

SCOUTING

H A N D B O O K

Scouting Handbook

The Purpose of Scouting in the Aaronic Priesthood and Primary

As boys and young men strive to understand how to prepare for, worthily receive, and honor the Aaronic Priesthood, they will need the help and guidance of caring and loving adults. Much of this help can and should come from parents and a home environment that fosters the truths of the gospel. Leaders and instructors of priesthood quorums and Primary classes, under the direction of priesthood leaders, also teach, strengthen, and support the incorporation of gospel truths in the lives of boys and young men.

In 1913, the Church adopted Scouting as part of the activity program for Aaronic Priesthood quorums and later for Primary boys ages eight and older. By providing opportunities for boys and young men to put into practice the gospel lessons they learn in the home and at Church, Scouting programs have been used to support the priesthood. The most widely accepted Scouting methods program is known throughout the world as the "Baden-Powell Movement," founded by Robert, Lord Baden-Powell, a retired British army general.

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.

Priesthood leaders may wish to rely on the following quote by Baden-Powell as a measure of any Scouting program's effectiveness:

"Don't let the technical outweigh the moral. Field efficiency, backwoodsmanship, camping, hiking, good works, Jamboree comradeship are all *means*, not the end. The end is *character*—character with a purpose" (*Footsteps of the Founder*, ed. Mario Sica [Milano: Editrice Ancora Milano, 1984], 125).

When properly carried out under the direction of priesthood leaders, Scouting supplements activities for young men of Aaronic Priesthood quorums and for eight-, nine-, ten-, and eleven-year-old Primary boys. Scouting also assists in accomplishing the eternal purposes of the priesthood and families. Scouting under Church sponsorship must not operate independently of the priesthood and the family. The Scout unit should become an extension of the home, the deacons, teachers, or priests quorum, or the Primary classes and should function as part of the Church's activity program for boys and young men.

Scouting can help boys and young men enhance close relationships with their families and the Church while developing strong and desirable traits of character, citizenship, and physical and mental fitness, all based upon a firm belief in God. The original aims

and purposes of Scouting outlined by Lord Baden-Powell were to teach boys and young men spirituality, self-reliance, service, leadership skills, emergency preparedness, and conservation of natural resources. Scouts learning these skills participate in worthwhile community, school, and Church service projects. Boys and young men from families of other faiths may also participate in Church-sponsored activities.

Training and Development

Aaronic Priesthood and Primary leaders who are called to and accept Scouting responsibilities will benefit from training in Scouting policies and procedures as used by the Church. Trained Scouting leaders who understand the Scouting program are better able to serve boys and young men involved in Scouting activities. While responsibility for Scouting rests primarily at the ward level, stake presidencies encourage bishoprics to train ward Scout leaders, and they offer the support of stake leaders in training. Bishoprics may request through the stake presidency the assistance of the stake Young Men or the stake Primary presidencies. Additionally, the Boy Scouts of America sponsors Basic Training and other courses to help leaders learn Scouting methods and skills. Scouting leaders may enroll in these courses to supplement training from local priesthood leaders. However, Church leaders should not participate in Scout training such as Basic Training or Wood Badge on the Sabbath, or overnight camping that includes mixed groups of men and women, whether adults or youth, unless it is a family camp. In all cases in which funds may be expended for training, priesthood leaders should ensure that *Budget Allowance Guidelines* for the local unit are followed.

The Partnership Relationship

Priesthood leaders may participate as volunteers in district and council Scouting committees and activities to solidify relationships between Scouting and the Church. In every instance, leaders should do everything possible within Church policies to create good will, mutual understanding, and cooperation between the two partners.

Area Relationships Committees

Under the direction of the Area Presidency, the Area Relationships Committee strengthens the working relationship between the Church and the Boy Scouts of America. This committee is composed of stake presidents who have units with registered Scouts. The Area Presidency designates one stake president to chair the committee under their direction.

