

Scouting Facts: Jamaica



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Scouting was brought to Jamaica in 1910 by Rev J W Graham, who had heard of the Movement on a visit to England. When the Education Department refused to sponsor the Boy Scouts Movement in Jamaica, he started his own Troop. The Scout Association of Jamaica was recognised by the World Scout Conference in 1963, until which time it was a Branch of The Scout Association.

The Jamaican Training Programme places a great deal of emphasis on Community Development. Efforts are being made to relate Scouting to community needs through a "Grow more Food" campaign; participation in the Labour Day voluntary work programme; operating weekend camps for boys from disadvantaged city areas and assisting with relief work during storms. Scouting has also been incorporated into the official disaster response plans for the Central Emergency Relief Committee.

There is a Sea Scout base on the waterfront of the Kingston Harbour and training is provided there in the handling of boats. Some Sea Scouts thus trained have subsequently become members of the Coast Guard.

In 1982 a Five Year Plan was introduced by The Scout Association of Jamaica. The four main



points of the Plan are:

A recruitment drive to increase the (5,000) membership in 5 years to 20,000.

To interest schools and colleges into forming Troops.

To reach underprivileged boys and to encourage them to become Scouts.

To involve Scouts all over the island in community projects, so that more people will realise the benefits of their sons being trained as Scouts.

In The Scout Association of Jamaica there are four training sections:

Cub Scouts aged 8 - 11

Scouts aged 11 - 14

Venture Scouts aged 14- 18

Service Scouts aged 18 - 20

Law:

A Scout is to be trusted.

A Scout is loyal.

A Scout is friendly and considerate.

A Scout is a brother to all Scouts.

A Scout has courage in all difficulties.

A Scout makes good use of his time.

The Scout Information Centre

Gilwell Park Chingford London E4 7QW Tel + 44 (0)20 8433 7100 Fax + 44 (0)20 8433 7103 email info.centre@scout.org.uk www.scoutbase.org.uk

A Scout is careful of his possessions and of all property.

A Scout has respect for himself and for others.

A Scout obeys the orders of those in authority.

A Scout is clean in thought, word and deed.

Promise:

On my honour I promise that I will do my best; to love and serve God, my Country and the Queen, to help people, and to obey the Scout Law.

General information about Jamaica may be obtained from:

The Jamaican High Commission
50 St James Street
London
SW1A 1JT

The Commonwealth Institute
Kensington High Street
London
W8 6NQ