



Policy Forum Guyana in collaboration with the Lions Club of Georgetown Stabroek
and Leo Club of Georgetown Stabroek

Back to School Fun Day Camp



2nd September, 2023

Mildred Mansfield Youth Centre on Durban Street

8:00 am - 1:00 pm



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Introduction

Policy Forum Guyana in collaboration with the Lions and Leos of the Georgetown Stabroek Clubs decided to organise a Back to School event for the children living on and around Durban Street. It is noted that some children in this area are impoverished and are unable to afford essential school items. Freedom to education is a fundamental human right and children having access to educational facilities would gain equal opportunities in life. In addition, children gaining an education can move up the social ladder.

This in return would better their standard of living and they would be able to contribute meaningfully to society. Acknowledging these reasons, Policy Forum Guyana's goal was to execute an event that was engaging, educational, and fun while addressing the specific needs and challenges of the children in this financially challenged neighbourhood. To implement a fun and educational factor to the event, Policy Forum Guyana brought six games, of which five were life-size. These games include the eco snake and ladder, earth helper, migratory bird hopscotch, river-guardian game, twister and sustainable development memory game. These games were created with environmental education in mind. The games cover topics such as pollution, wildlife, sustainable lifestyles and more. In addition to these games, the Leo Club of Georgetown Stabroek implemented musical chairs and a dance competition to add to the fun of the event.

Objectives:

1. Academic Readiness: Prepare children for the upcoming school year by offering short but engaging academic activities such as reading sessions, and wordsearch puzzles.
2. Social Interaction: Promote socialisation and teamwork through structured group activities and games.
3. Creative Expression: Provide opportunities for creative expression through arts and crafts projects, music, or storytelling.
4. Nutritional Support: Offer a nutritious snack during the camp to ensure children have access to healthy food.
5. Basic Life Skills: Introduce basic life skills such as hygiene, manners, and time management in a fun and interactive way.
6. School Supplies Distribution: Distribute essential school supplies like notebooks, pencils, and backpacks to help alleviate some of the financial burdens that families in the poor neighbourhood might face.

Project Description

This event marked a milestone in the club's history. It was the first time that both clubs collaborated with Policy Forum Guyana, a local environmental NGO to conduct a Back to School Fun day.

More importantly, all objectives mentioned above were accomplished. The event on Saturday achieved the following:

1. Academic Readiness: By having the Leo Club of Georgetown Stabroek conduct reading sessions, and wordsearch puzzles with the children we were able to focus on foundational skills that will boost their confidence in the classroom. Thus, preparing them for school on the 4th September.
2. Social Interaction: Policy Forum Guyana with the use of their 6 games (*Sustainable Development Goals Memory game, Twister, Earth Helper, Eco-Snake and Ladder, River Guardians Boardgame and Migratory Bird Hopscotch*) promoted socialisation and teamwork. This encouraged the children to build positive relationships with their peers.
3. Creative Expression: The Leo Club with their "*Musical chairs*" and "*So you think you can Dance*" competition, provided students with an opportunity to express their creativity and explore their artistic talents.
4. Nutritional Support: The Georgetown Stabroek Lion Club ensured all students present received a balanced snack at the end of the event as well as water throughout the session to keep them hydrated.
5. Basic Life Skills: The Lions ensured one of their members Dr. Krystal Lee had a brief conversation with them about hygiene and its importance. The students were able to define what was meant by hygiene and highlight hygienic practices.
6. School Supplies Distribution: Utilising our financial resources along with donations the Georgetown Stabroek Lion club distributed essential school supplies packages (such as notebooks, pencils, sharpeners and backpacks) to each child present. Therefore, aiding in alleviating some of the financial burdens that families were facing.

Finally, as it relates to the overall goal of this service project it can confidently be stated that the Lions and Leo Club of Georgetown Stabroek conducted an event that was indeed engaging, educational, and fun while addressing the specific needs and challenges of approximately **80 children between the ages 5-12, at the Mildred Mansfield Youth Centre.**

Attendance

Georgetown Stabroek Lions Club

1. Lion Tamika Grimmond-Walcott (Lion President)

Leo Club of Georgetown Stabroek

1. Kendra Warner (Leo President)
2. Tatyana Abrams (Immediate Past President and Leo Associate)
3. Jenell Browne
4. Godfrey Pickering
5. Akeem John
6. Renaldo Semple (Membership Director)
7. Shineza Sprosta
8. Vanessa Baptiste
9. Althea Abrams
10. Aleah Cummings

Guests (Policy Forum Guyana)

1. Benita Davis (Director)
2. Britney Semple (Communications Officer)
3. Jasmine Crawford (Project Coordinator)
4. Keanu Thomas (Photographer)
5. Shauna Fredericks (Volunteer)
6. Shankar Cyril (Volunteer)
7. Joel Dazzell (Volunteer)
8. Shoaib Haroon (Volunteer)
9. Suphane Dash-Alleyne (Volunteer)
10. Nadia Salick (Face Painter)
11. Alyce Cameron (Face Painter)

Issues with the Event:

1. The event was scheduled to stop at 12:00 pm. However, due to a few lions and leos arriving later than 8:00am the event was extended until 1:00pm.
2. The Hopscotch game by Policy Forum Guyana wasn't properly secured and led to two students sliding. Although it didn't result in major injuries, it's something we need to take note of going forward in order to ensure maximum safety.
3. Although the Dance competition encouraged creative expression, the song chosen: **Drift by DJ MAC and Tee Jai** was quite inappropriate for the 5-12 years old age range.

Budget for the Event:

Items	Quantity	Unit Cost \$	Total Cost \$
Balloons	2 packs	1400	2,800
Food Box	1 pack	1300	1,300
Transportation (Trooper-Taxi Service)			1,000
Nadia Salick (Face Painter)			8,000
Alyce Cameron (Face Painter)			10,000
Keanu Thomas Transportation			5,000
Styrofoam Cooler Box			2,110
Topco Juice (Cherry)	16	78	1,248
Topco Juice (Cherry &	8	78	624

Passion)	24	50	1,200
Clear Water (500ml)			<u>3445</u>
Ice	1 pack	440	440
Brown Paper Bag	1 pack	600	600
Snacks			8,400
TOTAL			43,095

Evaluation of Success:

Despite ending later than planned, a few falls during the hopscotch game and an inappropriate song for the dance competition the five objectives were successfully achieved. Therefore, it is safe to say that the '*Back to School Fun Day Camp*' was a success.

Next Steps:

1. Develop a better back to school program that is appropriate and educational.
2. Promote more awareness toward the 1.5 lifestyle, to encourage sustainable living.
3. Have more back to school items for the children.

Appendix

Twister:



Migratory Birds Hopscotch:



Eco Snake and Ladder:



River Guardian Game:



Sustainable Development Memory Game:



Earth Helper:



Musical Chairs Game:



Back to School Gifts:



Policy Forum Guyana's Volunteers:



Lions Club of Stabroek Georgetown:



Leo Club of Stabroek Georgetown:



Presenting children with Back to School Gifts



Face Painting:

