

February 2018

Dear friends,

Life to the Max 2018

We're excited and we hope you are that Life 2 the Max is back for 2018. In this letter we hope to give you all the information that you need to offer this out to children & young people in your Company.

Please read on to find out more . . .

Who's it for?

Open to Anchors, Juniors, Company Section age groups (including Girls' Association), Girls' Brigade members, and of course their leaders! There are also opportunities for Seniors to come along and help at the event. The aim is to get as many children and young people from across London together on one day! In 2016 we had had over 550 children and young people onsite, plus over 100 leaders and we are keen to build on this number in 2018.

The Date & location . . .

The event will be held on **Saturday 23rd June 2018** at Felden Lodge, BB Headquarters which is in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. The location is set in over 30 acres of ground and is easily accessible via the M25, M1 and A41. See www.feldenlodge.co.uk for directions (the postcode is 'HP3 0BL'). The event will run from **10.30am to 4.30pm**.

What Activities will be on offer . . .

A wide range of activities will be on offer throughout the day. The 'Activity Village' will be bigger and better than ever before, being split into zones each featuring a range of activities.

Activities confirmed for 2018 are:

- Fun fair rides (including Dodgems, King Frog, Tea Cup rides)
- Inflatables (including Mega Inflatable Slide, Gladiator Duel, Bouncy Castles, Bungee Run)
- Bungee Trampolines
- Lasertag Arena
- Putting Green
- Circus Skills
- Sumo Suits
- Magic Workshops and Shows
- Crafts Zone
- Water Games

Plus lots more still be to be added to the list!



There are a number of other activities still to be added to this, and we are really excited about the activities at this year's event – there promises to be something to keep every entertained at Life 2 the Max 2018. The larger rides and activities will be open all day, but some of our activities may only be open at specific times, there will also be specific times for some of the shows and demonstrations throughout the day.

The programme will also include an opportunity for us all to get-together for a time of worship led from the Main Stage. The Gospel Illusionist, Adrian Ward will be with us along with the band from Ampthill Baptist Church. As part of our opening and closing ceremonies we will also see displays from some of our guests including a dazzling display of circus skills, illusions and skills.

A full planner will be available on the day with specific times, and announcements will be made using our PA system to remind children and young people of this during the day.

It's all about food . . .

Well it's not really, but food is always important, and this will be no different at Life 2 the Max. All those attending will get a sandwich (from selection), packet of crisps, muffin and a drink during their lunch stop (this includes leaders!). The Lunch stop will be an allocated period of time each group is given to pick up and eat their lunch. During the rest of the day a refreshment station providing water/squash will be available so that there is always the opportunity to get a drink.

Moving around the event . . .

The event is open to all age groups and for the majority of the day children and young people will be free to roam the site and have a go on the activities on offer. It is expected that younger children will have direct supervision and go round as a group, but Juniors and Company Section members could go around with remote supervision from Company leaders. There will be a team of staff supervising all activities and also generally supervising the site throughout the day.

All those attending will be given a wristband which MUST be worn whilst on site, this wristband will enable all staff including those running activities to be aware of the age group children/young people are in. Certain activities will be age restricted and therefore this will help in this way, but will also help gather age groups for the Worship time and Lunch periods which will be organised as set times for each age group.

Nominated Company Contact . . .

Every Company will need to complete a 'Company Registration Form' when arriving onsite, providing details of all children/young people and leaders onsite. This form will also nominate the 'Company Contact' the person responsible for all children/young people onsite. This will be the person the event team would contact the event of a problem arising involving a member of their Company and who in the event of a site evacuation would be responsible for ensuring all their children/young people and leaders are present.

Companies bringing those in the Anchors age group should have a 'Company' leader accompanying them, for all other age groups no Company leader is required, supervision will be provided across Companies and Battalions as long as a Company leader is in attendance at the event. This is to enable all Companies regardless of the number of staff to be able to attend without any problems.

What's the cost . . .

There will be a cost for the event and this will be:

- **£15 per head for all children and young people** (early bird price, by 15th May)
- **£7 per head for ALL leaders.**

Those bookings **after 15th May will be charged £17.50 per child/young person.**

Included in the price is all activities and lunch/refreshments. Leaders should not worry, as there will be opportunities for leaders to have a go at some of the activities too! It promises to be a fantastic day out for all at a great price!

As you will see this year the event is also open to Girls' Brigade members, so if you have a GB Company at your church then please do invite them along to join us.

We know that some Companies are subsidising the cost or paying in full for their children and young people, with some doing fundraising to help cover these costs. It would be our hope that no-one is excluded on the basis of cost, and that consideration at Company level and/or with your Battalion or Church may find some financial support if the children & young people in your Company cannot afford to come along. The cost of the event has been heavily reduced by core funding from London District and some Battalions.

What about Seniors (15 years +) . . .

We believe the event is best suited for those aged 14 years and under, but Seniors are welcome to attend where Companies would like to offer it to this age group. We would also like to encourage Seniors to come along and help with event, there are plenty of different jobs to do. Where Seniors are attending to help please list them as leaders and only pay £7. Don't forget if they come along and help out for a few hours they will still have time to have a go on some of the activities.

Onsite Shop Open this year . . .

There will be a shop in operation during the event selling sweets and drinks as well as a small selection of BB merchandise. Children and Young People are therefore encouraged to bring some pocket money along to purchase items from the shop during the day.

Promoting the event to your Children & Young People . . .

