

Directions: READ the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow in complete sentences with appropriate. **PLEASE** number your answers.

Boys' Brigade

My name is Tamar Tinker. I am thirteen years old and a member of the 1st Company of the Boys' Brigade attached to Grants Town Wesley Methodist Church. The head of my company is Captain Hayden Blackman.

Our company meets four times a week: Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. On Sundays at 10.00a.m. we meet for Bible class where we learn about God's word. On Mondays we meet for exercise. This helps us with our gymnastics competition and human pyramids. At times we have a speaker come in who is well versed on a particular sports topic. On Wednesdays we have our games and education nights. We are allowed to bring family games to interact with each other. Again, sometimes a speaker would come to do a presentation. Fridays are the most important meetings. These are centred around 'drilling'. We learn to march, make formations and become familiar with the various commands. If there is any time left after drilling, an officer or guest speaker would talk on an educational topic.



Tamar Tinker in his Boys' Brigade uniform

I am glad to be a part of the Boys' Brigade for it has helped me to become a better person and it has taught me to be disciplined.

by Tamar R. Tinker

Brownies

I'd have to say I really enjoy my Brownie meetings. We meet on Monday afternoons from 3.00 to 4.00. First we all say a prayer and then we recite the Brownie promise. When we recite the promise, we raise three fingers on our right hand. Our thumb holds our little finger down. Our correct Brownie uniform is a straight brown jumper with short sleeves, yellow tie, a brown leather belt with the three-leaf clover sign, a brown beanie hat, white socks and plain white tennis. We have two leaders. The main leader is called the Brown Owl and her assistant is called the Tawny Owl. One is a grade four teacher and the other is a teacher of grade five. They are both really clever and skillful.

In Brownie meetings, we are trained to do various duties, which will help us later in life. These include duties such as cooking, sewing and craft making. We are also encouraged to be kind to others. Every Monday there is another fun-filled activity. We sing songs, play games and participate in given activities. One Monday, we made chocolate chip cookies. They were very delicious. We are



Shauntae Thompson in her Brownie uniform

scheduled to bring beads and string to make necklaces. This will be a part of our craft lesson. We work hard to complete various tasks to obtain badges.

Brownies is one of my favourite activities. During Brownie Week 2001, our company was invited to attend various activities with other packs. One of these activities was a campfire held at the campgrounds on Blue Hill Road South. The leader for the campfire is called a Den

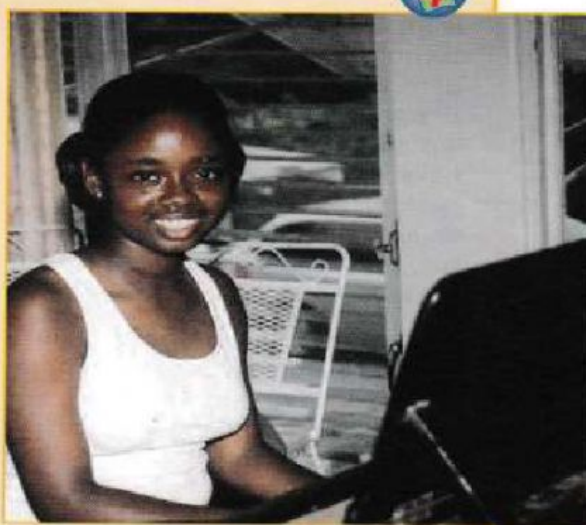
Mother. At campfires you can meet other Brownies, sing songs and play games. Being a Brownie is a lot of fun.

by Shauntae Thompson

Music classes

My name is Ashley and I am a fifth grade student. I began learning to play the piano just over a year ago. Since then I have played for five recitals and once for my school's talent chapel. My friends, teachers and parents always applaud me on my performances. Mrs Joss, my music teacher gives me lessons each Saturday afternoon from 2.30 to 3.00p.m. I am presently at level 2A. My favourite piece of music to play is called 'My Day Dream', by Crystal Bowman. During my music lessons I learn how to read music. I am also taught the importance of good posture while playing. Timing is also very important.

At first I had no interest in playing the piano, but my Mom wanted me to learn since most people in my father's family are musically inclined. Now I enjoy playing the piano. Music relaxes me and it is fun. When I am bored it gives me something of interest to do.



