



# LDS RELATIONSHIPS NEWSLETTER

Boy Scouts of America

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February 2008

## Message from the Young Men General Presidency

*President Charles W. Dahlquist II, Young Men General President*

Just prior to the February 2008 annual meetings, President Gordon B. Hinckley, fifteenth President of the Church, passed away at age 97. President Hinckley was timeless, truly *A Man for All Seasons*, and one who believed in youth and the positive effects of Scouting in the life of a boy.

Recently, President Hinckley wrote to the youth:

There never was a time such as this. What a season in the history of the world to be alive! Never before has there been such a generation of youth.

You really are “a chosen generation.” You are better educated. You desire to do the right thing. Many of you are trying to keep yourselves free from the corrosive stains of the world. In so many ways, you are remarkable! You are exceptional! I believe that as a group, you are the finest this world has ever seen.

It is important for you to understand that you are part of a chosen generation. Limitless is your potential. Magnificent is your future, if you will take control of it and if you will decide now that you will not let your life drift in a fruitless and aimless manner. (*Way to Be!*)



Several years ago, I stood with thousands of Scouts and Scouters as President Hinckley raised his arm to the square, gave the Scout sign, and repeated the Scout Oath. He then said:

I love the Scouting movement. The promise of the Scout Oath and the twelve points of the Scout Law point young men along the path of being prepared for the 21st century. They provide a solid and powerful magnetic force toward development of a well-rounded and noteworthy character that counts. If every boy in America knew and observed the Scout Oath, we would do away with most of the jails and prisons in this country. If each of us would live up to those few words, 'On my honor, I will do my best,' whether it be in school, whether it be in our social life, whether it be in our business or professional life, if I will do my very best, success and happiness will be mine" (Boy Scout Jamboral, Fillmore, Utah, Sept. 27, 1996).

President Hinckley received the Silver Buffalo Award in 1994. And it was his father Bryant S. Hinckley who, along with Oscar A. Kirkham, went to New York City in 1911 to investigate Scouting as the activity program for the Aaronic Priesthood age boys. They returned with a positive recommendation and, in 1913, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints became the first charter partner with the Boy Scouts of America. Today, the LDS Church is BSA's largest charter partner, both in terms of number of units and total number of registered boys.

And never before has the relationship between The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Boy Scouts of America been stronger. Someone asked me the other day if Scouting had outlived its relevance. My response to the question was a resounding “NO!” Never before has there been a greater need for the timeless values of Scouting than now. Never has there been a greater need for well-trained, dedicated and “ten-year’d” leaders of youth than now. And never before has there been a greater need for families to get involved in the lives of their youth than now—and Scouting gives a clean and strong invitation to parents to be engaged in their sons' activity program, by serving as Scoutmasters, den leaders, Venturing Advisors, committee Members, commissioners, merit badge counselors...and the list goes on and on. What a blessing the Scouting program—in all its families (Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity, and Venturing)—is to the youth of the Church and their families.



On Monday, February 4, 2008, President Thomas S. Monson, the longest serving member of the BSA National Executive Board, was named to succeed President Hinckley as the sixteenth President of the Church. President Monson is a long-time supporter of Scouting and, in 2003, said, “My appreciation of the Scouting program is deep. Scouting molds character...I think it's a marvelous organization.”

We express our love and gratitude to each of you for your dedication and diligence in serving the youth of this great country through Scouting. Thank you for accepting the invitation to serve. Thank you for taking the time to become trained. And thank you for applying the Scouting methods to help young men of the Aaronic Priesthood acquire these timeless values that are so badly needed and to prepare them for full-time missionary service and to live lives of service to God, country, and family.

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# President Monson Has Always Been a Scouter

President Thomas S. Monson has a special concern for the youth of the Church. Six years after he was called to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, President Monson began serving on the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America. Nearly forty years later, he's still on the board.

When you talk to people who personally know President Monson, you quickly get the sense that, as a boy, he didn't miss the Scout meeting where they learned the Scout Oath and Scout Law. They're words he lives by.

"President Monson personifies the Scout Oath 'On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God,' and if that's not Tom Monson, I don't know what is," said Roy Williams, former Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America.

President Monson has received nearly every award there is in Scouting, including international Scouting's highest award: the Bronze Wolf. Yet, some might say his favorite award is his pigeon-raising merit badge from his youth. That award is no longer offered.

