

ADVANCE

Denominational Partnership Strategy for Advancing Christ's Kingdom

The Boys' Brigade Victoria



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What is Boys' Brigade?

Boys' Brigade is a uniformed youth organisation that was started over 130 years ago in Glasgow Scotland to support youth ministry in churches. Since then it has grown to a global movement of over 1,500,000 boys.

Here's the object of The Boys' Brigade, it shows what our main purpose is.

“For the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys and the promotion of habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, self respect and all that tends towards true Christian manliness.”

The centre of the object, the point on which everything in Brigade hangs, is *“For the advancement of Christ's Kingdom”*. This is the central purpose of The Boys' Brigade.

In the words of our founder, Sir William Alexander Smith, “I do not know much about music, but I understand that the keynote is the note to which all other notes require in some degree to conform if anything approaching harmony is to be attained. If this be so, I think the definition is a peculiarly happy one. ‘The advancement of Christ's Kingdom’ was the flag we raised at the very beginning. That flag has never been lowered, and today we lift it higher than ever we did before. We believe that the very existence of The Boys' Brigade depends upon the maintenance of the high position that we took up at the start.”

The rest of the object then sets up the way in which Brigade advances Christ's Kingdom.

To **whom** does Brigade advance Christ's Kingdom? Boys

And **how** does Brigade advance Christ's Kingdom? Through promoting the habits of a true Christian man which include obedience, reverence, discipline and self respect.

Partnership Purpose

The ultimate purpose of this partnership is to 'advance Christ's Kingdom'.

This partnership also aims to create a symbiotic relationship between The Boys' Brigade Victoria and Church denomination.

In this partnership Boys' Brigade would benefit from the church's support and leadership and the church would benefit from BB's over 130 years experience in running youth ministry, in particular BB's strong focus on leadership training for youth.

We want to work together to further Christ's Kingdom not only in boys. Even though we are a male only program, we recognise that many of the boys in our programs will go on to become Christian men, who will have impact and influence over their families, churches and society as a whole.

Partnership Proposal

This is what the partnership would physically look like:



Boys' Brigade Victoria would form a specialised Battalion to manage expansion within the denomination.



The denomination would advertise Boys' Brigade to its member churches



Boys' Brigade Companies would start in churches who desired one. These companies would not replace any existing youth ministries. BB was never designed to do this but rather to work along side any other youth programs, if they exist.

Company Structure

Boys' Brigade all over the world is run through companies.

Each company is the individual ministry of the church that facilitates the program (which is provided by Boys' Brigade). So the church oversees all the programs that are run and company events that happen.

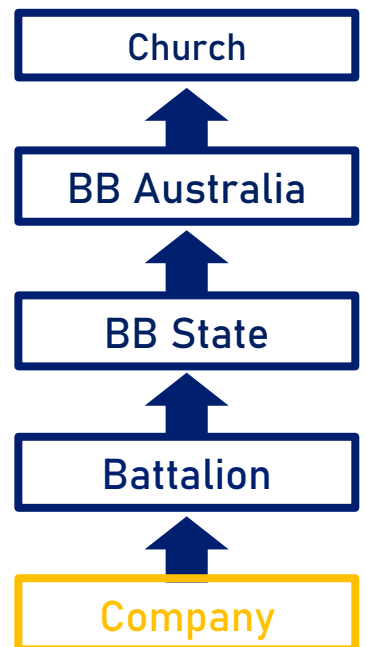
As the BB is working to develop boys into Christian men that will hopefully one day be leaders in the church it is great the church leadership get to have a firm hand over how their church is developing tomorrow's Christian men.

The volunteers to run Boys' Brigade are called officers and each officer is approved by the church.

In charge of the running of a company is the Captain who is appointed by the church. The captain oversees all the other officers and the running of the company.

Other ranks of officers are Lieutenants and Warrant Officers.

The boys in each company are divided into three sections. Anchors (ages 5-8), Juniors (ages 9-12) and Seniors (ages 13-18).