Stake Leaders' Responsibilities for Scouting

The Stake Presidency

The counselor in the stake presidency who is the chairman of the stake Aaronic Priesthood committee directs the stake's youth programs under the direction of the stake president. He sees that Scouting is organized and functioning in the stake and develops a positive working relationship with the Boy Scouts of America.

The Stake Aaronic Priesthood Committee

The stake Aaronic Priesthood committee consists of the counselor in the stake presidency over youth (who serves as chairman) and a few members of the high council as designated by the stake presidency. High councilors assigned as advisers to the Young Women, Young Men, and Primary usually are members of this committee.

The Stake Young Men Presidency

The stake Young Men presidency, under the direction of the stake presidency, may be invited by wards to help conduct training and implement activity programs, including Scouting, for Aaronic Priesthood quorums. They coordinate this work with the high council adviser assigned to the Young Men.

The Stake Primary Presidency

Under the direction of the stake presidency, the stake Primary presidency is responsible to oversee Scouting for eight-, nine-, ten-, and eleven-year-old boys. They should ensure that the purposes of both Primary and Scouting are accomplished. The high council adviser assigned to Primary helps coordinate this work. He informs the Primary presidency of training opportunities, keeps them apprised of counsel and direction from the stake presidency, and helps them provide support and assistance to the ward Primary organizations. When invited by a bishopric, the stake Primary presidency may help orient ward Primary leaders in Scouting. The stake Primary presidency may:

1. Help ward presidencies know and understand Church Scouting policies.
2. Encourage ward Primary Scout leaders to participate in basic and other approved training.
3. Encourage ward Primary presidencies to evaluate and discuss with their priesthood advisers the progress of each boy in his priesthood preparation and participation in Scouting.

4. Report on the participation and progress of the boys in Scouting at the regular meeting with the high council adviser.
 5. Help plan stake day camps for eleven-year-old Scouts in conjunction with the local Boy Scouts of America Council.
 6. Evaluate the quality of the boys' program by visiting ward Scout meetings and activities when invited.
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Ward Leaders' Responsibilities for Scouting

The Bishop

Each bishop, as president of the Aaronic Priesthood, is responsible to help parents teach their children and youth to come unto Christ through righteous living and through activities that teach the concepts of preaching the gospel, perfecting the Saints, and redeeming the dead. The bishop is responsible to provide general direction for Scouting and ensure that it is properly organized and functioning.

Bishop's Counselors

The bishop's counselors help the bishop by overseeing the Scouting programs for eight-, nine-, ten-, and eleven-year-old boys and Aaronic Priesthood quorums. Under the bishop's direction, counselors should see that the various Scouting programs are organized as needed and that adult leaders are called and trained.

Relationships with the Boy Scouts of America

The bishop assigns one of his counselors or another worthy adult to serve as the ward's representative to the Scout district or council. This leader works with the District Commissioners or District Executive assigned to the ward to—

- Register participants and ensure that all Scouts and leaders are registered.
- Encourage well-planned programs.
- Assist boys and young men in achieving progress in Scouting.
- Inform Aaronic Priesthood and Primary leaders of meetings or training opportunities.
- Help organize a committee for each Scouting age group in the ward.
- Encourage unit leaders and committee members to participate in Scout training.

- Help provide recognition for young men, boys, and their leaders.

Committees

Where possible, the bishopric establishes a committee to help meet the Scouting needs of each age group in the ward. The bishop calls capable adults to serve as committee members. The bishopric calls one member from each committee to chair it. Qualified adults, whether members of the Church or not, may serve on these committees. Fathers and mothers of boys and young men may be considered as prospective committee members. The member of the ward Primary presidency responsible for eleven-year-old boys serves on the committee that serves deacon-age Scouts. The member of the ward Primary presidency who is responsible for Scouting for eight-, nine-, and ten-year-olds serves on the committee organized to meet the needs of those age groups.

A Scouting committee can be as large as needed to carry out its responsibilities to the individual Scouting unit. All committee members, whether members of the Church or not, must understand and be willing to maintain Church standards.

