

Strengthening Latter-day Saint Youth through Meaningful Activities



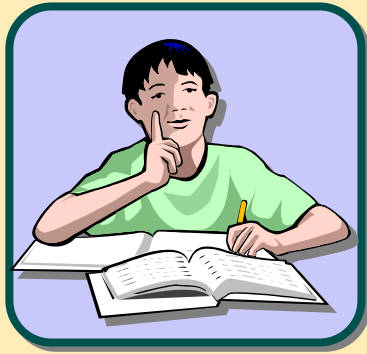
Should the Church place more emphasis on sociality for youth?

Youth social activities are essential, not just a matter of "fun."

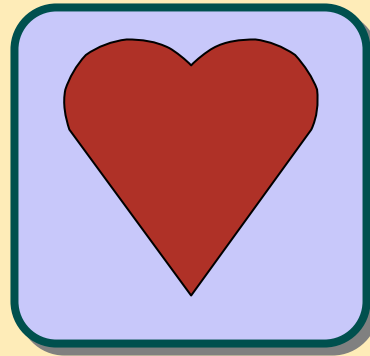
Enjoyable activities build important social connections for LDS youth.

Sociality is one of several critical factors that help youth form an LDS identity centered on gospel beliefs, values, and behaviors.

A strong Latter-day Saint has developed a firm identity consisting of . . .



