

2021

# BERMUDA AWARD NEWS

EQUIPPING YOUNG PEOPLE FOR LIFE



# CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF HRH THE PRINCE PHILIP, DUKE OF EDINBURGH, KG, KT

*An inspirational and committed champion of young people worldwide*

It was with great sadness that The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Bermuda acknowledged the death of our Founder HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG, KT in April. Sixty-five years ago, His Royal Highness established The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the UK. Since then, it has been delivered in more than 130 countries and territories, equipping and empowering millions of young people to build the skills, confidence and resilience they need to support their communities and be ready for the world.

Jovanna Douglas, Bermuda Award Chair said: "On behalf of the Award Council, staff, volunteers, alumni and participants in Bermuda, we would like to send our sincere condolences to Her Majesty the Queen, our Patron, Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex and to the members of the Royal Family at this sad time. We are proud to say that the Award has been running in Bermuda for over fifty years and has had over 10,000 locals who have participated in the programme. The Award encourages young people to learn new skills, get physically active, volunteer within their communities and discover a sense of adventure outside the classroom. The Duke of Edinburgh's legacy will live on through the programme as participants across the world continue to engage in positive cultural, artistic and physical activities that they will take with them for the rest of their lives."

The Bermuda Programme was officially launched with the Governor as Patron in 1967. The first participants became involved either as individuals or through the Boy Scouts, Rangers or a Youth Ministry (see top right newspaper article about the first 10 Bronze Level Awardees including Valarie Pearman who provided the article). In 1973 Bermuda's first 'homegrown' Gold Award participants received their awards at Buckingham Palace: John Jenson, Tommy Burns, Norman Pogson, Janel Sloan and Peter Marsh (pictured right). Peter Shrubbs received his Gold Award that year from Queen Elizabeth and HRH Prince Philip in Bermuda (pictured middle right) as did Christopher Crick (not pictured).



1968 - 1st Bronze Awardees





Kenneth Bartram, Bermuda Foundation Chairman & Gold Award Holder said: "I would like to say that I am sorry to hear of the loss of HRH Prince Philip and although he may be gone from our sight, he would be fondly and gratefully remembered by so many around the world for his vision to endorse such a legacy programme as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. This programme has touched so many young people's lives locally and around the world and built true camaraderie while challenging its participants to build new skills, physically challenge themselves, provide genuine service to others, and explore new ventures while building local and international lifelong friendships and lessons. May the legacy live on and may the family find peace and strength during their time of bereavement."



Former Council Member and Award Leader, Andrew Dobson, said, "The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has been a big part of my life. It was hugely rewarding to help run the Award at Warwick Academy for over 28 years and serve on the Bermuda DOE Council. I was fortunate to meet Prince Philip in Bermuda in 1991, 1994 and 2009. His interest and encouragement for young people was an inspiration for all of us. A remarkable man. The Award programme in Bermuda has challenged thousands of young people to develop the skills and attitudes they need to become fully rounded and confident adults, and to serve their community. Bermuda is a better place for operation of the Award."



Peter Marsh, Gold Alumni and Volunteer, stated, "It was a great experience to go to Buckingham Palace, to meet the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, with my friends and receive our Gold award from HRH. The Award was a big part of my life and it feels good to be able to continue to be a part of the D of E all these years later. It is a sad time for everyone, but the Award programme is a great way to remember HRH. May he rest in peace."



Norman Pogson, Gold Alumni and Volunteer, talks about his Adventurous Journey and meeting HRH, "In 1971, I represented Bermuda in the first international Gold Commonwealth Expedition to Kenya. I received my Award at Buckingham Palace from His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, in 1973. It was very exciting to get to go to England and meeting his Royal Highness Prince Philip. Representing Bermuda for such a great programme was an honour. During my travels, I got the chance to meet people from all over the world and found out that we all have the same common ideas about life and politics. We all learned from one another and we still keep in touch today."

John Jenson, Gold Alumni, pictured above first on the left says this about his experience, "Visiting Buckingham Palace and talking with Prince Philip has been one of the highlights of my life. The award scheme gives you a great foundation for life. Very sorry to hear of his passing."

