



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
COLOMBO SCOUT YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP

5

**CSYAG  
MEETINGS**

4

**SPECIAL  
PROJECTS**

2

**TLs & RMs  
MEETINGS**

2

**YAG  
REPRESENTATIONS**

*Refer inner pages for more details...*

**WORDS OF INSPIRATION FROM THE  
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER**



I HOPE THIS MESSAGE FINDS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY, SAFE AND HEALTHY!

SCOUTING IS DEFINED TO BE A MOVEMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE, SUPPORTED BY ADULTS. HENCE I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT INVOLVING, ENGAGING AND EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THIS GREAT MOVEMENT, IS ONE OF OUR PRIME RESPONSIBILITIES AS ADULT LEADERS IN THE MOVEMENT. GIVEN THIS BACKDROP, IT IS WITH GREAT PRIDE THAT I PEN DOWN THIS MESSAGE OF INSPIRATION FOR THE 1ST VOLUME OF YPULSE, THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF COLOMBO SCOUT DISTRICT'S OFFICIAL YOUTH BODY WHICH IS THE COLOMBO SCOUT YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP.

AS MANY OF YOU ARE AWARE THE COLOMBO DISTRICT HOSTED THE 2ND COLOMBO SCOUT YOUTH FORUM IN JANUARY THIS YEAR AND THE ABOVE MENTIONED COLOMBO SCOUT YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP WAS ELECTED AT THE FORUM TO FUNCTION AS THE OFFICIAL YOUTH BODY OF THE DISTRICT AND FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 20 FORUM RECOMMENDATIONS. FOUR MONTHS AFTER THE YOUTH FORUM, IT WAS WITH GREAT SATISFACTION THAT I READ THE FINAL DRAFT OF THIS NEWSLETTER, WHICH HIGHLIGHTS THE GREAT WORK THAT OUR YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP HAS DONE DURING THEIR FIRST FOUR MONTHS IN OPERATION. I AM SURE THIS NEWSLETTER WOULD ENLIGHTEN YOU ON THE THOUGHTFUL, INNOVATIVE AND IMPACTFUL WORK THE GROUP HAS DONE DURING THE LAST FOUR MONTHS.

AT THIS TIME, I WISH TO CONGRATULATE THEM ON THE INITIATIVES & PROJECTS THAT THEY HAVE COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY AND WISH THEM ALL THE VERY BEST IN THEIR FUTURE ENDEAVORS!

YOURS IN SCOUT SERVICE,  
AMIL ABEYSUNDARA



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Colombo Scout Youth Forum

Scouting is a grassroots educational youth movement that is truly bottom-up in its structure and approach in engaging young people from all over the world. World Scouting today is a confederation of 171 National Scout Organizations in a network of over 54 million members. In this light the concept of Youth Forum has been promoted by the World Organization of Scout Movement to create a platform for the young scouts to get together to meet new friends, share experiences- views on scouting and contribute new ideas to the Movement on how to enrich educational programs for young people.

Colombo District Branch of Sri Lanka Scout Association (SLSA) took a giant step forward in scouting in Sri Lanka by initiating the first ever District Youth Forum for the Senior Scouts and Rover Scouts, in the year 2015. Marking the 5th anniversary of this historic moment, Colombo District Branch organized the 2nd Colombo Scout Youth Forum from 10th to 12th January 2020 at S. Thomas College, Mt. Lavinia under the theme 'Future Ready'. 50 Scouts from 18 Scout Troops and Rover Crews attended this Youth Forum.

The forum presented 20 recommendations to the Colombo District Branch after discussing on multiple topics based on Input Sessions covering Better World Framework initiatives such as Messenger of Peace, World Scout Environment Programme and HeForShe Initiatives and other Input Sessions such as Entrepreneurship & Innovation, Sustainable Development Goals, Supporting marginalized communities, innovative leadership, responsible use of Social Media, etc. The CSYF programme also included entertainment elements such as a DJ Night and a Talent Night and a Outdoor Team Building Session.





We thank everyone who contributed in making CSYF a huge success including the Warden and Staff of S. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia, District Commissioner, Chairman - EXCO and all other district officials, all speakers, participants, their parents and Scout Masters and last but not least, the Planning Team of CSYF.