Where leadership or the number of young men or boys is limited, one committee could represent all Scouting in the ward.

Each Scouting committee should:

1. Meet as needed to discuss Scouting in the ward and to receive assignments from the committee chair.
2. Support and assist Scouting activities by providing needed services.
3. See that the Scout units operate in accordance with Church policies and the standards of the Boy Scouts of America.
4. Encourage boys and young men to earn the On My Honor and Faith in God awards.

Scouting in the Aaronic Priesthood

Aaronic Priesthood Quorum Advisers (Young Men Presidency)

Under the direction of the bishopric, men called as advisers to deacons, teachers, and priests quorums serve as the Young Men presidency of the ward. Generally, they also serve as Scoutmaster, Varsity Scout Coach, or Explorer Post Adviser, respectively. *Quorum advisers do not preside; instead, they assist and advise those who do preside.*

If assistant quorum advisers are called, they may serve as Scoutmaster, Varsity Scout Coach, or Explorer Post Adviser, or they may assist the quorum adviser in these responsibilities. *In either case, both the adviser and the assistant adviser attend all meetings of the quorum and the Scout unit and must be duly registered with the Boy Scouts of America.* As consideration is given to issuing these calls, priesthood leaders should always be guided by inspiration while endeavoring to match leader skills and abilities to the tasks that they will be expected to perform.

A Scout Troop should be chartered for twelve- and thirteen-year-old young men. A Varsity Scout Team should be chartered for fourteen- and fifteen-year-olds. Where priesthood leaders have determined to use the Explorer program for sixteen- and seventeen-year-old young men, an Explorer Post should be chartered for that age group. Such divisions are recommended to help maintain quorum identity.

Youth Leadership

Under the direction of the bishopric, the deacons and teachers quorum presidents preside over the members of their quorums in the ward. The bishop presides over the priests quorum and is helped by his assistants from the quorum. Scouting is part of the quorum presidency's responsibilities, but the Sunday quorum instruction period should not become a Scout planning session.

Each Scout unit should have a senior patrol leader, a Varsity Team captain, or an Explorer Post president who is nominated by the bishopric and sustained by the quorum members, which for Scouting purposes constitutes election. This leader is usually the quorum president or an assistant in the priests quorum but may be another worthy young man, whether a member of the Church or not. These youth leaders in each Scout unit should hold a monthly meeting to plan the program for their Scout unit. This may be held after the quorum business has concluded in the presidency meeting. The quorum president, with help from his quorum adviser(s), uses this meeting to correlate each Scouting activity with other quorum activities. The president presides at and conducts the meeting. If another young man is called to be the youth Scout leader, the president may invite him to conduct the meeting. Quorum advisers attend this meeting to provide adult support and direction to those who preside over the meeting. If young men of other faiths hold leadership positions in Scout units, they may be invited to join the presidency meeting during the time that Scouting matters are discussed. The Boy Scouts of America publishes extensive materials describing the duties of these youth Scout leaders. These materials are available at local Boy Scouts of America Council offices.

Scouting in Primary

Scouting supports boys and their families by giving boys the opportunity to put into practice the gospel principles they have learned at home and in Primary. Under the guidance of a strong, faithful leader, participation in Scouting activities can foster spiritual growth and development. Scouting also provides boys with leadership opportunities. Scout meetings and activities for Primary-age boys are preferably held in the daytime. Scout meetings could be held at the ward meetinghouse, in a home, or in an outdoor setting. All Scout meetings and activities should open and close with prayer.

Scouting leaders in Primary may help boys and their parents complete the application and registration for Scouting. Boys enter and advance in Scouting programs by age. The bishopric should consider calling parents to participate as members of a unit Scout committee or as adult leaders in Scouting.

Cub Scouting for Eight-, Nine-, and Ten-Year-Olds

Scouting for boys of this age, when properly carried out, is a learning, happy, fun-filled, home-centered, activity program. Parental involvement and help is the key to success in this program. The Church does not approve Scouting programs for boys younger than eight years old. Boys enter the Webelos program when they are ten years old. No Scout-sponsored overnight camping should be planned for boys under age eleven. Details for Cub Scout programs are published by the Boy Scouts of America and are available through local Boy Scouts of America Council offices.