Ashley Stubbs at the piano

I have my own keyboard and I play for at least ten minutes each day. I find that the more I practise, the better I can play. One must be well disciplined and practise regularly in order to perform well.

by Ashley Stubbs

Dance classes

Dancing has always interested me. The way the dancers move and how they express themselves through movement amaze me. At The Bahamas Dance Theatre, we

learn about dancing and the techniques involved. I learn tap, gymnastics, ballet and jazz. We practise all year round on Saturdays and every two years we have a show. I also love to perform. When everyone is watching and the lights are on me, I just want to dance. It is a great feeling!

In dance class I learn many things and have a great time doing it. In ballet we have started pointe classes. I love working on toe shoes because they look so beautiful and it has been my dream to wear them. I like to go across the floor on them. Sure, they take a lot of practice to master but when you finally get up on them you never want to stop dancing in them. When you dance in them you feel proud and excited that you actually got up in toe shoes. Tap is also great. I love to tap because you can make so many sounds and beats and different movements. You look so cool when you are tap dancing. Once you get into the rhythm you never want to stop. I am not very good at gymnastics but whenever I actually do something right, I get excited and can't wait to try again. For most people



Ashli Anne Fox as a little girl in her ballet outfit

gymnastics is fun and it's cool to be able to flip.

Dancing takes practice and hard work but it pays off in the end. When you dance you can express yourself without saying anything. Dancing is a wonderful thing that everyone should do.

by Ashli Anne Fox

Soccer

My favourite game is soccer. I think I can play this game well because I have strong leg muscles and I can

kick hard. I became a member of the Truckers Sports Club about seven months ago. This team is made up of boys and girls from a variety of schools in New Providence. We practise for one hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. After school on Fridays is our fun day. This is when we watch videotapes of various teams playing soccer. On Saturday mornings we practise again on our school field or at Clifford Park. Some Saturdays we play games against other teams such as Queen's College, Dynamos or Tamberley. Occasionally we visit the USA to play against teams there.

On my team I play forward position, mid-field and mostly defence. Defence position involves stopping your opponents from getting the ball, kicking the ball away from your opponent to your team-mate or just simply taking control of the ball. Our coach, Mr Leslie Minns, emphasizes the importance of being very attentive. We are taught never to hold on too long to the ball or we will end up getting hit. Once you have the ball, look up and identify a team-mate who is unguarded. Then dribble the ball until you are close enough to kick it to the unguarded team-mate.

This year, the Truckers Sports Club won the championship in all categories. My coach and the entire team were so excited. We had a grand celebration. There was also an award ceremony where trophies and ribbons were given. I received two trophies and a ribbon for the ten and under B-team championship. This made me so proud and boosted my confidence. I would recommend soccer to any boy or girl who is searching for a fun activity after school.

by Justin Hepburn



Justin Hepburn in his soccer uniform



Questions

- 1 What is the main goal of the Boys' Brigade?
- 2 The Boys' Brigade caters to the whole man, spiritually, physically and mentally. Identify an activity that takes place at the meetings to fit into each of the three categories.
- 3 Read the following statements taken from the passages. Write 'fact' or 'opinion' next to each statement.
 - a Our company meets four times a week.
 - b I am glad to be a part of the Boys' Brigade.
 - c I'd have to say I really enjoy my Brownie meetings.
 - d They were very delicious.
 - e We practise all year round on Saturdays and every two years we have a show.
 - f My favourite game is soccer.
 - g This year, the Truckers Sports Club won the championship in all categories.
 - 4 What is another name given to the leader of a Brownie pack?
 - 5 How is a Brownie rewarded for completion of tasks?
 - 6 Name some of the duties that Brownies are trained to do that would be useful in preparation for life.
 - 7 Name two habits that Ashley developed while learning to play the piano.
 - 8 What was the high point Justin experienced while playing with the Truckers Sports Club?
 - 9 How do the following students get an opportunity to display their talent?
 - a Ashley
 - b Ashli
 - 10 Which of the following after-school activities do you regard as less physical – dancing, playing the piano or soccer? Give reasons for your answer.