Beliefs

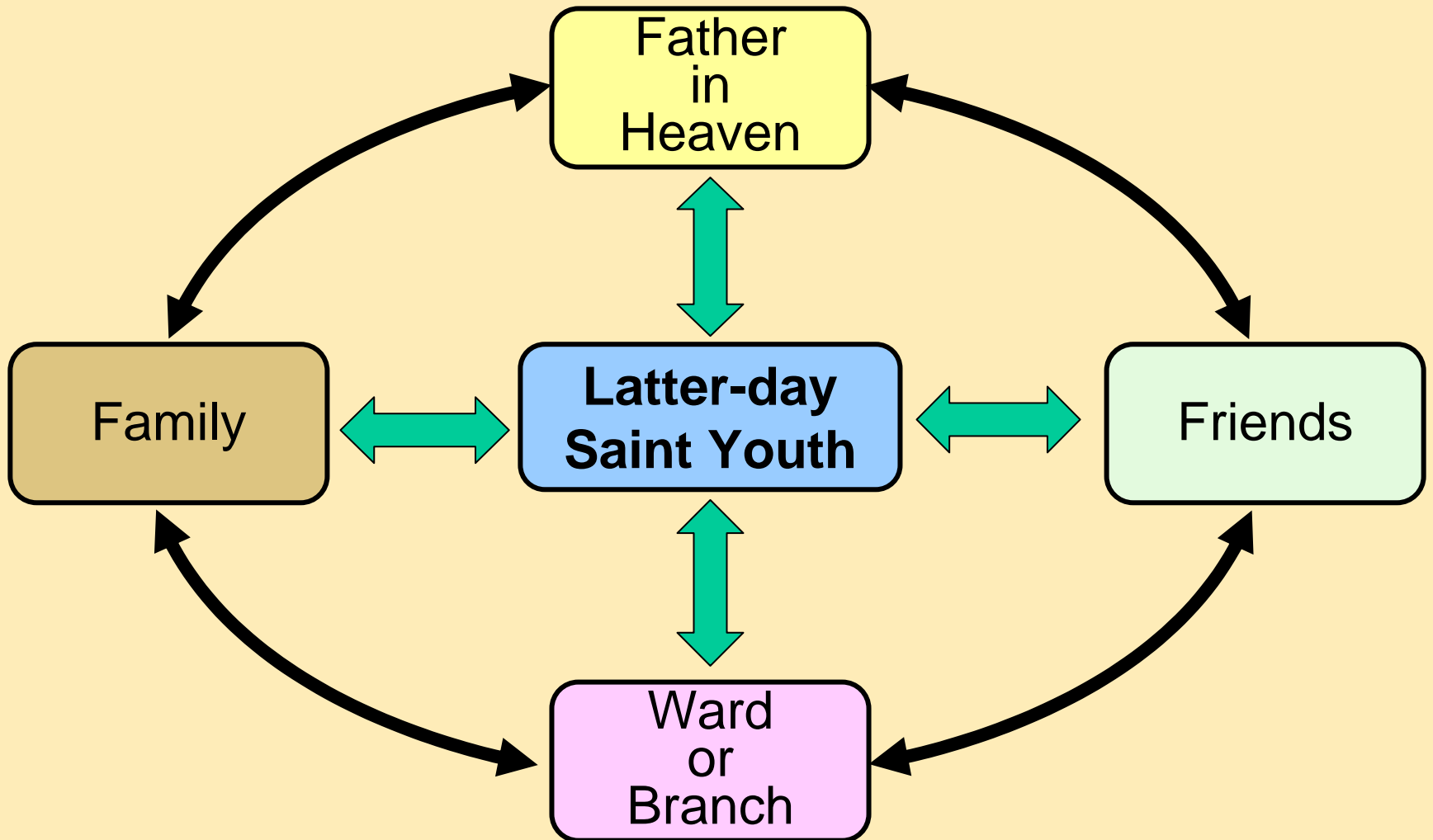


Values



Behaviors

Encircling Our Youth

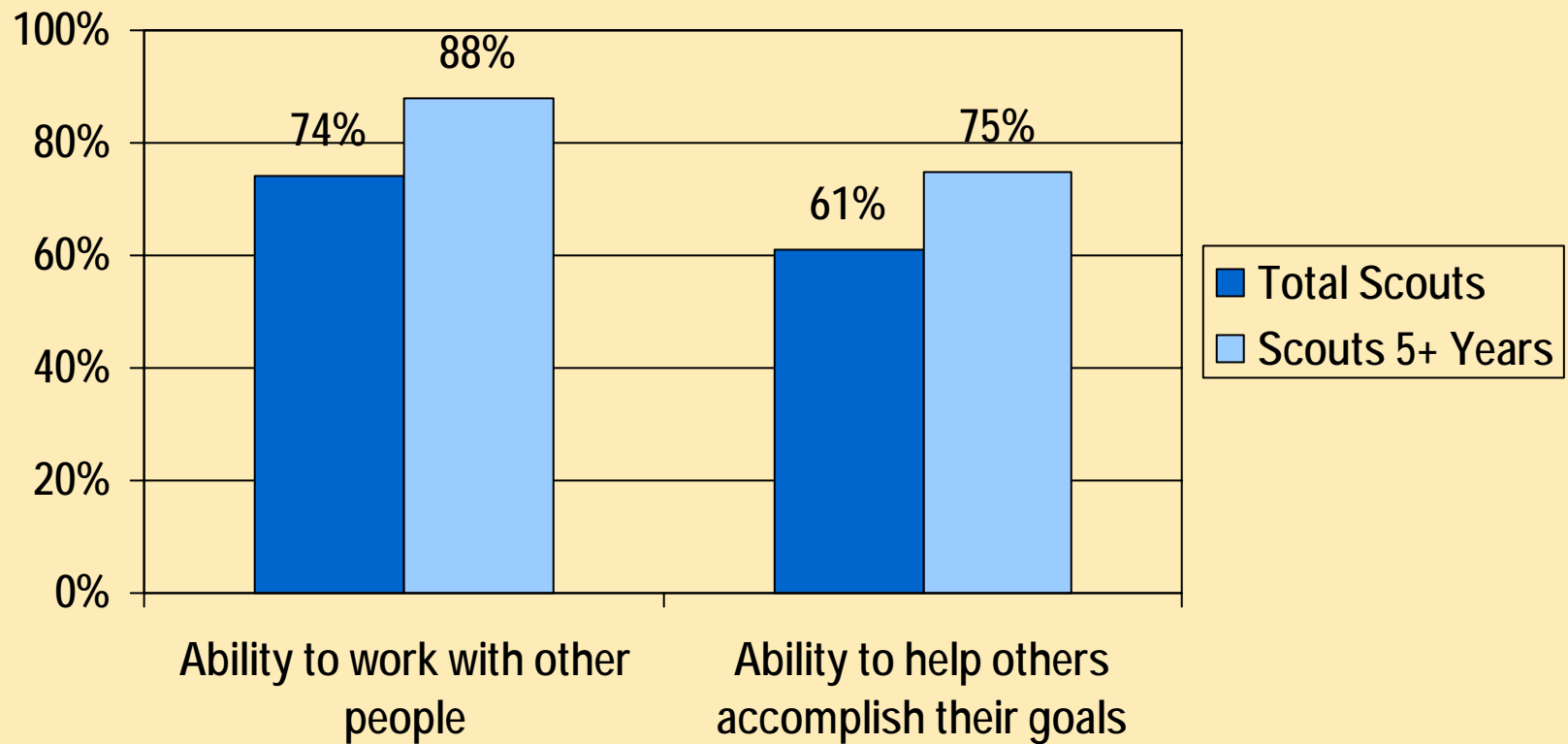


Parent Comment