Scouting for Eleven-Year-Olds

Eleven-year-old boys meet separately from the Aaronic Priesthood-age Scouts because they are not yet part of a quorum. Occasionally, special daytime activities for Aaronic Priesthood-age Scouts may include the patrol for eleven-year-old Scouts. Eleven-year-old Scouts preferably meet in the daytime, but if evening meetings are necessary, arrangements should be made to ensure that these boys are not away from their homes late at night and that they are carefully supervised until they arrive home.

In consultation with the ward Primary presidency and the leader of the eleven-year-old Scouts, the bishopric appoints an eleven-year-old boy to serve as the patrol leader for the eleven-year-old Scouts. The patrol leader should, with adult leader assistance, choose his own assistant patrol leader and assign other duties in the patrol as needed. The Boy Scouts of America publishes information describing the duties of these youth leaders and the qualifications

for their service. This information is available through local Boy Scouts of America Council offices.

Eleven-year-old Scouts may participate in a one-night camp three times each year. No other Scout-sponsored overnight camping should be planned for eleven-year-old Scouts. Each boy participating in an overnight outing should have learned and practiced the required skills before the camping experience. The leader of the eleven-year-old Scouts, consulting with the ward Primary presidency and the bishopric adviser to the Primary, organizes each overnight camping experience.

The bishopric adviser to the Primary or another qualified male adult should be invited to supervise the overnight camping experience when the leader of the eleven-year-old Scouts is a woman. Women leaders do not participate in overnight camping with these boys. Fathers are invited and encouraged to participate in the overnight camping experiences with their sons and with boys whose fathers cannot attend. All overnight camps must include at least two adults. Eleven-year-olds or younger, including those whose fathers are the leaders of older Scout groups in the ward, should not accompany the older Scouts on overnight activities.

Boys advance from Primary at age twelve and then attend the deacons quorum. Worthy members receive the Aaronic Priesthood. All boys twelve and thirteen years of age attend the ward Scout troop meeting. In addition, boys of other faiths may join the ward troop with permission of their parents.

Day Camps

Day camps offer opportunities for Cub Scouts and eleven-year-old boys to have fun outdoors and complete outdoor requirements. If the local Boy Scouts of America Council does not provide day camps or if they are not held within a reasonable distance for Church members to travel, a member of the stake Primary presidency could direct the organization of stake day camps. A member of the ward Primary presidency and the leader of eleven-year-old Scouts, with the help of the Scout troop committee, could organize ward day camps for eleven-year-old Scouts. *A Day Camp Guide for Eleven-Year-Old Scouts* (31374) is available at the local Church distribution center.

Ward Primary Presidency

The ward Primary presidency, under the direction of the bishopric adviser assigned to the Primary, has responsibility for Scouting for eight-, nine-, ten-, and eleven-year-old boys. The presidency is responsible to see that appropriate Scouting is organized and to ensure that all Scout leaders over these age groups understand how Scouting can strengthen the family

and also help accomplish the purpose and objectives of Primary.

The Primary presidency's responsibilities are to:

1. Serve on the appropriate ward Scouting committees (see page 3).
2. Coordinate Scouting activities with other unit activities and Primary activities.
3. Ensure that Church policies and procedures are followed.
4. Orient and supervise the adult leader of the eleven-year-old Scouts. Encourage this leader to participate in Scout training.
5. Encourage Cub Scout leaders to receive training from the local Scout organization. Help leaders understand how Scouting can help the family and accomplish the purpose and objectives of Primary.
6. Visit Scout meetings and activities to support and evaluate the quality of the boys' experiences in Scouting.
7. In presidency meetings and in the regular meetings with the bishopric adviser to Primary, review each boy's progress and participation. Give regular reports to the stake Primary presidency about the progress of boys in the ward.
8. Ensure that boys have an opportunity to participate in day camps.
9. Help plan day camps.