# Introducing CSYAG Members



**CHAMOD** VISHVAJITH  
CHAIRMAN  
43RD COLOMBO  
**THE REAL SRI LANKAN MUDALALI**



**SAVIRU** JAYASINGHE  
VICE CHAIRMAN - COMMUNICATIONS  
40TH COLOMBO  
**ALWAYS COOL AND CALM DESPITE ALL  
THE DRAMA THAT SURROUNDS**



M.S. **UBAIDURRAHMAN**  
VICE CHAIRMAN - TROOP & CREW ENGAGEMENT  
11TH COLOMBO  
**A GOOD PLANNER, BUT NOT WHEN IT COMES TO  
THE DIET**



**DWAIN** BERNARD  
SECRETARY  
30TH COLOMBO  
**HIS PEN IS FASTER THAN FLASH**



**THEVINU** SENARATNE  
TREASURER  
21ST COLOMBO  
**SHAGGY IS OUT HERE WITHOUT SCOOPY**



**NILUKSHAN** KRISHNARAM  
ROVER REPRESENTATIVE  
75TH COLOMBO  
**HAVE YOU EVER SEEN HIM NOT  
TALKING?**



**JANUD** UTHSALA  
ROVER REPRESENTATIVE  
35TH COLOMBO  
**A BOSS BABY SWIMMING SINCE '02**



**LAVIN** CHANIDU  
MEMBER  
57TH COLOMBO  
**PARACHUTE MAN RUNNING ON  
THE ROAD**





**NISIN** WEERAKOON  
MEMBER  
10TH COLOMBO  
**POPEYE THE SAILOR, SAILS TO ASIA**



**TALHA** NAZIM  
MEMBER  
5TH COLOMBO  
**HAVE THE MOST CRAZIEST IDEAS  
AND NO FEAR CONQUERING THEM**



**CHANUPA** ARAMBALA  
MEMBER  
35TH COLOMBO  
**A KETTLE SITTING ON ICE TO BOIL**



**SANDARU** ADHITYA  
MEMBER  
76TH COLOMBO  
**FRED FILSTONE IS BASED ON HIM**

## CSYAG Advisory Team



Mr. **AMIL** ABEYSUNDARA  
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER



Mr. **SUPUN** JAYALATH  
ADC - ROVERS AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



Mr. **DUSHYANTHA** VITHANAGE  
ADVISOR



Mr. **ANDREW** BERNARD  
COORDINATOR



Mr. **SHEHAN** SALEEM  
COORDINATOR



# Troop Leaders and Rover Mates Meetings

CSYAG introduced a Monthly Meeting for all the Troop Leaders and Rover Mates in Colombo from the month of February 2020. This Monthly Troop Leaders and Rover Mates Meeting will be held on every 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Colombo Scout HQ from 3 pm - 4 pm. The objectives of hosting the meeting are as follows:

- 1) Create a two-way communication channel between the District Branch and the Troop Leaders / Rover Mates where the District Officials communicate details of the upcoming district activities and initiatives as well as the representatives from Troop and Crews get the opportunity to give feedback on the same and raise their concerns on Scouting.
- 2) Create a networking platform for the Troop Leaders and Rover Mates in the district to share ideas, experiences and collaborate on projects.
- 3) Give an opportunity for the Troop Leaders and Rover Mates to get involved in organizing district activities and initiatives.
- 4) Enhance their knowledge on relevant subject matters through the 30 minutes 'Knowledge Sharing Sessions' that would be conducted at the meeting.

## 1st TLs & RMs Meeting - 19th February 2020 - Colombo District HQ

This meeting attended by representatives from 25 Scout Troops and Rover Crews featured an Introduction to the WOSM Youth Engagement Policy in Scouting and Colombo District's Youth Engagement Action Plan by Mr. Supun Jayalath, Speech and announcements by the District Commissioner - Mr. Gihan Amil Abeysundara, Announcements on upcoming District activities by Event Organizers and an introduction to SDGs and Better World Framework by District MOP Coordinator - Mr. Miral Priyanga.

The 'Knowledge Sharing Session' for the month was conducted by ADC Mr. Dharshana Ranatunga on the topic 'Four Tips to improve your Public Speaking Skills' and the topic was selected based on CSYF Recommendation Number 12.



