the World Scout Conference.

At present, the Association is headed by H.E. Sir Elliott Belgrave, Chief Scout and President, and Dr. Nigel Taylor, Chief Commissioner. It has a membership of over 2,000 boys and adults.

The island is divided into three districts - Bridgetown, North and South.

The Venture Scout Section

This Section caters to young men between 15½ and 21 years of age who want to make friends and develop their widening interests in ways that are both educational and fun. It is ideal for young people who want to explore the wonders of our country and territories beyond our shores via expeditions; those who desire to learn a new skill or further themselves in an existing one(s) that can be shared with others and those persons who have a passion for working and helping others can further strengthen their efforts via community/conservation projects, workshops, and seminars.

Activities are typically about action and involvement and mean more than just camping. Expeditions, sailing, caving, pioneering, canoeing, abseiling, First Aid, motor mechanics, electronics, amateur radio, various disciplines in sports, photography and community projects are just some of the things they can do.

The Districts' Venture Scout Unit comprise all of the Venture Scouts within each District. Each District Unit consists of small groups (called Teams) of three to six young people, one of whom is the Team Leader. TL's are guided by the adult Leader in order to maintain standards and training within the Unit. All Venture Scouts are encouraged to take part in the decision making process and regular Forums provide the opportunity for them to contribute towards the planning and development of the Unit's activities.

The Programme in this Section is divided into four progressive Stages: **Membership Badge**, **Venture Scout Award**, **Barbados Gold Award** and the **Queen Scout Award**.

To complete the **Venture Scout Award** and the **Queen Scout Awards** respectively the young person must show growth in a number of personal development areas. This is achieved through specific activities in the areas of **Responsibility**, **Self-reliance**, **Activity** and **Exploration**.

In relation to the **Barbados Gold Award**, the young person must show growth in a number of

personal development areas which is achieved through specific activities in the areas of **Barbadian Heritage Part One** and **Part Two**.

In addition to the Awards, except the Barbados Gold Award, there are achievement badges which may be worn on successful completion of each of the four development stages.

Guidance and supervision for this Section is provided by the Assistant District Commissioner (Ventures) and representatives of the particular District. These Leaders are charged with the task of providing the guidance and encouragement for the young people of the Unit while at the same time allowing them to take an active role in the running of the Unit via their Team committees and District Unit Executive Committee.

Further Information

Further information on Venture Scouting can be obtained from Scout Headquarters, any Scout Group, or email venturescouts@barbadoscouts.org.

The Person I would like to be

- As a young person who shares the experience of the Scout Movement,
I aim to do my best
- To be a person with freedom and integrity,
clean of thought and true of heart,
strong of will, responsible and self-reliant,
to make a personal commitment for my life,
to be constant and true to my word.
- To be ready to serve others,
involved with my community,
defender of other people's rights,
pledged to democracy and committed to development,
a lover of justice and a promoter of peace,
to value human labour,
to build my family on love,
to be aware of my own dignity and that of others
and share with everybody joyfully and affectionately.
- To be thoughtful and creative,
to leave the world better than I find it,
to strive for the integrity of the natural world,
learning continually and searching for paths still
unexplored,
to do my work well,
to be free from the hunger to possess
and independent of material things.
- To be open to the spiritual,
to have a transcendental sense of life,
to reach out to God,
to live my faith joyfully and make it part of my daily
life,
to be open to dialogue and understanding
and to respect others' religious beliefs.