"President Monson has never forgiven the Boy Scouts of America for getting rid of the pigeon-raising merit badge. It's kind of a thing with him," Williams said.



President Monson has continued his pigeon hobby, but his dedication to Scouting runs much deeper. Just ask the man who's responsible for all the young men in the Church. "He has a

vision that's very much the same as Baden-Powell's was, in that Baden-Powell's [vision] was never just to teach boys Scouting skills but it was to teach character," stated President Charles W. Dahlquist II, Young Men General President for the Church.

Like many other Church leaders before him, President Monson feels the teachings of the Church and Scouting values go hand in hand, saying, "In this world where some misguided men and women strive to tear down and destroy great movements such as Scouting, I am pleased to stand firm for an organization that teaches duty to God and country, that embraces the Scout Laws. Yes, an organization whose motto is 'Be Prepared' and whose slogan is 'Do a Good Turn Daily,'"

"I don't know anyone who is more one-on-one oriented than President Monson," Dahlquist said.

Over the years, Dahlquist has accompanied President Monson to many Scout jamborees and says he's always amazed at his ability to focus on the individual. "He can go through a sea of

bodies and be able to pick out the one, and to be able to kneel down and be able to talk to a child or to a young man or a woman, and it makes all the difference, not only in their lives, but to those who are with them," Dahlquist said.



Former general authority John Sonnenberg knows what it's like to be singled out by President Monson. "There was a crowded sidewalk, and the people were evidently going to a meeting, and he, as tall as he is, stood above the crowd and he saw me about ten feet away going in the opposite direction and he said, 'Hi, Johnny!' And I was shocked. I was shocked."

Sonnenberg and his wife, Joyce, have known President Monson and his wife, Frances, for nearly forty years. Again, it's President Monson's personal touch that has touched them.

"I remember one time we attended a viewing with him of one of our dear friends, and as he went over to the casket to view our dear friend, he put his hand upon her hand. I don't know what he said but he smiled as if to say, 'Everything's fine. You're going home,'" Joyce recalled.

"He is so genuine, so thorough, so compassionate... attentive, he listens. But he's very decisive. He makes a decision and he knows his position."

You can add trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent, and perhaps you get to the core of President Monson.

*Article and photos from KSL.com, February 4, 2008  
Scott Haws reporting*

## New LDS Lapel Pin Available

This half-inch lapel pin features a gold Angel Moroni in the center and two gold stars on the tips of a silver fleur de lis. These pins can be purchased for \$3.00 by downloading an order form on the LDS Relationships Web site [www.ldsbsa.org](http://www.ldsbsa.org) under "Scout Items."



# New First Presidency

## About Thomas S. Monson



**Born:** August 21, 1927, in Salt Lake City, Utah

**Education:** University of Utah bachelor's degree in business management; Brigham Young University master's of business administration degree

**Occupation:** Advertising executive at the *Deseret News* starting in 1948; general manager of *Deseret Press* when he was ordained an Apostle in 1963 at age 36

**Church service:** Set apart as second counselor to President Ezra Taft Benson on November 10, 1985; set apart As Second Counselor to President Howard W. Hunter on June 5, 1994; set apart as First Counselor to President Gordon B. Hinckley on March 12, 1995

**Personal:** Married to Frances Beverly Johnson Monson. They are the parents of three children.

## About Henry B. Eyring



**Born:** May 31, 1933, in Princeton, New Jersey

**Education:** University of Utah bachelor's degree in physics; Harvard University master's of and doctorate in business administration

**Occupation:** Associate professor at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business from 1962 to 1971; president at Ricks College in Rexburg, Idaho from 1971 to 1977

**Church service:** Commissioner of Education from September 1980 to April 1985, and again from September 1992 to January 2005; served as First Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric from April 6, 1985, to September 1992; sustained as a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy on October 3, 1992; named to the Quorum of Twelve Apostles on April 1, 1995; set apart as Second Counselor to President Gordon B. Hinckley on October 11, 2007

**Personal:** Married to Kathleen Johnson Eyring. They are the parents of six children.

## About Dieter F. Uchtdorf



**Born:** November 6, 1940 in then Mährisch Ostrau, Czechoslovakia, and raised in Zwickau, Germany, where his family joined the Church in 1947

**Education:** Studied engineering and business administration in Cologne, Germany, studied international management in Lausanne, Switzerland; joined the German Air Force in 1959, received his pilot wings in Texas and his fighter pilot training in Phoenix.

