

## Scout Training Programme

Scout training is adopting progressive training procedures, supplemented by Proficiency Badge system, thus allowing the Scouts to learn structurally and progressively, and accrediting the achievements made by them.

The Progressive Awards for Scouts include the 'Pathfinder Award', 'Voyager Award', 'Challenger Award' and 'Chief Scout's Award'. The Patrol System is the core of the progressive training, encouraging new Scouts while satisfying the needs of the older ones.

Basic skills of Scouting, like camping, cooking, exploration and other interests are included in the 'Pathfinder Award' and 'Voyager Award' training programmes. The 'Challenger Award' demands a higher level of skill and knowledge, and introduces self-reliance and service to others as optional items. The 'Chief Scout's Award' is the highest level of the awards given, aiming at increasing and assessing responsibility and leadership.

Normally, a Scout should begin from the 'Pathfinder Award', and attain the badge before attempting a higher level badge. Under special circumstances, e.g. if a youth joins Scouting at the age of 14, he/she can complete relevant sections of the lower level badges first and attain a higher level badge directly. Nevertheless, the 'Scoutcraft', 'Adventure', 'Commitment' and 'Proficiency/Activity Badges' sections should begin from 'Pathfinder Award' and progress in sequence to a higher level.

For Sea Scouts, sea activities and badges are preferred; for Air Scouts, air activities and badges are preferred.

Unless otherwise stated, assessments for the Membership Badge, Progressive Awards, Proficiency Badges (Interest) and other badges/awards as listed on page 139 are arranged by the Scout Leader. Other than the 'Chief Scout's Award', the Scout Leader is eligible to issue the awards and certificates for the Progressive Awards. For the Chief Scout's Award, the Scout Leader will nominate the Scout to the District, Region and Association Headquarters, and the Scout will be notified of the award directly from the headquarters. Other awards/badges can be presented to the Scout according to custom arrangements of the Troop.

Any Scout may begin to attain the Membership Badge of the Venture Scout Section three months before he/she is promoted to the Venture Scout Section.