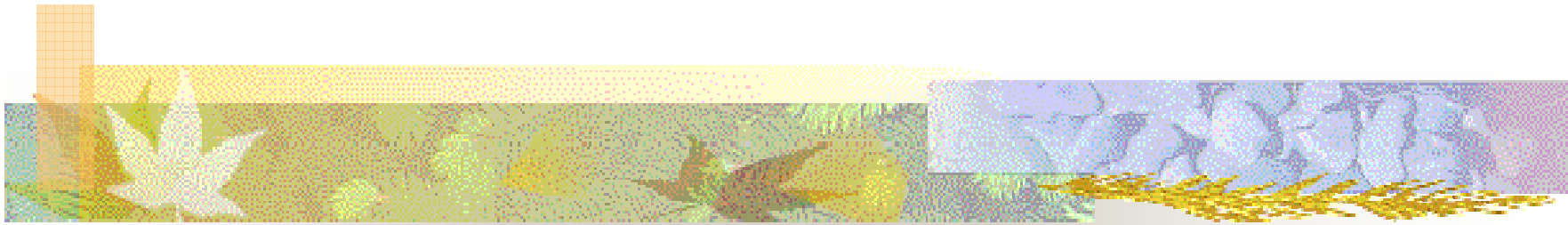


# Best Practices of Successful Scouting Programs



*Presented by the*  
Young Men General Presidency  
*The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

Key procedures  
that will reduce the risk of accidents,  
losses and litigation...



...for priesthood leaders who  
supervise LDS scout\* troops

\* The term “scouts” includes Varsity and Explorer units



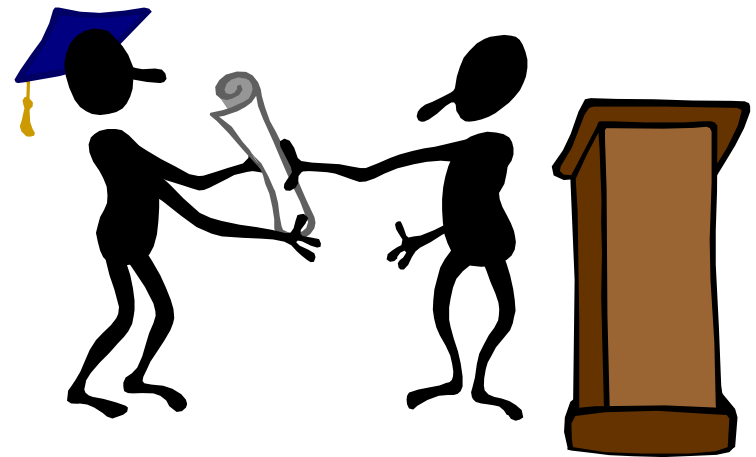
# Accidents Happen!

- 2001: Scoutmaster paralyzed in a fall
- 2001: 15-year-old paralyzed in ATV accident
- 2002: Two scouts killed in auto accidents
- 2002: 16-year-old paralyzed while diving
- 2004: Scout killed in ATV/snowmobile wreck
- 2004: Two scouts die in separate falls

# Best Practice #1

## Education and Training

- Train the trainers
- Enlist support of stake YM presidencies
- Set expectation of training for all scout leaders
- Use resources from local scout councils, publications and websites





# Websites

- [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org)

- Click on *Serving in the Church*
  - Select *Aaronic Priesthood/Young Men*
  - Select *Scouting*

- [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org)

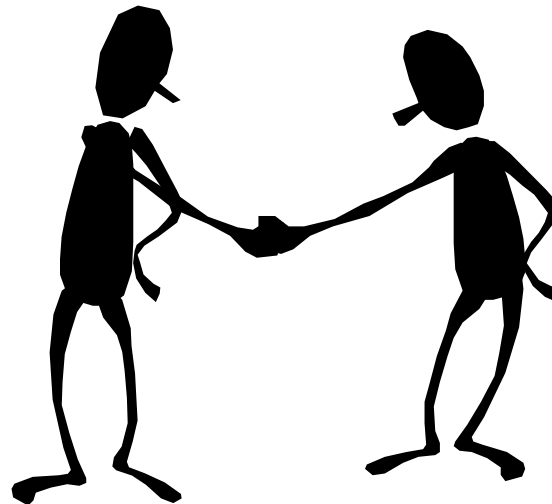
- Type desired publication in *Search* field
  - *Fast Start* (new leader training)
  - *Guide to Safe Scouting* (guidelines for activities)
  - *Youth Protection* (abuse information)
  - *Keys to Safe Driving* (driving information)
  - *Climb On Safely* (climbing activity guidelines)