**Occupation:** Pilot with Lufthansa German Airlines starting in 1965; airline captain from 1970 to 1996; executive positions included head of the airline pilot school, director of in-flight services, head of cockpit crews, chairman of the flight operations committee of the International Air Transport Association; senior vice president of flight operations and chief pilot of Lufthansa German Airlines.

**Church service:** Called to the Second Quorum of the Seventy on April 2, 1994; sustained to the First Quorum of the Seventy on April 6, 1996; member of the Presidency of the Seventy from August 2002 until his call to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles on October 2, 2004

**Personal:** Married to Harriet Reich Uchtdorf. They are the parents of two children.

*Biographies from The Salt Lake Tribune, Tuesday, February 5, 2008*

### LITERARY HIGHLIGHT:

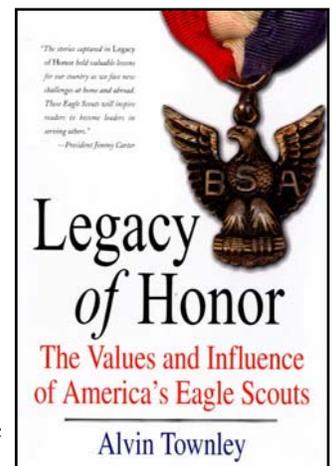
## *Legacy of Honor: The Values and Influence of America's Eagle Scouts* by Alvin Townley

Over the past century, America's Eagle Scouts have earned a reputation for service, virtue, and leadership that is recognized throughout the world. But few people realize the full extent to which Eagle Scouts have made a mark on American history. They have served as astronauts, soldiers, politicians, and businessmen, but they have also been the fathers, brothers, Scoutmasters, coaches, and other role models who have played an integral part in American life.

Alvin Townley set out across the country to hear the stories of these Eagle Scouts. He spoke with individuals from every region, of every age and every background, some of whom have risen to fame as public figures while others have left a lasting impact outside of the spotlight. The Eagle Scouts who share their experiences include Bill Gates, Sr., Bill Bradley, J.W. Marriott, Jr., Ross Perot, Michael Bloomberg, Richard Lugar, Michael Dukakis, Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson, Coach Chan Gaily, and Captain James Lovell of Apollo 13. The book also explores the virtues of a Tuskegee Airman, a Vietnam War POW, a September 11 NYPD hero, a crew of Hurricane Katrina relief workers, and a host of others from every walk of life.

During his journey, Townley discovered stories of character, courage, and inspiration that belong not only to Eagle Scouts but to all Americans. These stories form the heart of *Legacy of Honor* and offer us a chance to appreciate the profound impact that Eagle Scouts have had on American history and the lasting role they will play in our country's future.

*This book is available through the LDS-BSA Relationships office by downloading the order form from the Web site [www.ldsbsa.org](http://www.ldsbsa.org) under "Scout Items."*





## LDS Leaders Trained at Wood Badge

Wood Badge was held in Davis Mountains of West Texas over two weekends during the fall of 2007. The Buffalo Trail Council, headquartered in Midland, Texas, hosted a full course of 48 participants for the first time in many years. A couple of unique items occurred to allow for this success: first, no Sunday involvement for either weekend, and second, LDS men were specifically asked to attend. Of the 48 attendees, 33 were members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS).

This Wood Badge course recruiting began in 2005 when Stake President David Powers (Odessa Texas Stake) approached then-course director and now-Council President James Riggen with the idea of a course held with no Sundays. James agreed to the idea and approached the new Scout Executive Lyman Gifford shortly after his arrival to gain permission. Council President Riggen and Scout Executive Gifford both participated in this special course as members of the staff.

To say this Wood Badge course was a success would be an understatement. President Powers recruited heavily within the LDS community, personally visiting each ward's priesthood meeting to make a special appeal to every adult male to attend. President Powers also personally visited with and invited individuals that he wanted to make sure had an opportunity. Each participant came home with a "renewed" focus on the Young Men programs and a clearer understanding of how Scouting could help them meet the goals of the Aaronic Priesthood.

