

A Bridge to the Future

Eighty Years of Partnership 1913 - 1993

The YMMIA was organized in June of 1875 by Junius F. Wells, under the direction of Brigham Young, to provide spiritual and cultural activities during leisure time for the young men of the Church.

Scouting, with its spiritual background and cultural ideas, appealed to Church leaders as an excellent program for boys. The YMMIA thoroughly investigated Scouting in 1911, and, on motion of President Anthony W. Irvins of the YMMIA General Superintendency, the MIA Scouts were officially organized.

In May of 1913, the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America issued a charter to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

The Church continues to follow the programs of the Boy Scouts of America to help its young men twelve to eighteen years of age as they magnify their callings in the priesthood. Scouting helps young men develop desirable character traits, citizenship, and physical and mental fitness. The Scouting program teaches young men how to rely on themselves, serve and lead others, prepare for emergencies, conserve natural resources, and become actively involved in community, school, and Church service projects.

The Young Men General Presidency emphasizes that Scouting continues to play a strong role in fulfilling Aaronic Priesthood objectives of preparing young men for full-time missions, temple blessings, and righteous manhood. The Church and the Boy Scouts of America form a strong, mutually beneficial partnership to teach and train our young men.

a scout is ----

Trustworthy

Keep that which is committed to thy trust.
1 Timothy 6:20

Loyal

He had sworn with an oath to defend his people, his rights, and his country, and his religion, even to the loss of his blood.
Alma 48:13

Obedient

We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates, in obeying, honoring, and sustaining the law.
Articles of Faith 1:12

Cheerful

God loveth a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9:7

Helpful

Ye will teach them to love another, and to serve one another.
Mosiah 4:15

Friendly

I will call you friends, for you are my friends, and ye shall have an inheritance with me.
D&C 93:45

Courteous

Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous.
1 Peter 3:8

Kind

Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.
Ephesians 4:32

Thrifty

And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained besides them five more.
Matthew 25:20

Brave

Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed.
1 Chronicles 28:20

Clean

Who shall ascend unto the hill of the Lord?...He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul into vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.
Psalms 24:3-4

Reverent

We claiming the privilege of worshipping Almighty God according to the dictates of our conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may.
Articles of Faith

"Scouting: A Great American Partnership"

President Ezra Taft Benson of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints has made the following statements about Scouting:

"I would to God that every boy of Boy Scout age in America could have the benefits and the blessings of the great Boy Scout program. It is truly a noble program" (...*So Shall Ye Reap*,[Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1960] p.138).

Its purpose is 1: *Character Building* - to help to fill the need for men of *shining honor*. 2: *Citizenship training* - to help young men to develop an uncompromising love for America and its great concepts and

institutions; to develop a strong attitude and determination of self-reliance . 3. *Leadership development* - to help to answer the great need of leaders of capacity with high ideals. 4. *Physical fitness* - to help to beat down the tendency, if there is one, of physical deterioration. 5. *Spiritual growth* - American foundations and spiritual perpetuation of America are assured with spirituality inclined citizenry" ("Scouting: A Great American Partnership," *Improvement Era*, Feb. 1964, p. 101).

"Scouting stresses service to others, and again this has a spiritual base. The Scout pledges to help other people at all times. Was it not the Master who said 'Whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant'?" (...*So Shall Ye Reap*, p. 139)

"It is one of the choicest experiences in my life to serve in and participate in Scouting, which I have done for almost seventy years" ("*When I Was Called as Scoutmaster*," Boy Scout Satellite Broadcast, Salt Lake City, 14 Feb. 1988).

"Take time out to help build a bridge for that boy [.]..I have faith in the manhood of America; we will not let our boys down" (*God, Family, Country* , [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1974] p. 215).

| [Home](#) | [LDS/BSA History](#) | [LDS Units](#) | [Training](#) |
| [Quotes and Articles](#) | [Religious Awards](#) | [Email Lists](#) | [LDS Patches](#) | [Miscellaneous](#) |