# Best Practice #2

## “Two-deep” Leadership

(at least two leaders for each activity)

- Required for all scout functions and activities
- Emphasize safe practices and risk awareness during Fast Start orientation to scout position
- *Never* go alone
- Do you have the courage to cancel?



# Best Practice #3

## Individual Screening/Background Checks

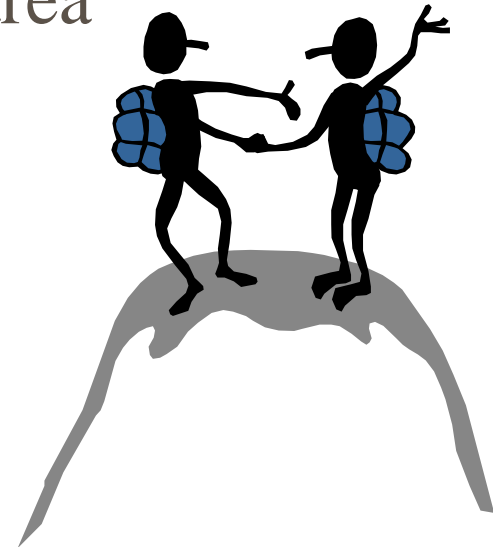


- Church leaders should review membership records for annotations prior to extending any call involving youth and/or scouts
- If necessary, contact previous ecclesiastical leaders
- Review BSA protocol
- Questions regarding potential abuse situations? Contact the Help Line:  
(800) 240-1911

# Best Practice #4

## Tour Permits

- Required to access BSA liability insurance coverage
- Safety mechanism for BSA and Church
- Tour permits needed for overnight camps or activities outside local council area
- Permits usually required for all overnight activities
- Check with local council for specific guidelines
- No tour permit? No tour!

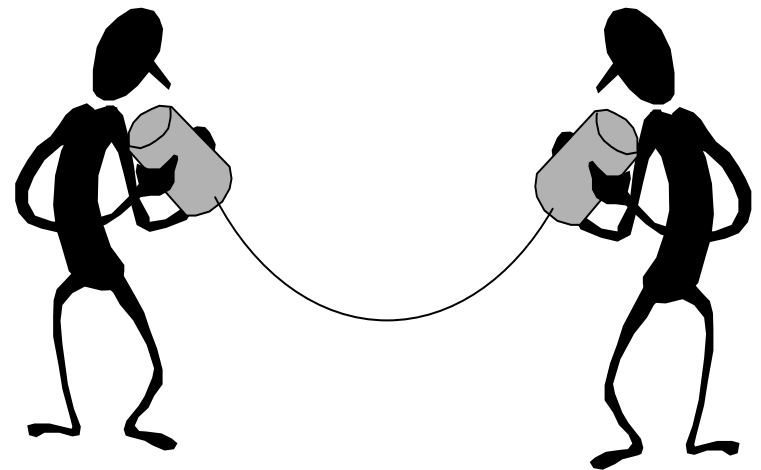




# Best Practice #5

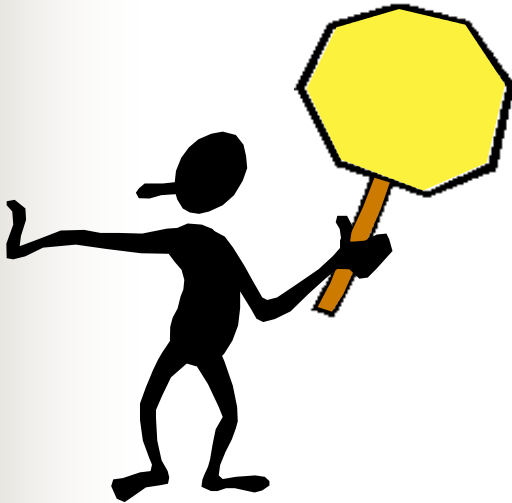
## Reporting Protocol

- Notify stake president/bishop of accident or injury
- Contact Risk Management at (866)LDS-RISK
- Ecclesiastical leaders should be aware of possible secondary benefits through Church Activity Insurance