The course staff also came away with a better understanding of the Church and its use of Scouting. Gifford, being the only LDS member on the staff, helped prepare staff members in advance. However, the real understanding occurred once the participants arrived and began to interact with the various staff members. Very little interaction between the LDS units and other units with the Buffalo Trail Council had occurred outside of the annual Merit Badge Academy hosted by the Odessa Texas Stake for all Scouts who wanted to attend regardless of their religious affiliation. A bridge was formed and strengthened as a result. Several attendees have now agreed to serve in a variety of areas through their local council and districts.

President David Powers himself, invited nearly 20 years ago by his stake president to attend, was a believer. He was a ward mission leader at the time with no Young Men responsibility. He has since realized that, even without a direct calling, all members have Young Men responsibilities. President Powers was called shortly after returning from Wood Badge as a Bishop. He has been directly involved with the Young Men ever since his attendance at the Wood Badge training course. If you ask him, he will tell you, "Wood Badge changed my life and it will change yours too." Prior to this course, one of his counselors had never attended and was not very positive towards Scouting. He too is now a believer and regrets missing so much. He is now heavily involved with his two sons and their advancement and others within the stake.



*Article submitted by Lyman Gifford, Scout Executive, Buffalo Trail Council, Midland Texas*



### Message from the Primary General Presidency *Sister Cheryl Lant, Primary General President*

In The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the wonderful influence of the Scouting program begins when our boys are just eight years old and they enter Cub Scouts. They come with great excitement and energy. They learn and grow as they focus on the

purposes of Cub Scouting, which are developing character, discovering and developing talents, building relationships, and giving confidence. They learn and grow as they are influenced by their leaders and older Scouts. We, along with all those who work in the Scouting program, recognize that our work is all about building "the boy." It is all about what we hope he will become.

I saw a great visual example of this in a Scout meeting where I was invited to speak. A musical number had been arranged. The boys who were to participate were all dressed in uniforms from Cubs to Venturers.

They lined up in order across the stand and filled the whole area as they were joined by Scout leaders and Church leaders. The song they sang was about becoming "Men Such as These," and about scripture heroes. As I listened I realized what I was seeing was a physical representation of the message. These energetic, young Cub Scouts were next to the Boy Scouts, the

Boy Scouts were next to the Varsity Scouts, and so on up to their leaders. Each individual was next to the one he was trying to be like.

President Thomas S. Monson said: "The tradition of Scouting will instill values that help boys be better boys and grow into better men."

Let us increase our efforts to extend this great experience into the lives of all boys. Let us make a difference in their lives.



## Sharing the Spirit of Philmont

When President Russell Hanson, first counselor in the Salem Utah Stake Presidency, was 14 years old, he had the memorable experience of spending two weeks in the rugged back country of Philmont Scout Ranch. In 2006, when he received a letter from the First Presidency inviting him to attend Philmont again, he longed for the days of old, but was fearful of a week filled with high pressure classroom training. To the surprise of him and his wife, who attended with him, it was a wonderful week spent together with others who wanted to build the lives of young men in the Church. He returned to his stake and from his excitement and enthusiasm, Stake President L. Dean Egbert and Hugh DeHart of the stake Young Men presidency attended in 2007.

After the 2007 Philmont training, the three met together to brainstorm ideas that could bring this same spirit of Philmont and Scouting into their stake. Instead of holding a "Little Philmont" training, it was decided to begin with a retreat for only the bishops of the stake. "If we could instill the Philmont and Scouting Spirit into the bishop, who is the President of the priest quorum and head of the Aaronic Priesthood in his ward, the training of the remainder of the youth leaders would go smoothly." The second step then would be monthly training for the remainder of the bishopric and the ward Young Men presidencies.

Several months of preparation went into preparing a manual and organizing the presentations. The three Philmont participants were the instructors, with the stake Young Men presidency and high council representative as the staff. President Ransom Love of the Stake Presidency was the course director. All attendees were encouraged to wear full Scout uniforms, just as was expected at Philmont.

