

# THE BOYS' BRIGADE

> the adventure begins here



## Information Booklet

for Parents, Carers and Local Learning Communities



Join us 0131 551 1200 [www.thebb-edinburgh.org.uk](http://www.thebb-edinburgh.org.uk)

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Each week The Boys' Brigade works with thousands of young people, many of whom have no other connection with the Church. Today we are working with over 1,000 children & young people in 29 groups across the City of Edinburgh, Midlothian, and East Lothian council areas.

The Boys' Brigade provides a balanced programme of activities for children and young people from 5 to 18 years old. These resources have been developed to help volunteer youth leaders work in a relevant and creative way. We hope through these programmes they will be able to make a positive contribution to a young person's life and be able to share their faith.

Our work is split into age groups as follows:

- **Anchor Section:** for children in Primary 1 to Primary 3
- **Junior Section:** for children in Primary 4 to Primary 6
- **Company Section:** for young people in Primary 7 to Secondary 3
- **Seniors:** for young people in Secondary 4 to Secondary 6

The Object of The Boys' Brigade is the advancement of Christ's kingdom among Boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness.



## Anchor Section

The Anchor Section is for children in Primary 1 to Primary 3.

Anchors have lots of fun doing different activities which include making things, crafts, music, games, sports, stories, going on visits, making friends, and working towards their badges.

All of this is done as part of a balanced programme that is separated into 5 different zones...



Everything a child in the Anchors does helps them to develop and to think for themselves, in a safe environment.

**What else do I need to know?** Anchors have a special uniform that they can wear. As everyone wears the same thing they feel as though they belong. However nobody is excluded because they do not have the right clothes.

**How long do they meet for?** The weekly section meeting would usually run for 1-1½ hours and be finished by 7.30pm.



## Junior Section

Junior Section is for children in Primary 4 to Primary 6.

Juniors have fun! Their meetings are crammed full of challenges, games and activities, usually ones that they themselves have suggested. There are hundreds of activities catering for just about every possible interest. At the same time we try to encourage them to explore other new interests. There is loads of variety and little chance of becoming bored!

The award programme is specifically designed to encourage a child to look beyond themselves. Many are interested in one type of activity - perhaps sports, or natural history.

Our special programme provides for such interests and at the same time gently urges them to try others of a different type. This provides a balanced all round programme – which includes spiritual and social input, as well as physical and adventure activities in 5 different programme zones: Body (Fit for Fun); Mind (Think and Do); Spirit (God and Me); Community (Me and My World); and Creativity (Make and Do).

Juniors will also get to go on trips and days out, to places like the zoo, theme parks or a farm. As well as possibly going on a weekend camp or holiday that is often the highlight of the year.

Juniors is about: having fun; making friends; enjoying lots of activities; and trying new things.

Through the many different activities, Juniors will: learn about themselves; get to know people and learn to work together; explore their community; and personally develop.

**What else do I need to know?** Juniors have a special uniform that they can wear. As everyone wears the same thing they feel as though they belong. However nobody is excluded because they do not have the right clothes.

**How long do they meet for?** Juniors offers a full and varied programme, typically lasting 1½ hours with a few if any individual activities lasting more than ten minutes. The weekly section meeting would usually be finished between 8.00 and 8.30 pm.



## Company Section



The Company Section is for young people in Primary 7 to Secondary 3.

Those in the Company Section take part in the Discover programme that enables you to: take part in a fun; balanced and challenging programme; be recognised for your effort and achievement; and build trusting relationships.

It's all about learning new skills, making your own decisions and having fun. BB provides a safe environment to explore new possibilities and achieve personal goals while making friends and having adventures. Within Discover there are 3 programme zones as follows: Community; Recreation; and Skills.

And it's up to each young person to work out which opportunities are relevant for them, whether it's improving football skills, podcasting or recycling.

Every young person should also expect: to experience new challenges; to be listened to and have a say; to be respected and valued; to have fun; and to have the opportunity to develop a personal Christian faith.

**What else do I need to know?** Company Section have a special uniform that they can wear. As everyone wears the same thing they feel as though they belong. However nobody is excluded because they do not have the right clothes.

**How long do they meet for?** The weekly section meeting would usually run for 1½ - 2 hours and will typically be finished by 9.00pm.



## Seniors

Seniors is for young people in Secondary 4 to Secondary 6.

Seniors take part in the Challenge Plus programme, which is made up of Projects and Challenges as follows:

- **Projects:** These include taster sessions that act as an introduction to a topic and are then followed by a longer project that is designed and led by the young people. Projects are grouped into 3 programme zones: Community; Life Skills; and Recreation & Leisure.
- **Challenges:** These are focussed on activities that could be completed by the group or as an individual ranging from 'Climb a Munro' to 'Review a local takeaway'.

There are also opportunities to work towards: The Duke of Edinburgh' Award; Saltire Awards; and Queen's Badge.

It's all about learning new skills, making your own decisions and having fun. BB provides a safe environment to explore new possibilities and achieve personal goals while making friends and having adventures. And it's up to each young person to work out which opportunities are relevant for them, whether it's sport's officiating, fundraising or DIY.

Every young person should also expect: to experience new challenges; to be listened to and have a say; to be respected and valued; to have fun; and to have the opportunity to develop a personal Christian faith.

**What else do I need to know?** Seniors have a special uniform that they can wear. As everyone wears the same thing they feel as though they belong. However nobody is excluded because they do not have the right clothes.

**How long do they meet for?** The weekly section meeting would usually run for 1½ - 2 hours and will typically be finished by 10.00pm.



## Volunteering in The Boys' Brigade

At BB children and young people get involved in a huge range of exciting activities and adventures, from first aid, abseiling, circus skills, and much more. There are also opportunities to get involved in international work, community action projects, camping and trying out new sports.

As a volunteer you can take an active part in some of these fun and exciting activities. Or you can simply help organise activities with the children and young people.

### **BB changes lives**

Experience tells us that BB changes children and young people's lives, so why not get involved and play your part.

BB provides opportunities for children and young people to: have fun; play games and sport; learn new skills; find out about the Christian Faith; have new experiences; go on a residential (Camp or Holiday); and engage with friends.

### **BB changes Volunteers' lives**

As a volunteer you will get a great sense of satisfaction from watching the children and young people develop their confidence and skills, as well as have lots of fun. In addition, working to improve your community will give you a huge sense of personal achievement.

As a volunteer you'll also gain from the experience by making new friends and learning new skills that you can use at work or put on a CV.

The BB will also provide you with training opportunities to build on your existing skills as well as support guidance in your role.

### **What could you do in the time you have?**

There are many ways of helping out to suit people with different interests and lifestyles. If you are short of time or are unsure if BB is for you, why not give it a go. Whether you can give an hour a month, or volunteer every week, then we have a role that is just for you.

### **How do I find out more?**

If you are interested in finding out more about volunteering in The Boys' Brigade then please contact us at [office@thebb-edinburgh.org.uk](mailto:office@thebb-edinburgh.org.uk) or on 0131 551 1200.



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For more information contact:

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