

Strengthening Aaronic Priesthood Quorums through Scouting

1 Your Vision of the Aaronic Priesthood

Learn Together - Vision

Read the following Quote: “I want to see the power of the Priesthood strengthened..I want to see this strength and power diffused through the entire body of the Priesthood, reaching from the head down to the least and most humble deacon in the Church.” — Thomas S Monson (quoting George Q Cannon, in “Priesthood Power,” *Ensign*, Nov 1999, 49)

How does Nephi’s experience in building a ship (see Nephi 17-18) relates to how you can help boys and young men become priesthood men. What is the difference between “doing” and “becoming”

“Mission Presidents mentioned factors shared by successful missionaries the advice they would give to prepare missionaries:

- Trust the boys with responsibility
 - Have high but loving expectations
 - Train them to fulfill those expectations” (paraphrased)
- Stephen Owen, YM General President (2016 PPLC)

Learn Together - Engage in your Calling

Study D&C 107:99. What are the key words or phrases in that verse?

Purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood

1. Become converted to the gospel of Jesus Christ and live by its teachings.
2. Serve faithfully in priesthood callings and fulfill the responsibilities of priesthood offices.
3. Give meaningful service.
4. Prepare and live worthily to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood and temple ordinances.
5. Prepare to serve an honorable full-time mission.
6. Obtain as much education as possible.
7. Prepare to become a worthy husband and father.
8. Give proper respect to women, girls, and children.

How does Moses 1:39 apply to adult leaders who are called to work with the youth?

Learn Together - Importance of Mentors

“Deacons are usually closer to the Scoutmaster - why? Because he spends more time with them - spends time doing activities with them. We need to have a balance of a scoutmaster that believes in spiritual things so that he can have a positive influence on the Young Men’s lives.” – Stephen Owen, YM General President (2016 PPLC)

Study D&C 84:106. What does it mean to be “strong in the spirit”?

Learn Together - Help Every Young Man Lead a Balanced Life

Study Luke 2:52. What is the importance of leading a balanced life?

Invite to Act

- What are some impressions you have had during the discussion and learning together?
- Write notes on these impressions and how you can apply these principles to the young men in your Ward?
- What actions will you take based on these impressions/teachings?

Share

Share impressions and commitments you have made with others. (see D&C 88:32, 107:85)

2 Strengthening Aaronic Priesthood Presidencies

Learn Together - Extending the Call to Aaronic Priesthood Quorum Presidencies (Handbook 2: Administering the Church, 8.3.1, 19.2)

Set the stage for success. Read and discuss together the handbook guidelines for extending calls to Young Men presidencies.

Learn Together - Bishopric Interviews

Discuss these questions as you watch the video “Empowering Aaronic Priesthood Leadership”:

- A member of the bishopric interviews the deacons and teachers quorum presidents and the priests quorum assistants regularly. How do these interviews help leaders identify the progress of each member of the quorum and the quorum as a whole? (See Handbook 2,8.3.1.)

How do frequent one-on-one training and mentoring help build accountability?

Learn Together - Quorum Presidency Meetings

Discuss these questions as you view the video “Aaronic Priesthood Quorum Presidency Meeting”:

- What is the purpose of holding a presidency meeting?
- How can this be a training opportunity?
- What valuable lessons and experiences were apparent during the presidency meeting? Can you duplicate these experiences in your stake? How can these meetings be effective in smaller quorums?

Be careful not to neglect the purpose of these meetings for the sake of time constraints.

Learn Together - The Quorum Presidency Directs the Activities of the Quorum

Discuss how the following elements can help the quorum presidency give more direction in quorum activities and invite all to come unto Christ:

- A deacons quorum president functioning as the senior patrol leader
- Well-defined roles for senior patrol leaders, patrol leaders, and patrols
- Leadership opportunities for boys who are not in the presidency
- Patrol leaders who help activate boys

Learn Together - Planning Is the Key to Success

Consider how the following can be accomplished with BSA programs that execute monthly themes:

- How is Duty to God incorporated in this process?
- How can campouts or other culminating activities be used to fulfill priesthood duties, including ministering and rescuing?
- How does this planning experience prepare young men for their missions?
- How do fun and spiritual experiences bind the quorum together?

Learn Together - How can using the older programs keep Young Men engaged in Mutual / Develop more leadership

How can a meaningful activity program help develop these attributes?

Understand the following basics of older youth Scouting programs:

- They are anchored in Church and BSA values and purposes.
- They can help build positive relationships between youth and adults.
- They are planned annually.
- They include a balanced mix of meaningful activities.
- They help develop youth leadership.