Anxiety built on Friday evening, waiting at a remote cabin in the mountains above Scofield Reservoir in Utah, to see which of the ten bishops would arrive. One by one



the bishops heeded the call by the stake president and arrived in their forest green Venturing shirts. Presentations began after a quick meal, with a reserved group of bishops, but before the evening ended a marked change had begun with them. Philmont was simulated in all ways, so at 10:30 PM the movie *Follow Me Boys* was started for the stalwarts who wanted to stay up. To the surprise of all, at 12:40 AM, eighteen grown men were sitting around in the dark watching the end of the movie.

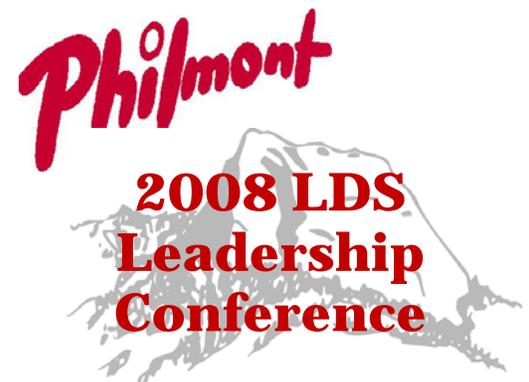
Saturday started early with a hearty Scout breakfast and back into the remaining classes. Saturday's presentations were noticeably different, marked with questions and lively discussions. The Philmont Spirit had indeed been passed on. The vision of how Scouting could be used to retain and reclaim the young men and grow the Aaronic Priesthood quorums of the Salem Utah Stake was seen by all attendees. With the instilled Philmont Spirit, the bishops did not want to wait to pass this information on to their counselors and Young Men presidencies and, with the stake presidency there, it was determined to hold another training in two weeks. This time the bishops were anxious to be part of the instruction. In addition, they wanted the monthly training to continue as scheduled.

What is the outcome? It is too soon to tell, but the entire stake presidency and stake Young Men presidency are all signed up for Wood Badge courses, with bishops close behind. The stake goal is to have all bishoprics and ward Young Men presidencies Wood Badge trained by the end of 2008 and judging by how quickly the Utah National Parks Council Wood Badge courses are filling up, they will be.

One bishop summed up the success of the retreat when he said, "The first thing I am going to do is go buy the movie *Follow Me Boys*!"

What is the outcome of one stake presidency member going to Philmont? It is going to bring a life-changing experience for over a hundred men, but more important it is going to enrich the lives of hundreds of young men! The Philmont Spirit is passed from one to two Scouters, then eighteen and now seventy. It will continue to grow and be passed on to the benefit of all young men.

*Article submitted by Hugh Q. DeHart  
Salem Utah Stake, First Counselor Stake  
Young Men Presidency*



**Session 1: June 28-July 4, 2008**  
**Session 2: July 5-11, 2008**

Applications are still being accepted for each of these sessions. Applications can be downloaded from our Web site [www.ldsbsa.org](http://www.ldsbsa.org) under the Philmont page. Please fill this information out and return all forms to the LDS Relationships office in Salt Lake City.

Pending current availability, these eight positions are accepted immediately – the three members of the stake presidency, the stake high counselor over Young Men/Scouting and/or Primary, and the stake Young Men presidency.

# An Exciting Time, a Challenging Time



*During a special Aaronic Priesthood broadcast, Bishop H. David Burton calls on leaders to reinforce the sometimes fragile faith of young men.*

“The sacred moments and events of the gospel's restoration marked a thrilling period in Church history. But the year 2007 is the most exciting time to be alive,”

said Presiding Bishop H. David Burton.

It's spectacular to witness the light of the gospel rolling forward around the globe at an accelerating pace, connecting with the souls of men and women, worldwide, he noted, and said that it is rewarding to be part of a team that supports and strengthens the family.

"It is exciting to assist parents of young men as they prepare to magnify Aaronic Priesthood duties, receive the Melchizedek Priesthood, serve missions, receive the blessings of the temple, and ultimately be successful fathers and patriarchs," Bishop Burton said. "The Lord has reserved the best, brightest, most devoted and obedient young men to come forward to carry out His purposes at this exciting and challenging time."

He likened to a football quarterback the pivotal role a bishop plays in each ward in the process of helping parents prepare their young men for the blessings and challenges that await them. He said a bishop's teammates include counselors, youth and auxiliary leaders, and priesthood quorums.

"By virtue of your ordination and setting apart, you have been given important priesthood keys and responsibilities," he told the bishops gathered for the training. "One of the responsibilities placed on you is that of president of the Aaronic Priesthood as well as president of the priests quorum."

