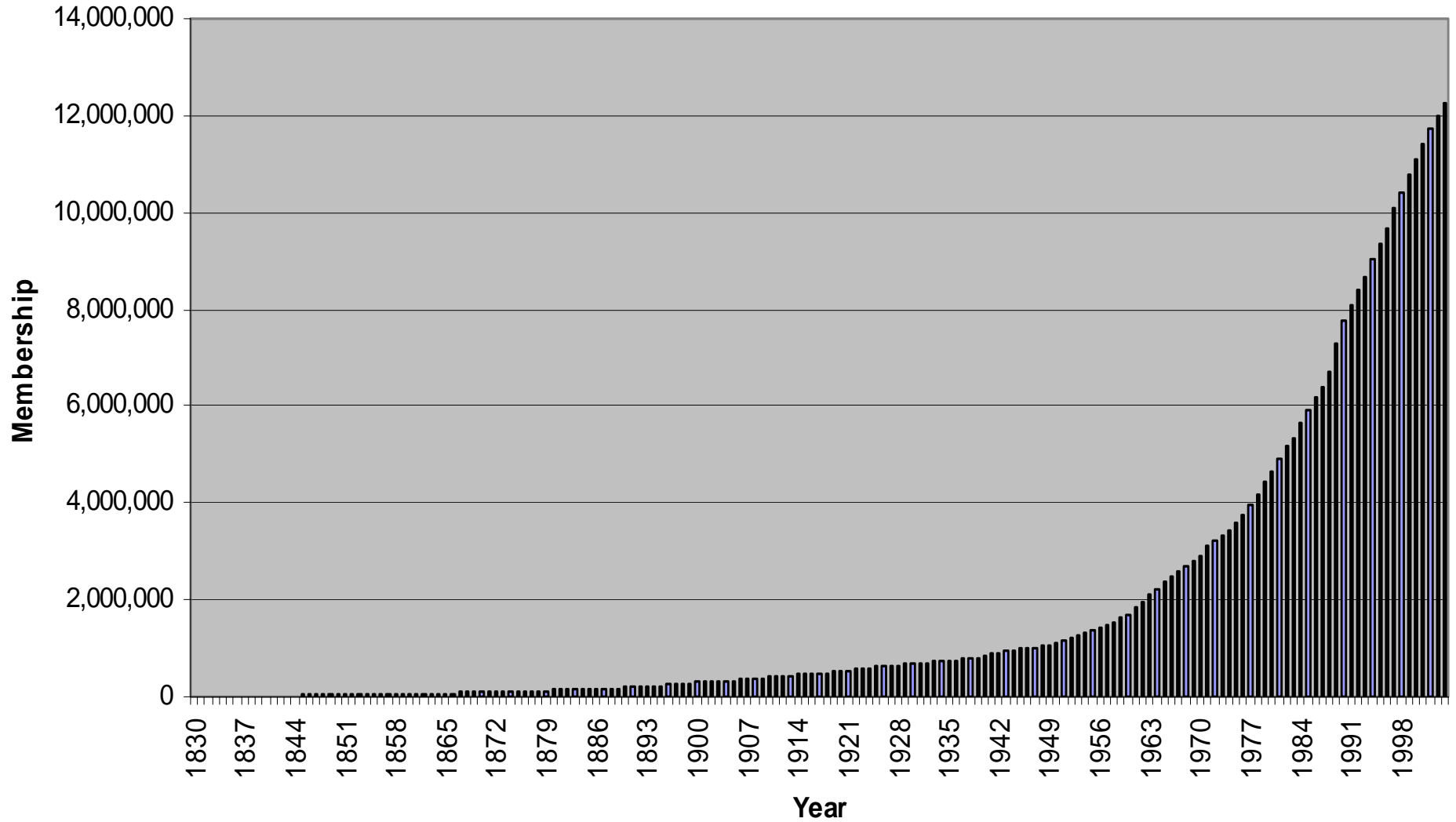


# THE BSA AND THE CHURCH: A 93-YEAR PARTNERSHIP

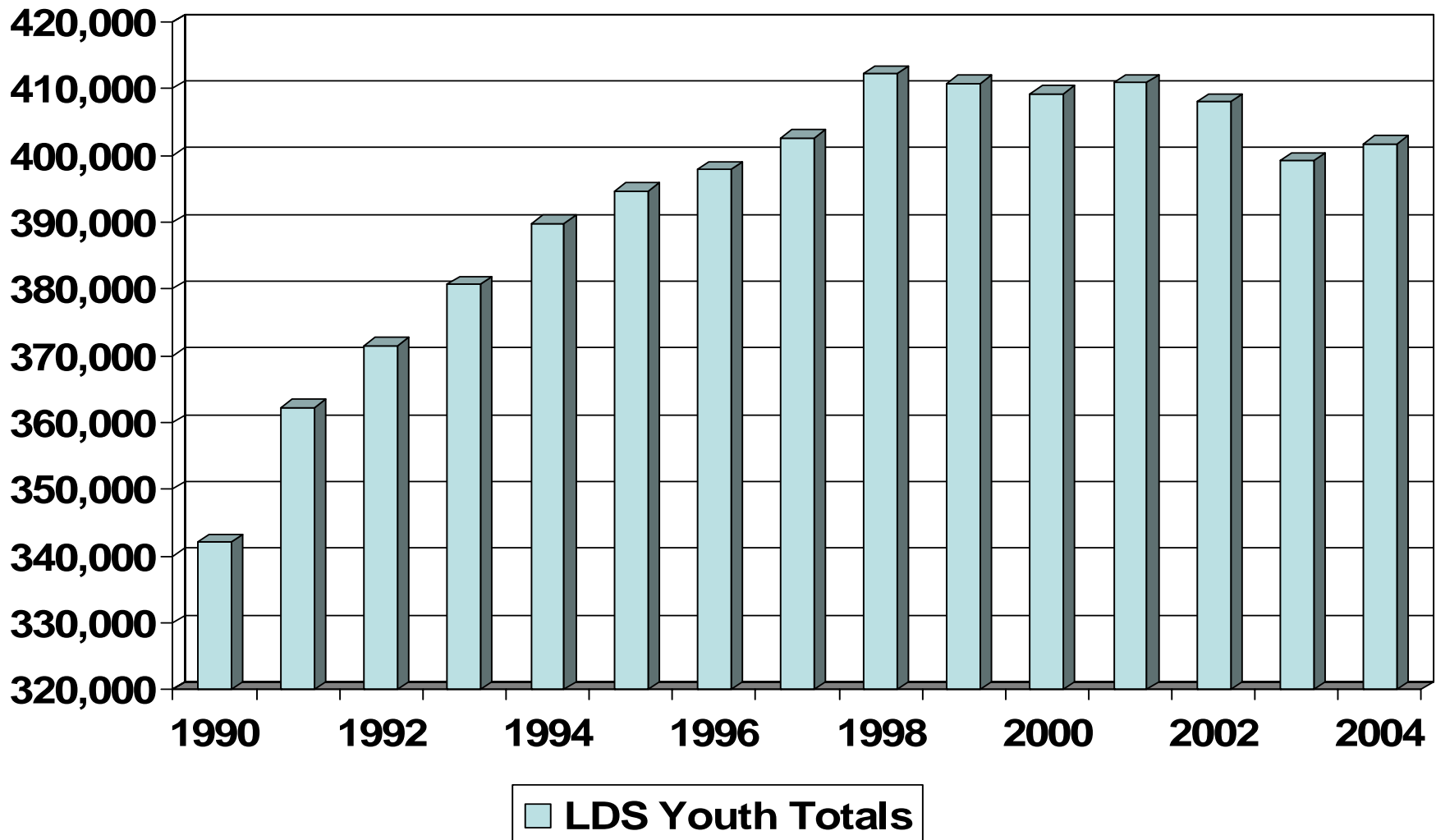


**NCAC Staff Conference**

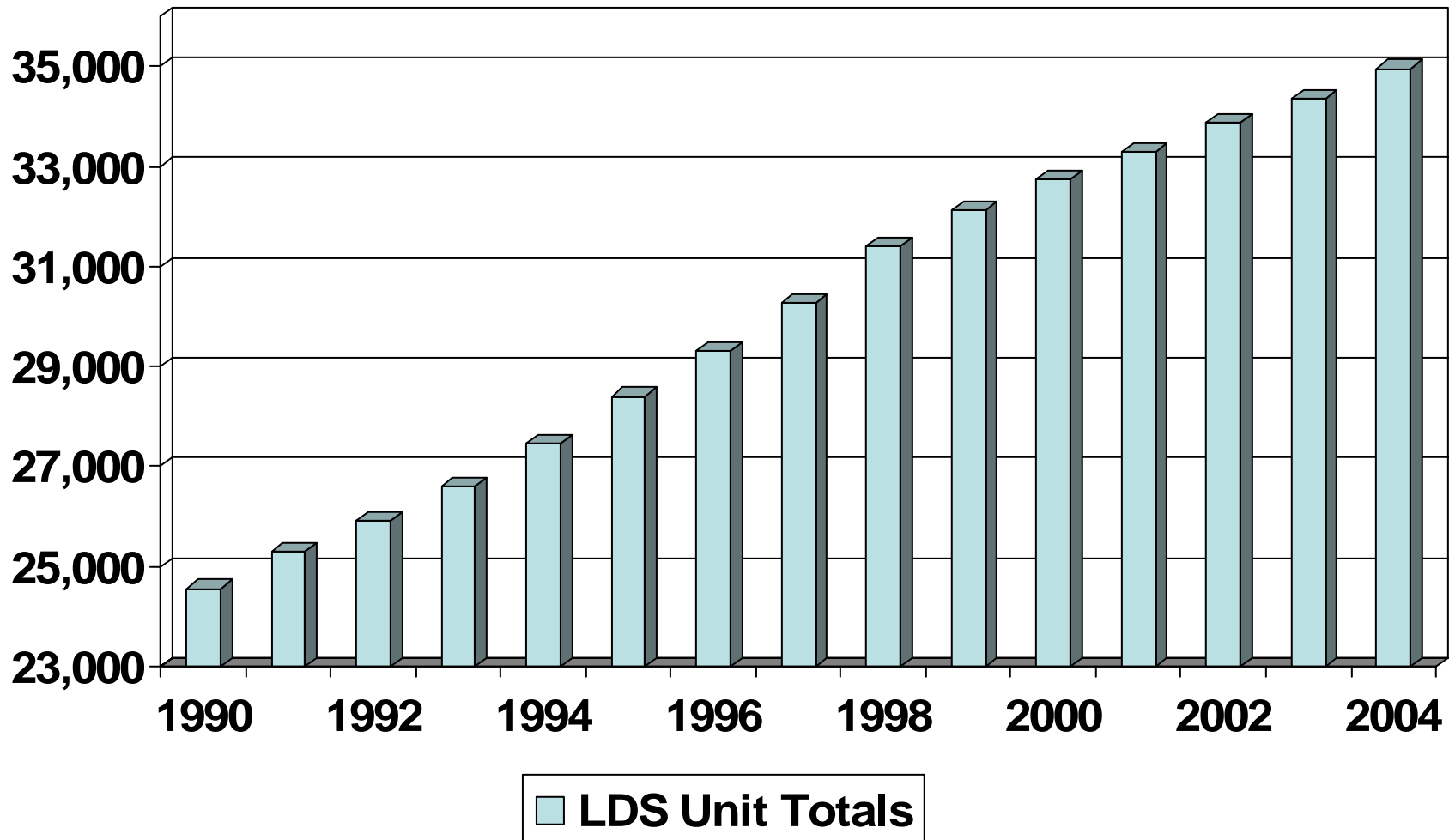
# Church Growth - LDS



# LDS Youth Totals 1990 - 2004



# LDS Unit Totals 1990 - 2004



# **TOP 10 CHARTERED ORGANIZATIONS**

**as of December 31, 2004**

## **#1 – LDS Churches**

- 401,769 youth (12.8%)
- 34,954 units (27.7%)
- 200,605 adult leaders

