



Guild Partnership - Presentation Notes

The Boys' Brigade will be working with the Church of Scotland Guild as one of their new project partners from 2018 – 2021.

The Guild's Project Partnership scheme sees them work with six Christian charities over a three year period with the aims of prayerful and reflective support for the project, raising awareness of the projects' work amongst the Guild and the wider church, and raising funds to support the work of project partners.

Part of this partnership involves us delivering talks and presentations to Guild groups across Scotland – explaining the project we are asking them to support.

As well as talking about the project this is a fabulous opportunity to stand up and remind people of who we are, what we do and why we do it.

The following presentation notes (which accompany the Guild Partnership PowerPoint presentation) are a *guide* and do not need to be followed word for word.

It is important that you are comfortable with what you are saying, and how you are saying it. It is also very important that you are able to add in local examples and stories, which Guild groups will be very interested in.

Process for Guild/talks presentation for speakers

1)Once it has been confirmed that you are able to do a specific talk, you will receive details from SHQ with the following info:

- Date and time
- Guild/Church name and address details
- Contact person and their contact number or email
- Equipment available

2)You should then contact the Guild group to:

- introduce yourself
- confirm details,
- Check other info like, how long you have to speak for, travel directions etc

3)If there is a BB Company attached to the Church you are visiting it would be great to contact them to see if anyone from the Company can also attend.

4)Once you have completed the talk if there is anything SHQ need to follow up on – e.g. a request for more information, more leaflets etc – then please contact SHQ to pass on the request information.

Introduction.... (2 mins)

- Good afternoon/evening
- My name is _____ and I'm from _____. I've been involved in BB for _____.
- Thanks for the invitation to join you today as one of the Guild's new project partners for the next 3 years.
- It's apt that the partnership is beginning this year, as 2018 has been designated as the Year of Young People - a year to celebrate the achievements and the contribution of young people in Scotland.
- Of course for the Boys' Brigade every year is a year of young people.

This presentation... (2 mins)

- Run through main points/structure of presentation
- Going to tell you more about our Guild Project – Faith in Young People – but I'd also like to cover the following:
 - Who we are, what we do and why...
 - Impact the BB has on young lives, but also some of the challenges we face now.
 - What is happening locally
 - Tell you more about the project we are asking the Guild to support
 - Opportunity to ask questions

Who we are, what we do and why we do it...

- I'm sure the Boys' Brigade is an organisation many of you will have heard of. Some of you may have been involved yourselves or had family that have been members or leaders.
- But I thought it important to take a few moments to explain who we are, what we do & most importantly why we do it.
- We are a volunteer led Christian Youth organisation.
- 3,500 volunteer leaders in Scotland - army of people willing to give up their time week after week – they are committed & passionate about work of BB.
- Our vision is that children and young people should experience life to the full – John 10:10
- We work with different denominations across the UK, in Scotland the vast majority of our groups are part of Church of Scotland congregations.
- We provide a space for young people to learn, grow and discover.

The Beginnings...

- We can be proud that the routes of the BB lie very firmly here in Scotland.
- Founded in Glasgow in 1883 by Sir William Alexander Smith – who at the age of 29 when he started the BB was a business man, part time soldier (Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteers) and loyal churchman.
- The BB was the first of all the uniformed organizations for young people which have since spread all over the world.
- The first BB evening took place on Thursday 4th October, 1883.

Smith's gifts

- The BB Badge and motto - the anchor – Sure and Stedfast from Hebrews 6 v 19.
- Spelling of Stedfast – original spelling from King James version.
- People will be familiar with BB Hymn – ‘Will you anchor hold...’

Smith's gifts

- Object of the BB spells out that we are a Christian Youth organisation The Advancement of Christ's kingdom as the purpose for why we exist.
- Promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline and Self Respect.