Make use of available tools:

- Interest and capability inventories and planning tools
- Activity guides
- Leadership and peer mentoring courses
- Ethics in Action

Learn Together - Inviting All to Come unto Christ

Discuss this question as you watch the videos “Quorum Brotherhood” and “We Are Brothers”:

- How can a strong, priesthood-directed Scouting program invite young men to come unto Christ?

Invite to Act

Consider these questions as you take a few moments now to write down your impressions and plans:

- How will you, as a stake leader, help develop this pattern of strengthening quorums in your stake?
- How will implementing these practices help presidencies to better understand the use of priesthood keys?
- How will strengthening these skills affect all of the young men in a quorum?
- What obstacles might hinder you from making these changes?
- What plans are you considering? Can you envision reaching them? Can you overcome apparent obstacles?

Ponder these questions and listen for impressions from the Spirit:

- Is Scouting helping the quorums in your stake fulfill the purpose of the Aaronic Priesthood?
- Are your quorum leaders and adult leaders using the Scouting program, quorum service, and Duty to God to strengthen quorums and invite others to come unto Christ?

Identify on your own or with a group what you can do to:

- Strengthen the older youth Scouting programs in your stake.
- Help determine what your adult leaders need to know, feel, and do to have these programs work successfully.
- Help determine what your Aaronic Priesthood quorum leaders need to know to lead these programs successfully.

Share

Share your impressions and feelings with others. Share some of the plans you are considering with the group.

Write what you have learned with regard to your specific calling, including any promptings you have received from the Spirit.

Resources

- Video clip: Brock/Football Training: <https://vimeo.com/15772500>
- Video clip: Tad R. Callister, “[The Power of the Priesthood in the Boy](#)”
- Video: “Empowering Aaronic Priesthood Leadership” (philmont.lds.org)
- Video: “Aaronic Priesthood Quorum Presidency Meeting” (philmont.lds.org)
- [Aaronic Priesthood presidency meeting agenda](#)
- Video: “[Quorum Brotherhood](#)”
- Video: “[Let Us Teach](#)”
- L. Tom Perry, “[What Is a Quorum?](#)” Ensign, Nov. 2004, 23–26
- LDS Varsity and Venturing resources on scouting.lds.org
- Peer mentoring training (scouting.org/filestore/training/youth/Mentoring_Venturing_Crews_FG.pdf)

3 Scout Committees - Essential to Successful Program

Learn Together - Scout Committees

4.3 The bishopric organizes ward Scouting committees to ensure that Scouting functions properly as a supporting activity for Aaronic Priesthood quorums and boys ages 8 through 11. The bishopric calls several capable adults (including fathers and mothers of boys and young men) to serve as committee members. One of the committee members is called to serve as the chair. Qualified adults, whether members of the Church or not, may serve on these committees. Each committee should include a member of the bishopric. - [LDS Scouting Handbook](#)

Recommended assignments for Committee members:

- Advancement Coordinator
- Camping Coordinator (aka activity reservations/logistics)
- Equipment Coordinator (aka quartermaster physical logistics)
- Training Coordinator
- Eagle Coach/Mentor coordinator (If Scoutmaster fills this role, in Life to Eagle process - other young men will often be neglected)

Invite to Act / Share

What impressions have you had in using committees which roles are needed in your ward? Share with your Bishopric the need for their help?

4 Effective Duty to God Program for Young Men

Learn Together - Understanding the Duty to God Resources & Purpose

Read through pp 7-10 of Fulfilling My Duty to God.

If a young man engages in the Duty to God program, how will this help him fulfill his divine roles as missionary, husband, and father? How does Duty to God connect to For the Strength of Youth.

Duty to God was created with the intent that young men would recognize that their priesthood duties are never “done.” With this in mind, discuss the importance of the “Learn, Act, Share” model and how using it will help young men fulfill their divine roles.

“The change to the experimental model rather than award is purposeful. The twelve said there should not be check boxes in this program. It is important that the young men learn that this is a method of becoming - a process and means - a way of life - rather than something they have completed.” – Douglas Homes, YM General Presidency 2C (2016 PPLC)

Who is responsible for the successful implementation of Duty to God?

The bishop, quorum presidencies, priests quorum assistants, and the ward Young Men presidency all have a role (Handbook 2, 8.3.2; Handbook 2, 8.3.4; and “To Quorum Advisers and Parents,” Fulfilling My Duty to God, 93–102)

Learn Together How Duty to God Strengthens Mentoring Relationships

Search the Deacon, Teacher, or Priest sections of Fulfilling My Duty to God, and look for opportunities for “mentoring moments.” What are some ways you can mentor the young men?

Duty to God includes over 60 invitations for a young man to share and interact with his family. How this can help the young man build positive relationships with his father and family?