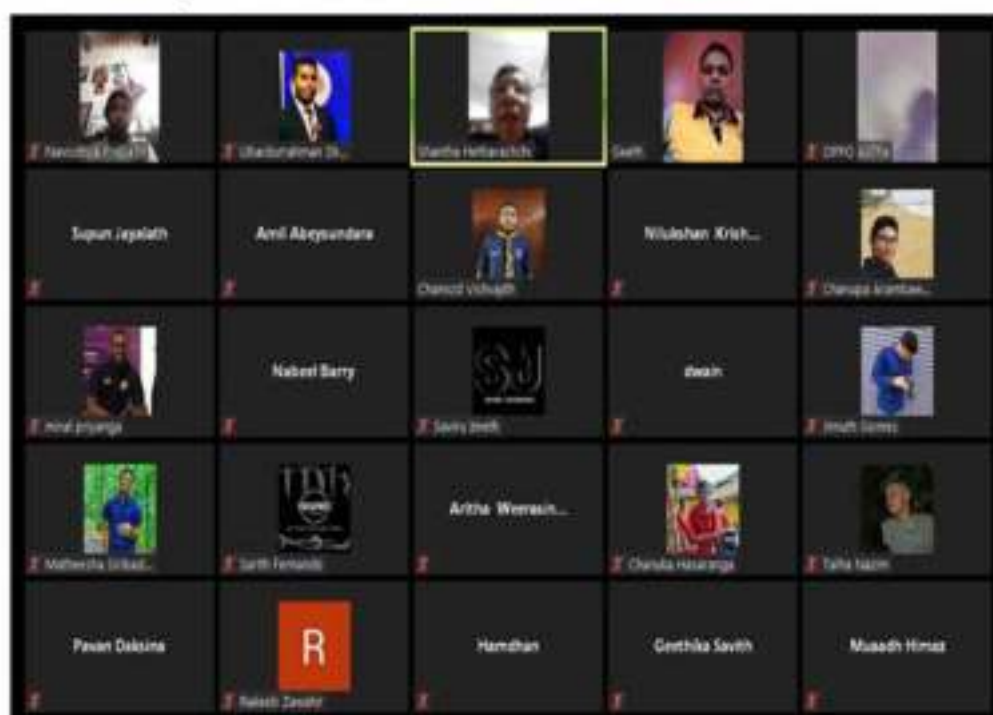




## 2<sup>nd</sup> TLs & RMs Meeting - 22nd April 2020 - ZOOM App

26 Scout Troops and Rover Crews were represented in this virtual meeting and during the knowledge sharing session Dr. Shantha Hettiarachchi spoke on the topic "Your mental health matters now more than ever".

Afterwards, District Commissioner Mr. Amil Abeysundara updated the Troop Leaders and Rover Mates on current measures taken by the District in coping with the global pandemic. He was accompanied by ADC Programmes Mr. Geeth Ramesh, ADC PR/Media and Web development Mr. Miral Priyanga and ADC Rovers and Youth Engagement Mr. Supun Jayalath where they shared their inputs and answered the questions raised by the representatives. Also, the troops and crews were given opportunities to update everyone present on their upcoming special projects. Later, CSYAG Chairman Chamodh Vishvajith updated the representatives regarding the events carried out by the CSYAG for the last four months.



**If you are a TL and RM in Colombo and still haven't joined any of the Troop Leaders and Rover Mates Meeting contact our Vice Chairman - Troop and Crew Engagement  
Senior Scout M.S. Ubaidurrahman on 077 900 5330**



# HeForShe Workshop

The Colombo Scout Youth Advisory Group (CSYAG) hosted a HeForShe Workshop in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UN Women on Sunday, 8th March 2020 from 7.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. at the United Nations Compound, Colombo with the participation of about 50 Senior Scouts and Rovers aged between 15 and 24 years.

The workshop was organized to coincide with the International Women's Day falling on 8th March and aligned with the 'Better World Framework' adopted by World Organization of the Scout Movement globally through its NSOs, of which HeForShe is one key initiative. The workshop included an introduction to the Better World Framework & HeForShe Concept followed by input sessions, interactive activities and discussions on topics such as gender equality & rights, sexual & reproductive health, etc.







The Project Chairman Rover Scout Nilukshan Krishnaram and the entire CSYAG would like to extend our sincere gratitude to UNFPA and UN Women for partnering with us and providing us with the resource personnel, educational material and the venue to make this workshop a success. Also a big thank you to all the Scouts and Rovers who participated as well as their Parents and Scout Masters.







# Stay at Home Challenge

Being early adopters to the new normal, CSYAG organized a new Digital Challenge for the Scouts of the Colombo District in order to get them energized and keep them engaged with Scouting whilst they were at home in lockdown due to the COVID19 pandemic.

15 exciting tasks were introduced through the Actionbound Mobile App covering multiple educational objectives. Over 100 scouts participated in this challenge which took place from the 23rd of March to the 30th of March 2020.

