

CHURCH POLICIES CONCERNING BSA ADULT REGISTRATION

(Statements by General Authorities; Policies as Stated in [Church Handbooks](#))

Purpose of Scouting in the Aaronic Priesthood and Primary

“Scouting can help young men and boys enhance close relationships with their families and the Church while developing strong and desirable traits of character, citizenship, and physical and mental fitness. Under priesthood leadership, Scouting should complement the efforts of Aaronic Priesthood quorums and Primary classes in building testimonies in young men and boys. Scouting under Church sponsorship should become an extension of the home, Primary classes, and Aaronic Priesthood quorums. Scouting functions as part of the Church’s activity program for boys and young men. Scouting activities should be planned to fulfill gospel-centered purposes” (*Scouting Handbook for Church Units in the United States*, [2015], [referred to hereafter as “*Scouting Handbook*”] 1.1).

Statement by President Boyd K. Packer

“Never allow a Scout leader to function in any position in a [Scout] unit sponsored by the Church in the United States until he has been registered with the Boy Scouts of America” (President Boyd K. Packer, from a letter to stake presidents, January 2, 1997).

Statement by President Thomas S. Monson

“No man is called to work with youth until his membership certificate is in the hands of the bishop. In addition, no man is called to work in Scouting until he is fully registered with the governing board [local council] of Scouting and his record merits consideration for a call. This procedure has been expounded many times, yet wolves continue to enter with the intent to destroy the flock. President Hinckley asked that I stress tonight this instruction” (President Thomas S. Monson, “[In Harm’s Way](#)”; *Ensign*, May 1998, 46).

Calling and Registering Adult Scouting Leaders

“Worthy adults, whether members of the Church or not, may be called to serve as Scouting leaders. A current membership record of each member called to serve in Scouting should be in the local unit. All adult Scouting leaders must be properly registered and must complete Youth Protection training before beginning their service” (*Scouting Handbook*, 8.5).

Registration of Youth and Adults

“Throughout the year, each ward ensures that all youth and adults who participate in the BSA are properly registered. . . Each adult leader must complete a BSA application. All adult Scouting leaders must be properly registered and complete Youth Protection training before beginning their service” (*Scouting Handbook*, 8.2).

Scouting Registration, Insurance, and Fees

“All adult Scout leaders should register before they begin their service and should receive proper training in their responsibilities. In the United States, registered adult leaders receive liability protection from the Boy Scouts of America.

“The Church pays all or part of the fees for registering young men and adult leaders in Scouting” (*Handbook 2: Administering the Church*, [2010], [referred to hereafter as “*Handbook 2*”], 8.13.4).

Background Screening for BSA Adult Leaders

“The BSA will complete a criminal background check on all new adult leaders as part of the registration approval process. This includes the screening of Social Security numbers” (*Scouting Handbook*, 8.8).

Stake Presidency

“The stake presidency sees that Scouting is organized and functioning in each ward in the stake; that young men, boys, and leaders are registered; . . . A member of the stake presidency serves as a member of the [council’s] LDS-BSA relationships committee and registers as a member-at-large for the BSA local council” (*Scouting Handbook*, 3.1).

Stake High Counselors

“The stake presidency may assign high councilors who have assignments relating to the Aaronic Priesthood and Primary to meet as an Aaronic Priesthood committee to discuss Scouting-related matters . . . These high councilors register with the BSA as assistant district commissioners” (*Scouting Handbook*, 3.2).

Stake Primary Presidency

“The stake Primary presidency may register with the BSA as unit commissioners” (*Scouting Handbook*, 3.4).

Stake Young Men Presidency

“They register with the BSA as unit commissioners, serving as liaisons to the individual Scouting units (troops, teams, crews) in the stake” (*Scouting Handbook*, 3.3).

Unit Commissioners

“Register with BSA and receive formal training” (*Scouting Handbook*, 3.5).

Bishop

“He is registered with the BSA and serves as the executive officer for Scouting units chartered by the ward” (*Scouting Handbook*, 4.1).

Bishop’s Counselor

“The bishop assigns a counselor to serve as the ward’s representative to the local Scouting district and council. This counselor registers as the chartered organization representative (COR). He works with other leaders to: . . .

“2. Register boys ages 8 through 11, young men ages 12 through 15, and their adult leaders. Young men ages 16 and 17 and their leaders should be registered if the ward sponsors a Venturing crew or if rank advancements are being pursued” (*Scouting Handbook*, 4.2).

Aaronic Priesthood Quorum Advisers (Ward Young Men Presidency)

“Generally, Aaronic Priesthood quorum advisers serve as the adult leaders of the Scouting units in the ward. Both the adviser and the assistant adviser(s) attend meetings of the quorum and the Scouting unit and must be registered with the BSA” (*Scouting Handbook*, 5.1).

Leader of the Patrol for Eleven-Year-Old Scouts

“Either the Primary teacher of 11-year-old boys or another capable adult may serve as the group’s Scout leader. This leader should:

“2. Register with the BSA as the eleven-year-old Scout leader” (*Scouting Handbook*, 6.4).

[The Adult Application indicates that the leader of the eleven-year-old Scouts registers using the position code “10.” The assistant leader of the patrol for eleven-year-old Scouts registers as an assistant Scoutmaster, with position code “SA.”]

Ward Primary Presidency

“A member of the presidency is responsible to see that Scouting is organized appropriately. The presidency member should:

“1. Register with BSA, receive BSA training, serve on the appropriate ward Scouting committees, and ensure that Church policies are followed” (*Scouting Handbook*, 6.5).

Ward Primary Presidency’s Responsibilities

“The Primary presidency ensures that all boys ages 8 through 11 are registered in the Scout program and that all Scout leaders are registered and receive proper training” (*Handbook 2*, 11.5.3).

Combining Scouting Units

“The stake president may authorize small units to combine for weekday activities as long as long as each ward maintains a properly registered unit; each is staffed with adult leaders; and retention, recruitment, and activation efforts are maintained by each ward or quorum” (*Scouting Handbook*, 8.4).

Two registered youth members are required in order to register a pack, troop, team, or crew. A rare exception to the above policy (found in *Scouting Handbook* 8.4 regarding each ward maintaining a properly registered unit): “Where there are few young men, a Scout troop may be organized to serve multiple wards and branches or, in some instances, an entire stake or district” (*Handbook 2*, 8.13.4).