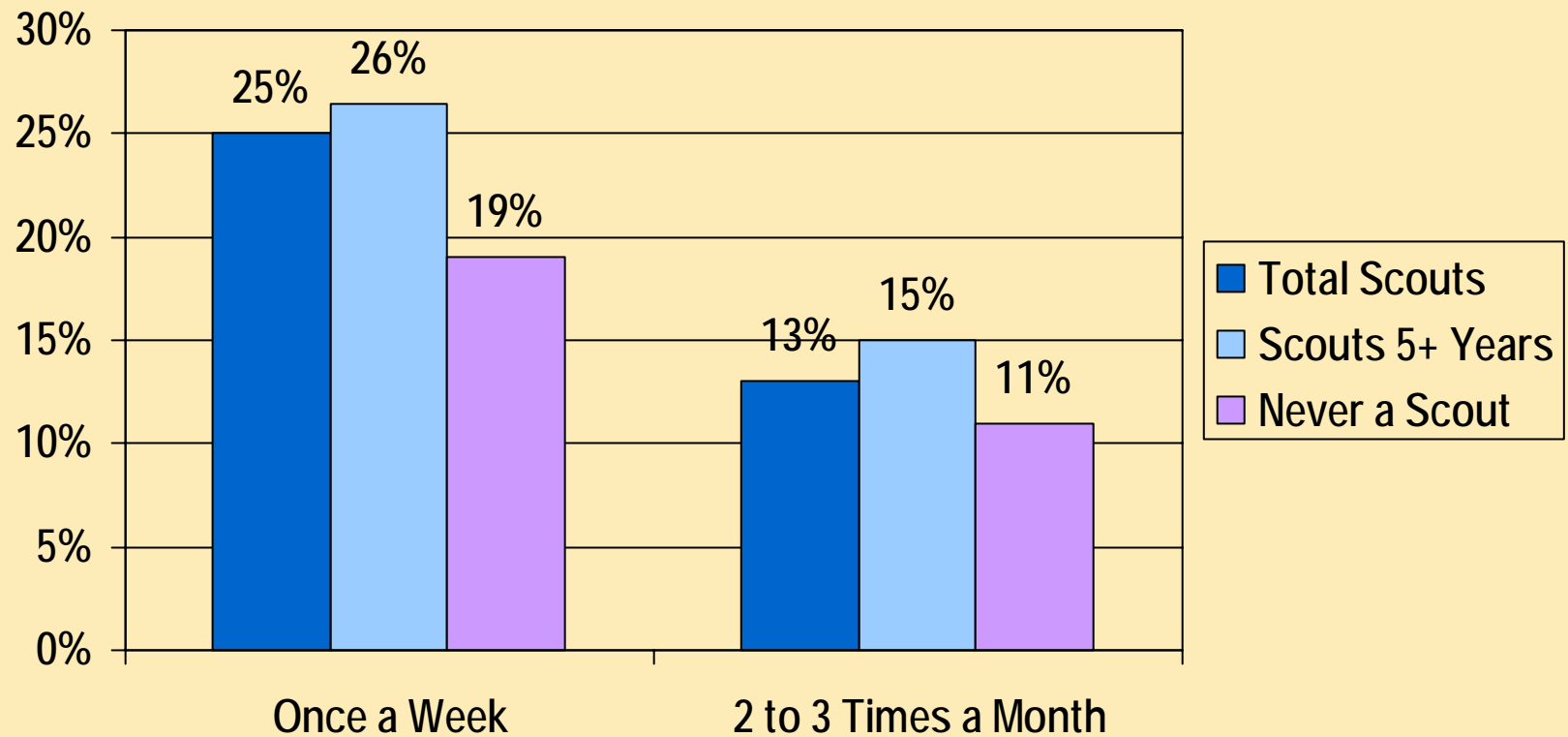
“The programs . . .keep my kids away from the world. I want them to have LDS friends. There needs to be a spiritual side and a social mixing.”

