



# LDS RELATIONSHIPS NEWSLETTER

## Boy Scouts of America

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### Young Men Presidency Supports Scouting, Varsity Scouting and Venturing Programs



*Pictured above is Young Men General President Charles W. Dahlquist II, with Dean R. Burgess, First Counselor and Michael A. Neider, Second Counselor in the Young Men General Presidency.*

Each year the Young Men General Presidency will train thousands of Aaronic Priesthood and Scouting, Varsity and Venturing leaders in how to effectively use scouting to support the Aaronic Priesthood quorums. These training sessions take place during LDS Priesthood leaders' week at Philmont, LDS Relationship conferences, Little Philmonts, and General Conference workshop sessions. The following is an excerpt taken from a talk given by Young Men General President Charles W. Dahlquist II at the April 2006 General Conference workshop. The complete talk is posted on the Church website at [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org) under Aaronic Priesthood/ Young Men.

#### **"Scouting: The Application and Activity Arm of the Aaronic Priesthood"**

"The Aaronic Priesthood is given to our young men not only to allow them to act in the name of God, but to provide opportunities for them to learn the doctrines and then learn how to apply them in their lives in a way that will bless the lives of those around them.

It is in the priesthood quorum that the doctrines of the kingdom are learned. And it is in the activity program of the Aaronic Priesthood quorum that they are applied in a way that prepares a young man to fulfill a full-time mission, receive the ordinances of the temple, and live a life of service to his family, the kingdom, and his community.

In the United States and Canada, Scouting is the primary activity and application arm of the Aaronic Priesthood. In 1913 the Church became the first charter partner of the Boy Scouts of America. In those nearly one hundred years, hundreds of thousands of young men have been helped to learn their duty in the Aaronic Priesthood through their Scouting experiences. I like to think of Scouting as providing two major supports to help young men fulfill the purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood in their lives. First, it helps them build strength of character. I can think of no stronger statement of

Secondly, Scouting helps young men develop skills that are vital to their survival -- to getting along in the world, to providing for their families, for making a contribution to their chosen vocations, for developing their talents to help make the world a better place."

Elder Brett Tano, a recently returned missionary from the Japan Hiroshima Mission, said: "I am glad I was a Scout. It helped me prepare for my mission. Many listened because of the skills I learned in Scouting."

In reference to knowing the resources available to Aaronic Priesthood Scouting leaders, President Dahlquist said: "It means also getting appropriate Scouting training, including Basic Training, Leader Specific Training and Wood Badge and attending monthly roundtables -- so that we will understand and be able to apply the timeless values of Scouting to reinforce and strengthen the quorums of the priesthood.

Brethren, seek the guidance of the spirit in your selection of leaders for our young men of the Aaronic Priesthood. And then, once they are called, give them time to serve, to be trained, to gain the love and trust of their boys -- which generally takes years, not months.

God bless each priest quorum adviser, Varsity Coach, Scoutmaster, merit badge counselor, and all within the sound of my voice and beyond who realize the majesty that can be part of the activity program of the Aaronic Priesthood, if we apply the principles that caused the Brethren, in 1913, to enter into a partnership with the Boy Scouts of America for the strengthening of the Aaronic Priesthood. There was inspiration in that decision, as there is inspiration in the decision to continue that decision today. And there must be inspiration in applying the principles of Scouting to strengthen and vitalize the quorums of the Aaronic Priesthood and each young priesthood bearer today."



## Scouting Continues to Bless Boys

*Excerpts by Jason Swensen, LDS Church News staff writer, week ending February 26, 2006.*

When Brad Allen considers the state of Scouting in the Church, his thoughts drift to the countless troop campouts, den meetings, Eagle projects and courts of honors happening almost daily throughout the United States.

Scouting's future will always be determined by the strength of those individual units found in Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, Varsity teams and Venturing crews, acknowledges Brother Allen, director of LDS Relationships for Boy Scouts of America.

As Scouting once again celebrates its February anniversary, Brother Allen said the organization's 93-year-old relationship with the Church continues to grow. "Scouting is experiencing an upsurge in the Church," he added, "and not just in [Utah's] Wasatch Front, but clear across the nation."

The Church was the first religious organization to embrace Scouting almost a century ago. "It remains Scouting's largest chartered body, in youth, units and leaders," said Brother Allen.

Last year 396,152 youth were registered in LDS scouting units which represents 13% of BSA's traditional membership and 35,512 units (Packs, Troops, Teams and Crews) which is 28.5% of BSA units. 200,605 leaders are registered as Den Leaders, Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, Varsity Coaches, Venturing advisers and other official Scouting positions.

President Thomas S. Monson, first counselor in the First Presidency, remains active as the longest-tenured member of BSA's National Executive Board. President Monson was appointed to the board in 1969, succeeding President Ezra Taft Benson in that position.

