

HISTORY OF THE SAINT LUCIA CADET CORPS

ORIGIN/ESTABLISHMENT

The Saint Lucia Cadet Corps is a military youth organization, sponsored by the Government of Saint Lucia, through the Ministry of Education, and takes part in both military and community activities.

Cadetting can trace its beginning in England in 1859 when there was threat of an invasion by the French. The British Army was heavily involved abroad after the India mutiny and there were very few units in the country. Volunteers were formed to repel the possible invasion. History was to repeat itself in 1940 during World War II when the home guard was formed in light of a threatened invasion by the German Army. As in 1859, the 1940 invasion did not materialize.

The Cadet movement however continued because many social workers and teachers saw in it a great value as an organization for the benefit of boys.

One of the most respected social workers at that time was Miss Octavia Hill, who realized that cadet training was of great benefit to boys, and as a result formed the Southwark Cadet Company to introduce boys of the area to the virtues of cleanliness, teamwork and self-reliance.

Seventy (70) years later, the Cadet movement was introduced to Saint Lucia on July 13, 1929, when a Unit was established at Saint Mary's College. Its formation was seen as significant – instilling the highest possible level of discipline and character building in the society.

The Cadets at the time were engaged mainly in drill and route marches, as well as attending national parades and camps.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The Saint Lucia Cadet Corps aims to inspire young people to achieve success in life, with a spirit of service to country and their local community, and to develop in them qualities required of a good citizen.

The Cadet Corps seeks to achieve these objectives through the following;

- Providing Adventurous Training and challenging activities designed to develop the powers of leadership and qualities of character valuable alike to the soldier and civilian.
- Produce a self-reliant fit young man or woman with an understanding of basic military subjects, initiated into the art of leadership, aware of his/her responsibilities as a citizen and with a well-developed interest in the Cadet Corps.

“The Saint Lucia Cadet Corps is guided by the motto: ***“LEADERSHIP-DISCIPLINE-SERVICE”***’

BENEFITS

There are several benefits to be derived from being a member of the Saint Lucia Cadet Corps, and these include, among others:

- The opportunity to travel overseas for the Caribbean Cadet Camp, which is held in a different island each year.
- Serving as the foundation for the Cadet who wishes to join the Army, Defence Force or Police Force.
- The opportunity to make new friends, not just locally but regionally and internationally.
- The opportunity to develop as a member of a team, individual or family and the community.
- Prepares you for the field of work, as the knowledge and skills acquired as a member of the Cadet Corps make you a different person on the job.