

Students Assembly
October 7, 2014
Scout Bike Tour at Taiwan 2014

M: Michael Chan

J: Jerry Tang

A: Anson Yiu

J

Good morning Mr. Yuen, Father Phillip, Teachers and fellow schoolmates.

I am Jerry Tang, and I am Brian Chan. Behind us is our chairman, Anson Yiu. We are representatives of the 10th Hong Kong Group Venture Scout Unit and it is our pleasure this morning to share with you on our memorable Taiwan Bike trip that happened in February earlier this year.

M

Yes, you heard it right. A Bike Trip. First of SPC's own.

Yet, unlike most other trip talks, our objective today is not just to give you sour grapes with all the wonderful experiences that we had over in Taiwan, but more importantly, we want to tell you about the true beginning of the trip, in HONG KONG. We want to tell you about how we, students, planned the tour.

J

It was a usual Saturday meeting in November and our boys were chatting about the merry times they had in England, Scotland and Sweden, when Timothy Yue, sitting amongst the F.6s now, mentioned that he always aspired to do a Taiwan bike trip.

M

Well, to anyone else who knows Timothy well, the comment would probably be dismissed the same way "I want to go to Mars" would be dropped. But us Ventures, we take ideas pretty seriously. And that's why an hour later, Timothy and we walked out of the classroom, with in our hand already, a draft plan for the tour.

J

In the three months that followed, time was tough. We had encountered a lot of difficulties, and were short of time. For many of us, it was our first time to travel on our own, not to mention to plan a trip. Thankful to our senior boys, we mounted each obstacle, and, in time. We endeavored on from the most basics of time, place

and person, to the more advanced - budget applications and approvals.

M

We were told by many that it's impossible to organize a tour in 3 months, but thanks to the support of our leaders, we made it, with even a bonus - sponsorships. Our capability and safety to bike overseas was questioned, so we organized a first-aid course, did a lot of CPRs, cycling trials and physical trainings. We were informed that no overseas Scout unit would respond to invitation to exchange on such short notice, so we reached out to Facebook and connected with a few of our Taiwanese friends. They said we can't, but we challenged ourselves.

J

On 5 February, 2014, 17 of us, ventures and leaders, finally set off for Kaohsiung, Taiwan. In the coming 5 days, we had a heart-warming exchange with the Taiwanese Scouts. They showed us around their city and shared with us their style and history of Scouting. Although it was only one day, our friendship lasted and we are still in contact now.

M

We then had a thrilling 3-day ride from Kaohsiung to Kenting, covering 137km, one-eighth of Taiwan's circumference. We cycled uphill and downhill on highways, in searing heat and pouring rain. We cycled with the cheers from random drivers and our own brothers. There were times when our calves were killing us, but none of us cave in (except Timothy Yue who had to sit in a van for his sprained ankle). The 17 of us did our best and completed the whole journey.

J

In this trip, we have truly strengthened our brotherhood. We have also broadened our international understanding towards the scouting movement. But most importantly, we have made it happen. Before this trip, we have never imagined that a random plan would come true. The whole trip being planned by us, down to every bits and pieces.

M

Well, this is scouting – step by step we improve ourselves; step by step we turn an idea into reality; step by step we change the world.

J

Let us now take a short break and share with you a video on our journey. Sit back, relax and enjoy.

Anson Yiu

This trip is an excellent demonstration of what it is to be a Venture Scout. In here, we believe in dreams, we believe in your ability to plan and execute, we believe in your ability to make a change. We organize camps, expeditions, service project and joint unit events every year. On top of that, we will be going to Japan next summer for the 23rd World Scout Jamboree. If you wish to become one of us, feel free to contact me or Stanford Chen at 5D within this week. We would also like to extend our gratitude to our leaders, the College, and the Scout Association of Hong Kong for their continuous support. Thank you very much.