

Closing Ceremony of Annual Scout Joint Camp held by Chief Secretary Liu

(Article by Liu Yulong; Photos by Zhang Shulin)



The 2014 National High School Jamboree and the 4-H Club Joint Camp took place from January 23 to 27 in the National Yuanlin Agricultural and Industrial Vocational High School. The Minister of Education Jiang Weining showed up in the opening ceremony on the first day of the event, and the theme of the event was “Scout Spirit, Local Love.” The organizer planned 5 central topics for the 5-day joint camp: *welcome, joy, challenge, transcendence, and value*, in order to promote character building through scouting, to increase the campers’ participation in the public affairs through the exchange of views and interactive activities, to encourage them to learn teamwork, and to engage them with the so-called “4 Hs”: *head, heart, hands, and health*.

The joint camp is one of the major high school events held annually in Taiwan. To organize such an event, the host planned and pooled the resources of nearby schools and communities for the past six months. It aimed to provide the high school students from across the country with exciting and exquisite experiences, from which they can learn aspects of rural life and the ancient side of Lugang Township. Among the activities of the joint camp were transplanting rice seedlings, plaiting straw ropes, playing tug-of-war in the mud and other games that

demonstrated scout skills. The event also included various individual and team challenges which left all the campers fond memories to cherish.

The Chief Secretary of K-12 Education Administration Liu Yuanming arrived at the school in the morning of January 27th to attend the closing ceremony. He received a warm welcome from the school's principal Liao Hongying. The closing ceremony began at 11:00 a.m with a parade of participating schools' banners, followed by the host school's banner, the scout troop's banner, and the 4-H flag. The host authority also announced that National Taichung Industrial High School would host the next annual event. The ceremony reached a climax as Chief Secretary Liu presented the "Teamwork Award" to 15 school representatives and took group photos with them (the award is further divided into three categories, *Wisdom*, *Benevolence*, and *Courage*). The Chief Secretary Liu commended and appreciated the host school's efforts to organize the event and the support of people who helped behind the scene, which, according to him, contributed to the success of the event. He also stressed that the local scouts has played an important role in the scout world thanks to the solid training provided in Taiwan. Finally, he concluded the ceremony by wishing everyone a happy Lunar New Year and hoped that the scouting activities would continue to grow and flourish.