## **#2 – United Methodist Churches**

- 390,677 youth

## **#3 – Public Schools**

- 370,377 youth

## **#4 – Catholic Church**

- 324,950 youth

# STRENGTHENING YOUTH



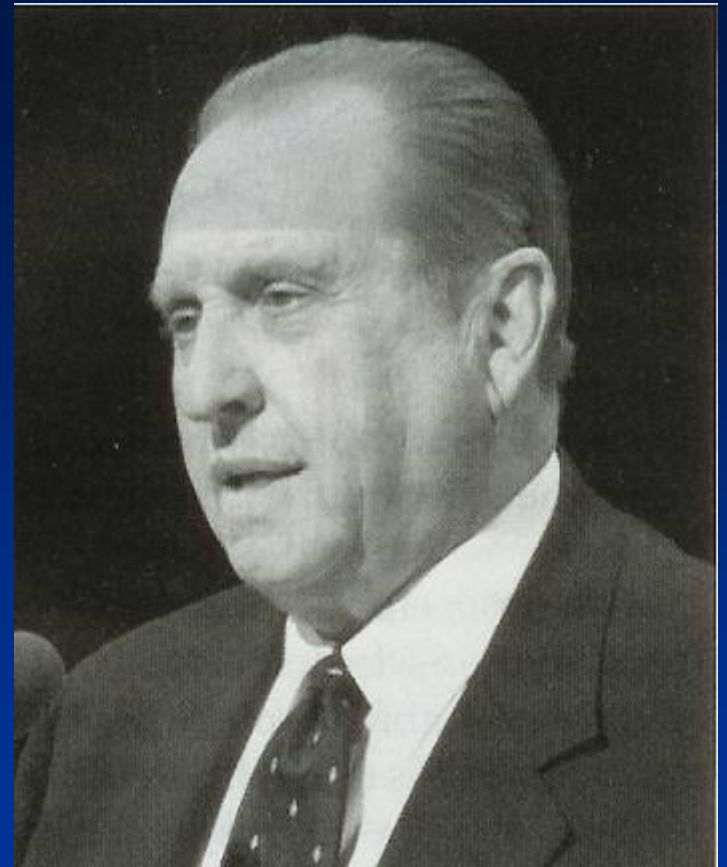
"I love the Scouting movement. The promise of the Scout Oath and the twelve points of the Scout Law point young men along the path of being prepared for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They provide a solid and powerful magnetic force toward development of a well-rounded and noteworthy character that counts . . . I am glad to be able to pay my respects to you who move the great Scouting program along."

President Gordon B. Hinckley



“Scouting teaches boys how to live, not merely how to make a living. How pleased I am that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1913 became the first partner to sponsor Scouting in the United States. We’ve remained strong and firm in our support of this great movement for boys and of the Oath and the Law which are at its center.”

-- *Elder Thomas S. Monson*  
*October 1982*



President Thomas S. Monson  
1<sup>st</sup> Counselor, The First Presidency  
Longest tenured member  
National Executive Board, BSA  
Since 1969



# STRENGTHENING YOUTH

## Mission Statement of BSA



The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetime by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