You can download the event publicity poster/leaflet online at www.thebbinlondon.org.uk. Attached to this email you will find a letter/form which can be printed out and used to give out to your children & young people (there is space on the PDF to type in your own local information such as cost and meeting times). Alternatively, you could always put your own letter together. If you would like an A3 poster to promote the event or additional leaflets, then these are available through the London Office. Don't forget to talk to your children and young people about the event, from the information provided in this letter make sure you tell them about the activities and what will be happening!

Transport . . .

It is hoped that where possible Battalion's will help support travel arrangements to and from the event, by coordinating arrangements and organising shared use of minibuses and/or hiring a coach/bus. This is to ensure that companies within only a couple of members of staff and no to little transport can attend and are not penalised. I know a number of Battalions have already arranged to hire a coach/bus and are coordinating

transport and pickup times. So please check with your Battalion Secretary to find out more.

Parking onsite & arrivals/departures . . .

There is parking available onsite for cars and minibuses. You should note that a one-way system will be in place during the event with vehicles entering via the front (main) entrance and leaving via the back gate. We would ask that where possible vehicles are filled up to reduce the number of vehicles coming to site on the day. If your Company or Battalion is arriving/departing via a Coach or Double Decker bus (or anything bigger than a normal 17 seater minibus) please indicate this on your registration form. Arrivals and departures of coaches will be coordinated to avoid any problems and enable us to utilise the space on site. Please note that coaches/double decker buses will NOT be allowed to stay onsite and may be required to drop off on Felden Lane). **Arrivals on site for all vehicles should be from 9.45am only, the 'Activity Village' will open with limited activities from 10am, with all activities open by 10.30am.** Departures will be from 4.30pm. If you have booked transport such as coaches/buses then these will need to go offsite once they have dropped off and return for pickup no earlier than 4.30pm, it is recommended that coaches/buses use the services on the A41 (5 minutes from Felden), where they can park and access toilets/refreshments (a map will be provided on the day for drivers). Final information about parking and arrivals/departures will be circulated a couple of weeks before the event. There will be some activities open from 10am onwards to keep children and young people entertained in one place, safe and away from traffic.

Uniform

It would be great if BB polo shirts or Company t-shirts were worn by children, young people and leaders as it helps show that we are all part of one big organisation. That said we appreciate that this may not be practical, and it is not a requirement and up to individual Company's.

Weather . . .

As you all will be aware Hemel Hempstead is located in an area that boasts lovely sunshine and is hot all year round! This being the case please ensure that children and young people come appropriately dressed and equipped (sunscreen, hats, coats, etc) for the weather on the day of the event. Rain or shine the event will continue, wet weather plans are in place and in the event of wet weather arrangements will be made to erect marquees and make use of indoor space.

Keeping everyone safe and well . . .

We will have first aid cover at the event, and they will be on hand to help should any illness or injury occur. Companies will be expected to have completed consent forms with them for all participants, whether the Annual Consent Form (if your Company includes provision for day events such as this through this form) or by completion of the Special Activity Consent Form (completed specifically for this event). The completed consent forms will be held by a nominated Company leader and the details of this leader will be provided to the event management so that they can be contacted should there be any problem with a child/young person from their Company during the event, recognising that leaders will not always be with all children and young people in their Company. More information including copies of the Special Activity Consent Form will be sent out in the weeks leading up to the event. Risk assessments and Health & Safety controls are being put in place and emergency information will be circulated to leaders on arrival at the event.

Registering for the event . . .

To enable the event team to successfully prepare for the event we are asking that all Companies get their children and young people to book to attend the event. A '**Company Registration form**' is attached to be completed by each Company attending to provide numbers of those booked to attend. We would ask that the [registration form is sent in by 15th May 2018](#) accompanied by the £15 per head (as the early bird rate) for each child/young person and £7 per head for each leader booked to attend. For bookings received after 15th May 2018 the full price of £17.50 per child/young person MUST be paid.

You can make payments online by bank transfer to (please use ref 'Life 2 the Max'):

A/c Name **The Boys Brigade (London District)**

Sort Code **40-52-40**

A/c Number **00015929**

If making payment online please send an email to enquiries@thebbinlondon.org.uk to confirm payment has been stating Company name, so we can easily recognise and allocate to your booking.

You will appreciate that it is important that we have numbers in before the event so that it can be appropriately scaled based on the numbers booked. Names will not be required until arrival at the event when we will expect a list from each Company listing the names and age group for each child/young person.

Attendance at the event will be strictly 'Booked in advance' only, there will not be an opportunity to turn up on the day of this event. Please book early to avoid disappointment as we do have limited places and once we reach the limit we will not be able to accept additional bookings.

Helping run the event . . .


The majority of roles which require participation before the event have been filled however we still need staff to help supervise activities within the 'Activity Village'. If you are able to assist, then please send an email to Chris Norman (chris@boys-brigade.org.uk). It would be hoped that each Company attending the event could provide at least 1 member of staff to help with the running/supervising of an activity for a period of time on the day.

I have some questions . . .

Please contact me with any questions, ideas or concerns by email at chris@boys-brigade.org.uk or on 01442 288 552 (daytime) or 07703 571 915 (other times).

I hope that the above information gives you everything you need to know about the event. Finally, I do hope that your Company will be offering this event to your children and young people, it promises to be a fantastic day out for all!

Yours sincerely,



Chris Norman
Event Director / London Vice-President