Holders of the Aaronic Priesthood have a sacred responsibility to serve and perform ordinances. Some bishops might feel divided as they attempt to help young men satisfy such priesthood duties while meeting their other outside obligations.

"I am suggesting that Aaronic Priesthood work needs our attention," Bishop Burton said. "From my experience, I know a little about the many responsibilities you bishops face and the need to satisfy obligations to wife, family and employer. I also know that far too many of our young men are not realizing their full priesthood potential. Many families need to be spiritually strengthened. Many young men are in need of having their fragile faith in the Lord Jesus Christ reinforced. Time is short, but the need is great."

A bishop performs many duties, including some that require his direct, personal involvement. But other duties

can be assigned to counselors and others, emphasized Bishop Burton.

"With appropriate delegation, a bishop may find more time for those tasks that only he is empowered to do, such as those related to his role as president of the Aaronic Priesthood and common judge."

With delegation, it's hoped that the bishop can find time to be fully vested in quorum meetings and activities, he said.

"Ideally, the president of the priests quorum and bishop's counselors would have time to cultivate personal relationships with quorum members and thereby gain insight and understanding as to their needs and challenges," Bishop Burton said.

Youth is an excellent period for learning. Bishop Burton suggested three items young men should glean from their tenure in the Aaronic Priesthood.

1. Aaronic Priesthood young men should understand the importance of making and keeping covenants.

"Covenants consist of mutual pledges between God and man," he said. "We promise to keep His commandments, and He promises certain blessings. Young men need to understand that great obligation follows the making of covenants."

2. Aaronic Priesthood young men should understand they are entitled to the presence of ministering angels coupled with officiating in the outward ordinances.

He referred to a teaching of Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve: the ministering of angels is a manifestation of the Spirit that comes by keeping the covenants of baptism and the sacrament.

3. Young men of the Aaronic Priesthood should acquire an understanding of what priesthood authority is.

He noted that it has been said that priesthood is the unseen power and authority of God delegated to man; the priesthood, like electricity, cannot be seen — but it can be felt, and its results are visible.

*Article and photo from Church News, week ending May 19, 2007*



# The Osmond Eagle Scouts



*The Osmonds Second Generation* is not only a performing group with a well known name, but they are also all Eagle Scouts.

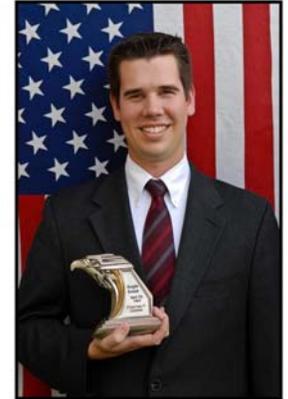
These eight boys, Michael, Nathan, Doug, David, Scott, Jon, Alex and Tyler are the sons of Alan and Suzanne Osmond. Alan and Suzanne have completed training in Scouting and have served as Cubmaster, committee chairman and in Varsity Scouting leadership.

They took very seriously what Ronald Regan said about Scouting: “Scouting and receiving an Eagle Scout Award is one of the best things a young man can have on his résumé showing leadership skills in his youth.”



“We did NOT want our sons to work hard just to get the badges and an Eagle rank but, to learn the values that Scouting teaches! What better program is there than this to teach how to be Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent?”

Seven of these sons have gone on to teach others those values and use skills they learned in Scouting as they served full-time missions for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Michael served in the Denmark, Copenhagen Mission; Nathan in Chile, Santiago North; Doug in South Africa, Johannesburg; David in Spain, Madrid; Scott in Paraguay, Asuncion North; Jon in Brazil, Brasilia; and Alex is currently serving in Georgia Atlanta North Mission. Tyler is currently still in high school, but plans on serving a mission in the future. Each of them feel Scouting helped them to “Be Prepared” for these experiences and their futures in many ways.



Those that are married have been married in the temple. Scott is currently serving as a Scoutmaster and all are teaching their own children and families Scouting values.

“We believe in the values that Scouting teaches and encourage all families to get behind this program,”

*Article submitted by Alan Osmond*



## Resource: *Varsity Play Book*

President Dean R Burgess, First Counselor, Young Men General Presidency, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; J. Floyd Hatch and Scott W. Cameron, Young Men General Board; David C. Pack, Director, LDS Relationships; and Brother Gary S. Dollar are excited to announce a new Varsity Scout publication, the *Varsity Play Book*.

