I. The Boys’ Brigade: How it began.

Sir William Alexander Smith founded the Boys’ Brigade on 4 October 1883 when he formed a Company of 35 Members at Free Church Mission Hall, North Woodside Road, Glasgow. It was the first of all uniformed organizations for boys, which has since spread all over the world.

William Smith was a businessman, part-time soldier and Sunday School Teacher. He devised a unique system of giving Boys an organization as part of the church based on religion and discipline. Initially, 59 Boys joined, many out of curiosity but 35 of them stayed. Simple form of drill, gymnastics and games were introduced and these proved very popular. The uniform for the first year was a rosette; afterwards the forage cap, haversack and belt were introduced. Other activities were soon added and in 1886 the first BB camp was held in Tighnabruaich. It was, in fact, the start of camping for young people.

Following the impact of the Boys’ Brigade, other uniformed organizations were started – Church Lads’ Brigade (1890), Girls’ Brigade (1893), Boys’ Life Brigade (1899), The Jewish Lads’ Brigade (1900), Catholic Boys’ Brigade (1900), Girls’ Guildry (1900), Girls’ Life Brigade (1902), the Member Scouts (1908), and the Girl Guides (1910). All of these organizations can trace the idea of uniformed youth back to 1883 and William Smith.

In 1917, Boys Reserves was started for Boys between the ages of 9 and 12 years but later changed to Life Members in 1926. And in 1966, The Life Boys became part of the Boys’ Brigade organization known as The Junior Section.

BB throughout the world celebrated the 100 years of its founding in 1983.
II. The Methods, Tradition, and Object

MOTTO

Sure & Stedfast taken from Hebrews 6:19. The biblical spelling of stedfast has been retained as found in the King James Version.

EMBLEM

The emblem was originally an anchor. Like the motto, it stems from the verse “which hope we have as an anchor of the soul…” (Hebrews 6:19). With the union of The Boys’ Brigade and The Boys’ Life Brigade in 1926, a red cross was added to the anchor.

OBJECT

The object of The Boys’ Brigade shall be the advancement of Christ’s Kingdom among Boys and Girls and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect and all that tends towards a true Christian Character. The text of this object has remained the same since the beginning, with the addition of the word obedience in 1893 and the also the inclusion of Girls as members of the Brigade in the Philippines.

However, the following aims are a useful translation of the Object into everyday goals for the BB Company:

- To help Boys & Girls to develop and grow in Christian character
- To train Boys & Girls to become loyal and responsible citizens
- To promote physical fitness and develop their leadership potential

METHOD

The method of achieving the object of the Boys’ Brigade is by providing a meaningful and enjoyable program of educational, physical, social, and spiritual interests, based on the “twin pillars” of Christian Faith and Discipline and guided by Christian adult leaders as officers.
Through the framework of uniform, badges and drill, the habits of discipline, self-respect, smartness and teamwork are developed in each Boy and Girl according to their needs and capacity.

III. The Founder

The guiding force behind The Boys’ Brigade at its beginning was the founder, SIR WILLIAM ALEXANDER SMITH. His ideas and principles are a continuing inspiration of Officers and Members alike.

He was born on 27 October 1854 at Pennyland House, Thurso, Scotland. His father and grandfather before him had been officers in the Army. Young William began work as a clerk in his uncle’s business in Glasgow at the age of fifteen, and while still in his teens enrolled in the 1st Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteers. He later attained the rank of Major, commanded its Mounted detachment, and left the Volunteers as a Lieutenant Colonel.

When he was a young Sunday school teacher in Glasgow, William Smith used to worry that the Boys in his class were rowdy and he had difficulty keeping them quiet in order to teach them. But on Saturdays, as an Officer in the Volunteers (part of the army of that time) he could get many men to do exactly as he wanted when he drilled them. Why couldn’t the Boys in his Sunday school be like the Volunteers?

Suddenly the idea came to him that if the Boys met together to do drill during the week, then perhaps they would be better behaved on Sundays. So Boys’ Brigade was started. Very quickly it was clear that this was just what Boys needed and soon other Companies were formed.
For thirty-one years Sir William Smith was Secretary of the Brigade preferring the humbler appointment of Brigade Secretary to that of Brigade President and Captain of the 1st Glasgow Company. He fell ill and two days later on the morning of 10 May 1914, passed away.