# Best Practice #6

## Safety Guidelines



- *Church Handbook of Instructions, Book 2, Section 10*
- *BSA Guide to Safe Scouting*
- Use inspiration and common sense



# Websites

- [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org)

- Click on *Serving in the Church*
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# Safety is Important

After completing a furniture refinishing project, Boy Scouts from Mesa, Arizona tossed linseed oil-soaked rags into the trash. Later that evening, the rags spontaneously combusted; the resulting fire completely destroyed the building.



# Best Practice #7

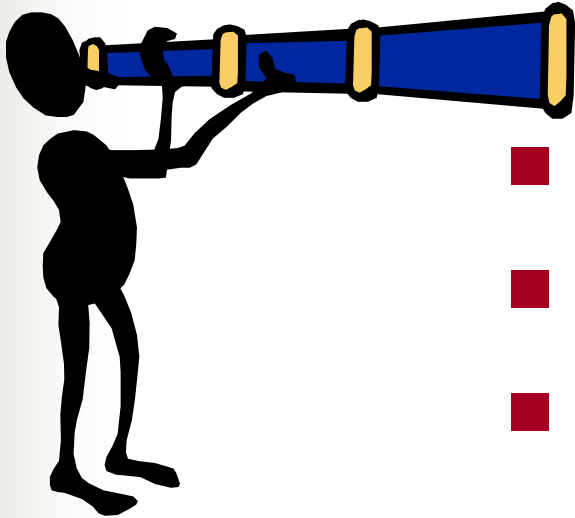
## BSA Summer Camps

- Encourage use of official BSA camps, when available
- Ensure BSA standards and certification
- Understand safety, insurance and indemnity issues



# Best Practice #8

## Advance Preparation



- Reduces loss or injury
- Reduces risk of litigation
- Promotes safety mentality among leaders and scouts
- Preserves sacred resources of the Church

## Best Practice #9

### Be Aware of Prohibited Activities

- All-terrain vehicle (ATV) use
- Martial arts other than judo, aikido and tai chi
- Chainsaws and mechanical log splitters except by trained personnel over the age of 18
- Exploration of abandoned mines
- Varsity, interscholastic or club football competition
- Fireworks except when used by certified fireworks control experts; sale of fireworks as a fundraising activity
- Hang gliders, ultralights, experimental aircraft or hot air balloons; parachuting; flying in aircraft when involved in search-and-rescue efforts; parasailing or any activity in which a person is carried aloft and towed by a motorboat

## Prohibited Activities (cont.)

- Bungee or shock cord jumping
- Motorized go-carts and motorbikes; all motorized speed events including motorcycles, boats, drag racing, demolition derbies and related events
- Motorized personal watercraft such as jet skis
- Amateur or professional rodeo events
- Pointing any type of firearm (including paintball, dye or lasers) at any individual; however, law enforcement officials may use in training agenda with proper safety equipment in Law Enforcement Venturing program
- Hunting for Cub Scout or Boy Scout units
- Possession of firearms except for law enforcement officers or by certified firearms instructor conducting supervised training





# Have I forgotten anything...?

Prior to approving a scout activity, ask:

- Are youth and adults properly registered?
- Parental permission and health forms used?
- Familiar with *Guide to Safe Scouting* and committed to following the guidelines?
- Has a tour permit been obtained?
- Have leaders planned for emergency and done advance safety orientation?



**“Please, observe and teach habits of safety and well-being...safeguard those in your charge. As surely as this is the Lord’s work, so the adversary will do all that he can to injure and destroy. Brethren, you are the guardians of those sent to work under your direction. You must be aware of the hazards they face. You must do all you can, and you must observe these same practices yourselves to reduce injury.”**

*-- President Gordon B. Hinckley*

*Mission Presidents’ Seminar, 27 June 1997*