A father from England

Percentage Saying Scouting Helped Develop or Had a Positive Effect on That Trait



Percentage Attending Religious Services



Percent Saying Absolutely Essential

Men who were Scouts believe that voting in every election, showing concern for your neighbor's property, keeping one's property clean and tidy, and staying physically fit are absolutely essential to good citizenship.

*Values of Americans
A Study of Ethics and Character p. 43*

Stake and Multistake Cultural Events and Activities

“The First Presidency has recently encouraged leaders to “. . . hold stake and multistake events and activities to provide a sense of unity and opportunities to develop friendships, especially among youth. These events could include music, dance, drama, speech, sports, or visual arts.

Utah Salt Lake City Area Presidency Letter
April 28, 2004

Guidelines for Using the Local Budget Allowance Increase

“The increase in the local unit budget allowance is intended to fund activities more effectively and to relieve the financial burden on families. With this increase, fundraising activities should be substantially reduced or eliminated.”

The Presiding Bishopric Letter
April 6, 2004

Cost of Participation in Church Activities

“We are very anxious that the cost of participation in Church activities not become unduly burdensome to our members. There is concern lest some who are not able to meet these costs may withdraw themselves from full participation in the Church. Particularly the youth programs of the Church should be so managed that all of our young people may enjoy full participation.”

The First Presidency
Circular Letter, 12 December 1994

Four Basic Principles Governing the Budget Allowance Program

1. The Budget Allowance Program was created to reduce the financial and time burdens on members.
2. Members should not pay fees or be assessed to participate in Church programs.
3. Priesthood and auxiliary leaders should reduce and simplify activities wherever possible. (This may require a reduction in some activities stakes and wards are accustomed to having.)

continued

Four Basic Principles Governing the Budget Allowance Program

4. Activities should be planned at little or no cost, should build testimonies, and should provide meaningful service to others.

Budget Allowance Guidelines
June 1998

Guidelines for Funding Youth Activities

Budget Allowance
Guidelines

June 2006

United States and Canada

Scout Council

Scout Council

1. Stakes and wards should fund all youth activities, including Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Young Women, and Primary activities, from the budget allowance.
2. If budget allowance funds are insufficient, young men and young women may individually earn their own money for the cost of one annual camp.
3. If budget allowance funds are insufficient and young men and young women are unable to individually earn enough for the one annual camp, they may hold group fund-raising activities.

continued

Guidelines for Funding Youth Activities

4. Wards should not charge young men and young women (including Cub Scouts and Primary children) fees or dues for weekly or monthly activities.
5. Young Men and Young Women (and Cub Scouts) may hold group fund raising activities to pay for equipment for the unit if there is not sufficient budget allowance.

Budget Allowance Guidelines
United States and Canada
June 1998, p. 2

Reducing the Costs of Youth Activities



“When we turn our attention to outdoor encampments, let us remember that the same moon, the same stars shine forth from the heavens from hilltops close to home as the ones which shine over the Himalayas. The campfire glow, the sharing experience, lessons from leaders, and that inner feeling of closeness to God do not depend on distance. They are available to all.”

President Thomas S. Monson
“The Lord’s Way,”
Ensign, May 1990, p. 94.

Concerned More With Faith



“I remind you that we should recognize that this Church is not a social club. This the kingdom of God on earth...Let us not worry and get all worked up about exotic excursions that now may not be possible. These might prove fun, wonderful fun, and young people, we all agree, need to have some fun under direction of Church officers and teachers.

