

## THE GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION OF ST. LUCIA

**THE MISSION:** To prepare girls and young women to develop into responsible and useful citizens so they may become shining examples to those with whom they come into contact.

**VISION:** Establish and maintain a working Organization beneficial to girls and young women, that will promote relevant issues pertaining to their development and build a better nation.

The Girl Guide Movement was established in St. Lucia in 1925. While St. Lucia was a colony the Girl Guides Association was a branch of the United Kingdom Guide Association. After St. Lucia gained Independence in 1979 The U.K. Guide Association was no longer responsible for our organization and after much hard work on the part of our then Chief commissioner and members of the Association, St. Lucia attained full membership of The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scout (WAGGGS) on its own accord as an individual country in 1984 at the 26<sup>th</sup> World Conference in Ireland. WAGGGS consists of 184 countries and a membership of 1,000,000 girls and young women. WAGGGS is the largest organization in the world for women.

The Association is divided into two divisions, Northern and Southern. Which are further divided into districts. Each Division is headed by a Division Commissioner, and each district by a District Commissioner, whose responsibility is to ensure that units all work within the guidelines set by the World association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).

The structure of the Girl Guides Association consists of Marguerites from age 5 to 7 years, Brownies from 7 to 10 years, Guides from 10 to 14 years, Rangers from 14 to 18 years and Young Leaders from 18 to 21 years and Adult Leaders from 21 plus. The Rangers are trained to become future leaders and the Young Leaders Assist the Guiders until they become Guiders.

The Girl Guides Association trains girls and young women in life skills and leadership development and also provides community service. Girls have the opportunity of meeting their peers both local and international in settings such as camps and trainings. Within a 3 year period the girls work for Proficiency Badges such as cooks, laundress, communications, first aider, care for the elderly and child care within their Companies and at local camps.

The Leaders also receive training locally and internationally in various fields such as camp life, self development (human development, self esteem, our rights and our responsibilities), Fund Development, United Nations Development Goals Etc. WAGGGS often provides training for both girls and leaders at various locations including the four world centers: - Our Cabana in Mexico, Pax Lodge in England, Sangam in India, and Our Chalet in Switzerland. The St. Lucia Girl Guides try to attend as often as possible whether we receive grants or not.

All in all The Girl Guides Association is committed to giving service.