# The Scout Oath

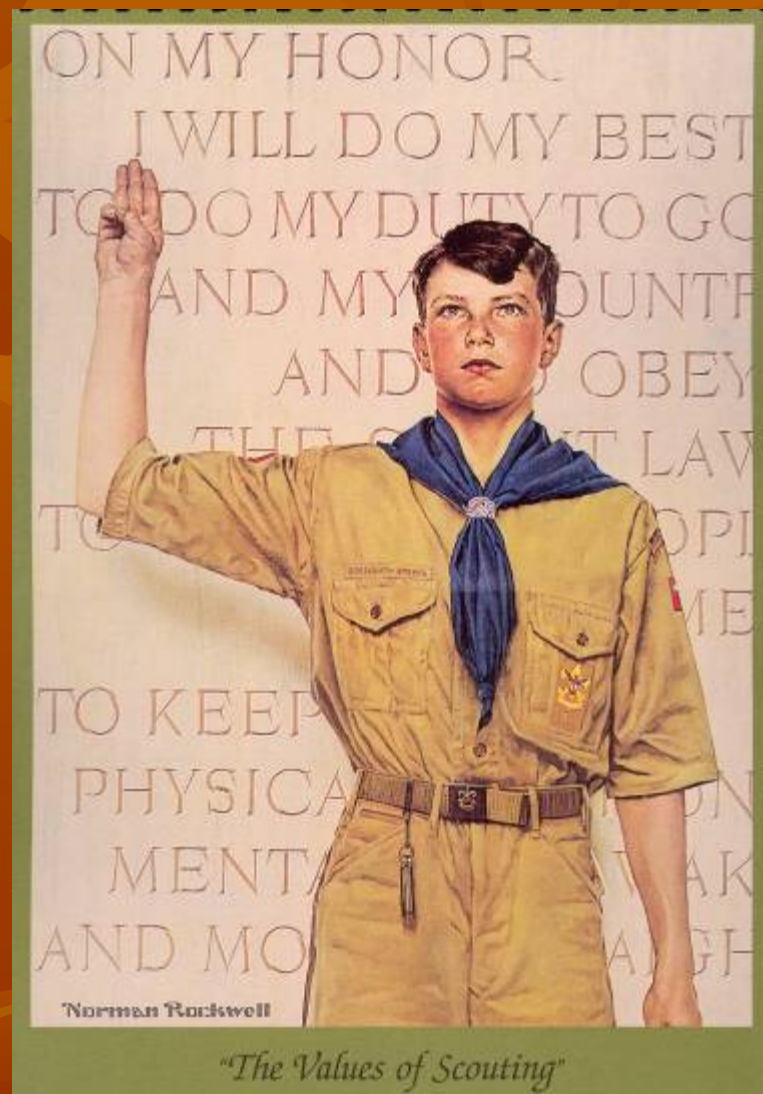
On my honor I will do  
my best

To do my duty to God  
and my country and

To obey the Scout Law;

To help other people at  
all times;

To keep myself  
physically strong,  
mentally awake, and  
morally straight



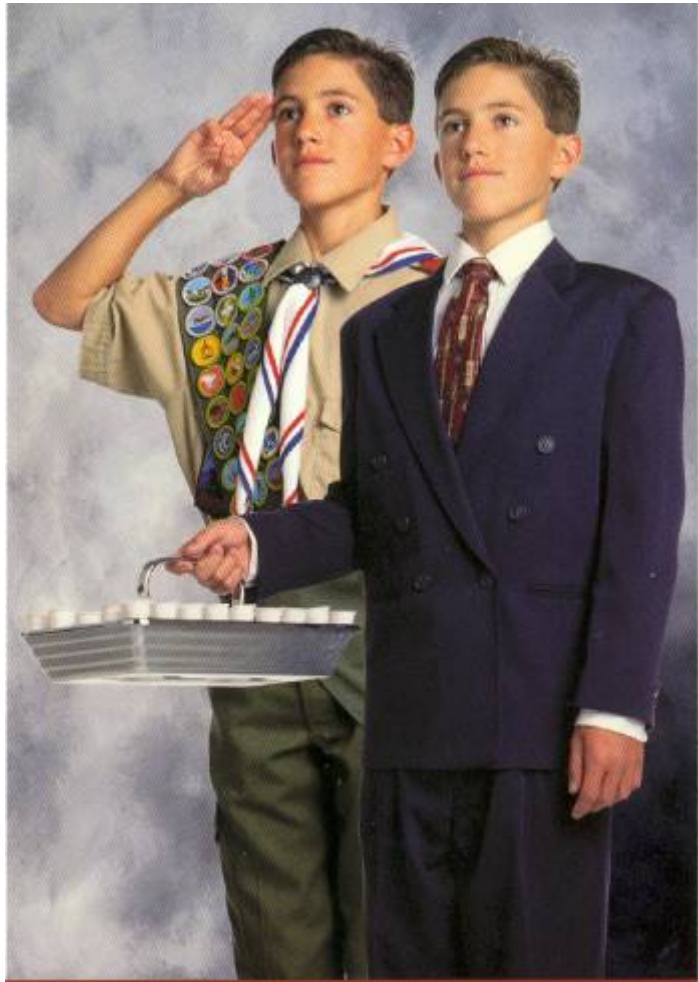
# The Values of Scouting: The Scout Law

**A Scout is**

- Trustworthy
- Loyal
- Helpful
- Friendly
- Courteous
- Kind
- Obedient
- Cheerful
- Thrifty
- Brave
- Clean
- Reverent