IV. The Boys’ Brigade Asia

The Boys’ Brigade, founded by Sir William Alexander Smith, spread rapidly to North America, Europe, Africa, Australia and New Zealand. However the Boys’ Brigade did not come to Asia until 1915 when the first Company was founded in the Chinese city (China) of Swatow (Shantow or Shantou) by the Rev. Guthrie Gamble.

Rev A. Guthrie Gamble’s first contact with The Boys’ Brigade was with 11th Thames Valley Company. While studying for his degree at Cambridge University, he became Captain of 6th Cambridge Company. After his ordination into the Presbyterian Church of England he accepted the challenge of missionary work and in 1915 was posted to China to set up and run a mission School in Swatow in South China.

In 1916, at the age of 27, he formed the 1st Swatow (now Shatou) Company, the pioneer Company in China, and as such was the appeal of BB methods to Chinese Boys that by 1922 the Swatow Battalion had grown to seven Companies and 650 Boys, 220 of whom were members of 1st Swatow.

However, the Bolshevik Revolution in the late 1920s led to much persecution of the BB as a Christian organisation, and to many heroic deeds by Rev Gamble and his Company members in defending their beliefs. Finally in 1929, 1st Swatow was forced to close (the last Company to do so), after many Boys had been tortured and Church buildings destroyed.

Soon after the closure of 1st Swatow, a ‘chance meeting’ in Singapore between James Fraser (later Fraser of Singapore) and Mr Quek Eng Moh, a former Sergeant in 1st Swatow, led to the formation in January 1930 of the 1st Singapore Company (the first BB Company in South East Asia).

By 1936, Singapore Battalion had grown to seven Companies as in Swatow, the BB system proved to be very popular with the mainly Chinese Boys. However, with the Japanese occupation in Singapore in 1942, the BB suffered badly, although the determination to ‘carry on’, reminiscent of Swatow in the late 1920s, served as an inspiration to BB members throughout the world.

7 May 2002 At the East Asia Regional Fellowship meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand, the idea of BB Asia was first mooted and a Pro-tem Committee formed under the chairmanship of Mr Michael Moorthy, the Brigade President of BB Malaysia. The paper proposing the new international confederation came from Mr Lim K Tham of BB Singapore.
26 July 2003  BB Asia was officially inaugurated in Johor Baru when BB representatives from **Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand** signed a memorandum of agreement giving birth to the regional association.

22 May 2004  The 1st General Council Meeting was held at the BB Campus in Singapore. It was at that meeting that the first Executive Committee was elected. **Sir Michael Moorthy** was elected as the first President of the Boy’s Brigade Asia

**The Purpose**

BB Asia has been formed out of a desire to maintain the unity, purpose and specific character of The Boys’ Brigade everywhere. It came into being to give The Boys’ Brigade an international organization which would advance its growth, interest and cause.

**The Objectives**

The objectives of BB Asia are:

- to promote the development and extension of The Boys’ Brigade to new fields and territories.
- to strengthen the work of The Boys’ Brigade internationally and within each member country.
- to help its members to develop and adapt their respective programs to the needs arising out of the conditions in which young people live and work.
- to develop sympathy, understanding and cooperation among all its members.

V. **THE BRIGADE PHILIPPINES: The Boy’s Brigade in the Philippines**

The work began on January 22, 2010 with the first BB orientation seminar held at Grace Christian College, Quezon City, Metro Manila. This led to more orientation seminars when news travelled to others who wanted to know more about the ministry. By the end of 2010, five new BB companies were formed.

The work of The Boys’ Brigade was formally incorporated in January 2011 and it took a new name “The Boys’ Brigade in The Philippines (The Brigade Philippines)”. In July 2012, the first National Executive Committee was formed.
In December 2012, during the Officers’ Fellowship and General Assembly in Hong Kong, The Brigade Philippines was accepted as full member of The Boys’ Brigade Asia.

VI. The Structure of The Brigade Philippines

Local Company Level

![Diagram of the Brigade Philippines structure](image-url)
VII. Kindred Organization

**United Members’ and Girls’ Brigade of America (UBGBA)**
- Henry Drummond, a friend of William A. Smith, started the United Boys’ Brigade of America in 1893
- UBGBA is a small organization with Companies in Maryland and Massachusetts connected with different Church denominations
  - Activities include handicrafts, games, camping, community service, and Christian education. There is a program and award scheme for different age groups.
  - The badge includes a shield, a cross, an anchor, and a laurel wreath. The motto is Sure and Steadfast.

