

ST. MARY'S LWAK GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL SCOUTS TROOP PROJECTS

Kenya Scouts Association began at St. Mary's Girls High school on 7th November 2014. At first, only thirty members underwent the investiture stage. As per now, the school has a troop of 50 scouts.

The troop, Michigan Troop, is made up of 5 patrols, 2 of which are major patrols. These patrols include; Grand, Kalamazoo, Amazon, Arizona and Caribbean. They take turn ensuring that the scout movement is a joy to every member of the scout society.

The Michigan troop is involved in various activities in the school. With the help of its scout leader, the troops have managed to invest in various projects including; rabbit keeping, bee keeping, poultry keeping, as well as forestry.

RABBIT KEEPING

This project is situated near the school's fish pond. The troop mainly keeps the chinchilla and the French ear-lopped breeds of rabbits. The chinchilla is kept exclusively for its tender meat and its fur which acts as medicine.

The hutch is kept outside for easy access by Scouts and to prevent the breeds from black ants. The rabbits feed on use grass, lettuce, sweet-potato leaves and carrots.

After cleaning their beddings, their droppings are collected since they're rich in nutrients and therefore essential in maintaining soil fertility. Apart from pleasure, we also breed the rabbits for commercial purposes.



FORESTRY

The troops also deal with environmental conservation. The Scouts have planted several forests namely: Wangari Maathai Forest, Obama Forest and Kenya at 50 Forest. The Kenya at 50 forest was started on 5th May 2015, by the Grand and Kalamazoo patrols. It consists of hardwood and softwood. The dominant species is the graveilla.

Every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, the Scouts water the trees and weed the seedlings on Saturday. After every 3-4 weeks, the Scouts usually plant 10 to 15 seedlings with the help of the administration. The troop sometimes carry out campaigns on the importance of trees to human and animal lives. The Obama and Wangari forest form site for apiaries.



BEE KEEPING

The Scouts practice bee keeping (honey bees). The troop has 2 apiaries situated in Obama and Wangari Maathai forest since the forests are the best centers of good supply of nectar producing flowers. The bee hives are divided into two by means of a vertical partitions with wire so that the honey comb are separated from the brood comb.

Harvesting honey has been one of our most challenging activity to the Scouts because it is only harvested at night. To counter this, the grounds men and support staff of the school usually help in the harvesting of the honey. Often they use smoke from smoldering corrugated paper to quieten the bees before opening the hive to make them inactive.

They use a large stiff feather to clear bees from frames and uncap the comb by cutting the top of the cells with a warm long knife. The troop has invested in a special machine for extracting honey and usually gets a minimum of 35 bottles of honey after every six months.

The Scouts sell the honey to earn some monies for the troops activities. The troop looks forward to starting another apiary with the new breed of stingless bees which produce sweeter and more honey.



POULTRY KEEPING

This project began on the 22nd February 2015 after the Founderee celebrations with ten layers. In a week, the troop usually collects approximately 5 trays of eggs.

The poultry mainly feed on concentrated foods in the form of cereal grains, potatoes, as well as sunflower seeds and Lucerne leaves. Day old chicks are fed on crushed maize or chick mash.

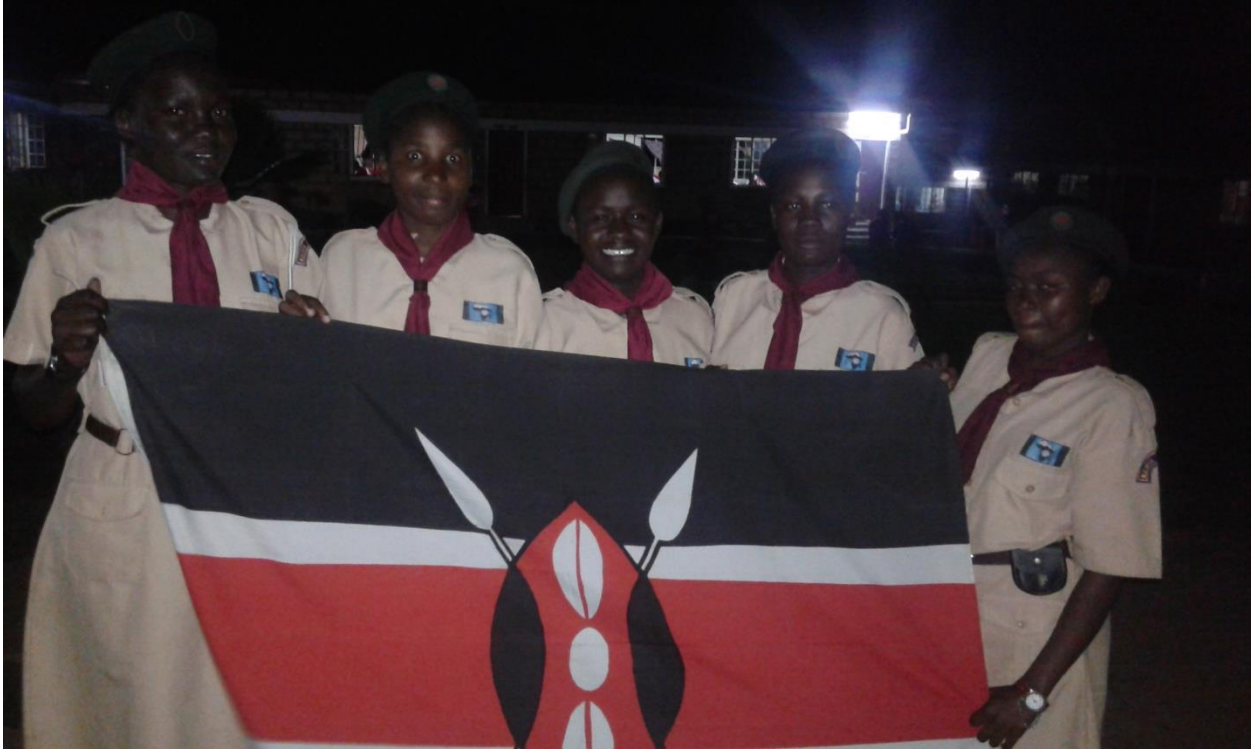
To maintain the healthy condition of the poultry, Scouts regularly clean the house and repair leaking roofs, as well as broken hinges, using the readily available materials.

After every month, the students at the school usually have breakfast accompanied with boiled eggs.



1. Patriotism

To show our patriotism to the nation, we usually attend national holidays such as Madaraka Day, and Mashujaa Day. Other than the national holiday celebrations, we also attend occasions organized to campaign against child exploitation and campaigns for peace, especially the Day of The African Child and Day of The Girl Child.



2. The Brass Band.

It is through the band that the scout began. We have brass instruments namely; 2 trombones, 1 euphonium, 2 baritones, 3 cornets and 3 trumpets. The percussion instruments include; 1 bass drum, 6 side drums, 3 pairs of cymbals, 1 tambourine and 2 recorders. The songs we play include The National Anthem, our School Anthem, Kenya Nchi Yetu among others.