# STRENGTHENING YOUTH

## Purpose

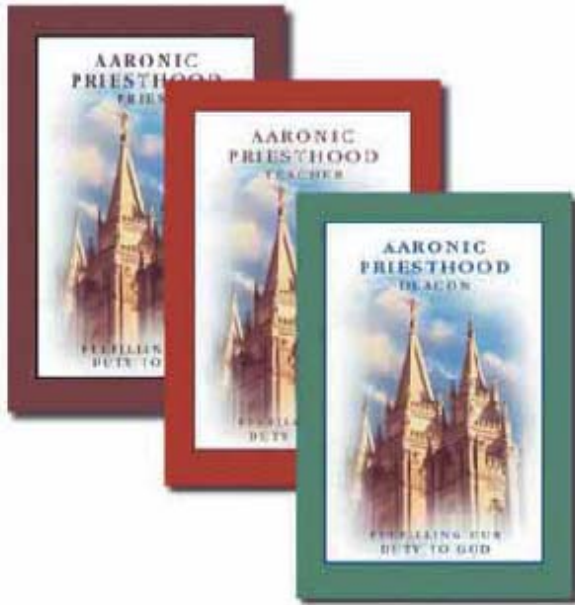


“Under priesthood leadership, Scouting can complement the purposes of Aaronic Priesthood quorums and Primary classes in building testimonies in boys and young men. Scouting can help boys and young men love and serve the Savior and honor their parents.”

*LDS Scouting Handbook  
6/97, page 1*

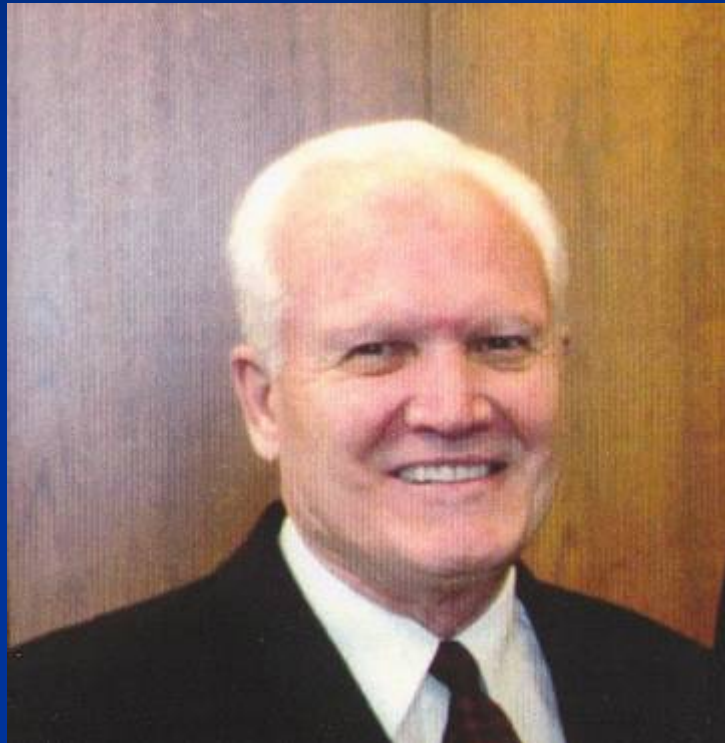
# AARONIC PRIESTHOOD

## Purposes of Aaronic Priesthood



- Become converted.
- Serve faithfully in priesthood callings.
- Give meaningful service.
- Prepare for the Melchizedek Priesthood and the temple.
- Prepare to serve an honorable mission.
- Obtain an education.
- Prepare for marriage and fatherhood.
- Show respect for women, girls, and children.