Teacher or Leader of Eleven-Year-Old Boys

The Primary teacher of eleven-year-old boys may serve as the group's Scout leader, or another capable adult may be called to assume this role. The Scout leader should:

1. Work under the direction of a member of the Primary presidency, meeting regularly to discuss the Scouting program and each boy's progress.
2. Attend ward Primary leadership meeting.
3. Encourage and help each boy to advance in Scouting. Keep an accurate record of his progress.
4. See that boys participate in a day camp and help plan it if requested.

Church Policies

All Scouts and their leaders are expected to live the standards of the Church.

Registration

All boys, young men, and their adult leaders participating in approved Scouting in the Church are to be

duly registered with the Boy Scouts of America through local councils. The bishopric may appropriately call men or women to serve as Scouting leaders for Primary-age Scouts, but women do not serve as leaders for young men of Aaronic Priesthood age.

The Church does not sponsor Scouting for girls or young women. The Primary and Young Women programs of the Church are designed to meet the needs and interests of girls and young women.

Uniforms

The uniform indicates affiliation with the Boy Scouts of America and can create an immediate sense of belonging. No boy or young man should be excluded from Scouting if he is unable to purchase a uniform. Abbreviated or simple uniforms and insignia which have been approved by the Boy Scouts of America are appropriate and encouraged. Units may wish to maintain a supply of outgrown or used uniforms to make available for boys. The wearing of Scouting uniforms by adult leaders is optional, but it is encouraged where feasible.

Scouting Month

February has traditionally been designated Scouting Month in the United States. Leaders of Church-sponsored Scouting units may plan and carry out approved activities to recognize this tradition. However, in keeping with the purposes of sacrament meeting, wards should not combine observances of Scouting Month and Scouting Sunday with sacrament meeting. Boys do not wear their Scout uniforms while administering and passing the sacrament.

Calling Leaders

Worthy adults (whether members of the Church or not) may be called to serve as Scout leaders. Members of the Church serving in Scouting assignments should be sustained and set apart. Others who request it may receive a blessing from a member of the bishopric to help them in their assignment. All must be registered in Scouting in a timely manner.

Camping and Sabbath Day Observance

Keeping the Sabbath day holy is a commandment of the Lord and the practice of the Church. The Church does not approve of hiking and camping trips on Sunday. Scouts and other youth groups should not travel to or from camps or youth conferences on Sunday. Plans for outings should ensure that Aaronic Priesthood brethren and other members can attend to their regular church assignments.

An objective of the Aaronic Priesthood and Primary activity programs is to support the family and home. Therefore, Scouting events (except approved long-

term camps) are not held on Monday evening, the night designated for family home evening.

Ward and Stake Specialty Programs

Latter-day Saint Scout units do not participate in "specialty" or similar programs which focus exclusively on a particular skill, hobby, or career.

Stakes do not register Scout units. Such units take young men away from their wards and cause them to lose identity with their quorums. However, stake-sponsored events can benefit young men. Stake priesthood leaders should try to ensure that such activities are held at times that do not conflict with activities planned by a family, quorum, or ward.

Scouting for Those with Disabilities

Young men or boys with mental, physical, or emotional disabilities should be encouraged to participate in Scouting to the extent their abilities will allow.

They may complete as many of the program requirements as possible. As much as possible, programs and activities should be designed to include Scouts with disabilities. The Boy Scouts of America provides information on how to provide successful Scouting experiences for those with disabilities. This information is available from local Boy Scouts of America Council offices.

Safety

Priesthood and other leaders responsible for outings and activities should refer regularly to the *General Handbook of Instructions* (see sec. 11 p. 6) and the *Activities Committee Handbook* (30822) for Church policies and guidelines regarding activities and safety.

Financing Scouting

Leaders should follow the guidelines contained in the *Budget Allowance Guidelines* to finance their Scouting program.