The *Play Book*, prepared under the guidance of the Young Men general presidency, is now available as a supplement to the Boy Scouts of America's *Varsity Guide Book*. "It is our opportunity to present every piece of pertinent information from the 205 page (22 appendix) *Varsity Guide Book* into a concise 18 page (9 appendix) publication," states Brother Hatch. He continues, "We want to make sure that our Varsity leaders have all of the information that they need in a shortened version of the original *Guide Book* which was written in 1979. We have also included a four-page LDS supplement with the publication which delineates everything that an LDS leader needs to understand about the relationship between an LDS Varsity unit and a traditional Varsity Scout team. We look forward to other sponsoring units providing the same information pertinent to their faiths for their units which can also accompany the *Play Book*."

The most critical sections of the *Play Book* are those which help newly called Varsity leaders understand the organization of a team, program features and the five fields of emphasis, and the two major awards for a Varsity Scout, the Varsity letter and the Denali Award.

Brother Dollar adds, "I am grateful that the Young Men general presidency was inspired to revise this very important document. I was one of the members of the original seventeen-member Varsity Task Force which compiled the *Guide Book*. The project took over four years to complete. Things can change in twenty-five years and it was time to review and update the *Guide Book*. There are some important changes. I believe one of the most critical was a correction to the Varsity letter requirements (Appendix A-18, *Guide Book* vs. Appendix 19-f, *Play Book*). The *Play Book* shows the accurate requirements!"

President Burgess states, "We are pleased as the Young Men general presidency to add our support to the compilation of the *Play Book*. We would like each of our adult as well as youth Teacher/Varsity leaders to understand Chapter 13 "Other Awards for Varsity Scouts and Leaders." We encourage every leader to take the time to be trained in their calling. We pray that each leader will prayerfully consider the training that he will need to fulfill his calling and that the adult leaders will consider attending a Wood Badge course as well. We can only be as good as our training will allow us to be."

The *Play Book* is not available through the Boy Scouts of America or council scout shops at this time. You can find the publication in its entirety on the LDS Relationships web site [www.ldsbsa.org](http://www.ldsbsa.org). Click on "Resources" to find the *Varsity Play Book* link located under "Unit Resources." Varsity-trained

leaders will produce successful Varsity teams. Brother Pack reminds us, "Adult leaders continue to learn about this program through ongoing training with the Young Men general presidency and board members. Varsity letters and Denali Awards are increasing at a greater rate than ever before. BSA stores are often finding their Varsity supplies running low, particularly during the fall when courts of honor require the awards. This is a problem that we like."

Article submitted by J. Floyd Hatch, Young Men General Board Member

## Council LDS Relationship Committees

**Dave Pack,**  
**LDS Relationships Director**

Does your council have an LDS Relationships committee? If you do, how can we help you make it better? If you do not, what can we do to help you start one?

President Charles W. Dahlquist II, Young Men General President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, states, "We want to have relationships committees in every council, to help Scouting support the activities of the Aaronic Priesthood, and to assist each council in improving the quality of the Scouting program throughout the Church."

A survey of every council was started at the national meeting of the Boy Scouts of America in May of 2007. The survey asked each council to give feedback on their LDS Relationships committee and what some of the LDS statistics were in their council. From the information in the survey, contact is being made with each council to help them establish a LDS Relationships committee or to assist a functioning committee with their councils needs. We also learned that, when a council has a functioning committee, it also seems to be more successful in delivering the program into the homes of each boy enrolled in the program.

A well-organized committee is made up of LDS leaders from each stake in the council with a stake president as the chairman. Local councils are encouraged to provide recommendations for the chairman position of their LDS Relationships committee. Chairmen are recruited to this position by Church leaders in Salt Lake City. Committees are encouraged to meet regularly and work with council leadership in focusing on the needs of the council and how to deliver a high quality program to each boy in all of the LDS-sponsored Scouting units.

If your Boy Scout council is looking for ways to improve its relationship with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, contact David Pack, LDS Relationships director, at

(801)530-0004 or [dapack@netbsa.org](mailto:dapack@netbsa.org).