# Fulfilling Our Duty to God



The First Presidency has said: “We want every young man to earn his Duty to God Award. And we want every young man to earn his Eagle Scout Award.” The implementation of this program must be speedy and thorough. All of us must be on track, united in our efforts. This is not a passing thing. It is of extreme importance. Our boys depend on us! I beg you, brethren, let us move forward as the Prophet Joseph Smith said: “Courage, brethren; and on, on to the victory!”

**--Elder F. Melvin Hammond  
Former Young Men General President**

# AARONIC PRIESTHOOD

## Duty to God and Scouting



“The purpose of the program is to help young men prepare for the Melchizedek Priesthood, the temple endowment, a full-time mission, marriage, and fatherhood.”

*-- First Presidency Letter, September 28, 2001*



Many Scouting requirements can fulfill goals and requirements of the Aaronic Priesthood Duty to God Program.

So, run a consolidated program!



- Cub Scouts is for boys 8, 9 and 10 years of age. Parental involvement is the key to success in this program.



- 11, 12 and 13 year old boys. 11-year-old boys meet separately from Deacon Quorum-age Scouts, because they are not part of a quorum.



- 14 and 15-year-old boys (Teacher Quorum)



- 16 and 17-year-old boys (Priest Quorum)

# Partnership Support by the BSA

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- Teaches boys character development
- Trains leaders
- Provides Council Service Center
- Provides general liability coverage
- Provides camping and high adventure facilities
- Furnishes literature, program and awards
- Provides volunteers and professionals



# Partnership Duties of The Church

- Uses Scouting as part of the activity program for Primary and Aaronic Priesthood
- Registers young men in packs, troops, teams and crews
- Supports BSA policies and procedures
- Provides meeting places
- Selects and registers quality leaders
- Encourages training and tenure for leaders
- Provides financial support
- Gives spiritual emphasis
- Provides for safety at all events

# BSA Training provides.....

- Monthly roundtables
- Training for district and council leadership
- Commissioner unit service
- Troop leader training: basic, supplemental, and advanced
- Troop committee training
- Publications that describe how local church leadership can and should receive training:
  - *LDS Scouting Handbook (35814) (olive green)*
  - *Leadership Training Manual (BSA 34169)*

# *A Scouting Testimony*

—Four T's—

Testimony

Time

Training

Tenure



# AARONIC PRIESTHOOD

## Make it One Program



- Scouter is assistant advisor.
- Advisor is assistant scouter.
- Plan activities that fulfill both scouting and Duty to God goals and requirements.
- Consider calling a Duty to God Coordinator to the scouting committee.

# The Essential "Third Party"

"Parents can't do the entire job alone. They need help from concerned, perceptive leaders who will use their influence to help steer our youth on the right course."

*A GENERATION OF EXCELLENCE*

*Vaughn J. Featherstone, pg. 76*



# “Boys Need Heroes Close By”

“Boys need lots of heroes like Lincoln and Washington. But they also need to have some heroes close by. They need to know some man of towering strength and basic integrity, personally. They need to meet them on the street, to hike and camp with them, to see them



in close-to-home, everyday, down-to-earth situations; to feel close enough to them to ask questions and talk things over man-to-man with them.”

“Boys Need Heroes Close By”  
Spencer W. Kimball  
*Ensign*, May 1976, p. 45, 47

# STRENGTHENING YOUTH

## Advisor

**The real reason for activities is to provide opportunities for the leaders to grow close to the young men. An adviser should have a private mental list of goals for each activity regarding how he will use the opportunity to help each young man grow spiritually. Leaders should spend a great deal of time developing good relationships with the young men and turning them to the Lord.**