John May, Secretary General of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation said, "As we mark the extraordinary life of The Duke of Edinburgh, we are resolutely committed to ensuring His Royal Highness's vision for the Award continues to grow and reach even more young people worldwide in the years to come, under the Chairmanship of HRH The Earl of Wessex."

# DENAVIGATORS – OPEN AWARD UPDATE

The National Award Office have revived the DeNavigators-Open Award to offer all three levels of the Award (Bronze, Silver and Gold). The DeNavigators-Open Award is an important part of our programme because it makes the Award more accessible to those outside of the school-based Award Centers. It affords participants the opportunity to enter at any stage of a calendar year and for participants to engage in other modes of transport such as paddle boarding, horse-back riding, cycling, kayaking, sailing and developing other exploration activities.



# DENAVIGATORS – OPEN AWARD TRAINING



In February, young people from across the island attended the DeNavigators-Open Award Training for Bronze, Silver and

Gold Levels. This face-to-face training supplemented the online training that participants have been actively engaging in since November 2020.

During the practical training sessions participants were separated into small groups to engage in various levels of navigation training (including a first ever night navigation exercise), teambuilding, first aid, camp craft and the eleven components of an Adventurous Journey. We were once again pleased to partner with the Bermuda Scouts Association and welcomed Linda Tailford who demonstrated how to build a safe campfire.





# GOLD AWARD – NIGHT NAVIGATION

Karen Simmons, Programme Director, explained, “It was fantastic to see all the young people step outside their comfort zone and work with one another to engage in the Award. Due to Bermuda’s small size and participants knowing much of the island already, we decided to think outside the box to set the Gold Level a navigation exercise that would really challenge their map reading and compass skills. On the Friday evening, the Gold Level group undertook a night navigation exercise at Ferry Reach Park. This was the first time we have offered night navigation and it was very exciting for the participants and Award Leaders to have to work together to find the orienteering markers and return within a reasonable time frame. The participants rose to the occasion, worked well together and completed the challenge successfully. Having worked with these young people since their Bronze Level, it was encouraging to see their advancement in skills.”



# OPEN AWARD – CULTURAL EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES



Open Award participants also took part in a number of cultural explorations in both the City of Hamilton and the town of St. George.

The Award used content provided by the Corporation of Hamilton, the Corporation of St. George’s and The Bermuda National Trust to create an exploration activity for them to engage in the City Art Walk in Hamilton (see cover and pictured right) and a historical scavenger hunt in the town of St. George’s (see above). The Award in Bermuda partners with lots of different organizations to introduce young people to the benefits of engaging in positive cultural, artistic and physical activities that they will take with them for the rest of their lives.





# SILVER OPEN AWARD - WATERSTART



This year the Silver Level participants took part in a local water-based Practice AJ with Waterstart on Burt's Island just prior to COVID-19 restrictions. During the practice journey the groups engaged in a number of team building activities and explored the various conservation projects run by Waterstart including Seagrass restoration and monitoring, a pilot aquaculture study, woodland restoration and permaculture/organic gardening. They also practiced their kayaking skills as their mode of transport.





# 2021 GOLD AWARD



This year the Gold Award participants have been engaging in a hybrid training programme which combined online learning with practical training when safe to do so.

Participants have been completing virtual Adventurous Journey (AJ) training with Peak Performance Solutions and engaging in the St. John's Ambulance DoFE Online First Aid Training Programme. Participants have also been taking part in virtual charity walks to continue their physical fitness activity and raise money and awareness for the relevant charity (see right Enshe-Nico Davis cycling in the Rolling for Windreach fundraising event).

The Gold Participants also attended the virtual Global Youth Mobilization Conference. Trey Vance and Richard Johnston represented Bermuda on one of the panels (pictured right). Global Youth Mobilization is a movement of young people taking action to improve their lives now and in a post-COVID-19 world. Supported by the world's largest global youth organisations, World Health Organization, and United Nations Foundation, the Global Youth Mobilization aims to address the negative impact of the pandemic on young people and support them to build back better.

Recently, the Gold Award participants took part in a virtual Escape Room activity with Locked On the Rock as part of a team-building and communication activity. They had to work together to decipher codes and unlock the challenge.