**Poikien Keskus**
- Poikien ja Tyttojen Keskus (Christian Boys’ & Girls’ Association) started in 1919 as a branch within the Y.M.C.A.’s members’ work in Finland
  - There are over 400 groups in the parishes of the Lutheran Church of Finland
  - There is a wide range of indoor club activities, handicrafts, games, drama, discussions, and Bible study as well as outdoor program of hiking, camping, and winter sports
  - Partaharju and Tievatupa are two large camp sites used by PK for summer camping
  - A magazine for young people JP – Joka Poika has been published for fifty years
  - Within PK there is a music association for orchestras and brass bands.

**Neenah-Menasha Boys’ and Girls’ Brigade**
- Provides for young people in the twin cities of Neenah and Menasha in Wisconsin, U.S.A.
  - Dr. J.E. Chapin started the Boys’ Brigade in Neenah in 1900. The Girls’ Brigade was organized in 1979
  - The Brigades are in one unit, which has a headquarters building used for all types of activities – hobbies, games, sport, band, discussions, etc. Outdoor activities include canoeing, camping, and winter sports.
  - Every year Camps are held at Onaway Island, which has been developed with camp buildings and other facilities.
  - The members belong to different Churches in the area, which are responsible for their Christian education.

**FDF/FPF**
- The FDF (Frivilligt Drenge- og Pige-Forbund) or Christian Boys’ and Girls’ Association was started in 1902 and is the oldest Danish youth organization.
  - The FPF (Frivilligt Pige Forbund) for girls was started in 1952 and two organizations united in 1974
  - The local unit of the FDF/FPF is based on the parish of the Danish Lutheran Church
  - The object is to share with members and girls and young people the Gospel of Jesus Christ
  - There is a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities including arts, crafts, drama, camping, orienteering, sailing, sport and Christian Education.
• A national Camp is held every five years when up to 13,000 attend from over 450 circles (Kreds) in the country
• The organization undertakes international projects to learn about other countries and to raise funds for development work.

Junior Ministry – India
• The youngest member in our World Conference Family having been started in 1979. By 1985 there were over 3,000 members and girls in membership.
• At present it is part of the youth work of the Arcot and Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Churches in South India, Tamil Nadu Evangelical Lutheran Church and Junior Ministry in Malaysia.
• Boys and Girls take part in many activities – handicrafts, drama, games, camping, Christian education and service.
• Progress is achieved by working through a series of ‘star files’, which have programs for different age groups.
• The motto is “Follow the Star” and the badge is a star with a circle set in a shield.

VIII. Your Company

The whole worldwide movement is known as The Brigade Philippines. The local unit is the Company. Every Company has a name, just like you. Get accustomed to talk of your Company by name, such as “1st Taguig Company”, “1st Benguet Company”, The Brigade Philippines.

Each Company is part of a Church, Mission or other Christian School, which has full control of its Christian education.

Composition
A Company consists of one or four sections,
• Pre Junior
• Junior Section
• Senior Section
• Primers Section

Pre Junior Section & Junior Section
Members shall be eligible to join the Pre Junior Section if they are not less than 6 years of age or more on 1st June in the year in which they join. On reaching 9 years of age, they will be transferred to the Junior Section. The members in the Junior Section will be transferred to the Senior Section upon reaching the age of 12 years old and subsequently to the Primer section upon attaining 18 years old.
Senior Section
Members may join the Senior Section if they are not less than 11 years of age or more on 1st June in the year in which they join. Member must be discharged upon reaching 18 years old or more at the beginning of the year i.e. 1st June

Primer Section
This section is reserved for those from the Senior Section who have entered College or tertiary level or who have completed their High School Year 4. They will be transferred to the Primer Section with the exception of a few retained by the Company to assume the rank of Staff Sergeant. Those who join BB in High School 4 or beyond would be placed in the Primer Section.

Ranks
The officer commanding the whole Company is known as the **Captain**. His assisting officers who have completed the Basic Officers Training Course (BOTC) and are full members of a church can be appointed as **Lieutenant** or **Warrant Officer**.

Each Company has a Chaplain (usually the minister of the church) who is also an officer.

Officers share in the various tasks of the Company and some officers are appointed as officers-in-charge of one of the four sections in the Company.

The Work of a Company
While the work undertaken varies in different companies, nearly all are alike in meeting once a week for the Company Parade Day (always in uniform) and for Christian education usually a Bible Class. These are the two principal meetings of the week.
Other activities include athletics, physical training, gymnastics, first aid, band swimming, seamanship, football, arts & crafts, signaling, expeditions, canoeing, archery, etc. Companies have special programs for the school vacation such as camps, hikes, and excursion and education trips.

