

2019

# BERMUDA AWARD NEWS

EQUIPPING YOUNG PEOPLE FOR LIFE



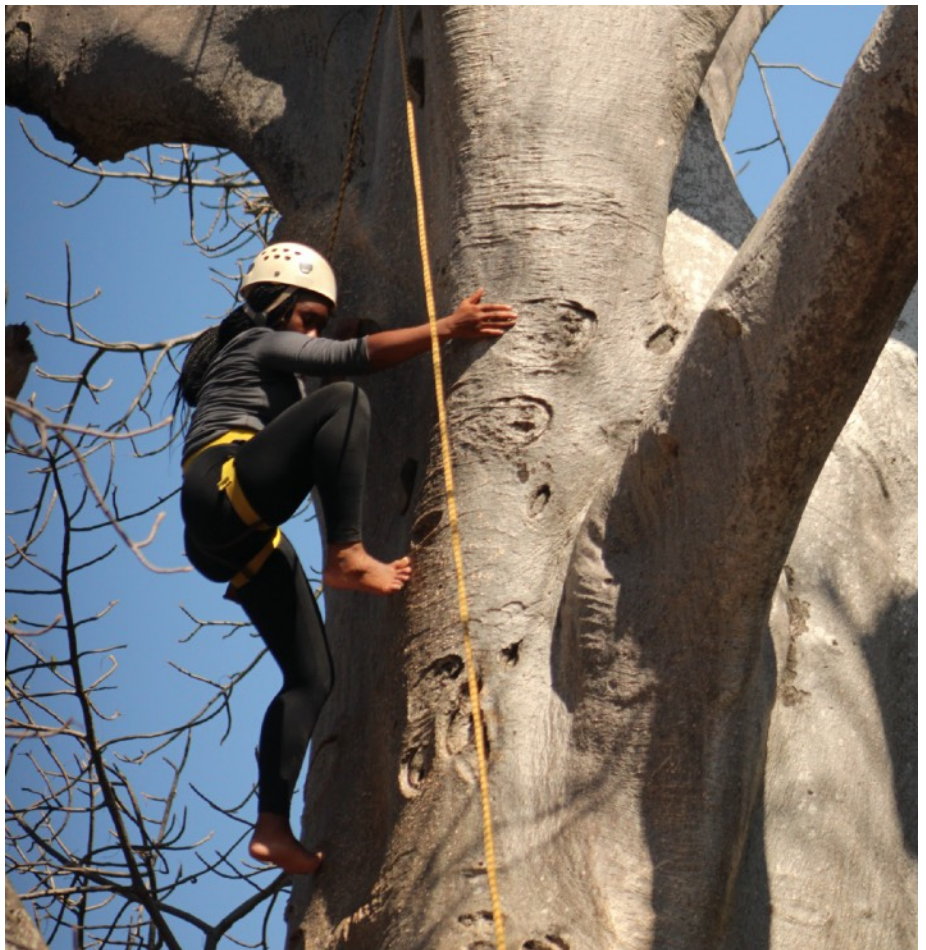


# 2019 ZAMBIA GOLD AWARD

In July 2019, sixteen young participants from across the island (Berkeley, Bermuda College, BHS, Saltus, Warwick Academy and Trinity College School, Canada), traveled to Lusaka, Zambia for their Gold Level Adventurous Journey. The Walkin' Wild Zambia Gold expedition route took them on a 4-day journey down the Muchinga Escarpment and into the Zambezi River Valley.

On the second night, the group camped on an island in the middle of the Zambezi river and went to sleep with the sound of hippos laughing in the sunset and woke up to the sight of elephants walking by (see below).

As part of the conservation component of their trip, the group took part in a study on the Zambian ecosystem and overcame their fears to climb the Wildtracks Lodge's famous Baobab tree (see right).





# GOLD RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS

As part of their Gold Residential projects the group visited the Game Rangers International Elephant orphanage at Lilayi Lodge and learned about human/animal conflict and conservation efforts in Zambia.

After they completed their Adventurous Journey, the participants starting sanding, painting and putting together much needed desks for the Kanyangala School. They delivered the desks to the school and spent time with the young students playing cricket and introducing them to the Bermuda culture by way of demonstrating the Gombey's (see photo on the next page).

For the second part of the Gold Residential Project the group visited the Kabwadu community garden (see right). The day was filled with dance, song, laughter and a lot of hard work as they worked side by side learning with their Zambian hosts. This was an opportunity for the participants to become immersed in the Zambian culture, whilst at the same time providing meaningful service to the community.





# GOLD AWARD IMPACT

The Award is extremely pleased to report on the positive impact that the 2019 Gold Level Adventurous Journey to Zambia made on the participants. In particular, two participants, Treiana Zuill and K'ari Bean returned home and now volunteer for the Award as Participant Reps on the Award Council and assist with promoting the award in schools and on social media.