# PARTICIPANT ACTIVITIES

When restrictions are in place, participants are encouraged to adapt their weekly cultural, artistic and physical recreational activities to be able to continue at home to log their hours and reach their goals. Activities this year range from learning a new language (such as Japanese or Russian), painting, baking, first aid, martial arts, beauty therapy, health awareness, acoustic guitar, photography, sailing, graphic design, astronomy or boat maintenance (to name a few).

Shuntea Dove’s Skill Development Activity is painting and she worked on a number of pieces during lockdown to improve her skill and raise awareness of the Black Lives Matter movement (pictured right with her painting, “Melanin Queen - Black Lives Matter.”)

James Widham, pictured middle right, is a peer mentor and often uses games to help his mentee to open up and talk freely whilst meeting online.

When restrictions were lifted and the beach reopened, Olivia Hefferman headed out to surf and work on making a bottom turn to catch a backside wave (pictured below).

Valentina Nicolini, pictured below, is completing her Silver Award virtually based in Florida. Her Skill activity is to learn more about animal care at a small animal rescue shelter. For her Service she teaches online coding to girls for the Code Art for Girls Programme. Valentina graduated from the programme and now gives back by volunteering there.





# ACTIVITIES CONT.

Asher Mello, pictured below, learned to sew blankets which he will donate to the NICU at the hospital. Evan Hefferman has taken up carpentry and is working on making benches (see bottom).





# DENAVIGATORS OPEN AWARD - BRONZE

This year the Award was pleased to welcome participants from various different homeschools into the DeNavigator's Bronze programme. One group merged with participants from Berkeley Institute and are currently completing their AJ over the summer (see below). The other group, from the Mayvera School, has recently started training in May (see right). The DeNavigators - Open Award is a great way for young people to meet new friends.





# COMMUNITY PARTNER – IMPACT

One of the biggest impacts of the Award is the volunteer hours provided to our community organisations and for the participants, the experience of giving back to the community over a consistent period of time (see right Jelani Simmons and Aaron White, Gold Award Participants who volunteer once a week for the Eliza Doolittle Society).

This year participants have been engaging in a wide variety of community work ranging from baking for the Salvation Army, assisting at a therapy farm, helping to prepare COVID supplies, caring for the horses at Windreach, helping Age Concern organise their data-base, assisting the Bermuda National Trust with their conservation projects, providing services as a youth club leader, coaching football, Candy Striping, tree planting and maintenance, cleaning up the environment with KBB and working at food banks and soup kitchens.

The Award has recently partnered with the Bermuda Rose Society (BRS) and participants are now able to volunteer for the BRS as part of their service component of the Award (see Shuntea Dove, pictured right). Participants learn how to care for the roses - weeding, pruning, fertilising, watering, and propagating. They learn what types of roses grow well in Bermuda, the history behind some of the Bermuda Mystery Roses, the importance of the Rose garden at Waterville and how to maintain their tools. As Shuntea is an artist, she is also working on rose illustrations, which she hopes to donate to the Rose Society for their use.





# ADVENTUROUS JOURNEYS

Participants have been engaging in some interesting Adventurous Journeys this year. The Glizzy Gladiators, pictured right, did an exploration to learn about farming in Bermuda at Wadsons Farm. They focused on the history, benefit of buying local and how to farm. Another group looked at how museums in Bermuda evolved and handled the effects of COVID-19. Whilst visiting the museums they learned about their history and structure and assisted them in various activities including cleaning up the mangroves surrounding Waterville House. Another group compared the effects of COVID-19 on restaurants and cafes in Bermuda.







## CALLING ALL ALUMNI

We are inviting all Bermuda Alumni to join the Global Award Alumni Network, Bermuda page. This network is made up of Award Holders who have completed their Bronze, Silver and/or Gold from across the world. Please join and help us to represent Bermuda. You will be able to make connections, share experiences and support future Awardees. You can also link your Award to your LinkedIn profile and use our platform to make important professional connections.

The Global Award Alumni Network brings together Awardees of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award from all over the world. Bermuda has over 53 years of Award achievers and we are excited to invite you to be a part of the Award Alumni Network.