Learn Together - Implementing Duty to God in Your Ward

Discuss how Duty to God can be integrated with home teaching, Come, Follow Me, and Scouting.

“Parents and leaders help young men accomplish these objectives in family home evenings, family scripture study, meetings, activities, and interviews and by encouraging them to participate in the Duty to God program.” (Handbook 2 8.1.3, 8.12)

Invite to Act

Write down any promptings you received during the discussion? What plans will you make to implement Duty to God more fully in your Ward? you have had during the discussion and learning together?

Include what you will do to inspire others in your presidency and parents to join young men on their journey. Implement your plan.

Share

Regularly share with others your thoughts, plans, experiences, successes, and lessons learned. This allows plans and actions to be improved, enhanced, and “re-shared,” which will further improve performance and outcomes.

Resources

- Video: “Fulfilling Your Duty to God” (<https://www.lds.org/youth/video/fulfilling-your-duty-to-god>)
- Videos (<https://www.lds.org/callings/aaronic-priesthood/video-gallery>)
- Interactive Duty to God website (DutytoGod.lds.org)
- D. Lynn G. Robbins, “[What Manner of Men and Women Ought Ye to Be?](#)” Ensign, May 2011, pp 103–5
- Two Brothers Two - Mormon Channel (16 episodes) (<https://www.mormonchannel.org/watch/series/two-brothers-two-1>)

5 Your Calling – What is your Role? Bind Yourself to Act

Learn Together - Understand the BSA Organization and Scouting within the Church

- What is the role of the bishop? (See Scouting Handbook, 4.1.)
- What do the programs of Scouting provide for adults? (Youth Protection Training and other training, tour and activity plans, and liability coverage.)
- What committees facilitate the implementation of Scouting? (Membership, training, Friends of Scouting, advancement, rechartering, safety, and so on.)
- Who could be assigned to those committees?
- What is the role of the ward Scout committee chair in implementing Scouting?

Invite to Act

D&C 43:9

Invite Revelation Pertaining to Your Calling, and Apply It in Order to Magnify Your Efforts

In small groups, discuss your impressions of what the Lord would have you do in your calling.

- How will you support Scouting as a tool in preparing your young men for the future?
- What will you do differently upon your return?

Share

Regularly share with others your thoughts and experiences with how Scouting helps prepare young men to be great missionaries, husbands, and fathers.

Kickstarting a Troop/Varsity/Venturing Program

1. **Teach Leadership** Teach the Introduction to Leadership Skills course to the youth: [Troop Version](#), [Crew Version](#)
2. **Interest Surveys** Have the youth take an Interest Survey (see below for examples)
3. **Have a Committee** - Have bishop make calls (or assignments) to parents to serve on committee - should be in addition to other callings
4. **Use Ward Resources** Based on what the youth are interested in - ask adults in the ward to fill out a Program Capability Inventory (survey)
5. **Plan** Have an "Annual" Planning Meeting - map out themes for the next year and weekends for outdoor activities (whether camping or not). Plan at least 9 months
6. **Accountability** Hold youth accountable for their activities - txt constant reminders
7. **Backup** Have back up plan of something that is good for them but that they may not like as much - thus they have incentive to do the activities they planned

Resources to Help Young Men create own activities

- Activity planning worksheets
(ldsbsa.org/resources/activity-planning-worksheets)
- Youth activities website: Boy Scouts (lds.org/youth/activities)
- BSA Program Resources: <http://www.programresources.org/>
- Program Features - plans for running different activities:
VOL 1 - available for \$14.99 from <http://www.scoutstuff.org>
VOL 2 - available for \$14.99 from <http://www.scoutstuff.org>
VOL 3 - http://www.scouting.org/FILESTORE/pdf/33112_WEB.pdf
- Varsity Play Book
<http://www.ldsbsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Varsity-Play-Book.pdf>

Interest Surveys

- Youth Interest Survey example - Boy Scouts ([MS Word](#))
- Youth Interest Survey example - Venturers/Varsity ([MS Word](#))
- Survey for Ward Adults aka Program Capability Inventory example ([MS Word](#))

Old Versions of Program Features

There are also the old versions available online:

- Troop Vol 1:
http://www.scouting.org/FILESTORE/pdf/33111_WEB.pdf
- Troop Vol 2:
http://www.scouting.org/FILESTORE/pdf/33110_WEB.pdf
- Troop Vol 3 - can't find
- Team Vol 1:
<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/VarsityTeamProgram-V1.pdf>
- Team Vol 2:
<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/VarsityTeamProgram-V2.pdf>
- Team Vol 3:
<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/VarsityTeamProgram-V3.pdf>