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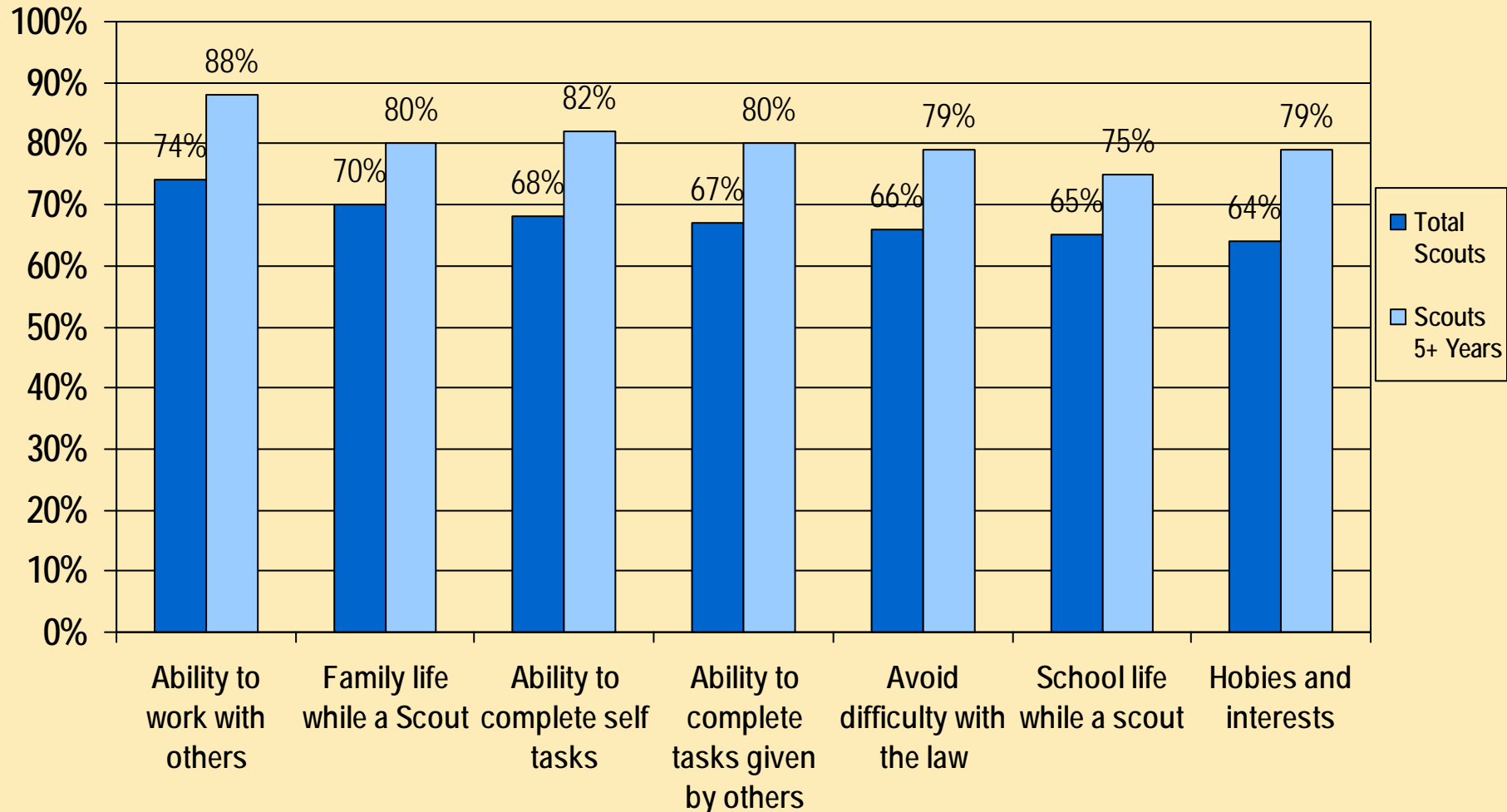
Concerned More With Faith



