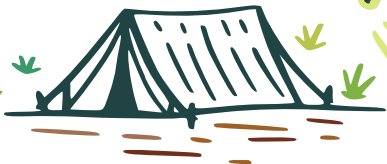


1st Silver Jubilee District Venture Scout Camp



First ever in its history, the Silver Jubilee District (SJD) held a Venture Scout Camp from 30 January to 1 February 2026. Being the Camp Leader for this inaugural and aspirational event was daunting, especially as a Rover overseeing a youth-led planning team. Nonetheless, our efforts united around lofty ambitions: To connect our campers with nature, to create an international experience at a local event, and to undertake the momentous task of building up Venture Scouting links in SJD. Over three days and two nights at Gilwell Campsite, 62 youths did exactly what we set out to do and more, overcoming the wet and humid weather at Kowloon Peak, surprising ourselves with new joy, and packed with the feeling of community and friendship that great stories are built on.

Script

Victor Deyou Meng, Camp Leader

Diverse Participation

Campers consisted of 23 youths from across SJD. Camping alongside them were two Scouting America Troops: 38 girls of Troop 412G from the International Christian School of Hong Kong and members of Troop 12G from Shanghai. A further of eight Scouts from Kowloon joined the "Amazing Race" for a day. Programme highlights included a Mini-Masterchef competition, an off-site "Amazing Race", dialogue sessions and a Camp Forum, Chief Scout's Award Reunion and Scout Shop, International (Schools) Night, two unique campfires, handfuls of prizes for various competitions, along with a Scouts' Own, and plenty of time to break out of usual circles to form friendships along the way.

Building a Legacy

Bringing something new to the District, this camp helped to build a legacy and invigorate Venture Scouting in SJD. Visitors from outside SJD joined Graham Price, our District Chairman and Darren Barton, our District Commissioner, to pass on their well wishes. Special guests included Jason NG, Deputy Chief Commissioner (Operations); Dickens HUI, Assistant Headquarters Commissioner (Venture Scouts), Programme Branch; Nathan POON, Chairman of the Youth Affairs Advisory Council; Keith LAI, Chairman of the Rover Council; and other youth representatives from the Venture Councils.

Lifelong Memories

Camp participants walked away from Gilwell grateful for their precious rest in nature, having experienced a flavour of international Scouting, and tasted Venture Scouting in their lifelong journey. Amid all the thankful messages written to our planning team was one from Scouter Chris SCHOB from Shanghai: "It was our first time at Gilwell, and we were so lucky to meet amazing Hong Kong Scouts and have time for fellowship together!"

Look wide and venture forth to a new journey ahead! 🌸

