

Scouting in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

This document was prepared:

1. to describe various policies and practices of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints(LDS) for council and district leaders who are not associated with the Church,
2. to help fellow Scouters to better understand how LDS Scouters function, and
3. to be a reference for LDS Scouters. Some definitions are offered at the end.

Scout units not associated with the Latter-day Saints (LDS) sometimes think that LDS units operate differently. While a few differences do exist, these are neither numerous nor major. A good example, where BSA policy is not only followed by LDS units, but where it is implemented in a manner that might prove useful to other institutions sponsoring more than one Scout unit is the:

KEY SCOUT LEADERS MEETING - This meeting is described in The LDS Chartered Organization Representative (a manual available from the Boy Scouts of America, LDS Relationships Office, SLC, UT, 800-537-5923, cost: \$2.00. The procedure outlined in this manual emphasizes the important role of the Chartered Organization Representative (COR) and specifies how the COR is to assemble the Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Varsity Coach, Explorer Advisor, other key Scouters, and Church leaders responsible for Scouting in a monthly meeting in each ward. The meeting is to last no more than one hour and usually is followed by individual unit committee meetings.

In the BSA FastStart videotape and viewer's guide (BSA Nos. AV-034 and AV-034VG) the COR is shown meeting with the Scout leaders to discuss transition concerns, policy issues, service projects, etc. Wards who follow Church instruction and hold a Key Scout Leaders meeting not only, effectively satisfy the suggestions found in BSA training, but also augment these instruction by including key religious leaders who influence Scouting in their ward.

TIGER CUBS - One difference between LDS and non-LDS Scouting is the Tiger Cub program. "The Church has not adopted the Tiger Cub program as part of its activities for Primary-age boys." (LDS Scouting Handbook, p. 33)

Other quotes from LDS leaders and publications illustrate the Church's support of BSA policies regarding training and specific Scout programs. Local LDS Scouters are strongly advised to follow these policies.

BASIC TRAINING - "Basic training helps Scouting leaders understand the Scouting program in which they are involved...(They should) receive the appropriate...training as soon as possible after they are called." (LDS Scouting Handbook, p. 27)

ROUNDTABLE ATTENDANCE - "High councilors with Scouting responsibilities and the stake Young Men Presidency should attend these meetings and should encourage ward Scouting leaders to attend as well. "The high councilor adviser to Primary, the ward Blazer (now Eleven-year-old) Scout leaders, and Cub Scout leaders should attend council or district roundtables." (LDS Scouting Handbook, p. 27)

SERVICE ON DISTRICT AND COUNCIL LEVELS - "It is important that Church Scouting leaders work with these organizations (BSA councils and districts) and serve as volunteers in the local council and the district." (LDS Scouting Handbook, p. 35)

KEEPING CURRENT WITH REGISTRATIONS - Boys, young men, and adult leaders in Cub Scout, Scout, Varsity Scout, and Explorer programs should be appropriately registered with the Boy Scouts of America. Participating in any part of the program without being registered is a breach of integrity and may jeopardize the liability insurance coverage carried by local councils on all adult leaders. (LDS Scouting Handbook, p. 32)

FRIENDS OF SCOUTING/INVESTMENT IN CHARACTER CAMPAIGN - "Stake presidents and bishops should assign adults to conduct the sustaining membership fund-raising program (now the Friends of Scouting/Investment in Character Campaign) under the direction of the local Boy Scouts of America council." (LDS Scouting Handbook, p. 30)

CUB SCOUTS - "The ward Primary second counselor registers, serves as a member of the ward pack committee, and represents the boys. She provides a list of boys eligible for Cub Scouting and sees that they have the opportunity to participate in Cub Scouting." (LDS Primary Handbook, p. 19)

BOY SCOUTS - The LDS Scouting Relationships Committee encourages all LDS troops to attend their appropriate Council's Scout Camp each summer.

ORDER OF THE ARROW - The Order of the Arrow is an activity that supports the teachings of the Church regarding service and brotherhood, and is supported by the Church. Any questions about the Order of the Arrow and the Church that cannot be answered locally should be directed to the Executive Director for the Council-LDS Scout Committee.

Varsity Scouts - Because limited training is available from districts or the council, the Council-LDS Scout Committee will assist. Prior to contacting it, please avail yourself of the following:

1. The Varsity Scout Leader FastStart videotape and viewer guide. They are available from BSA Audiovisual Service, S316, BSA, 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane, P.O. Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079. the videotape order number is AV-02V004 and it costs \$14.50 (last year) plus shipping charges (\$3.00 for orders up to \$39.99, \$5.00 on orders up to \$99.99, and \$7.00 for orders more than \$100.00).
2. The Church under the direction of Elder Lionel Kendrick worked with the Boy Scouts and prepared the Varsity Scout Coach Start-up. This manual is available from the Boy Scouts of America, LDS Relationships Office, Salt Lake City, UT, 800-537-5923, No charge.

EXPLORERS - President Thomas S. Monson is quoted in the lead paragraph of a Church News article titled "Exploring Furthers Priesthood Purposes" as saying:

You won't find a better orientation for future job considerations, professional pursuits and helping a young man determine what he wants to be and do when he grows up than the Explorer program of the Boy Scouts of America. The entire article should be reread. It can be found in the Church News, Week Ending February 6, 1993 (p.7).

The Church under the direction of Elder Stephen Nadauld worked with the Boy Scouts of America to

prepare the Explorer Leader Start-up: Orientation for New Explorer Advisors/Church-Chartered Posts. This manual is available from the BSA-LDS Relationships Office, Salt Lake City, UT, 800-537-5923, No charge.

Stake-sponsored events not associated with a particular (Explorer) post can be of genuine service. These might include short- or long-term programs in law enforcement, medicing, aviation, high adventure, sports, and athletics. Under the direction of the stake Aaronic Priesthood committee, the stake activities committee and selected specialists might direct these. Stake-sponsored events should be held at times that will not take the young men away from family, quorum, ward, or post activities. (LDS Scouting Handbook, p. 33)

STANDARD IDENTIFICATION - All LDS Scouting units should be chartered or renewed with the LDS initials followed by the name of the ward and the stake (reference: LDS Scouting Handbook, p. 29). Where corrections were necessary for the Church standard identification, this process has been completed recently by efforts between the Council Registration Office and the Council-LDS Scout Committee.

DEFINITIONS

Ward - A local Church unit consisting of over 500 Church members.

Stake - A number of wards organized under the direction of a stake president.

Primary - A children's organization within the Church for ages three through eleven.

Aaronic Priesthood - A priesthood to which worthy LDS young men are ordained.

Bishop - A lay clergy presiding over a ward, and also the Institutional Head for Scouting purposes. (The Church has no paid clergy.)

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