What does a company night look like?

This is what a typical night for Junior Section (ages 8 to 12) might look like, but it is up to the individual church exactly how BB is run.

Time	Activity	Explanation
7:00pm	Opening Parade	Boys of all sections gather together for a formal beginning to the night and also hear any announcements
7:10pm	Drill Practice	BB uses drill to teach teamwork, discipline and many other valuable skills
7:25pm	Badge Class	Boys will learn a particular skill, such as how to set up a tent or woodwork
7:50pm	Games	Games provide an opportunity for physical activity as well as developing team work skills
8:15pm	Devotions	Boys learn more about God. This is especially important as for many boys, BB is their only Christian influence.
8:30pm	Closing Parade	The night ends

How does Boys' Brigade fit into this?

If your church was to start a Boys' Brigade company, the church would have oversight over who the leaders were and what programs were run.

So what does Boys' Brigade as an organisation do? One main thing that Boys' Brigade does is run events for all the boys in a State.

Each year BB Victoria will organise; state camp, drill competition, State Canoeing Day, weekend leadership training camps, week-long leadership training camps and much more.

Another thing that Boys' Brigade does is support companies in running their programs through sharing resources and training officers.

This means that just because a boy attends a smaller company with not many leaders, it does not mean that he has to miss out on many things. And it means that his company can be supported to grow and develop.

The following pages explain how the Boys' Brigade hierarchy works from above a company level.

Battalion Structure

A battalion is a group of companies and operates under the relevant State Authority.

For a group of new companies a new battalion would be formed and that battalion leadership would aim to reduce the administrative burden on new companies as well as ensure that they are well supported and resourced.

The battalion council is made up of 3 vice captains, one of whom is elected to the position of captain by the denominational body engaging in this expansion program.

The captain and two vice captains will each be allocated to one of the following areas:

Area One - Existing Companies

- Makes sure that companies in the battalion are adequately resourced.
- Looks after communal pools of recourses and equipment.
- Ensures that companies are following BB and denominational policy.
- Collects statistics on each company to collate into the annual Battalion report.

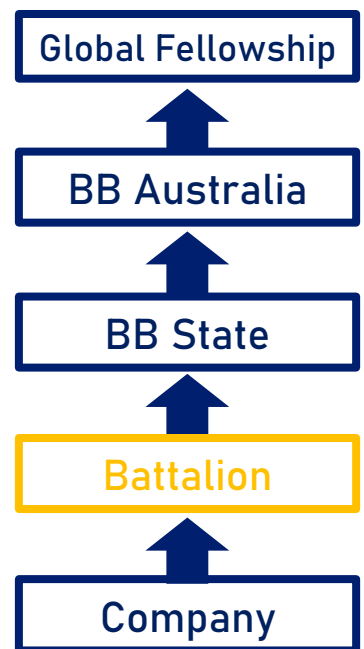
Area Two - Administration

- Collects fees, orders uniform, and other administration needs (such as liaising with BBA about insurance)
- And also keeps records for all companies, which shall be shared with the captain of each company.

Area Three - New Companies

- Communicates with churches wishing to begin a BB program.
- Organises promotional material for BB.
- Arranges training material for new officers.

The Battalion Council can also appoint other coopted positions to fulfill specific tasks if required.



BB Victoria

Boys' Brigade Victoria is made up of all the companies in Victoria and seeks to aid companies in furthering Christ's Kingdom.

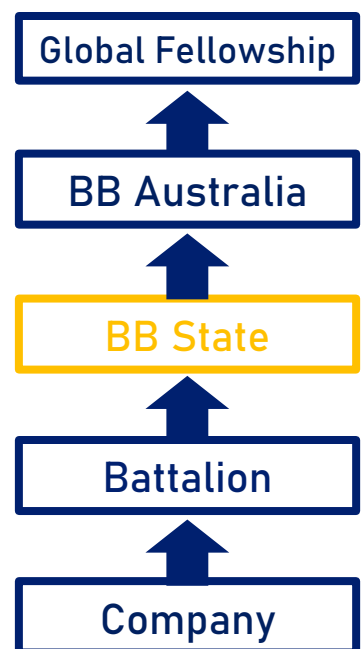
They do this through assisting officers through training and sharing resources and also through running events for boys.