Vitalizing the Aaronic Priesthood Quorum  
Training Guide 1984, p. 1,3

# AARONIC PRIESTHOOD

## Window of Opportunity

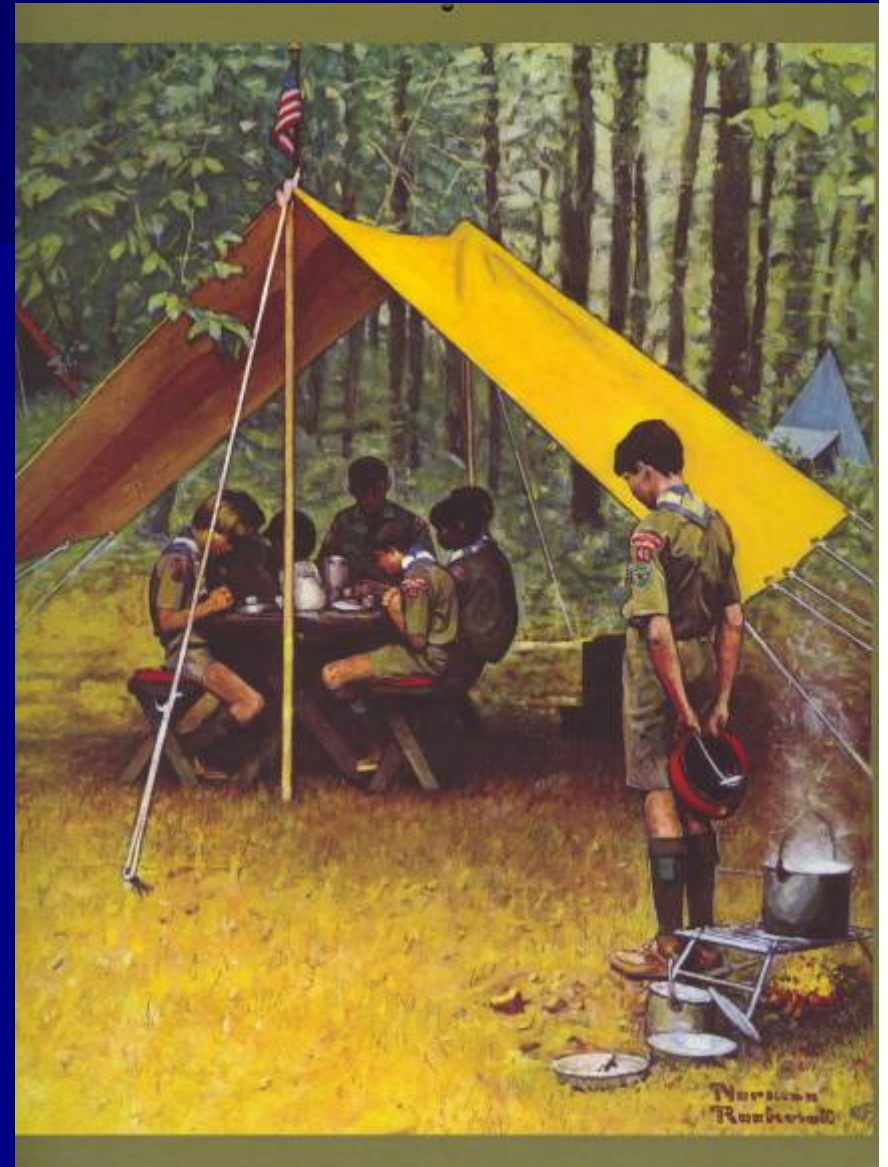
- A scoutmaster following the prescribed program would spend around 350 hours per year with his boys.
- Scout leaders have the opportunity to have tremendous impact on boys.
- In the United States, only 47% of our youth have two active parents. An additional 25% have only one active parent. That leaves 28% without any active LDS parent.

“Men and women who turn their lives over to God will discover that He can make a lot more out of their lives than they can. He will deepen their joys, expand their vision, quicken their minds, strengthen their muscles, lift their spirits, multiply their blessings, increase their opportunities, comfort their souls, raise up friends and pour out peace.”

–Ezra Taft Benson

“Jesus Christ, Gifts and Expectations”

*The New Era*, May 1975, p. 20



*“A child is a person who is going to carry on what you have started. He is going to sit where you are sitting, and, when you are gone, attend to those things which you think are most important. You can create all the policies you please, but how they are carried out depends on him.*

*He will assume control of your cities, states, and nations. He is going to move in and take over your churches, schools, universities and corporations... the fate of humanity is in his hands.”*

*Abraham Lincoln*

