

# VENTURING MAGAZINE

## Uganda Scout Association Youth Brass Band

by Emong, band member of the Uganda Scouts Association Youth Brass Band

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*I met Emong through Facebook accepting him as a friend because I could see he was a scout from Uganda. Soon afterwards, I learned he was in the Uganda Scouts Association Youth Brassband. I thought that was so interesting that I asked him if he would tell us about his band and scouts in Uganda. The following is what he shared with me.*



The band started in late January 2015 at Baden Powell House Uganda along Buganda road as one of the achievements towards celebrating 100 years of scouting in Uganda. It started with a few basic wind instruments such as trumpets (4), baritone (1), tenor trombones (3), bass trombone (1), French horn (1). The percussions included side drums (4), snare drums (3), 2 pairs of cymbals, tenor drum, mini glockenspiel & a bass drum.

It has continued to grow, and so far about 50 members are in the band including the learners which number exceeds the available instruments. We are looking forward to laying a strong music foundation based on scout values in the same way the Crossroads of America Scout Band has done.



To uplift the music standards of the band, music experts from one of the national Brass bands in Uganda were called upon to help the young musical scouts who were about 25 in number by that time. The band played its first scouts activity on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2015 which was held in Mbarara in Western Uganda as the founder's day. Scouting activities continued to take place where the band played such as the Africa Scouts day which took place in March 2015 at the national scout's campsite called Kaazi.

As the scouts band, we played at the opening of the centenary jamboree celebrations commemorating 100 years of scouting in Uganda (1915-2015) as well as at the closure of the jamboree. We opened the Africa youth forum and also opened the World scouts conference in Uganda 2015 and also entertained the international delegates who were so amazed.





We didn't stop at only playing music. We also involved in other projects in scouting as well as band activities. We got involved in giving out of mosquito nets to the communities around us under a great project of its own which is called Scouts Against Malaria, and got involved in extending clean water to communities in shortage of water under a great project called Water for Life where we constructed water sources such as wells for the communities — all in the name of scouting. The band plays a big role of community awareness converging people in the communities where the projects have been staged.



The scouts band in Uganda has also been equipping scouts with a skill of playing the percussion and wind instruments even though we have a shortage of instruments. The projects that we get involved in are mostly funded by scout's friends from countries such as UK.

More so the Uganda Scouts Association Youth Brass Band is involved in environmental activities with other associations such as the Uganda Olympics Committee and in a messenger of peace activities (MOP) and all boosts our reputation as the Uganda Scouts Association Youth Brass Band and Scout in Uganda and the world at large (la mundial).