For example, in a given year Boys' Brigade Victoria will run:

- Juniors' State Camp
- Seniors' State Camp
- 3x Weekend Leadership Courses
- 2x Weeklong Leadership Courses
- State Canoeing Day
- State Hike (weekend)
- Drill Competition
- Figure Marching Competition
- Billy Cart Darby
- State Athletics Day

Boys from all companies are invited to participate in these events.

BBV also assist in running programs such as The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme as they are a registered assessor.



BB Australia

Boys' Brigade Australia is the peak governing body of BB in Australia.

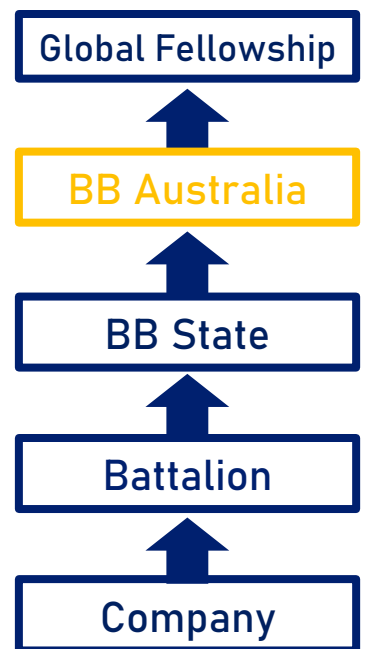
Their main role is to determine the major policies for the Brigade in Australia and its insurance.

BB Australia also organise the Pan Australia Camp (PAC) which is held every three years for boys over the age of 12.

Another important role of BBA is connecting with companies from overseas. For example, in the past BBA has helped facilitate international sessions between companies in Malaysia and Melbourne. These sessions have helped to increase boys' cultural understanding as well as educating them about how Christ is growing His Kingdom in other parts of the world.

You can find out more about BBA from their website at:

www.boys.brigadeaustralia.org



Global Fellowship

The Global Fellowship of Christian Youth is an international body which represents around 1.5 million Christian youth around the world through Boys' Brigade and a number of other organisations.



Global Fellowship have no direct power over member countries, so Boys' Brigade Australia is still the highest earthly authority for us in Victoria.

The aim of Global Fellowship is more along the lines of international connection and as their name suggests, fellowship.

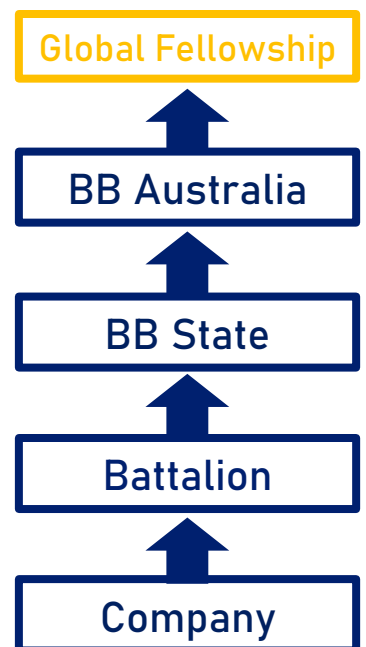
For example, in 2021 GF set up a Young Leaders Group which aimed to connect, encourage and resource young leaders all around the world.

You can find out more about the work of Global Fellowship from the following:

www.globalfellowship.net

Facebook: @GlobalFellowship

Twitter: @GlobalFel



How To Get Started

To begin the process of forming a denominational partnership you will need to contact the Director of Development at Boys' Brigade Victoria:

(BBV Director of Development Name)

(Email Address)

(Phone Number)

Following this a meeting will be set up to have a chat about how Boys' Brigade can partner with you to further Christ's Kingdom among the future men in your church.

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