

## **AFRICA SCOUT DAY CELEBRATION IN GHANA 2009**

The Africa Scout Day celebration in Ghana was preceded by a press release on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March in the two major national dailies (Daily Graphic and Ghanaian Times) on the historical background of the Africa Scout Day and how it would be marked.

In order to have a high turn-out for the celebration, the event was pushed to Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of March. The celebration took place in Kumasi the capital of the Ashanti region. This was a deliberate way of gathering all scouts as the Ashanti Region is right in the centre of Ghana. It was also to identify with a region from where some significant ideas in Scouting were adopted by the founder Lord Baden- Powell. Typical is the left handshake. The Ashanti regional council hosted the celebration in collaboration with the National Executive Committee of the Ghana Scout Association.

### **PARTICIPATION**

Participants were mostly scouts from Ashanti Region with representation from the other regions. Some old scouts and the general public were also present.

### **SPECIAL GUESTS**

1. The King of Asante (Asantehene) as the Guest of Honour was represented by The Chief of Wawase, Nana Oboadum Kusi Antwi and Nana Amoah Poku (Krontihene).
2. The Regional Co-ordinator of the National Youth Council represented the Government.
3. An officer of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
4. The Chief Commissioner (CC) and Members of the National Executive Committee (NEC).

### **ACTIVITIES**

The programme started with welcome addresses by the Chief Commissioner and the Ashanti Regional Commissioner Sheikh Kamil Mohammed Kamil. An educational talk on the theme was delivered by the officer from the EPA. A talk on the environment from the perspective of the youth was then given by Nikitta Dede Adjirakor Secretary of the Africa Scout Youth Committee. The Chief of Wawase gave a message of hope and assurance on behalf of His Royal Highness the Asantehene. For entertainment, recitals on selected quotations on the environment by Lord Baden-Powell were recited by Scouts from the Holy Ghost Scout Group. The National Youth Regional Co-ordinator Mr. Amankwah spoke on behalf of the government and reiterated the fact that the theme is a global issue and was happy that Scouts had taken it up upon themselves as a challenge. He encouraged all scouts not to end the education on the theme on that day but to encourage all others to spread the information of caring for the environment to all. The Deputy Chief Commissioner also a member of the Africa Scout Committee presented some uniforms to Scouts in the region.

**TREE-PLANTING:-** There was a significant tree planting exercise on behalf of the Asante Kingdom, the Government, Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana Scout Association,

Africa Scouts, Youth of Africa and Ghana, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Ventures, Rovers and the Ashanti Regional Scout Council.

“MY THOUGHTS, MY ENVIRONMENT”:- At this point, Scouts represented their thoughts and feelings on the environment in their own words in writing on a large piece of cloth to be framed and displayed at the National Headquarters.

ENVIRONMENTAL WALK:- Amidst drumming and dancing and holding of placards bearing statements on the environment, Scouts went through the principal streets of Kumasi with members of the general public joining. This was to publicize Scouting and to drum home the message of the environment.

VISIT AND DONATION TO YOUTH IN PRISON:- At an earlier discussion on this programme with the NYC, the idea of Scouts extending a hand to youth in prison in terms of assistance to help them acquire skills was mooted. The day was therefore used as an occasion to donate chemicals and equipment to youth in prison to enable them acquire a skill in soap making before eventually integrating into society.

CLEAN-UP EXERCISE:- There was a clean-up exercise in two different clusters of schools within the Asem and Asawasi communities.

ENTERTAINMENT AND REFRESHMENT:- As the event of the day drew to a close, Scouts gathered singing and playing games. Scouts both young and old danced to the tune of brass band music. Refreshment was served to revitalise Scouts who were by then very tired.

### **PUBLICITY**

1. The event attracted media coverage from the following media houses, Ghana News Agency (GNA), Kessben FM, Fox FM and also TV3.
2. All participants at the programme wore T-shirts with the Africa Scout Day logo and theme printed on it.
3. Two banners with one bearing the Africa Scout Day logo and a second with the Scout Brand were displayed at the event ground and also carried along on the environmental walk.
4. Scouts also displayed their creativity by making a green brooch denoting the environment in the shape of a leaf which was worn by every participant.

### **APPRECIATION**

At the end of it all, the leadership of GSA is grateful to all for the response and commitment to the celebration of the Africa Scout Day especially;

1. The King, Chiefs and People of the Asante Kingdom
2. The National Youth Council
3. The Environmental Protection Agency
4. The Ashanti Regional Scout Council

5. The Media

6. All Scouts

May the love of our environment keep us together so that we may leave this world a little better than we found it.

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