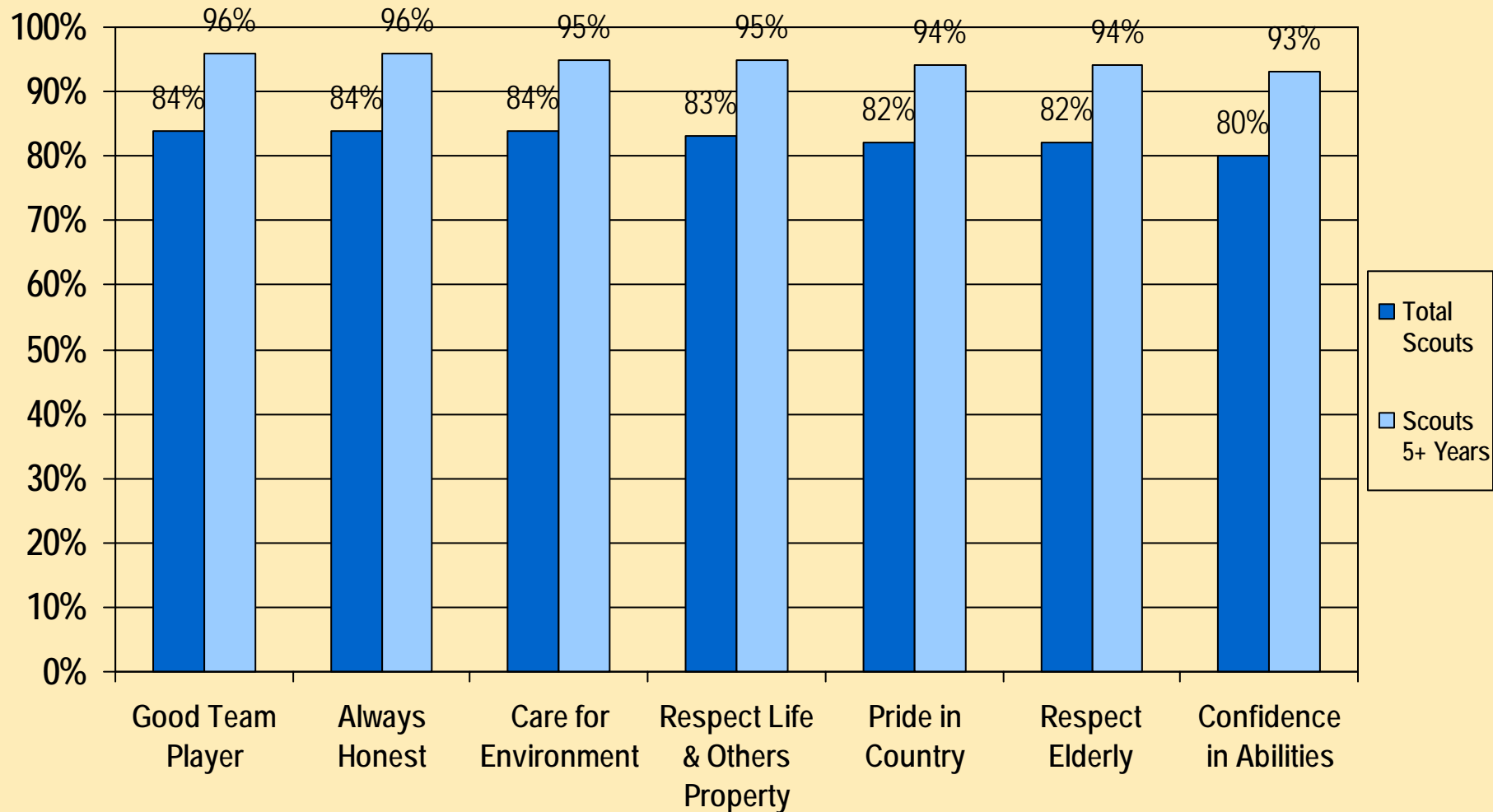
But these officers and teachers, and these young men and women, are people of ingenuity who with faith and prayer can work out programs costing little in dollars that will yield tremendous dividends in wholesome recreation and faith-building activities. Perhaps we should be less concerned with fun and more with faith."

President Gordon B. Hinckley
Church News, February 24, 1999

Percentage Saying Scouting has Positive Effect on People/Life Skills



Percentage Saying Scouting has Influenced the Development of That Trait



Percent Saying Absolutely Essential