Treiana Zuill said, *"The Zambia trip was monumental for me. I didn't realise how much of an impact the Award can make on an individual. After returning to Bermuda I signed up to be a volunteer and am now a Participant Rep. on the Award Council."*

K'ari Bean said, *"I came back from the Zambia trip and decided to volunteer for the Award so that I can inspire younger kids to do what I did because I am a Tri-Award holder and to give them the boost to give them the experience of what I experienced. Even though it is hard, it is an amazing opportunity to meet new people, to try new things and broaden your horizons. If I get a chance to give another child that experience then that is my goal."*

*"Zambia was a life-changing journey for me and without the Award, I wouldn't have experienced it - it really has changed my life."*

Anthony Webb (first Gombey pictured below)





# ROBERT THOMAS GOLD AWARD ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY ON THE SPIRIT OF BERMUDA

*"It's just been such a wonderful experience, I have received growth in so many facets of my life and I just can't wait to take what I have learnt and apply it to my life."*

Robert Thomas from the Berkeley Institute completed his Gold Adventurous Journey on the Spirit of Bermuda. Robert sailed from Bermuda to Portland Maine and Camp William Hinds, June 27 - July 5, 2019. The young sailors worked together to negotiate some rough seas to get to Maine.

Robert said this about his amazing experience, *"This was my first time doing an international voyage. Two of my least favourite sports are boating and fishing so when I heard I was going on the Sloop for my Adventurous Journey, I was not excited but I went in with optimism hoping for the best. My entire view on the Sloop has completely changed. From the beginning, not knowing how to sail, not knowing anyone on the ship and then coming in, building relationships, building knowledge on how to sail and how to be a better person."*





# JOINT TRAINING

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2019, the Award held two Joint Training Sessions in which 130 young people from across the island attended. The aim of the Joint Training Session was to bring participants and Award Leaders together to give them a better understanding for the programme and create an opportunity for participants to develop awareness of the diversity of participants involved in the programme. The core focus of the Joint Training Sessions was to:

- create a greater understanding the Award Programme;
- create an awareness of the diversity in the Award Community in Bermuda;
- engage in team building exercises with unfamiliar participants;
- establish new relationship; and
- increase social interactions.

During the two Joint Training Sessions, one for Bronze and the other for Silver and Gold, participants were split up from their Award Units and were assigned to groups with other young people from different Award Units. This meant the young people had to work together with others that they had never met before in order to accomplish each activity. The various activities included a navigation scavenger hunt, team building exercises, an obstacle course, camp craft and an 'Understanding the Award' presentation. There was a special guest visit from a member of the Bermuda Scouts Association, Linda Tailford, who demonstrated to the Silver and Gold participants how to build a safe open camp fire, which under Bermuda law, needs a special permit to take place (see right and overleaf).

- 86% of the participants said that the Joint Training Session had increased their awareness of the diversity of the participants in the programme.
- 75% of the participants said they had improved their team building skills at the Joint Training Session.





# PROGRAMME DIRECTOR, KAREN SIMMONS:

*"It was fantastic to see all the young people come together, step outside their comfort zone and work with one another to achieve and engage in the Award. I was also pleased to host a successful Award Leader and Assessor Training component to highlight various aspects of the Award and raise awareness of the benefits of accessing the Award Webpage and IAF online courses. Overall, the feedback from participants and the Award Leaders was extremely positive. The Award Leaders, in particular, commented how beneficial it was to be able to build relationships and collaborate with other leaders during the event."*

- 92% of Award Leaders said the Joint Training Session increased their awareness of the diversity of the participants in the programme.





# NUMBER OF AWARD'S GAINED & SUCCESSION RATES

In 2019 the Award Programme ran successfully at all levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold with 307 active participants engaged in the programme from the following Award Centres: Berkeley Institute, Bermuda College, Bermuda High School, Cedarbridge Academy, Mount Saint Agnes, Saltus Grammar School, Somersfield Academy and Warwick Academy.

The total number of Awards gained in 2019 increased by 60%.

2019 Total Awards Gained 205

2018 Total Awards Gained 124

- 40% of all of the Silver participants in 2019 are continuing from the Bronze level
- 50% of Gold participants in 2019 are continuing from Bronze or Silver level

Bermuda's succession rates are higher than those of the International Average:

- 33% of all of the Silver participants in 2017\* were continuing from the Bronze level
- 34% of Gold participants in 2017\* were continuing from Bronze or Silver level

\*2017 is the latest data provided by the International Award Foundation

**Pictured top:** Bronze and Silver Awardees from Cedarbridge Academy and Berkeley Institute. The two schools collaborated to share resources to enable participants to train together. The Award encourages partnerships between Centres to provide alternatives and flexibility to ensure participants are able to engage in the Award to reach their goals.

**Pictured middle:** BHS Awardees

**Pictured bottom:** Warwick Academy Awardees





# THE AWARD'S IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY

Currently there are 305 active participants engaging in a minimum of 1 hour a week in each of the three individual components of a Voluntary Service, Skill and Physical Recreation.

