

BECOMING A OLAVE BADEN- POWELL SOCIETY YOUNG SUPPORTER



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When I was in class 6 at Mt St Mary's primary school, I used to admire the Girl Guides in my school who used to march in the morning at the parade. There was something special about them. They were disciplined, respectful and hardworking. They stood out from the crowd and they inspired me and I wanted to be just like them. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to join as my father was not able to pay for the Girl Guides uniform. I didn't lose hope and tried asking my father in high school to buy the rangers' uniform which finally paid off and he bought me the full uniform. This was the beginning of my journey. Joining the Kenya Girl Guides Association (KGGA) was a great joy and was privileged to join a movement that empowered me as a young girl and other girls through leadership and life skills.

At this point, I did not know how big the movement was until I joined the Young leaders Nairobi Unit and I was selected to represent the association and became a WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) Youth delegate at the 17th United Nations Climate Change conference (COP 17) in Durban, South Africa. This was a chance for me to represent girls and young women around the world who like me, were affected by the negative effects of climate change. I had never given a public speech but through guidance of the WAGGGS coordinator and her team, I felt confident to give the speech of my life. It was a great speech that silenced the conference hall at the United Nations as I shared my life experience with the effects of climate change. This was the day I realised that one voice, my voice, can make a difference as I was being interviewed by different media houses and I had to become an agent of change.



Through the Guiding movement and my passion for Guiding, a lot of doors have opened up for me from representing young leaders in the National Council of KGGGA, a young leader official in the Young Leaders Nairobi Unit, helped in organising different events and projects for young leaders, represented the association in different forums on policy making and lobbying on gender issues and the environment, became a WAGGGS advocate member on the Stop the Violence campaign against girls and young women, a WAGGGS Youth delegate at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) in Rio de Janeiro and 58th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 58) in New York, spearheaded the Girl Guides Acts of Green project in Nairobi and Machakos, became a WAGGGS Post 2015 Ambassador on Sustainable development and later a Global Youth Ambassador for a World at School. This has been a great journey, a journey where I have gained lots of skills, become a leader, became inspired and inspired other young women, made friends and gained sisters from Kenya and all over the world.



I was humbled and honoured when I was invited to be a Olave Baden Powell Society (OB-PS) young supporter. It was a dream come true as I wanted to do more to support the movement that had given me so much.

The Olave Baden-Powell Society which is part of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, brings together a worldwide network of WAGGGS supporters, provides vital funding to the organization and create a community of those who are passionate about global Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting.

As a OB-PS Young Supporter, it gives me a chance to publicize OB-PS, WAGGGS work and the effect which Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting have on girls' lives in Kenya and around the world. The chance to support the Movement, ensure its sustainability, and also keep in touch with other Girl Guides and Girl Scouts through special events. It will provide a wider range of opportunities in networking, mentoring and personal development as many of the current members have a great deal of experience in the voluntary sector, have had successful professional careers and are happy to share their expertise and knowledge with young supporters.

As I take the new role, I would like to thank the entire KGGGA community for the support they have given me and the chance to make a difference for girls and young women in Kenya and around the world. I will be putting all my efforts and giving my best as a OB-PS young supporter.