Other Church General Officers serving on the National BSA Board or National committees include Charles W. Dahlquist II, Dean R. Burgess, Michael A. Neider of the Young Men General Presidency, and Sisters Cheryl C. Lant and Margaret Lifferth of the Primary General Presidency.

Leaders who serve in Scouting continue to have a great influence in the lives of the boys and young men of the Church. Scouting is a great complement to the Aaronic Priesthood "Duty to God" Award Program.

## President Monson Visits 2005 National Jamboree



Under the direction of President Thomas S. Monson, some 5,000 LDS Scouts and their leaders rose to their feet together and silently delivered the Scout salute. It was a unifying gesture for those gathered for a special, open-air sacrament meeting at the National Scout Jamboree held at Ft. A.P. Hill, Va. A gesture of tribute, mourning and healing.

Days earlier, LDS Scoutmaster Michael LaCroix and three of Brother LaCroix's fellow Alaskan Scout leaders were killed in an electrical accident while at the Jamboree. A second Church member, Larry Call, was injured but was able to remain at the National Jamboree following a night in the hospital.

President Monson shared words of comfort, encouragement and counsel. He reminded the thousands participating in the meeting that men who serve boys, in effect, serve God. He then spoke of the lasting influence a dedicated, enthusiastic leader can have in a Scout's life, quoting a poem:

*"Who touches a boy by the Master's Hand,  
Is shaping the course of a future man,  
Is dealing with one who is human seed,  
And may be the man whom the world will need."*

President Monson then turned his attention to the Scouts -- offering direction from several time-tested Scouting principles such as tenacity, honesty, service, and the global brotherhood of Scouting. He encouraged the boys to remember a three word formula to help us in gaining success . . . "Never Give Up."

President Monson concluded by saying that the principles and skills learned from Scouting can help prepare young men for successful full-time missions. To illustrate his point, the Church leader shared some advice written by his grandson Alan Dibb to his younger brother, Mark Dibb, when Mark received his Eagle Scout Award.

"The Scout Program," wrote Alan, "is the single greatest thing that has helped me prepare for and serve my mission." Scouting, added Alan, is more than learning to build a fire. You learn things that will help you for the rest of your life."

President Monson was joined on the program by Young Men General President, Charles W. Dahlquist II. Brother Dahlquist promised the LDS Scouts that God answers prayers and offers peace in hours of need. "We need young men who, when the voice of God calls them to service, are prepared and willing to serve and who are worthy of



*Chief Scout Executive, Roy Williams, presents Kendall Call Scouting's highest award for heroism for saving the life of his father, Larry Call, when he pulled him from the electrically charged tent pole.*



*Alan & Mark Dibb with their grandfather, President Monson and Brother Dahlquist*

sweet whisperings of the Spirit," Brother Dahlquist said. "We need young men who have a testimony that God lives, and who have faith in Him sufficient to work miracles in the lives of those they teach in the mission field."

*Complete article in Church News, week ending August 6, 2005, p 6-10.*

*36 Priests bless the sacrament at the National Jamboree*

## Primary Presidency at Philmont

During the week at Philmont, the Primary General Presidency teaches the sessions on Cub Scouting and the 11-year old programs and conducts a question and answer session for Priesthood and Primary leaders.

Currently over 43% of the registered youth in LDS scout units are in Cub Scouting or the 11-year scout program.

Cheryl C. Lant, Primary General President, has said: "Scouting is fun and has an important purpose! Woven through all the fun is an inspired program that really works. Scouting is about learning and living the gospel. Scouting can reinforce positive character values and leadership skills that are taught in the home."

"Scouting prepares boys to become righteous men who hold and honor the priesthood of God. Scout leaders have the responsibility to help each boy connect what he is learning in Scouting to his priesthood preparation and his future as a covenant-keeping missionary, husband, and father."

Quotes from Sister Lant are taken from [www.lds.org/primary](http://www.lds.org/primary)



*Pictured above is Primary General President Cheryl C. Lant with Margaret S. Lifferth, First Counselor and Vicki F. Matsumori, Second Counselor, in the Primary General Presidency while in attendance during the Priesthood Leaders week at Philmont Scout Ranch.*



## LDS Weeks at Philmont Sold Out

Two week-long conferences have been approved to train LDS Priesthood leaders on how to effectively use Scouting to

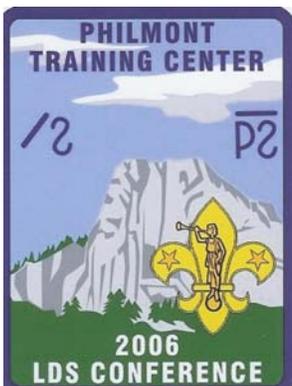
support the Primary and Aaronic Priesthood. Charles W. Dahlquist II, who serves as Chairman of the Church General Scouting committee, is pleased to announce that both conferences are over 100% full. The two sessions will be held during July 1-7 and July 8-14. This is the first year in many years that the Church and Philmont have teamed up for two weeks. Philmont has approved two LDS weeks of training in 2007 which will be held June 30-July 6 and July 7-13. Invitations to attend are sent from Elder Boyd K. Packer in November of each year. Those individuals who have been approved to attend LDS week at Philmont include Stake Presidents, members of Stake Presidencies, High Council members over Scouting and Stake Young Men Presidents.