The winners were judged based on the quality maintained in completing the tasks as well as the time taken by the individual Scout to finish the challenge from the time he/ she started it. All participants who completed the Challenge were awarded a 'Certificate of Participation'.

We wish to thank all participants, their Scout Masters / Madams and specially their parents for supervising the Scouts whilst they engaged in the Challenge from home.





## WINNERS



Champion  
**Methula Navaratne - 32nd Colombo**

1st Runner-up  
**H. G. Hasaru Damsara - 43rd Colombo**

2nd Runner-up  
**M.N.M Zaid - 11th Colombo**

Troop with the Highest Number of Completed Participants  
**14th Colombo**





# Colombo Scouts Virtual Avurudu

CSYAG took great pride in launching the first ever Virtual Avurudu Celebrations in Sri Lankan Scouting history! The objective of the project was to take the Sinhala and Tamil New Year spirit to the homes of our Scouts, as we could not organized the Colombo Scouts Avurudu Uthasawaya on 4th April at Thurstan College Grounds as planned earlier.

The Colombo Scouts Virtual Avurudu included seven (7) Avurudu games which were digitally adopted and was launched on 7th April 2020. The creatively crafted digital games attracted thousands of Cubs and Scouts in Colombo and was conducted through the CSYAG Facebook page until 12th April 2020. The games reached its peak when over 3000 participants engaged in the Final of the Virtual Tug-of-War.



**Virtual Tug of War Final Results**





**Lasantha Edirisuriya**

සමහරු කියනවා මය උඩ තියෙන්නෙ අවුරුදු කෑම මේසයක් කියලා. ඒත් ඇත්තම කතාව මේකයි. කාටවත් කියන්න එපා මේක ලොකු රහසක්. ඒත් මේක කවුරුවත් දකින්නෙ නැති නිසා මම මයාලට විතරක් කියන්නම්.

මොනරතැන්නේ stay at Home Virtual Challenge එකක් තිබුනා.

මොනරතැන්නේ scout කරන මොනරු 5 දෙනෙක් මේකට සහභාගි වුනා.

තරගය තමයි මුහුද යට තියෙන ලස්සනම ලස්සන ගල් මල් වත්තට ගිහින් ලස්සනම කොරල් පරය වටේට ඉදගෙන group photo එකක් ගහලා \* #We scouts protect coral reefs in Sri Lanka\* කියලා tag karala CSYAG page eke post එකක් share කරන එක.

**ලොකුම බොරුව**



**අලියාට ඇස තැබීම**



ගස්ලවු ගෙඩියේ ඇට ගණන් කිරීම



**සැහවුණු කැවිලි සෙවීම**



**විකට ඇඳුම තරගය**



**හොඳම හිනාව**

The project was chaired by the CSYAG Vice Chairman, Senior Scout M.S. Ubaidurahuman and we wish to thank participants, their Scout Masters / Madams and specially their parents for supervising the Scouts whilst they engaged in the Avurudu Games from home.



# Online Course on Professionalism and Business Etiquette

This Online Course on Professionalism and Business Etiquette was organized exclusively for the CSYAG members in order to improve the day to day skills that they would require in functioning as the official Youth Body of the Sri Lanka Scout Association – Colombo District Branch.

The Online Course comprised of the 10 modules stated below;

- Introduction to the Online Course
- Letter writing
- Email Etiquette
- Role of a Secretary
- Role of a Chairman
- How to raise funds for a project
- How to represent an organization publicly
- Personal social media best practices
- CV writing
- Facing an Interview



and was held over 2 weeks including 4 assessments and 10 lectures. Mr. Senaka De Fonseka, the Chairman - Executive Committee of the Sri Lanka Scout Association – Colombo District Branch and Former Hony. Secretary of the Executive Committee Mr. Nooranie Muthaliph facilitated the modules.

## YAG Representations

We as a Group is proud to announce the representations of our fellow members at District and National Events.