Smith gifts

- Smith was a great innovator and visionary, who was knighted in 1909.
- Camping is an example of Smith as an innovator - drawing from his military experience, William Smith introduced the concept of camping into the Brigade, despite some initial opposition from parents who didn't like the idea (in late 19th century organised camping was something completely new).
- 1st Glasgow Company held its inaugural one-week camp beginning in 1886 at Tighnabruaich. More than 130 years later 1st Glasgow still attends camp at Tighnabruaich.
- Camps have become a big part of the BB – for many they are one of the most anticipated events in the year and an experience that young people remember.
- For the last two years we have held a national camp on Cumbrae (pictured) which is aimed at those young people who have not had the opportunity to go away to camp with their own BB Company.
- Great opportunity for young people to have fun, but also develop confidence, independence etc.

Learn, Grow and Discover...

- We are blessed to have a rich and wonderful history.
- But we also firmly believe our work is as relevant today as it was in 1883, perhaps even more so.
- The Guild's theme of '*One Journey, Many Roads*' is such an apt theme for the Boys Brigade as we have the privilege of accompanying children and young people in the formative years of their lives – on one journey which can take many different roads.

Structured programme...

- We provide children and young people with a space and place for them to learn, grow and discover.
- We do this through a structured programme
- Learn - we provide opportunities to learn and develop skills and interests through a varied programme which provides fun and exciting activities across four age groups running from 5 to 18 years – Anchors, Juniors, Company and Seniors.
- Award in all sections
- Grow - we want young people to grow and to reach their full potential, so activities as well as being about developing particular skills/interests are also about

developing the person, for example developing confidence, resilience, team work, leadership and independence. Really key important life skills.

[Share examples of when you have seen soft skills grow]

- Creates an environment aimed at fostering self respect and demonstrating to young people they are valued.
- Discover - we want young people to discover more about themselves, challenge what they are capable of. We want them to discover more about their communities and the world around them and the part they can play, how their voice can be heard in their local and global communities.
And of course, we want people to discover that wonderful message that they are all incredibly special and that God loves them.
- Fun – and of course we want to let children and young people have fun.

Science

- We continue to follow in the spirit of William Smith by looking to continually innovate and improve what we do.
- One area that we have been exploring recently is developing STEM – Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.
- For over 5 years we have had a successful sleepover event at the Glasgow Science Centre (picture) with 400 Juniors taking part. Though perhaps not a lot of sleep actually happening!
- This is one of the ways that children and young people can learn or develop an interest in an area outwith or supporting the more formal learning environment of school.
- It's worth noting that the Scottish Government estimate that 80% of learning from children and young people takes place outwith the school.

Queen's Badge

- Recognised achievements – dedication and hard work is important in the BB.
- Our highest award is our Queen's Badge (QB) and is the final step in the journey for our members.
- QB is aimed at providing a real challenge to seniors but also providing an opportunity to develop lots of skills and experiences.
- As part of the QB they also have to provide voluntary service or support to others in their local community.

Youth Leadership

- It's important for the BB that we support our young people who are interested in moving from being members of the BB into being leaders.
- Our KGV1 course is aimed at 17 – 22 year olds.
- It is made up of two, week long, residential courses, one year apart. In the year apart the young leaders are supervised within their own local Company.
- Our KGV1 course has recently been credit rated, meaning it is the equivalent number of points as that gained by completing an Advanced Higher or HNC.

Impact...

- Across Scotland we have 1500 Sections in 390 churches
- Impact on individuals and communities - last year over 400 young people achieved the Queen's Badge in Scotland – the Brigade's highest award, in the process those young people carried out over 80,000 hours of voluntary work within their local communities.
- Numbers and statistics however only tell one part of the story, beyond the facts and figures are the young people who gain so much from being part of BB.
Opportunity to share a story, or have a senior or young leader from a local Company.

Locally...

- **Share some stories locally of what is happening with BB – at Company and Battalion level.**
- **There is an opportunity to add some of your own pictures to the presentation**

Internationally

- We are an organisation that is today very much an international Christian youth movement – operating in 68 countries around the world, including two of the countries which other Guild partners are focusing on – Zambia and Malawi.
- We provide opportunities for our young people to travel overseas, whether on camps or as part of other initiatives, like our World Mission Fund.
- We also have a lot of visitors from across the international Brigade family coming to Scotland because this is where the BB started.