**IX. Non Commissioned Officers**

**Promotion**
The highest honour a Member can gain in The Boys’ Brigade is a promotion to be a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO).

There are three NCO ranks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lance Corporal</td>
<td>Minimum age 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporal</td>
<td>Minimum age 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sergeant</td>
<td>Minimum age 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The captain and officers make the appointments and they are looking out for Members with:
- Excellent attendance record
- Keenness and interest and enthusiasm
- Good conduct and character
- Loyalty to the officers and Company
- A record of good example in every way

However don’t think that promotion is given as a reward; it is definitely not. A Member who has gained a large number of badges is not necessarily qualified for a NCO rank. Though all Members should hope to become NCOs, this will not always be possible. Number will not permit it to happen. It is recommended that a ratio of one NCO to six Members to be maintained. Members who are not promoted may be disappointed but should display a positive attitude towards those who are, while continuing to play as active a part as they are able in the Company.

**Duties of an NCO**
The duties of NCOs vary from Company to Company. Generally speaking NCOs have the following responsibilities:

1. **As a Squad Commander**
The Company is divided into squads and these are placed the command of NCOs who are responsible for the welfare, attendance, conduct, and smartness of the Members under him or her and for instructing them on the rules and customs of the Company. The first duty of a squad commander is to keep the squad complete and to prevent the Members from losing interest and dropping out of the BB. A spirit of comradeship should exist in the squad. The Members are expected to back up the NCO in his efforts to make the squad smart and efficient.
It is the duty of squad commanders to look up absentees according to Company rules, which should be faithfully carried out by the NCO no matter what trouble it may be to do so. Squad commanders are responsible for their Members being correctly and smartly turned out. Instruct the younger Members how they can best clean their uniform. See that the Members salute their officer correctly. Correct mistakes kindly. Be firm in matters of discipline but give your orders in a way which will make Members glad to obey.

Most companies have an Inter-Squad Competition. Try to win it; but remember that of more importance than winning is the good of your Members. Never let them feel that the squad would be better off without them. Specially encourage and help those who have difficulties in attending owing to work. There is no disgrace in losing the competition; there may be in losing a Member.

2. As a Tent Commander
At camp you may be given this very important responsibility. Be especially mindful to look after the younger Members. Instruct them in tent craft and make sure they don’t feel ‘out of it’. That’s a sure way of avoiding homesickness of those at camp for the first time.

3. In Charge of an Activity
It might be anything from instructing a class & helping to run the store. Whatever it is, make sure you have prepared yourself well before each event. Keep the right measure of discipline and don’t let things get out of control. Produce new ideas and try to make your activity as interesting as you possibly can.

Never be afraid of speaking to your Captain about any matter connected with your duties, your squad or the Company. He wants to help you with your duties to make the Company successful, and success will only be attained by mutual confidence among all ranks.

Setting an Example
Of even more importance than the duties of training your squad is the example you set to the rest of the Company. The NCO is a marked man. You have been promoted because your Officers believe they can trust you to set and example good for the other Members to follow. This is a great responsibility and the whole success of the Company depends more on your being faithful to your trust than on anything else. Nothing rots a Company more than the slack NCO. Such elementary things as regular attendance, punctuality and orderliness need hardly be mentioned. NCOs should set an example of keenness. Go in for everything you can. Make things “Go” and never show the smallest sign of slackness or carelessness.

Keep a firm grip on yourself in matters of discipline. Never think NCOs may take liberties not open to other Members. Your absolute steadiness at drill, your quiet orderliness always is vastly more important than in the case of a Member in the rank.
Remember the influence of your example does not end with the Company meetings. You are an NCO all the time, and what you do and what you are off parade is of greater importance than your conduct in the presence of your officers. It is your duty and in this you have better opportunities than an officer, to set the right tone off parade and loyalty to uphold all that is good and true, manly and chivalrous, and to set your face against anything, which is mean, low, unclean and crooked.

Leadership Development Course (LDC)
Each Province conducts its own training courses annually for Members to develop their leadership skills. There are two courses offered namely, BASIC and ADVANCED. So if you do not want to miss the opportunity of being trained, be sure to enroll yourself into this training.

X. Uniform

![Uniform Types]

TYPE A UNIFORM

TYPE B UNIFORM

K. Basic Drills and Paying Complements. *(Refer to Drill Manual)*

L. Songs and prayers. *(Refer to the Song Manual)*