Participants and the community, including organisations such as the Bermuda National Trust, BAMZ, KBB, Candy Stripers at the King Edward Memorial Hospital, St. John's Ambulance, Tomorrow's Voices and Windreach, just to name a few, have benefitted from the participants' involvement in numerous out-of-school learning experiences, which enhance and develop the participants' soft-skills.

From Jan 2018- to November 2019 participants engaged in a *minimum* number of hours of the following components:

- Community Service: 5,988
- Skill: 8,508
- Physical Recreation: 6,644



*"For the volunteering segment of the Award, I participated in the Candy Striping programme at the hospital. This has allowed me to experience a side of my community I wouldn't have otherwise, as well as the impact that participating in this programme has on many people. Over this time, I have learned that it doesn't take much to give back to your community and that doing so really opens your eyes to the small ways you can have a positive impact on another's life."*

Gold Level, Treiana Zuill (pictured above Candy Striping)



*"Through the Award I volunteered at Northlands Primary as a mentor to P6 students and with Tomorrow's Voices, working with children who have autism. Working with young kids has helped me work on my patience and enabled me to see the world differently."*

Gold Level, K'ari Bean (pictured left)



# BEYOND RUGBY & THE AWARD

It was a pleasure to introduce the Award to such an awesome group of enthusiastic young people in the Beyond Rugby Bermuda programme interested in taking part in the Award! In their own words, the boys were interested in how taking part in the Award will help them to “discover who they are, follow their own path, discover their creative side, open up horizons to new things and job opportunities and meet people from all over the world.”



# AWARD CENTRES PROMOTING AND FUNDRAISING FOR THE AWARD

As part of their licence, all Award Centres are required to fundraise and promote the Award in their schools. Pictured right, the Bermuda High School girls having fun, fundraising and promoting the Award in Bermuda!





# PROMOTING THE AWARD CONT.

Pictured right, Award Alumni sharing their experiences with students at the Bermuda College. Below, the National Award Office talking to students about the Award at CedarBridge Academy.

*"I found participating in the Award as an extremely rewarding experience and I think that others should be encouraged to participate as well."*

An Award Participant





# TRAINING

Participants are required to undertake comprehensive training including a practice journey prior to venturing out for the actual Adventurous Journey. Pictured right, CedarBridge Academy students learning how to plan their route for an upcoming journey. Pictured below, Warwick Academy students learning how to plan their route and read a map.

Participants also take part in nutritional training, first aid, camp craft (see below), navigation and team building.





# PARTICIPANTS SAID THIS ABOUT THE AWARD



*"The Award helped me become more open minded, especially after travelling to the Bahamas to complete my Gold Award. I'm a more patient team member and I am able to see the benefits of hard work."*

*"I have matured and have become more independent and more of a leader."*

*"I have become more open minded as well as found a desire to explore the world more."*



*"I have become more self-reliant and resilient."*

*"I feel more confident in my navigation abilities as well learning new found life-skills which I can use to help overcome any challenges I might face."*

*"I've become more openminded to people and their personal situations, I have become more tenacious as well as more fit."*

*"I have learned to keep an open mind and that sacrificing your own ideas for someone else's is not always a bad thing - you can come up with better ideas by working together, rather than separately."*



*"As group leader, I feel like I became less shy and managed to lead a group of individuals towards a common goal."*

*"The Award definitely encouraged me to do things outside of my comfort zone and helped me face my fear of heights."*



# PARTICIPANTS SAID THIS ABOUT THE AWARD CONT.



*"I used to be very shy and quiet before I did the Award. As I started to go through the different levels of the Award and grow older, I have learned to speak up for myself more and am able to voice my opinion and give suggestions clearly."*

*"I have become more confident and it has showed me what I can accomplish if I put my mind to it. Also, it has taught me perseverance."*



*"I would recommend doing the Award because it was life changing for me so it might help open others eyes to a different aspect of the world."*

*"I think the Award is very important for young people in these modern times, to be able to spend time outdoors, get out of their comfort zone and do things that they would never normally do if they were not completing the Award."*



# VOLUNTEERS SAID THIS ABOUT THE AWARD



*"I enjoy volunteering for the Award to see the sense of fulfilment once the participants achieve and progress through each level of the Award."*

*"I have a desire to give back due to the benefits I gained from my involvement in scouting. I am passionate about the components of the Award, skill building and the camaraderie within the Award community."*

*"I enjoy giving back to society, working with young people, seeing them excel, build resilience, determination and problem solving skills."*



*"I volunteer for the Award because I see first hand how it expands their repertoire of skills, improves communication, develops leadership skills, encourages participants to engage in activities outside of the 'norm' (adventurous journey), gives students a unique opportunity to travel overseas and helps build confidence and teamwork in a challenging environment."*

*"The Award provides real life skills that students need to be successful in the outside world. The Award builds students confidence and helps them make meaningful connections to their local communities."*





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