Registration for the two sessions in 2006 includes 350 Priesthood leaders, 721 family members and 197 Mountain Men and Women trekkers for a total of 1,268. Additional faculty members and their families will also be in attendance. Leaders who attend Philmont are invited and encouraged to conduct a "Little Philmont" training in their stake in order to train Scouting, Primary, Aaronic Priesthood and ward and stake leaders.

## Church Promotes Use of Guide to Safe Scouting

The official Church website at [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org) provides a direct link to the official BSA website for access to *Guide to Safe Scouting* with the following statement: "The *Guide to Safe Scouting*, published by the Boy Scouts of America, can help adult Scout leaders conduct Scouting activities in a safe and prudent manner. The guide is not an official Church publication, but this link to it is provided as an additional resource."

To access this link, click on "Serving in the Church", then select either "Primary" or "Aaronic Priesthood/ Young Men".



## Wood Badge Recognition



On February 16, 2006 five additional persons from the Young Men Presidency or Board were presented their Wood Badge recognition at a ceremony held in the Church office building. In comments made by President Charles W. Dahlquist II, he congratulated the individuals on their achievement and said, "My personal experience in attending Wood Badge made a significant difference in my ability to be an effective leader and I encourage all leaders who serve youth in Scouting to attend Wood Badge training."

Currently all members of the Young Men Presidency and eight board members have attended Wood Badge and have become "trained scout leaders" as admonished to do so by President Dahlquist.



*Pictured above with President Charles W. Dahlquist II, Young Men General President and Dean R. Burgess, First Counselor, Young Men General Presidency are Wood Badge recipients Courtland G. Cottrell, Young Men Executive Secretary, Scott W. Cameron, Board member, Gordon T. Watts, former Board member, Michael A. Neider, Second Counselor, Young Men General Presidency, and J. Floyd Hatch, Board member.*

## Scout Executives Attend General Conference

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints conducts a semi-annual General Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah during the first weekend of April and October. Over the past four years, it has become tradition to invite Scout Executives and selected members of their staff who are not members of the LDS faith to come to General Conference to gain a greater understanding and education about the Church. This experience has proven to be valuable in the improved relationships with LDS Stakes and Wards in each local Scout council. Lynn W. Southam, Arapahoe Colorado Stake President, has been instrumental in providing leadership and direction for this positive experience for several years. Thomas H. Fitzgibbon, BSA Western Region Director, has also been a great support by inviting and encouraging many Scout Executives to attend.

On March 30-April 2, 2006 twenty-three scouting professionals and eight host Stake Presidents participated in the General Conference. Thomas H. Fitzgibbon, Western Region Director, and Tim Cooper, Western Region Deputy Director, attended along with Scout Executives from nine councils which included: Jeff Herrmann, Denver Area Council; Brad Farmer, Chief Seattle Council; Larry Abbott, Grand Canyon Council; Paul Moore, Great Salt Lake Council; Shane Calendine, Nevada Area Council; Doug Dillow, Pacific Harbors Council; Ian Lilien, Pikes Peak Council; Robert Dees, Greater Yosemite Council, and Rene Monarez, Rocky Mountain Council. Brad Allen, LDS Relations Director, BSA served as the staff adviser.

During the General Conference visit, the individuals attended a Young Men Workshop, General Priesthood session and General session; toured Temple Square Visitors Center, Family History Center, Welfare Square and Humanitarian Center; visited the Brigham Young University campus and viewed a movie about the life and legacy of Joseph Smith, the founding prophet of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Scouting professionals also had the opportunity to meet with the Young Men General Presidency, Primary Board members, Area Seventies and several General Authorities.



Those interested in participating in future conferences should contact Brad Allen at [ballen@netbsa.org](mailto:ballen@netbsa.org) or at 801-530-0004.



## "On My Honor" Youth Award Changes

A recent change in the requirements to earn the "On My Honor" youth recognition has occurred.

The current requirements are as follows:

1. Complete the requirements for one of the "Duty to God" certificates (Deacon, Teacher or Priest).
2. Achieve the rank of Star in the United States (or equivalent Scouting award in other countries).

### Awarding the Recognition

The bishop or branch president controls the awarding of the "On My Honor" award. He may order recognition ribbons directly from the local Church distribution center. The recognition may be made by a member of the bishopric at a court of honor.

### Wearing the Recognition

The recognition ribbon may be worn as part of the Scout uniform in ceremonial settings. The Religious Square Knot patch, available at BSA service centers, may also be worn on the scout uniform.