Join this thriving community and encourage your fellow Bermudian Dukers to sign up too. Great things can happen when people connect!

[JOIN THE GLOBAL AWARD ALUMNI NETWORK](#)

## GOLD ALUMNI OLYMPICS



We are inviting Bermuda Alumni to enter a team in the first Gold Alumni Olympics to take place August 6th- 8th. Gold Awardees, Jevon Talbot and Brianna Simmons, are organizing a fun weekend of outdoor games and activities in which past AJ teams can engage in competition and camaraderie. Stay tuned for more information.



# A GLOBAL VIRTUAL CELEBRATION - JUNE 10TH

Thursday 10 June would have marked Prince Philip's 100th birthday and we are acknowledging the extraordinary life and legacy of our Founder and his achievements. On Thursday 10 June at 10am Bermuda time, The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation is proud to host A Global Celebration, the first ever online international event for the entire Award family all over the world. From participants and alumni to volunteers and donors, we would love everyone to join us!



Hosted by UK TV Presenter Rhys Stephenson and joined by HRH Prince Edward, we'll be celebrating all things Award with music, games and the launch of something very exciting that you won't want to miss! Details of how to watch the event will be shared in the coming week but for now, please save the date – Thursday 10 June at 10am Bermuda time - for this very special online event. Please join us as we mark 100 years of the Duke of Edinburgh, a champion of young people and pioneer of non – formal education and learning. Register at [aglobalcelebration.eventbrite.co.uk](http://aglobalcelebration.eventbrite.co.uk) for updates. We look forward to seeing you all there!



In honour of the 100th year of our Founder, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, we are proud to celebrate his life and legacy. To honour him and all he's done for young people, the Award is launching Challenge100. Bermuda and the Caribbean Region (CASC) are taking up this challenge together! Join us on our social media channels as we set specific CASC challenges for our region.

There are infinite possibilities ... whether you're planting 100 trees, baking 100 cakes, or walking for 100km, it's your challenge, your way. Use the Award's sections to inspire you. Just make it 100 and help to ensure The Duke's legacy can continue for years to come. Follow our social media channels for more to come. #AwardChallenge100

**CHALLENGE 100**

- 1. CHOOSE YOUR CHALLENGE**  
Pick your activity, using the Award's sections for inspiration. Whether it's minutes, bakes, words or steps, just make it 100
- 2. RAISE MONEY**  
Set your fundraising target and help more young people to be world ready
- 3. MAKE NOISE**  
Share your progress using #AwardChallenge100 and challenge others to get involved.



# GOLF CHALLENGE – REGISTRATION OPEN

The 8th Annual Duke of Edinburgh's Golf Challenge takes place at Port Royal Golf Course on Friday, 24th September. The Golf Challenge is one of the Award's largest fundraisers and all the money raised goes directly to supporting the operating costs of the Award, providing the programme free of charge to more than 230 plus participants per year.

**THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S INTERNATIONAL AWARD**  
BERMUDA  
Registered Charity #542

Under the distinguished patronage of  
Her Excellency Governor, Ms Rena Lalgie

**8th Annual**

# GOLF CHALLENGE

Friday, September 24th  
Port Royal Golf Course

## \$1,200

Per Team of 4  
Captain's Choice

**11:30am Registration & Warm up**  
**12:30pm Shotgun Start**  
**5:30pm Prize Presentation**

- Individual & Team Prizes
- Prize Presentation & Food
- Raffle

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO: 737-8959 | FIONA@THEAWARD.BM | WWW.THEAWARD.BM

Please consider entering a team and sponsoring a tee for \$300. This will pay for a participant to engage in the Award for 4 months of the year. Join us for a fun and entertaining afternoon of golf, which includes a light lunch at registration, drinks on the course and a prize presentation, cash bar, raffle and lots of awesome prizes. Thank you for your support of the Award programme, which helps us to develop well-rounded, global citizens who take pride in themselves and their communities.

[Register a Team](#)



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THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS FOR HELPING US EQUIP  
YOUNG PEOPLE FOR LIFE!