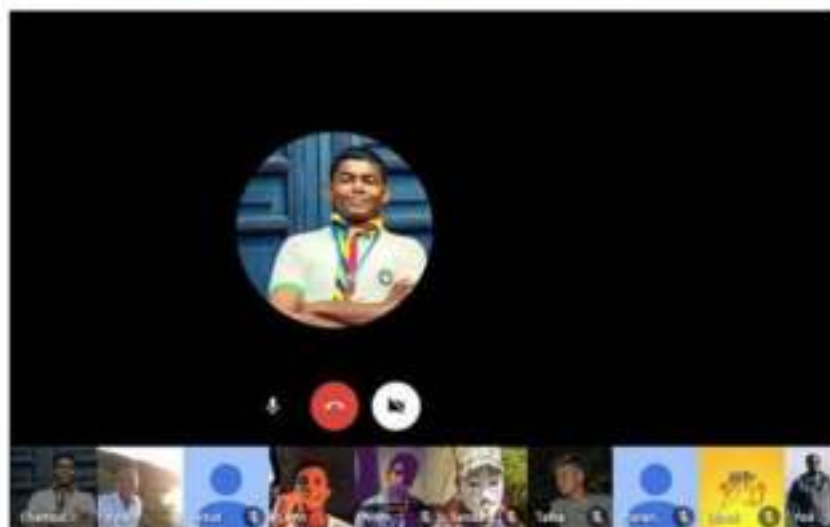
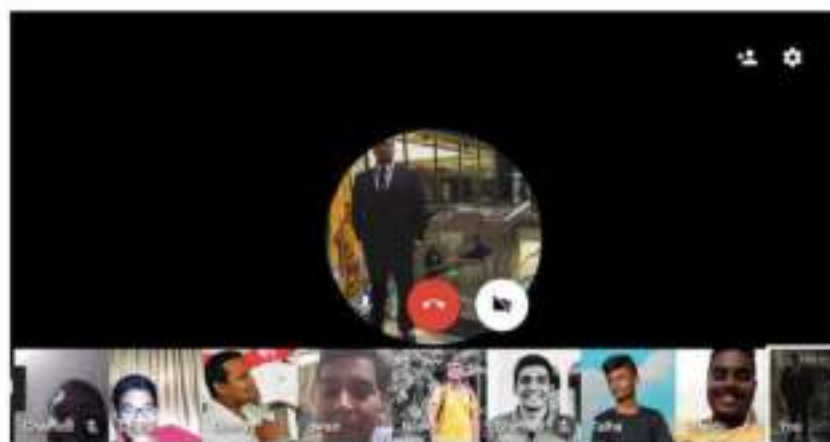
- Our Member, Senior Scout Nisin Weerakoon performed an Piano instrumental at the Virtual Campfire organized by the Colombo Rovers.
- Our Chairman Chamod Vishvajith and Member Nilukshan Krishnaram participated in the virtual meeting held to draft the National Youth Involvement Policy of the Sri Lanka Scout Association, representing the District together with the District Commissioner and ADC – Rovers & Youth Engagement.





# CSYAG Meetings

After the CSYAG was initiated, 5 meetings were held from January to April in order to discuss our future initiatives / projects and also to evaluate our completed initiatives / projects. These meetings help us bond together as a team and deliver our best to the movement.



**1<sup>st</sup> Meeting**  
**19th January 2020**  
**District HQ**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting**  
**19th February 2020**  
**District HQ**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting**  
**21st March 2020**  
**ZOOM App**



**4<sup>th</sup> Meeting**  
**13th April 2020**  
**ZOOM App**



**5<sup>th</sup> Meeting**  
**17th April 2020**  
**ZOOM App**



## Up Coming Excitment



**Project Sauber**  
A Community Service Project



**Grow Green**  
World Environment Day  
Celebrations

## From the Desk of Vice Chairman - Communications

Hope this message finds you and your family well in the prevailing situation!

As Vice Chairman - Communications of CSYAG, I consider it my duty to give you an update about the Communication Strategy of CSYAG. Since day one, we as a group has been keen on driving our communications strategy predominantly via digital media.

We first created a Facebook Page in order to bring details of our projects and initiatives to your digital screens and within a very short span of time we as a team were able to gain over 2500 likes to our page. Whilst celebrating this milestone, we decided to have our presence on Instagram as well. Now we are active on these two social media channels and you can follow us on these channels to stay updated with our activities.



Also we have created a WhatsApp Group for all Troop Leaders and Rover Mates in Colombo, so that we and the District Officials have a direct line of communication with this very important groups stakeholders. If you are a current TL or a RM in Colombo and is not a member of this WhatsApp group, please feel free to contact me on 077 743 0531.

In addition to the above, our latest communication initiative is what you are reading right now; the YPulse Newsletter which gives you the PULSE OF YOUNG SCOUTS in the Colombo District. Hope you enjoyed reading it as much as me and my team enjoyed presenting it to you.

Stay safe until we come to you with the next volume of YPulse, the YAG MAG!



***"We cannot always build the future for our youth, But we can build our youth for the future"***

***- Franklin D. Roosevelt -***

**#FutureReady**



CSYAG



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