Challenges

- You might not be surprised to hear me say that along with all the great things that have been happening in the BB, and continue to happen, there are also some challenges we face today.
- Numbers within the BB have fallen – this is not just a BB problem. We want more young people to join BB not because we are interested in measuring everything we do in terms of quantity, but because we believe in the experience we offer and want more young people to have the opportunity to gain from what we do.
- This also involves recruiting more volunteers to be involved in BB Companies, which can be challenging in an ever more time precious world.
- Challenge external perceptions – we need to improve how we communicate what we do and why we are doing it.
- We need to get better at explaining the full impact of our work.
- We always need to get better at supporting the leaders (3,500 across Scotland) who are making the BB happen, week in, week out.
- Fundraising is a challenge. There is lots we want to do but we need to make sure we have the resources to do it.
- One of the reasons we applied to be a Guild partner for 2018 – 2021 was to address some of these challenges.

Faith in Young People

- We have called our project - Faith in Young People – for 2 reasons:
 - First of all, as a youth organisation we have faith in young people, we have faith in their skills, abilities, ideas.
 - Secondly, as a Christian youth organisation our focus and purpose on why we are here is supporting faith development in young people.
- The project focuses on Growth, but not just in terms of growing the number of young people we work with, but also growing the quality of the experience we offer, growing our profile within communities and growing the training and support we provide to our volunteers.

Growth ... in Faith

- We are a Christian Youth Organisation.
- We want children and young people to develop and grow their faith through their BB journey. It's also important that 3,500 leaders have the opportunity to grow their faith as well.
- Work has been going on to identify that many leaders lack confidence to talk about/share faith (work led by Susan Brown - current Moderator of Church of Scotland).
- We have identified a need amongst leaders for better support and training. We want to be able to meet that need through this project by supporting and resourcing a Growth and confidence in Faith within the BB.
- We are interested in learning how best to share the Christian faith with young people, particularly interested in exploring what lessons we can learn from BBs in other countries.

Growth....in Community Engagement

- We want the BB to be a more visible part of local communities, starting within their own Churches.
- We are excited about the connections that will be formed around the country, through this project with the Guild and the inter-generational opportunities we believe are there.
- Intergenerational learning and programme possibilities – BB groups could support learning within a Guild group, such as digital/IT, whilst Guild members could support with learning on practical/life skills, such as finance, cooking and creativity.
- At a national level we want to develop and support a strategy for supporting how Companies engage effectively within their local communities, forming relationships **within** churches, between churches, with schools, and with other local groups.
- Partly this is about making the Brigade more visible which is vitally important, but it is about doing something that speaks about who we are and why we exist - to advance Christ's kingdom means mission and outreach, it means being a part of communities, it means building relationships.

Growth ... in young people

- We believe in what we are doing, we believe in the impact it makes, the quality of the work and in the relevancy of what we offer young people.
- Yes, we do want more young people to be part of that experience, and to have the opportunities to learn, grow and discover through the BB.
- Last year 140 BB Companies across Scotland did grow – we would like to have even more growing over the next three years.
- For growth in young people we need to think about getting more adult volunteers- about the Development staff who currently work in some parts of Scotland supporting Companies (we would like to have more Development Workers) .
- We also want to launch a new mini-grants scheme for Companies - which they will be able to apply to for mini-grants to support their efforts to grow.

Guild Partnership (Summary)

- The Guild and the BB are two separate, different and very distinct organisations.
 - We also share things in common – we share many of the same challenges but also many of the same opportunities.
 - I'm not sure about The Guild but sometimes in the BB it feels like challenges are viewed as something new. They are not. There were challenges in 1883 when William Smith began working with young people. And just as there were challenges in Year 1 of the BB, so there are challenges in year 135.
 - This project and the support of the Guild is about helping the BB address some of these challenges.
 - It is about growth - So 3 types of Growth – Growth in Faith, Community Outreach and in Young People
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- Thank you for the opportunity to come along this afternoon/this evening.
 - Thank you for your support.

Any Questions?

Other resources available which could be used as part of this presentation:

- Video clips – <https://vimeo.com/theboysbrigade>
- Guild page on BB website which includes project Q&A- <https://boys-brigade.org.uk/scotland/guildpartnership>
- First for Boys', History of the BB <https://boys-brigade.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/ffb.pdf>
- Guild website - www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/the_guild

Notes

